

Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By Jan Peranteau

September - October 2017

David and Lydia Lerma certainly know about life's ups and downs. "Losing Sarah, November 9, 2013, has been the greatest tragedy of our lives," Lydia said in a recent conversation over this neighbor's fence. "The fire didn't compare to losing my baby," Lydia said in a broken and teary voice. At 27, Sarah died, due to multiple problems, including open-heart surgery, a pacemaker, and blunt trauma to the head. The emergency room doctor was not hopeful. After Sarah had spent days in an unconscious state, the Lermas made the decision to end life support, and Sarah died. Taking my own daughter to see Sarah was mystifying. Rebecca is blind and simply could not grasp that her childhood playmate



Lydia and David Lerma in front of their home on Furr Drive

could be dying in a hospital bed, and not speaking or moving.

And so Sarah died, and Lydia and David made another big decision. Sarah's children, Emerie, now 11, and David, 7, would need to live permanently with them and they would begin the adoption process. David, a police officer in the process of retiring said, "I had to go back to work for a year to get insurance for the kids and to cover the cost of the adoption."

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Please attend the
Monticello Park
Neighborhood Association
General Assembly Meeting

MONDAY

September 25, 2017

7PM
950 Donaldson
Grace Presbyterian Church

PROGRAM

Nominating Committee
SAAFE Officer Reports
National Night Out

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

Hasn't this been a fantastic summer in Monticello Park? So much has happened since our last newsletter, and I am so proud to see how we continue to build our community into one of the best neighborhoods in San Antonio.

Over the past few weeks, your MPNA Board Members and Officers have been working very hard on a number of projects to benefit our neighbors. We attended Ana Sandoval's D7 Neighborhood Leadership Meeting, where we shared ideas with other neighborhoods on how to build stronger communities and gave feedback on the infrastructure needs for Monticello Park.

We also sent a letter to District 7 with budget requests for street and sidewalk improvements in several locations. We all know the issues with many of our streets, and we look forward to City of San Antonio addressing these extremely needed repairs.

We hope to see many neighbors at the Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Homeowner Fair, September 30th at the Pearl Brewery, 10 am – 3:30 pm. Our neighborhood will host a booth featuring historic and current photos of our homes. We are very proud of Monticello Park and want the entire city to know about us. This is a great event to meet local contractors and attend workshops on wood window repair, securing financing for a project, landscaping, and more! This event is free, and we hope to see you there!

Also, join us as we celebrate National Night Out along with the Jefferson Neighborhood Association on October 3rd in the Pocket Park, 6-8 pm. We'll have hot dogs, drinks, a bounce house for the kids, and plenty of tables and chairs for socializing. Bring a side dish to share and get to know your neighbors. We expect to have a number of city, county, and state leaders dropping by, so make sure you attend!

Finally, I have a favor to ask each of you. At our next General Assembly Meeting, September 25th, we will form a nominating committee who will present a slate of Officers and Board Members for election in November. Please consider volunteering your time for the board or to work on a committee. It takes just a little effort for each of us to make great things happen in Monticello Park.

See you at National Night Out!

Gary Hudman

President: Gary Hudman (Mary Louise)
286-9212
V. President: Gary Hudman (Mary Louise)
286-9212
Secretary: Drea Garza (Furr)
643-4760
Treasurer: Tom Simmons (Club)
701-4300

Board Members

Scott Gustafon (Club)
Ron Hubbert 215-5875 (Quentin)
Jaime Jasso 818-4593 (Kampmann)
Laura Reid 215-9589 (Club)
Tony Sanchez 269-2886 (North)
Patrick Shea 614-214-0736 (Club)

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

Newsletter Committee

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For ad pricing info call 734-2445 or visit
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San Antonio, TX 78201

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office	207-7044
SAWS	724-7097
CPS	353-2222
Officer Vincent Cano	207-0803
394-1398 (cell)	
vincent.cano@sanantonio.gov	
SAPD, West Substation	207-7420
SAPD Emergency	911
SAPD Non-emergency	207-7273
SAISD Police	271-3124
SAISD Truancy Office	223-2360
VIA Transit	362-2020
Code Compliance	311
Animal Control	311
Office of Historic Preservation	215-9274
Historic Building Enforcement Officer	
report@sapreservation.com	

