

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING**

**Monday, 7/31/23, 7 PM
Grace Presbyterian Church
950 Donaldson**

**Speaker: Solutions for
Traffic and Speeding**

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*Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so
much.*

Helen Keller

Bob Howard Built Masonry Throughout San Antonio



**MEET THE
NEIGHBORS**
by Jan Peranteau

Bob Howard is one of the hardest working men in the neighborhood. Soon to be 87, he is usually up early and out walking, trimming bushes, mowing grass, or helping one of his neighbors. If you live on Furr Drive,

you know Bob. A soft-spoken man, with a shock of white hair, he can be seen out doing one chore or another.

We sat down at my kitchen table and Bob started to talk. "I came to San Antonio in '99 to work on the Marriott River Center Hotel and that was supposed to have been one job. But then I was hired to do masonry for the Bexar County Courthouse. My business was in Houston." That was 23 years ago, and Bob is still here.

During that time, he has gone through the loss of his wife and his beloved dog, Jane. His wife had a stroke and he moved her to a care facility in town. Jane, his dachshund, grew old as Bob aged a bit and became more bent over. She died after 17 years of being his loyal companion. The two could be seen walking from apartment building to apartment building, owned by Michael Simms, an investor from California. Simms wanted to create a retirement community in the 500 block of Furr, but the neighborhood opposed it. Simms brought Bob to the neighborhood in 2010 to make repairs on some of the buildings and manage the properties.

Robert David Howard was born September 28, 1936, in Memorial Hospital in Houston, Texas. "My dad was a general contractor in Houston and in business for 60 years. I learned about



Bob Howard on his front steps on Furr

construction from him. And my mom was an artist. She taught students at the house. I too was interested in art." He said he attended Blinn College in Brenham, Texas. It was here he met his wife, Betty Lou Hensly. They were married 56 years before she passed away. From this marriage he has two children, a son, and a daughter. And he adds, "another daughter and stepdaughter from a one-night-stand."

There is another thing about Bob. He is deaf. He said, "I have hereditary deafness. I know when it worsened. They took my tonsils out when I was eight and after that I wore hearing aids—the kind that have a harness and a big box in the middle of your chest." Did he ever go to a school for the deaf? "No, I learned to read

Continued on page 3

Stop Signs Coming for Problem Intersections

Neighbors,
Our next General Assembly meeting will be held on Monday, July 31st at 7 PM,



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Drea Garza

Grace Presbyterian Church, 950 Donaldson. In addition to updates from our SAFFE Officer and other neighborhood news, we have invited a representative

from Public Works to address plans moving forward with regard to the traffic studies requested last September 2022.

Thank you to all the neighbors who celebrated Fourth of July in the Pocket Park with us! MPNA provided plenty of red, white, and blue decorations for bikes, wagons, and strollers, and even had a few accessories for kids and pets. We had a lively parade around the park and ended with paletas and apple pie, courtesy of Akouo Church. The evening ended with the city's fireworks celebration over Woodlawn Lake. I hope all had a great holiday!

I have some movement in our quest for stop signs and traffic studies to share. On Monday, July 3rd, MPNA board members met with Councilwoman Alderete Gavito, members of her staff, and representatives from Public Works to discuss the ongoing traffic and safety concerns. We shared the history of accidents and efforts going back several years to address the accidents and need for greater intervention by Public Works. Public Works provided the results of the traffic/speed counts at our

infamous intersections and stated we did not meet the threshold for four-way stop signs.

While Public Works questioned the effectiveness of four-way stops, they acknowledged the Councilwoman's request for a short-term solution consisting of flashing stop signs and striping on the road while we await a comprehensive study.

On July 14th, we received an update from the Councilwoman's office confirming Public Works had approved the stop signs and D7 anticipated signing the necessary documentation within a week. If all goes as planned, the new stop signs will be installed approximately 60 days from the date of the signed agreement. We thank Councilwoman Alderete Gavito for advocating for neighborhood safety.

On the Fourth of July, some neighbors along Kampmann received an invitation to a meeting regarding the Kampmann Drainage Study. The notice created confusion due to the limited distribution that included only a fraction of those within the floodplain; however, a public meeting will be held July 24th, at 6 PM at YWLA to present potential solutions to area flooding. I highly encourage anyone within the floodplain to attend.

