

Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By Jan Peranteau

January – February 2016

Putting away Christmas is not nearly the fun that preparing for the holidays brings. When boxes are opened, hands rush to find favorite Christmas memories wrapped in tissue paper and waiting to be hung on a tree. In my house, a real tree is always purchased and brought inside while we busy ourselves moving of furniture in order to get to that special spot near a window. The smell of pine enters the air. Lights dazzle the windows and mantels.

Some Santas, such as the ones at the Gibson house, have traveled the world over to settle on a dining room table or to gather in groups on a bookshelf. A train runs around the Christmas tree at the Sanchez home, and lights dangle from large trees at the Rangels. Laser lighting sprays a shower of lights on walls and trees at Tom Simmons and Mark Scruhak's house as well as the Rush home. The neighborhood seems to be having a party each night as the lights come on. Wayne Ehrisman does his fair share to get friends and neighbors into the holiday mood with plenty of parties. Stockings hang by chimneys with care. Mine was made for me, in my first year of life, by an aunt who just died at 99. Oh, and the cooking—cookies are baked; pies made and sweet smells fill the air. Christmas Eve finally arrives and family and friends gather to eat tamales and soup, shellfish, and bunuelos. Carols are sung, and the world is jolly. The faithful attend Christmas Eve Mass or Protestants gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus. With Christmas Day come the presents and squeals of delight from children. Ferne Burney said she always gives her grandchildren a book, a toy, and some clothing. The toys usually win out in at least the first go round.



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ATTEND THE
Monticello Park
Neighborhood Association
General Assembly Meeting

Monday,
January 25

7PM

950 Donaldson
Grace Presbyterian Church

Program:

Representatives from our
local HEB will be presenting
their ideas for the store
and will be ready
to listen to yours

President's Message

Wishing you a great 2016!

Lots of happenings in MPNA and the Board of Directors is working hard for the community.

Dues: Please take the time to pay dues for 2016: \$15 per household or \$10 for senior households. Dues allow MPNA to award scholarships, beautification/restoration awards, to host neighborhood clean ups, to print the newsletter for all homeowners, and to host social events.

Holiday Social: A BIG Thank you to Wayne Ehrisman for opening his home for the MPNA holiday party. A fun time was had by all.

Newsletter: A BIG Thank You and lots of gratitude to Ferne Burney for all her hard work on the MPNA newsletter. Something new in 2016 will be column "Ask your Elected Official". MPNA board members will be accepting questions and compiling a list. A list will be distributed to local elected officials for response and then subsequently published as a column in the MPNA Newsletter. We look forward to receiving your questions! The MPNA board received a request from a local elected official requesting his own column in the MPNA newsletter. MPNA is a 501 c (3) organization and anyone can purchase an ad within the newsletter for his or her own message. MPNA will continue to publish public meeting notifications and non-profit events in the community for free when submitted in a timely fashion and as space permits.

Beautification and Restoration Award: Please note deadline has been extended. Submit all documents to a MPNA board member by Monday February 15,2016.

D7 HDRC Representative: MPNA requested on two occasions 9/2015 and at the last MPNA GA 11/30, a meeting with the D7 Councilman to discuss the HDRC open seat and the nomination of qualified community members as a new representative. According to the Office of Historic Preservation the seat has been vacant for over 12 months since the previous representative resigned and D7 did not appoint a replacement creating a hold over situation. The Councilman ignored requests

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President: Bianca Maldonado
385-6188
V. President: Gary Hudman
286-9212
Secretary: Drea Garza
643-4760
Treasurer: Tom Simmons
701-4300

Board Members
Ron Hubbert
Jaime Jasso
Ressie O'Connors
Laura Reid
Tony Sanchez
Patrick Shea

MonticelloParkNA.com
or check us out on Facebook
[facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA/)

Newsletter Committee Editors:
Ferne Burney article and event submission
please call 734-2445 or email
ferneburney@hotmail.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 Building Enforcement Officer	

.....*President's message, continued from page 2*

by MPNA and JNA for a meeting and only reached out to the previous HDRC representative for a recommendation. Upon hearing of the new appointment, MPNA and representatives from JNA met with D7 Councilman on 12/21/2015 and expressed the following concerns:

Are MPNA requests being ignored?

