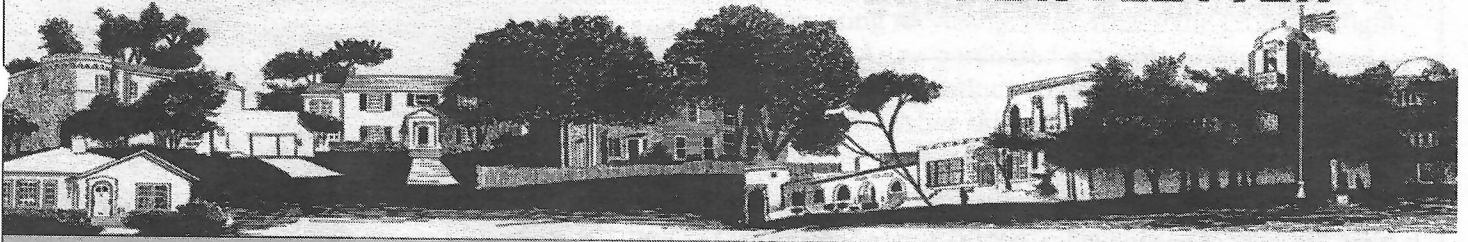


Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



March – April 2014

Anna's Ordeal

by Jan Peranteau

Anna Wise's ordeal began about five years ago when she noticed she had trouble swallowing. The diagnosis of a brain tumor and subsequent surgery allowed her to return to her busy life. But, the same symptoms returned this past fall. Anna, the minister at Grace Presbyterian Church on Donaldson, said, "I just kept talking and plowed through it." On another day while exercising, Anna mentioned trouble swallowing again. Soon after, there was a trip to the doctor and a diagnosis. The oncologist, Lisa Fichtel, said the tumor had returned and she needed to visit a surgeon. On November 18, 2013, Anna had surgery, for the second time, to remove a brain tumor, said to be about the size of a ripe olive. Anna said, "The first tumor had been the size of orange."

My first recollection of seeing her after surgery was the crazy color of her usually blonde hair. It was kind of purple, red and pink, the result of antiseptics applied before surgery. But her hair was still on her head. In removing her tumor they did not shave her head. When I first saw her, she barely moved. Bob said, "Right after surgery she could move her left side. But the next day, the swelling in her brain took over and she couldn't move." The entire left side of her body was still and lifeless. One eye drifted off and her appearance seemed like an amazing Halloween costume. Only this was no costume, and this was my friend lying there. When she started talking, she said funny things, but with a deadpan expression—not like the Anna I had known with a lilting, playfulness in her voice and the bright smile on her face.

All her friends gathered around. Her husband, Bob, sent daily texts of her progress. Her speech got better each day, and they began to try and get her to move her left leg.

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Monticello Park Neighborhood
Association General Assembly
Meeting
Monday, March 31
7PM
950 Donaldson

GUEST SPEAKER: Ed Garza,
President SAISD School Board
Updates on Bond



Anna Wise shops for therapy.....as many of us do, but she is working a whole lot harder. She is the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church.

President's Message

Happy spring!

MPNA is blessed to have dedicated and active community members. It is not the work of one individual but the efforts of many for MPNA to be a neat place to live.

Important information and updates:

VIA: The Mary Louise Bus stop, PRIMO, has its deco tile block marker back in place. It was relocated, due to new bus stop construction, to the stone planter on the western corner of the triangle. Pedestrian pavement improvements were made on the eastern edge of the triangle. Also, note the new bus stop between HEB and Little Caesar's Pizza on Fredericksburg westbound. Construction is complete and landscaping should be coming soon.

TJHS Bond Improvements: SAISD presented revised drawings to HDRC in early February and received conceptual approval. The revisions include changes to the E-Wing expansion, portable buildings removed, old band hall repurposed instead of demolished, new dance hall construction, and band/JROTC paved area to replace parking lot by the baseball fields. Concerns remain regarding parking around campus, pickup/drop-off areas, and traffic flow during school and for extracurricular activities.

Dial-a-Trailer: Several community members took advantage of free disposal of bulk and brush right in our community on March 1st. Much thanks to Richard Weik and Elia Reyna for all their hard work. The trailer hauled TONSwe filled two trucks! What a success!