Thank you for helping keep Monticello Park a great neighborhood! I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming General Assembly meeting.

MONTICELLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MPNA serves the interests of nearly 650 households in the Monticello Park Neighborhood and is recognized by the City of San Antonio.

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation devoted to promoting, preserving, and enhancing the values and quality of life within our neighborhood. MPNA was founded in 1983 and this year we celebrate our 40th Anniversary.

President	Drea Garza
Vice President	Gary Hudman
Secretary	Robin Foster
Treasurer	Ressie O'Connors

Board Members	Marti Campbell
	Bianca Maldonado
	Carol Rea
	Tony Sanchez
	Tom Simmons

www.monticelloparkna.org
facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA

MONTICELLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is published six times per year (January, March, May, July, September, & November) and delivered to households in the Monticello Park Neighborhood free of charge.

Neighbors are encouraged to submit articles (250-350 words) by the 5th day of each publication month to be considered for publication. We reserve the right to edit all materials for content, length, and style. All materials submitted become property of MPNA and may be reproduced in all MPNA communications.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and MPNA is not responsible for that content or opinion.

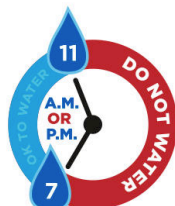
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	Barbara Simpson

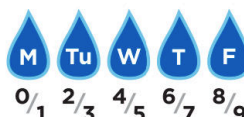
To advertise visit
www.monticelloparkna.org

Water Once a Week on Your Designated Day.

San Antonio remains in Stage 2 Water Restrictions because SAWS purchased additional sources of water.



Watering day determined by last digit of address



Neighbors from page 1

lips. My mother would go to school each year and tell the teachers to put me in the front row and to face me when they were talking.” And that was that, or was it?

When asked how deafness affected him, his voice broke a bit, “It put a limit on me. There was no way of getting what I needed. It affected the way I talk.” Still, life moved on and Bob ran track in high school and in summers rode the bus from Houston to San Antonio to work with his dad on a job site. He’d call his dad from the bus station and Dad would come to get him. He remembered staying at the now defunct Golf Court Motel on St. Mary’s. “Dad liked to knock a few golf balls after

work.” At that time, he was building an episcopal church here. He didn’t know if the church was still going or its exact location.

His first job in the neighborhood was to repair the façade at 507 Furr. He redid the balcony, making repairs to the decorative masonry and removing paint from the brick. “I brought it back to the original condition.” He also worked at 512 Furr, rebuilding a back wall, and walkways by the pool and in the back yard. He talked about doing rock work for Lynne Wilkerson. “It seems everyone liked my work.” He built a stone patio in the rose garden for the community gardens and helped Kathy Hernandez with some pathways. Mainly though, whenever you see him and he sees you, he

is ready for some friendly conversation.

And what does Bob like about Monticello Park? “Everyone is friendly here. You don’t find that in a lot of communities. That means a lot to seniors. People take time to talk to you. And this neighborhood has more variety of architectural designs than most places. Each house has a different style and personality.”

He also talked about his work on the vast King Ranch. “I worked repairing fireplaces and doing some terracotta work.” I built a special fountain for the Henrietta Museum on the ranch. But they don’t allow cameras and so I don’t have pictures of that.” He said he also repaired terracotta and bone China pieces for the legendary Ima Hogg. Before the conversation ended, he told of more people he had known. He redid a patio for Lamar Smith, a longtime congressman, and dated heart surgeon, Michael DeBakey’s daughter for a short period.

Does he plan to move on? “I call this place home. I love it here.”



Bob Howard expertly restored the masonry at 507 Furr Drive

MONTICELLO PARK HELPFUL CONTACTS

- District 7 City Council Office(210)207-7044
- SAFFE Officer Vincent Cano Office..... (210)207-0803
- Cell (210)394-1398
- SAPD, Non-emergency..... (210)207-7273
- SAPD, West Substation(210)207-7420
- SAISD Police Dispatch (Truancy)–24 hrs (210)354-9000
- San Antonio Water System (210)424-7097
- CPS Energy (210)353-2222
- VIA Transit (210)362-2020
- Office of Historic Preservation(210)215-9274
- Historic Building Enforcement Officer (210)219-2093
- San Antonio Customer Service..... 311
- (Animal Control, Code Compliance, etc...)
- Saturday Code Enforcement Hotline(210)207-2633