Was the Councilman's appointee qualified for the position (knowledge of UDC guidelines/process)?

Were any expectations of appointee's and/or goals identified?

And what is the Councilman's overall commitment to historic preservation?

As a conclusion MPNA, asked for the following:

- Provide a copy of appointee's resume and application
- Provide the date Council will be approving the appointment
- That the Councilman would remove the appointed individual if more than two consecutive HDRC meetings are missed per UDC rules (he agreed)
- Send a list of expectations the Councilman has for the HDRC representative to MPNA and JNA.
- Attend the next MPNA General Assembly meeting with OHP. As of publication of this email no additional communications have been received from the Councilman.

2202 Fredericksburg Road: The building is now vacant and a permit was applied for on 12/8/2015 for new construction. The permit states the new commercial building will be 1856 sq ft and have a value of \$169K. MPNA still has not seen the agreement Councilman Trevino (D1) signed with the landowner instead of designating the property historic. This concern was raised to the D7 Councilman on 11/30/2015 and again on 12/21/2015. No additional information has been received by MPNA.

3114 Fredericksburg Road: The old hand carwash was demolished. A new carwash tunnel is under construction.

HEB featured speaker for the MPNA General Assembly: Come learn about how HEB, Deco District HEB, is responding to your concerns, security, HEB new app, coupons, upcoming property improvements, and how to get your favorites on the shelf. MPNA reached out to HEB to be more involved in our neighborhood store and express our concerns. They want to hear from you!

Graffiti Clean up: Saturday February 20th at 9am. Meet at 444 Club Dr. We will have supplies for you!

Upcoming infrastructure improvements in 2016 from the City of San Antonio annual Budget:

- 1) Mary Louise/ Furr Alley from Vollum to Shearer will be paved and foundation repaired. The City will be performing the work and also perform a ONE time trimming of alley vegetation.
- 2) 100-500 blocks of Club Dr will be resurfaced and new sidewalks and curbs.
- 3) San Antonio from Fredericksburg and W. French resurfacing is finishing up.

I look forward to seeing you at the General Assembly meeting.

Regards,
Bianca Maldonado

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Roast beef, ham and turkey lay waiting on tables. Sides of dressing and gravy, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, salads, and veggies are blessed and consumed.

Cranberry sauce abounds; and trays filled with olives, pickles, and peppers of various sorts dot the tables. Fluffy or hard rolls grace the table. Wine is poured, and once again family and friends attempt to be at their best, looking their best.

Christmas Night follows with quiet gatherings and people getting together for music and conversation. As evening falls, most go home or maybe to a movie. But the day winds down, and Christmas slips away. People continue to light their trees and to turn on outside lights throughout the days that follow, waiting New Year's Eve. Friends meet for lunch or dinner to exchange presents or simply to catch up. New Year's Day arrives— We eat black-eyed peas and hope for health, happiness, and prosperity in 2016.

Some people take down decorations right away. Others seem a little reluctant to put away the sparkle—“Let's just put on the lights one more night. “ And so it goes.

Boxes are packed and taken to attics or storeroom shelves. We are left with our memories and the special moments of Christmas 2015. We close the closet door, turn off the light and bid adieu to a magical time.



Hard at work at the planning meeting were (left-right): Gary Hudman, Bianca Maldonado, and Drea Garza. Others in photo represented the Jefferson Neighborhood Association.

SA Tomorrow planning meeting for Neighborhood Leaders: attended by [Gary Hudman](#), Drea Garza, and Bianca Maldonado representing the MPNA Board and [Marie Cooper](#) with JNA. Go to www.satomorrow.com to learn more about the City's comprehensive plan to address land use, urban design, and municipal policy for growth and choices/resources for current/future residents.