Naming of the Woodlawn Lake Tennis Courts: The Alderete Family requested the Tennis Courts at Woodlawn Lake be named for Joe V. Alderete Jr. Councilman Medina initiated the request and the City of San Antonio's Parks and Recreation is handling the process. Public input was submitted, a public hearing was held on Tuesday 18th.

MPNA board voted and released the following position: "Monticello Park Neighborhood Association is opposed to the naming of the COSA tennis courts because we believe that it should not be named for an individual who is still alive." A committee will review the written comments submitted and statements from the public meeting. Then, they will make a recommendation about whether to proceed to City Council. You are welcome to submit your comments to City Council.

Trees: MPNA is looking to enter the City of San Antonio's Tree Challenge. Please let us know if you are interested in committing to nurturing a free tree in your front or side yard OR if you would like to volunteer to make this event a success.

Signs, Signs, Signs, and yet more Signs: The season of signs is upon us! Please be sure not to obstruct the view of vehicular traffic when placing signs in your yard. Remember your neighbors need to see when backing out of the driveway. Keep MPNA safe.

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President: Bianca Maldonado
385-6188
V. President: Gary Hudman
286-9212
Secretary: Ressie O'Connors
Treasurer: Adrian Contreras
385-1729

Board Members

Laura Reid 215-9589
Sarah Rice 738-8772
Michael Robbins
Sherri Shadrock (512) 217-2401
Rob Sipes 738-0379
Richard Weik 731-0780

MonticelloParkNA.com
or check us out on Facebook
facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA/

Newsletter Committee Editors:

Ferne Burney, Sarah Rice For article and event submission please call 734-2445 or email monticelloparkna@yahoo.com

For ad pricing info call 734-2445 or visit monticelloparkna.com

MPNA P.O. Box
5851
San Antonio, TX 78201

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office 207-7044
SAWS 724-7097
CPS 353-2222
Officer Joey Vidal 218-6546
207-1363
SAPD, West Substation 207-7420
SAPD Emergency 911
SAPD Non-emergency 207-7273
SAISD Police 271-3124
SAISD Truancy Office 223-2360
VIA Transit 362-2019
Code Compliance 311
Animal Control 311
Office of Historic Preservation 215-9274
Ron Meyers 219-2093
Historic Bldg Enforcement Officer

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After she could move her leg, there was standing and walking to the bathroom with the supervision of a nurse using a gait belt. Along the way, there were some falls. In one of these falls, "Anna hit her head," Bob said, "She was extremely upset and cried hysterically." After eleven days at Stone Oak Methodist Hospital, Bob took her to Metropolitan Hospital for a rehabilitative program near their home. After one night at the hospital, Bob decided to move her again to the Texan Heart Hospital, where she began more rehabilitation. One day, as visitors came to her room; she walked across the room to greet them. Still, the nurse and gait belt were all part of the greeting. After about a month at this hospital and right before Christmas on December 23, Anna was moved to Neuro-Restorative, a rehabilitative home, where she would get round-the-clock therapy for all her needs—daily living skills, social interaction, community skills, and much more physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and family support counseling. In all this time, Bob spent every night with Anna. He slept in chairs and partial beds, his slippers always in the room. He set up a computer station where he did work as an architect for Alamo Architects; and in the evening, nurses would ask, "When will Bob be here?" knowing that in his coming, their workloads would be lightened. And he did come every night. Bob planned to spend each night at Neuro-Restorative also. He had been told it would be allowed, but when Anna was moved, he was told it would be impossible and not within the law.

On the day of my observation, Anna and four participants were sitting at the table having breakfast. Anna, always the hostess, introduced each person. She explained, "We all keep a memory notebook. Some people are working on memory issues." All clients carried the memory books with them and jotted down things from time to time. After breakfast, the day began with grocery shopping. Bridget Mathis, the occupational therapist, said, "Each person has an individual grocery list. We want them to practice scanning the shelves, requesting help when needed, and trying to deal with the affected side of the body. Anna is encouraged to use both hands when shopping." Since her left hand and arm are very weak, Anna tried to use this hand to pick up items or in some way assist the unaffected hand.

The behavioral therapist, Blake Agee, encouraged clients to mark items off their lists, once items were placed in the basket. He also worked with clients on the selection of items, choosing the more economical items, rather the organic/expensive products. Anna was somewhat resistant to this idea and preferred the organic products each time, but put back products when requested.