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY

- 31 MPNA General Assembly

AUGUST

- 14 MPNA Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 11 MPNA Board Meeting
- 25 MPNA General Assembly
- 29 SA Conservation Society Grant Deadline

OCTOBER

- 3 SA Neighbors Together (was National Night Out)
- 9 MPNA Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 7 Texas and National Elections
- 13 MPNA Board Meeting
- 24 Holiday River Parade
- 27 MPNA General Assembly & Elections

DECEMBER

- 3 MPNA Home Tour
- 11 MPNA Board Meeting
- 16 MPNA Holiday Party

Sourcing Period-Style Tile and Bath Fixtures

Matching your colorful tiles and fixtures is still possible during your restoration

If you are thinking about restoring your original bathroom or, like me, trying to



HISTORIC HEROES & HELP
by Gary Hudman

bring back some of that early 20th Century design, this article may help with history, sources, and techniques.

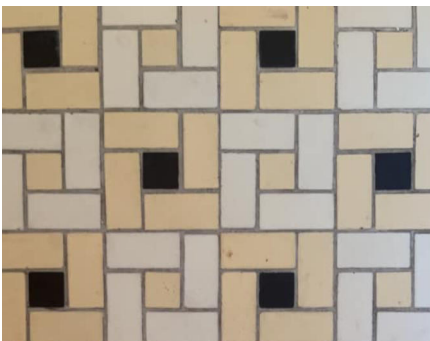
Before 1920, all-white or black and white bathrooms were the norm, but just a

few years later, colors exploded into the vernacular, and soon bathrooms were the brightest, most colorful rooms in the house.

First came colorful field tiles paired with traditional white fixtures. This was very common throughout the 1920s. But near the end of that decade, colored toilets, sinks, and tubs gained popularity, with fixtures designed to match or contrast with the tiles. Kohler and Crane began manufacturing colored fixtures in 1928 and Standard started in 1930.

Common color combinations included pink & black, pink & green, green & black, peach & black, and yellow & black. But with dozens of tile colors, there were literally hundreds of combinations used in our Monticello Park homes. Floor tiles were typically mosaics of small squares, many in the popular pinwheel pattern. These mosaics were unglazed porcelain to create a non-slip surface. Hexagonal floor tiles were quite popular before 1920, but continued to be used in some homes after that time.

When originally built, our homes featured tiles laid in a “mud bed,” a thick layer of mortar troweled onto the floor or the wall, the later with imbedded wire lathe. This technique allowed the talented tile installers to create a surface which was both water-resistant and perfectly level and plumb, despite



Floor mosaic tiles in a pinwheel pattern

variances in the wall or floor structure.

For field tiles, note that not all 4”x4” tiles actually measure 4” in size!

Depending on the manufacturer and era, they may be as small as 3 ¾” and as large as 4 ¼”.

There are also significant variations in tile thickness among the manufacturers, but the mud bed allowed the installers to keep the surfaces perfectly flat.

If you need replacement tiles or are building a new bathroom

designed with a period look, there are several sources to help. Many of these offer multiple colors, trim pieces, and liner tiles, those thin decorative tiles often seen as a band near the top of the field tiles. Some of these suppliers will help you research your original tile manufacturer and even offer original period tiles, both from salvage and “new, old stock.” See the list below.

And if you are searching for colored fixtures, there are also several options to help. If your current fixtures have a worn surface, there are local companies who can apply an epoxy coating to your tub and sink which can match your original. This is often referred to as “re-glazing,” but that is a bit of a misnomer. The fixtures originally had a fire-glazed enamel surface, which was hard and



Furr Drive resident Kathy Hernandez “reglazed” the fixtures in her classic pink & green bathroom

durable. The epoxy used in resurfacing is softer and you must be very careful not to cause damage in use and while cleaning. These resurfaces look incredible when applied, and with gentle, appropriate cleaning, will look good for years. This works for tubs and sinks, but not toilets.

Amazingly, Kohler recently announced it would produce fixtures in two vintage colors, so if you need a toilet, you may be in luck. Additionally, there is a source below for vintage salvaged fixtures in almost any color and style you may need. Suncoast Vintage Bathroom Supplies has thousands of options and can ship nationwide.

Good luck! I hope this information is useful in restoring your vintage bathrooms.