The Lassos meet in front of the Majestic Theater in 1950

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

Scholarship Application

This application must be returned by Friday, April 1, 2016.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

***GPA:** _____ ***Class Rank:** _____

**These must be completed and initialed by your school counselor.*

List PreAP or AP courses you have taken and completed, or are presently taking.

List any clubs or activities you have participated in since your freshman year.

Go to the next page.

List any jobs you have had/or currently have.

List the colleges/universities you would like to attend.

List the field(s) of study which interest you.

Write a short essay that describes you. It can be an experience, a goal, or an achievement in your life. It can also be a short autobiography. Please limit your essay to two pages. Your essay may be handwritten or typed.

When your application and essay are completed, return them to the counseling office (for Thomas Jefferson High School students), or to the Scholarship chairman (resident of Monticello Park and attending another high school) no later than Friday, April 1 2016. No late applications or essays will be accepted.

Once the Monticello Park Scholarship Committee has reviewed the applications and essays, the field of applicants will be narrowed, and finalists will be announced. The finalists will then be invited to meet with the Scholarship Committee for a personal interview.

We hope to announce the winner of our scholarship by the end of April.

Any problems or questions concerning the scholarship can be addressed to the President of the MPNA Board at 732-9950.

Candidate Forum

Texas State Senate District 26

Texas House Rep. 116
Monday February 8th

7PM - 8:30PM

**Jefferson United Methodist
Church**

758 Donaldson Ave

Join us for a Community Candidate Forum to hear the candidates talk about the future of our community and their priorities. The Candidates will be asked questions from the audience.

Hosted by:
Jefferson Neighborhood Association
**Monticello Park Neighborhood
Association**



Congratulations to Officer Joey Vidal on passing his SAPD Detective Exam! January 31, 2016 will be his last day as the MPNA SAFFE Officer. Thanks Officer Vidal for all your hard work patrolling the community, following up on neighbor concerns, being active on the MPNA facebook page, and being a great resource for neighbors.

Join me in wishing Officer Vidal all the best in his new position.

It seems that our Facebook pages and comments on the Neighborhood Link feature one lost pet after another. Who wants to spearhead a pet registration for the MPNA? Pets should be neutered, chipped, and identified!

Corner Ferne Burney at the next General Assembly if you are interested.



HEB'S AGENDA FOR MONDAY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Security
 - a. Loitering
 - b. Panhandling
 - c. Awareness
2. General Store update
 - a. Store environment
 - b. Coupons
 - c. Store environment
3. Product assortment, tailoring to customer needs
 - a. E-commerce
 - b. HEB Shopping App
 - c. Customer request
 - d. Customer feedback

Leadership contact information:

- Flores.rene@heb.com
- Rodriguez.ruby@heb.com
- Alamanza.johnny@heb.com
 - Garza.misty@heb.com

MONTICELLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
The MPNA is for everyone (owners and renters)

Yes, I want to invest in my neighborhood. Enclosed is my 2016 contribution.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

I would also like to help on the following committees:

Social Activities Garage Sale Fundraiser Historic Preservation
 Scholarship Home Tour Newsletter

Other: _____

Send to: **MPNA, P.O. Box 5851, San Antonio, Texas 78201**

The MPNA has worked hard to achieve its §501(c)(3) status. What does that mean to you? Any dues paid, any donation to the association (such as for scholarships), any expense to you on behalf of the Association is now tax deductible. Check with your tax preparer concerning any deductions you want to take.



Follow us on Facebook at “Monticello Park Neighborhood Association”
Find out the latest news, find a lost pet, and make a new friendship!