At checkout, Anna, the environmentalist, insisted on using recyclable bags. Since the group brought none, Anna purchased a couple of bags and said she would continue to do so until the house had enough. After shopping, participants climbed into the van for a ride back to the house to put away groceries. Once this task was accomplished, clients loaded into the van for a short ride to the therapy center or clinic. Each person brought a sack lunch they prepared the night before. After lunch together with therapists, clients checked a schedule board to get their particular schedules. Anna's schedule that afternoon included one hour with the behavior therapist, followed by an hour of speech therapy and a short session on using the computer with mainly the right hand and the left controlling the mouse

Participants returned to the home and began to make preparations for the evening meal. "One client is in charge of each evening meal." Anna said. Each day's activities are different. "On Tuesdays we work at the Food Bank. Wednesdays are a full clinic day with therapy all day. "We clean the house on Thursdays." She described the days as full. "I can visit friends after 4:00 p.m.," she said.

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Burglary: At the end of January, my home was burglarized. It happened in the early evening and the scary part was that someone watched me leave my home. I was gone fifty minutes from my home and interrupted their perusing of my home when I pulled into the driveway. I am thankful I did not see them as they fled and that they did not harm my dog.

Tips: iCloud backup is your best friend, set your alarm EVERY TIME you leave your home, and video your home and valuables.

See you at the end of the Month!

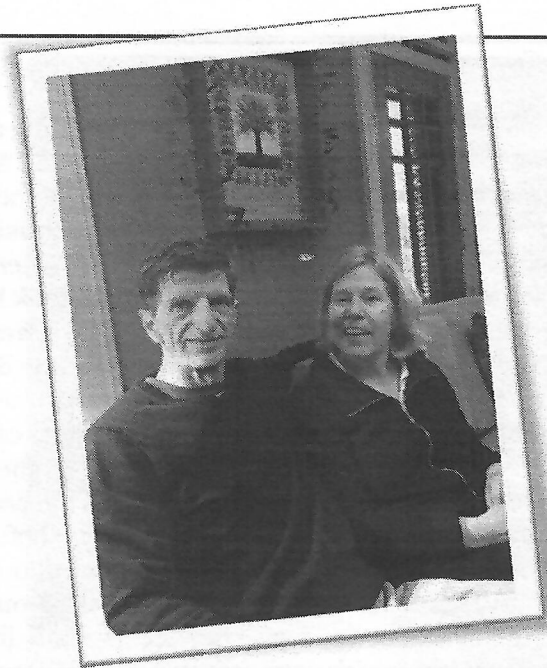
Bianca Maldonado
President
Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

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All the therapists have visited with Anna and Bob about when it would be best for her to return home. Her oncologist had planned for her to start chemotherapy this past week. So far, her chemo has not begun. Bob requested that she stay for two more weeks while the chemo is begun. Anna was reluctant to stay longer, but agreed since Bob has a rigorous schedule as an architect. Bob also stated, "Any disruption in her therapy sets her back. The neuro-pathways are reconnecting and this takes ongoing therapy. The real kicker seemed to be, "If Anna goes home overnight, and then, coverage ends."

At home, on a day visit, Anna and Bob sat on the couch. When asked about his feelings, Bob said, "I'm exhausted. I was five and a half hours on the phone to the doctor's office and another one and a half hours to the insurance company. There is keeping up with the house, going to work and cooking. It's a lot of stress. We've had trouble getting the chemotherapy pills because they are very expensive. The insurance company wants us to go through a cheaper mail-order process." He said that doctors had intervened and Anna would get her medication after our interview concluded. Anna revealed that on Monday she would get to go home and receive outpatient care. If Anna goes home on Monday, it will have been 111 days since her surgery.

When asked about how she feels about it all, she shrugged and said, "What can I do? I just keep on. Isn't that all any of us can do?" Tears flowed down both our cheeks. I hugged her and she hugged me with her functioning arm. More hugs from Bob, "The doctors and staff have been outstanding. I have learned you must take responsibility for your own health care." Anna adds, with a beaming smile, "Their profession is a real calling."



Anna and Bob Wise relax after a busy day of therapy and other challenging work.



Workouts help build total body strength and coordination in her trek toward good health.