TILE & FIXTURE SOURCES FOR VINTAGE DESIGN

B&W Tile Field tiles, trim pieces, and liner tiles in vintage colors
bwtile.com

Restoration Tile Square mosaics and trim pieces
restorationtile.com/walltile.html

Clayhaus Tile Field tiles, trim pieces, liner tiles, & square mosaics
clayhaustile.com/products/classic-field

Arcana Tileworks Field tiles & trim pieces. Can match missing tiles
arcanatileworks.com

Pratt and Larson Field tiles, trim pieces, liner tiles, & square mosaics
prattandlarson.com/product-category/palettes/rejuvenation/

Vintage Tiles New, old-stock + identify your vintage tile manufacturer
vintagetile.weebly.com

Vintage Fixtures Tubs, toilets, sinks, and accessories
sun-coast-vintage-bathroom-supplies.com

Historic District Gentle Reminders

Please remember that if you live in the Monticello Park Historic District, you need a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the city's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) before any exterior works begins on your home. For many changes, you may also need a San Antonio building permit.

Nothing is worse and potentially more expensive than finding yourself reading a Cease and Desist message from Code Enforcement because of your failure to follow the rules.

Applying for a COA is relatively easy. Just log in to the city's website and fill out the online application. www.sanantonio.gov/historic/HDRC/ApplicationsPortal

If you have questions about how to approach your plans, reach out to the caseworkers assigned to Monticello Park: Rachel Rettaliata, (210)207-0145 or Claudia Espinosa, (210)207-1466.

For the application, you will need photos of all sides of your house, in addition to documents showing what you are proposing. This documentation may include a scope of work, an annotated site plan with setbacks, architectural drawings, and materials specifications.

Many applications may be approved administratively by OHP staff. Others may be referred to the Historic Design Review Commission (HDRC), which will review your case at a public meeting and consider approval.

COA REQUIRED FOR ALL EXTERIOR WORK

- Exterior building repairs or alterations such as a change in materials, wood replacement, or even painting
- Changes to doors, windows, and siding.
- Additions & new construction
- Site improvements such as landscaping, hardscaping, driveways, & sidewalks

Restoring Period-Style Ribbon Driveways

Carol Rea brought back that historic vibe to her home and it looks great!

This issue's Historic Hero is Carol Rea, for faithfully rebuilding the ribbon



HISTORIC HEROES & HELP
by Gary Hudman

driveway at her attractive Tudor Revival on Donaldson. Carol's crumbling asphalt driveway was not original and was a big mess. She replaced it with what she had always known as a

Hollywood driveway.

This feature added instant curb appeal to Carol's house and really made the yard look great. "I've just always loved ribbon driveways. I think they are charming," she remarked when asked why she decided to bring back what was surely an original feature of her home.

The restoration of ribbon driveways is gaining traction in Monticello Park, reflecting our residents' desires to preserve the historical integrity of the homes in our neighborhood. These iconic driveways, with their elongated form and timeless appeal, offer compelling reasons why restoration is important.

Ribbon driveways were considered the height of fashion in the 1920s. They were a natural progression from the ruts carved in the ground by wagon wheels and were a clear upgrade as our society

embraced life with automobiles. They reflected their origin by paving the areas where the wheels go and leaving the grass in the middle.

Restoring ribbon driveways is a testament to our respect for history and architectural heritage. These driveways harken back to a bygone era, showcasing the design principles and styles of the past. By restoring ribbon driveways, we preserve a tangible link to our community's roots, providing a glimpse into the rich tapestry of our shared history.

Beyond their historical significance, ribbon driveways contribute to the visual aesthetics and overall charm of the neighborhood. Their distinctive layout adds a touch of elegance and character to the streetscape. Restoring these driveways enhances the visual continuity of the neighborhood, instilling a sense of pride among residents and captivating the admiration of passersby.

Furthermore, restoring ribbon driveways carries economic benefits. Well-

preserved historic features, such as these driveways, enhance property values and attract potential homeowners. By investing in restoration, homeowners not only contribute to the cultural preservation of their community but also potentially increase the resale value of their properties.

Carol was not the only one to restore her driveway recently; another neighbor on the same street completed a new ribbon driveway at the same time as Carol, and they both look fantastic.

Thanks neighbors, for contributing to the charm and aesthetic of our historic neighborhood and for rebuilding long-lost features of your historic homes.