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A year passes and life seems to be smoothing out. Lydia had taken Emerie to Roller Derby practice, "After practice, we stopped at a restaurant to get some dinner," Lydia explained. David called, and said, "You need to come home." Lydia asked him why. He just said, "Come home." "I kept asking why and he wouldn't say. Then I had these feelings---did someone break into the house? Is the house on fire?" Again, he said, "Just come home." She said she knew something felt terrible wrong. When Lydia arrived on that cold and windy November night, the house was blazing and fire trucks seemed to be everywhere. The date was November 16, 2014, a year after Sarah's death. A disastrous fire left their beautiful 1934 stone home in the Monticello Park neighborhood a burned-out shell. The windows and doors had been knocked out so that firefighters had access to the fire. Water poured into the house onto original wood floors. Paintings crackled on the walls, several done by her father. Lydia said, "He showed his paintings in both New York and Europe." Lydia, also an artist, had many pieces damaged by the fire. The terrazzo floors in the side game room were covered with soot and debris. Furniture and rugs were destroyed, and a lifetime of memories had gone up in flames. Lydia reminisced, "I have lived here since 1972. Mother passed away in this house. All four of my children were raised in this house." Still thankfully, she said, "No one was in the house at the time of the fire"

That night, the insurance company arrived. "We were insured for \$330,000. It wasn't enough to cover all the damage. I didn't foresee that it would wipe us out." She said that the insurance company provided a hotel for a few nights until a rental property could be found.

After hiring four different contractors, an architect, and going before the Historic Design and Review Commission four times; after three years, the Lermas are finally seeing their house come back together again. The costs have been staggering. Lydia named a few. "The windows cost \$79,000 alone and I had to pay for five more windows. The two French doors were \$10,000." Because the neighborhood is historic, wood windows had to be installed and she used Pella. She said that the demolition cost was \$77,000. "There was asbestos and lead in the house, so special crews had to be hired for that." The cost for leveling the house was \$16,000. Since it was determined that the cause of the fire was electrical, all new wiring had to be done. "The house now has new plumbing and a central air and heating system partially installed. Before, we used window units and space heaters." The house has a beautiful Italian tile roof. It needs repair, but that will be a big expense too.



David and Emerie enjoy their dog, Grover.

There have been sunny moments in all of this. Lydia told of the Window Workshop that the Office of Historic Preservation held at her house on August 18-19 of this year. "They helped me restore the unique front windows on the west side of the house by the game room. A window expert, Steve Quillian, was flown in from Florida to help with the restoration." She said that they were not completely finished but that Quillian would return to finish the job when he comes back to San Antonio for the Historic Homeowner's Fair re-scheduled for September.

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Currently, the Lermas are waiting for a final electrical inspection from the city so that the air-conditioning and heating system can be completed. Then, the inspection of the central air and heating system can be done. A plumbing inspection is also required. Downstairs, the floor must be redone as well as finishing out all of the woodwork and window hardware in the house. When asked about moving in, Lydia said, "We were told it would be ready in May 2017. We were told after the inspection of the electricity, we could move in August. The electrical inspection still has not occurred." And stone masons, window people and various others while the children are in school. Then, after school, little David and Emerie ring this neighbor's bell and want to play with Grover, the reporter's dog. Whenever the kids are around, Grover goes to the fence and looks for them. It is a love affair that only dogs and children really understand. At the end of playtime, balls are returned to the front porch and little David says, "Grover needs a drink." Grover comes in and slurps water and then flops on his bed. The kids go back next-door and sit on the front steps until it is time to return to the rented place. Life continues at too slow a pace. Construction needs to happen every day. Inspectors need to show up for scheduled appointments.

We want our neighbors back!