The Network for Young Artists (NYA) presents its inaugural official fiesta event: The Deco District Arts and Music Festival 2014. This free world class celebration brings together local residents and tourists to the historic Deco District. This outdoor boutique like festival offers dozens of performances by local and national musicians of all ages, a diverse food and drink menu, local art vendors and community spirit for all to enjoy. One of our stages is dedicated to NYA and other local youth centric organizations highlighting local talent who are certain to WOW you. This event highlights the cultural, economic and social vitality of the Deco District.

NYA, founded in 1999 by educator Terry Lowry, mission is to build self-esteem in youth and to promote art and culture through voice, dance, musical instrument, and performing arts programs. Our objective is to provide resources for youth, ages 4-20 years old, to develop their talents in the performing arts and to provide opportunities for youth to showcase their talents, while providing mentoring and educational programs to ensure they succeed academically. We currently serve over 250 youth in the San Antonio and surrounding areas. NYA awarded 23 college scholarships over the past seven years. Ten have graduated from major universities including Trinity, Cal Poly Pomona, St. Mary's, and University of Texas Austin just to name a few. Several of our students performed nationally on American Idol, X-factor, and Americas Got Talent. Two NYA students competed in the semi-finals. Additionally, one of our students recently signed a development contract with George Strait's management group.

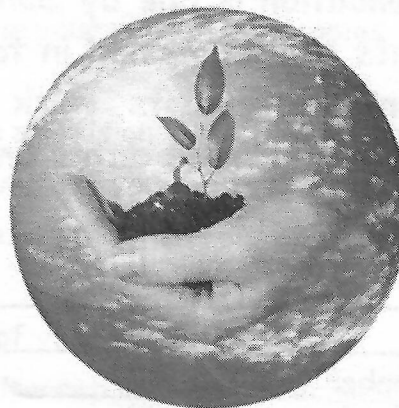
We are looking forward to great success at this year's event, which will be held on April 13, 2014, from 12 to 10:30 pm in the heart of the Deco District.



EARTH DAY SA 2014

San Antonio's Earth Day 2014
is on Saturday, April 12th
9 am to 1 pm
Woodlawn Lake Park

It will feature environmental information, giveaways, vegetarian food booths, gardening ideas, and music and entertainment for the whole family.



Alcohol is never allowed at the Park and smoking is not permitted at the event.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS APRIL 15

Seniors from Thomas Jefferson High School or seniors from Monticello Park are encouraged to visit our website, www.monticelloparkna.org to download instructions and application form.

Completed applications may be submitted to the counselors at TJHS or to Michael Robbins, Board Member of the MPNA.

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association Beautification Application

Please complete the application below. The application is a continuing process, so it is suggested that you keep it and your supporting documents in a folder until you are ready to turn it in.

Remember that the project you choose to beautify your house and consequently the neighborhood can be something very simple or something very complicated. It is up to you.

This application is due by Sunday, June 1, 2014. It and the supporting documents can be turned in to any board member. You do not have to turn in the original receipts, work orders, contracts, etc. You may turn in photocopies, but the dates and relevant information must be visible.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

This is the

_____ first time I have submitted this project for consideration.

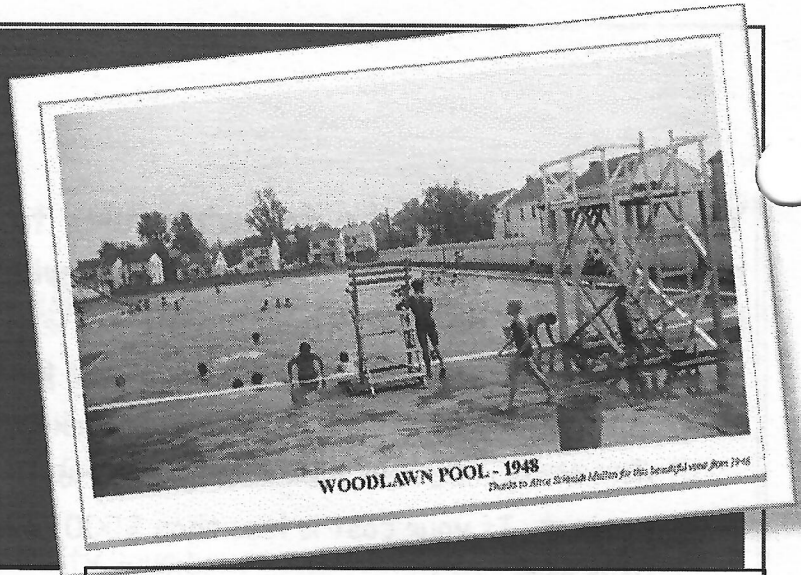
_____ second time I am submitting this project. I did not receive a reimbursement award for it the first time it was submitted.