Carol Rea proudly showing her new ribbon driveway, recently installed on Donaldson

Easy 30-Minute Grilled Red Snapper

Perfect summer recipe when you want to cook outside and keep the kitchen cool

I learned how to cook at a young age from my Italian restaurateur parents. I



**MASTER RO'S
RECIPES &
REVIEWS**
by Ro Inslar

was lucky to inherit a good palate and the knack for knowing what ingredients go well together. Over the years, I enjoyed other types of cuisines and began experimenting with various spices and

ingredients. I successfully replicated recipes from some of my favorite restaurants and made up some of my own. The following recipe is one of mine. It's fresh and healthy and can be used with many types of fish, my favorites being red snapper and flounder.

CHEF'S TIPS

- Whether grilling on a gas or charcoal grill or baking in the oven, I recommend using copper grill mats. They have a natural non-stick surface, are inexpensive, easy to clean, and are reusable.
- Pair with Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio or Josh Cellars Sauvignon Blanc.

GRILLED RED SNAPPER

Makes 4-6 servings. Prep Time: 10-15 mins. Cooking Time: 12 mins.

INGREDIENTS

- Red Snapper, 1 ½ lbs. fresh or frozen
- Olive Oil, 1 ½ Tbsp.
- Lime Juice, fresh squeezed, 1 ½ Tbsp.
- Smoked Paprika, 1 ½ Tbsp.
- Adams Reserve All-Purpose Rub, 1 ½ Tbsp. (or use ½ Tbsp. salt, ½ Tbsp. black pepper, and ½ Tbsp. granulated garlic)
- Dried Tarragon, 1 Tbsp. (or use 1 Tbsp. dried cilantro or parsley)



DIRECTIONS

1. Cut filets into six 4 oz. or four 6 oz. portions, rinse under cold water, pat dry with paper towels, and set aside.
2. In a small bowl, add olive oil and lime juice, whisk for 1 minute.
3. In another small bowl, combine the spices and herbs.
4. Brush the filets with the olive oil and lime mixture, coating both sides of the filets.
5. Generously sprinkle the herb/spice mixture on both sides of the filets, patting down gently.
6. Place the filets (skin down) on a flat cookie sheet if baking or on a copper grill mat if grilling.
7. Bake or Grill (see below).
8. Add lime slices for garnish.

COOKING TIME

Oven: 12-15 minutes at 400 degrees, turning once half-way. The fish is ready when it flakes easily with a fork and is white but still moist.

Grill: 10-12 minutes at 450 degrees (use copper grill mat), turning several times to prevent burning. The fish is ready when it flakes easily with a fork and is white but still moist.

Who will be Perro Bello de Monticello 2023?

Drop by our Facebook page and enter your pooch in this fun annual competition

International Dog Day is Saturday, August 26th. Katrina Cook's Bookhaven, the Little Free Library on North Drive, offers a contest to choose a dog (or family of dogs) to represent our neighborhood for the following year.

Trixie La Rue, owned by Marti Campbell, was Perro Bello 2022 and Baby Backup, owned by Kitty Taylor, was Perro Bello 2021. Will your pup be 2023?

Check the MPNA Neighborhood Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/monticelloparkna) for directions on how to enter the contest. You will post a photo of your pet during the week

of August 20th. The winner will get a toy and an article in the MPNA Newsletter. Not to leave out the felines, remember that National Cat Day is October 29th and there will be a contest for them too.

Trixie La Rue with 2 sisters 18 months apart at the MPNA 4th of July Kids' Parade, one of her last appearances as Perro Bello de Monticello 2022.



David Guerrero, We're Glad You're Here!

He is not only a gifted sculptor and painter, but also restores classic autos.