From the *Code Connection*, the newsletter from the Code Enforcement Section, Development Services Department:

Absentee Property Owners

On Sept. 19, 2013, City Council passed the Absentee Property Owner (APO) Registration ordinance. Someone who owns a one- or two-family (a duplex) dwelling and resides outside of Bexar County, or has a P.O. Box on file with the Bexar County Appraisal District (BCAD), is considered to be an APO. To be identified for registration, the Development Services Department (DSD) uses a rolling one-year window to find properties having two or more code violations within the past 12 months. Once identified, these properties must register for a minimum of two years and pay a \$50 annual registration fee. In addition, contact information for a local property manager – who can act as an agent on behalf of the property owner – must be provided by the APO so future violations are addressed faster and more efficiently. If properties continue to have violations, then annual registration continues to apply. Before this ordinance was approved, APOs were found to be 30% more likely to have a code violation and 70% more likely to have a lien placed on the property due to non-compliance and non-payment of abatement costs covered by the City.

Since implementation of this registration program, more than 1,000 properties have been identified. Close to 10% of these properties have a P.O. Box on file with the BCAD. Some APOs have shown that they live in San Antonio and have generally indicated that they use a P.O. Box to (a) collect rental payments from their tenants at a central location if multiple properties are involved or (b) desire to maintain their home address as “private” from tenants or other parties. Today, about 300 properties have been registered by APOs along with their first-year fee. Almost a third of these properties have already paid for their second year of registration.

Failure to register is a Class C misdemeanor, prosecuted in Municipal Court that can result in a criminal conviction or a warrant if the property owner doesn't appear. To date, we have filed on nearly 20 cases for failure to register and more than a third have been found guilty. Before a case is filed in Municipal Court, an APO's date of birth must be verified and submitted by the Code Enforcement Officer. However, this has posed a challenge since personal information for APOs living outside of Bexar County is difficult to locate and verify. Additional cases are being prepared to be filed in court. Our next step will be to evaluate whether this registration program is making a difference in our community. Has there been a decrease in the number of code violations for properties identified as having APOs? Initial results show a decrease in code violations. For about 100 properties registered in 2014, there was a notable reduction six months after registration from 2.3 to 0.7 code violations. We'll look at these properties again, this time over a one-year timeframe, to determine if the decrease is maintained. DSD will also reach out to various stakeholders to obtain input as to whether communities across San Antonio have noticed a difference. This information, along with any recommended changes to the ordinance, will be presented to the City Council on September 15, 2016.



STATE SENATOR
JOSÉ
MENÉNDEZ



Invites You to Join the Conversation.



District 26
Community
Gathering

You are invited to a District 26 Community Gathering for an update on what is happening in and around your neighborhood.

There will be a brief presentation by Texas State Senator José Menéndez followed by an opportunity for you to ask questions.

Community Gathering
Saturday, January 30, 2016

9:00am to 11:00am

IBC Medical Center

8650 Fredericksburg Road,
San Antonio, TX 78221

*If you need more information
regarding the event, please
call*

*(210) 733-6604. Light re-
freshments will be served.*

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

The Office of Historic Preservation is looking for feedback from historic district residents and anyone who participates in OHP programs. Please participate by visiting

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XZ9CHH8>

The site will be open throughout January.

AND

Beginning with the next issue of the MPNA Newsletter, we are developing a column for your concerns, your questions about policies, and general information you would like to pose to our elected officials. Anyone currently holding elected offices that represent our neighborhood will be sent your question, and his/her answer will be published in our newsletter.



Here is the process:

- Submit your question to any of our board members. Their names and phone numbers are listed on the second page of this newsletter.
- Keep your questions general in nature, ones that the entire MPNA would appreciate and learn from. Your personal issues can be directly sent to the appropriate official on your own.
- The Board will review the questions and will submit them to our elected representatives.
- The answers from each person will be published in the column.

Our goal is to allow you to hear from our members of government. We would prefer not to feature a column for any official. Each has email blasts that can and do reach you on the topics he/she desires. This forum will be for the issues you want to hear about!

So, get those thinking caps on, and submit your questions today!

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association 2015 Beautification & Restoration Award Application

The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA), with a donation from the Jefferson Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation, is proud to announce \$4000 for the 2015 MPNA Beautification and Restoration Award. Please complete the application below. Projects eligible for Beautification and Restoration award must be visible from the street. Some examples: wood window restoration, wood door restoration, roof, exterior masonry repairs, wood screen restoration, painting and new landscaping. New Construction projects will not be considered.