The Lerma House



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Association**

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there, and keep up on
neighborhood happenings.**



**Pay dues
and join us
at the next
meeting!**

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association is a §501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization. Our newsletter reaches 700 homes in the Monticello Park area. Visit our website at www.monticelloparkna.org



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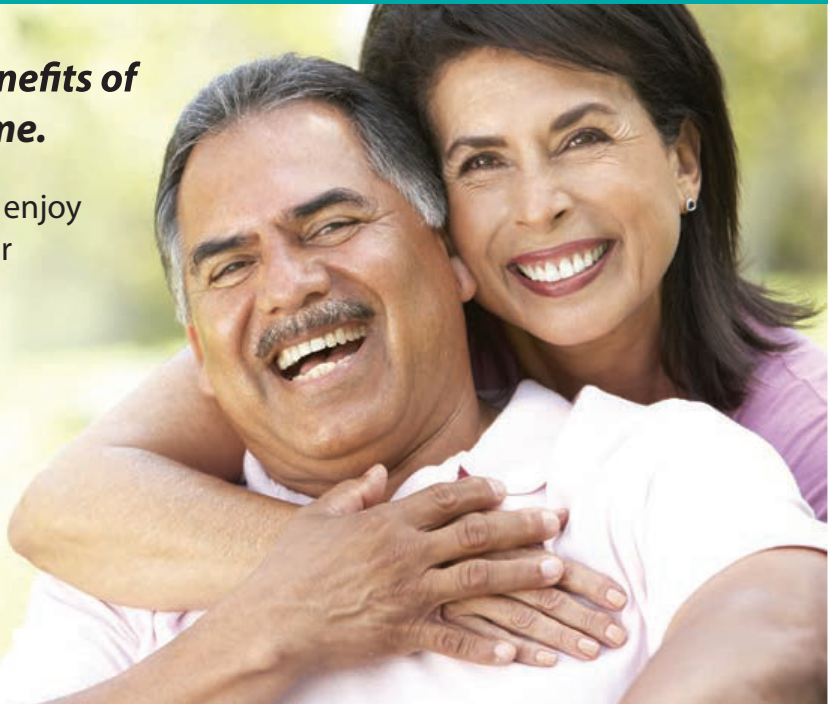


They're Called Your Golden Years *for a Reason*

Ask me about the benefits of downsizing your home.

Free up some money to enjoy yourself - take a cruise or that trip to Las Vegas!

You earned it!



THE UPSIDE OF DOWNSIZING

- Travel more, mow less grass! Less house means less to maintain, lower utility bills, lower taxes and lower cost of living.
- Less square footage equals less to clean, dust, organize and maintain.
- In 2017, the median home price for a single-family home in San Antonio was \$202,500 according to the San Antonio Board of Realtors.
- Do you air condition only part of your house in the hot Texas summers? Eliminate empty room syndrome! How many rooms do you actually use in your home?
- San Antonio now offers gated communities for people over 55 which include amenities and planned activities and events.
- I live and work right here in your neighborhood! Take advantage of my knowledge of our area, my superior negotiating skills and my sincere concern for your best interest.



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HISTORIC HOMEOWNER FAIR

Saturday, September 30 - Pearl Stable

RESCHEDULED

The 9th Annual Historic Homeowner Fair will be Saturday, September 30, 2017, at the Pearl Stable.

The Historic Homeowner Fair (HHF) is a free, annual event hosted by the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation. It is designed to bring together owners of aging and historic homes with local professionals, services, products, and solutions and to educate homeowners about caring for and maintaining their properties. In addition to an Exhibitor Hall of local contractors and preservation organizations, the HHF provides educational sessions and hands-on demonstrations throughout the day which cover a wide array of topics including wood window repair, securing financing for a project, and even landscaping.

The fair runs from **10 am - 3:30 pm**. *Because of the rescheduling, please allow us some time to make minor changes and updates to the materials linked below. We will publish updated materials soon that reflect the updated date and times of the fair and educational sessions.* The HHF is free and open to the public. You don't have to live in a historic district to attend! Watch this space and our [Facebook Page](#) for event updates. **#HHF2017**



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

JOIN US AT THE MONTICELLO POCKET PARK

6-8 PM

**We will serve hot dogs and the trimmings
BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS**

BOUNCE HOUSE, COLD DRINKS, AND GREAT FELLOWSHIP

SURPRISES AS CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIALS ARRIVE!