Please give a description of what you plan to do. If you need more lines, feel free to answer this on another sheet of paper and attach it to the application. Please write or print legibly.

You must abide by the following rules to be considered for the reimbursement award. A committee will make the final decision as to which household will receive the reimbursement award.

1. Your full application must be submitted to a board member by Sunday, June 1, 2014.
2. Applications must include receipts, work orders, contracts or photocopies of the same. The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association will reimburse you up to \$500 for your project. If your cost is less than \$500, you will be reimbursed up to the amount of your cost.
3. Some store receipts do not give details as to what was purchased. Please list your purchases on a sheet of paper. You must still turn in your receipts, or copies, along with this list.
4. The project must be able to be seen by anyone who stands on the street. Your undertaking should take place in the front of the house if you live in the middle of the block. If you live on a corner, the project can be on either the front or the side of the house or yard.
5. You must submit a "before" and an "after" picture of your project.
6. All repairs/maintenance and changes, including window repairs and landscaping, must be submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation for approval. Check with the Office of Historic Preservation before you begin any work and make sure to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness. You must submit a copy of the certificate of appropriateness as part of the application. The Office of Historic Preservation is located at 1901 South Alamo. The phone number is 215-9274.
7. There are certain types of work that may need a permit from the city. Check with the Office of Planning and Development before you begin any work and obtain a permit if one is needed. If a permit is needed from the city, you must submit a copy of the permit as part of the application. The Office of Planning and Development is located at 1901 South Alamo. The phone number is 207-1111.
8. If you were not awarded a reimbursement for your project the first time, and this is the second time you are submitting this application, please make sure that you checked the appropriate space above.

Woodlawn Lake Park Swimming Pool opens May 3



You may be reading this on the paper copy of the newsletter that was delivered to your front door. We encourage you to visit our website, www.monticelloparkna.org to view it in LIVING COLOR. Every issue of the newsletter will be posted on the website as soon as it is created. So, visit there during the last week of January, March, May, July, September, and November. We publish during the week prior to our General Assembly meetings.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE ACTIVITIES
WITHIN IT!

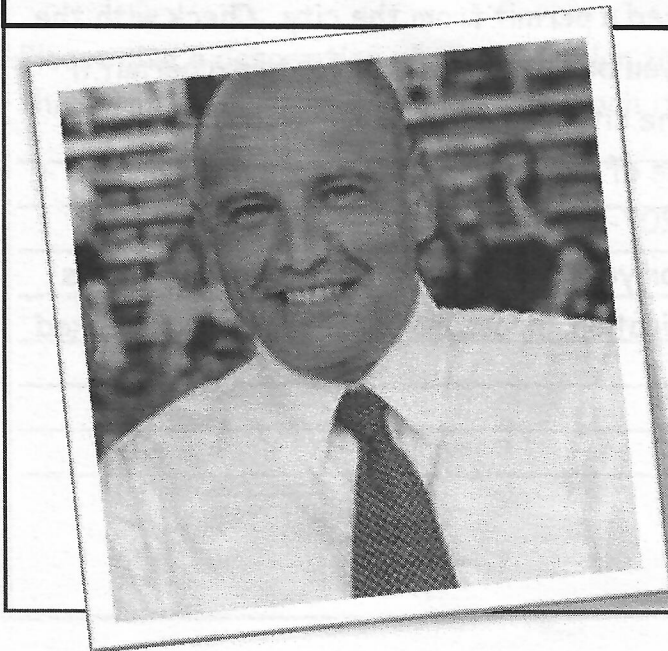
Join us on **FACEBOOK**
Look for Monticello Park Neighborhood
Association



Our current Facebook page has 171 members, and we share information that is gossipy, friendly, informative, and important. We let each other know about crimes in the neighborhood, activities, and just general goings-on.

We are connected to our Councilman's office, the local police, and the school district.

JOIN THE FUN!!!!!!



Don't miss Monday's General Assembly when our guest will be Ed Garza, President of the San Antonio Independent School District Board of Directors.

Ed will update the Association on changes planned for Thomas Jefferson High School that have been funded by the most recent Bond.

Bring your questions, your concerns, and your curiosity!