Application is due by MONDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2016 and can be turned in to any MPNA board member or mailed. Projects must be completed between 1/1/2015 and 2/15/2016

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number _____

Please provide a description of the scope of the project. 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.

All Applications MUST include the following documentation:

1. Certificate of Appropriateness from the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation.
2. Itemized list of all expenditures associated with project for award consideration.
3. Copies of receipts which show proof of payment with detail of the scope of project and materials.
4. Photos of "before" and "after" the project.



FREE LANDFILL DAY

Saturday, February 6, 2016 • 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Free Landfill Day offers you the perfect opportunity to get rid of all of your unwanted brush, bulky waste, and household hazardous waste (HHW) for **FREE!** Several convenient locations will provide citizens easy access to drop off their unwanted material. **This event is available only to San Antonio residential Solid Waste Rate Payers. In order to participate, please make sure the following guidelines are met:**

- Must be a City of San Antonio solid waste fee rate payer
- Bring a valid picture ID
- Bring a copy of your most recent CPS Energy Statement showing payment of City Services for Solid Waste Fee
- Cover your loads with a tarp (by law, City Ordinance #722272)
- NO roofing materials, sheet rock, dirt, brick, lumber or construction materials will be accepted
- NO industrial, commercial or construction waste will be accepted

All sites listed by zip code below will be accepting materials:

78216	Bitters Brush Recycling Center (Brush only) 1800 Wurzbach Parkway	78227	Southside Bulky Waste Collection Center (Bulky Items only) 5450 Castroville Rd.
78216	Bitters Bulky Waste Collection Center (Bulky Items only) 1800 Wurzbach Parkway	78238	Culebra Rd. Bulky Waste and HHW Collection Center (Bulky Items & HHW only) 7030 Culebra Rd.
78219	Republic Services Landfill 7000 IH 10 E	78247	TDS Transfer Station (Bulky Items only) 11601 Starcrest <i>*customer may be required to wear a safety vest on loan</i>
78222	Rigsby Avenue Bulky Waste Collection Center (Bulky Items only) 2755 Rigsby Avenue	78252	Nelson Gardens Brush Recycling Center (Brush only) 8963 Nelson Road
78226	Frio City Road Bulky Waste Collection Center (Bulky Items only) 1531 Frio City Road	78252	Waste Management Landfill 8611 Covell Road <i>*customer may be required to wear a safety vest on loan</i>

Accepted Material by Above Sites ONLY:

- Appliances
- Bagged litter
- Brush
- Carpet
- Fencing material
- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Tires (limit 6 passenger car tires per household)
- Toilets
- Water heaters



REMEMBER TO REUSE AND RECYCLE

Donate usable items to charitable organizations!

The City reserves the right to divert loads to other sites in the event of operational constraints. The City of San Antonio and Partners are not responsible for damage to vehicles or injury to citizens during event.

DISCOVER THE ARTISTS OF THE DECO DISTRICT. SUPPORT OUR LOCAL RESIDENTS.



Rey Garza Real Estate's 2015 holiday card featured the *Holiday Originals* line of Escandalo Jewelry designed by Diana Harwood. A long term Deco District resident, Diana explains, "Escandalo is a Spanish word that means scandalous. My designs are just that, scandalous. They are fun, frivolous, and fantastic. My Hispanic culture is very evident in the colors and themes, such as in the Fiesta San Antonio and the Spiritual Elegance lines."

Local Resident and Realtor Camille Rodriguez Brigant is dedicated to supporting the arts in our local community. Camille specializes in the marketing and selling of historic properties. Historic homes require a Realtor who understands how to accurately price each unique property and market to specialized buyers. You can contact her for a free personalized evaluation of your home's value. Call or stop by her office, conveniently located at 1650 W. Huisache Ave.



Camille Rodriguez Brigant *Realtor*[®]

p: (210) 802-9797

HomesbyCamille@gmail.com

1650 W. Huisache, SA, TX 78201