Eighteen years ago, David Guerrero told his wife Mary it was time to move to

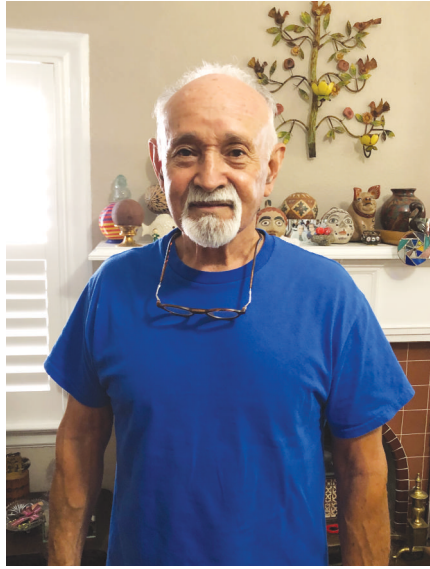


ARTIST SPOTLIGHT
by Barbara Simpson

another neighborhood. He convinced her they could do that, even though at the time she was a full-time teacher. And they did. Moving into a recently restored home in Monticello Historic District to be near artists like themselves was

one of the best decisions of their lives, they both say. Now both are retired from teaching, he from art and history and as a principal of an elementary school, she from middle and elementary ESL teaching. David spent years training his students in jewelry making, painting, drawing, silk screening, sculpture, and decorating gourds. Now he practices all these things in addition to doing custom framing of his artwork. A visit to their home is a sensory delight with David's own artwork and other work he has collected filling the walls and shelves.

David told me that he worked in the fields as a migrant with his parents when he was a boy. Sugar beets in the summer in Idaho, cherries in Wisconsin, tomatoes and cucumbers in Illinois, cotton in Texas. It was while he was in the fields in Idaho that he "realized I did not want to do that the rest of my life." So, he went to the University of Idaho in Pocatello to take an entrance exam and



David Guerrero in his art-filled living room

started college at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. The Vietnam war interrupted his life for four years. David proudly wears a Vietnam veteran hat, having served in the Air Force, two years of which were in Saigon in security. When he was finished, he came back to Texas, where he and Mary called Del Rio home. He began teaching art in schools and raising a family. (He and Mary have a daughter and two granddaughters in Austin, all of whom David has taught art over the years.)

His dream of being near other artists has become a reality. David and neighborhood artists began On and Off Fredericksburg Road Studio Tour here in Monticello Park in 2007. The weekend fair brings local artists together

in the spring to show their work.

Visitors go to the studios of the artists to see different kinds of art. David has a neighbor who shows beautifully made quilts, and another who works in glass. David showcases his sculptures out of found metal objects welded together. He displays paintings in his studio and his sculptures in his yard. His most recent paintings are landscapes with fantastic trees filling the spaces of paintings of wildlife.

A man of seemingly endless artistic endeavors, five years ago David began restoring old automobiles. He has restored a '57 Chevy, a Mercedes, two trucks, and his latest project a '39 Sunbeam, one of the few left in the world. He's won several awards at international car shows for his restoration of the Sunbeam. You can see more of his work on KLRN Central Texas Gardener. Search Google ... "David Guerrero Central Texas Gardener" and see the segment done on him and Mary. Musical artistry is also something David enjoys. While living in Waelder years ago he joined a band of monks who sang religious music, even composing some tunes for the Psalms and playing guitar with the band.

I asked David what he liked most about Monticello Park, thinking he would say the artistic environment. The first thing he mentioned, though, was the friends he has made in his neighborhood and them helping one another. He loves helping neighbors when problems arise and seeing them recover from bad times. That's why we're glad you're here, David!



Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

General Assembly Meeting

Monday, July 31, 2023, 7 PM

950 Donaldson, Grace Presbyterian Church Community Room

**Come Hear the City of San Antonio Speaking on
"Speeding and Traffic Solutions"**

Please Join Us and Help Build a Stronger Neighborhood.

Neighbors Loved the 4th of July Kids' Parade

Kids and pets celebrated their patriotism and enjoyed cold paletas at the conclusion.





Thank you Ressie O'Connors for organizing the parade and Akouo Church for providing the beverages and snacks!



MPNA Board Elections Require Membership

Paying 2024 dues by end of January makes you eligible to vote.

Benefits of membership were described in the March-April newsletter and the eligibility to vote is probably the most significant one, although membership is also required for anyone wishing to run for board and officer positions.



MEMBERSHIP
by Carol Rea

It's also important to note that dues must have been paid by January 31st in order to vote in each year's elections. In other words, dues must have been paid in full by January 31, 2023 to vote in this year's MPNA elections on November 27th. If your dues were paid after that date, you aren't eligible to vote this time and will need to make sure that your dues are paid prior to January 31, 2024 in order to vote in the 2024 MPNA election.

Keep in mind that memberships are registered by household; if dues were paid by one member of your household by the January 31st deadline, all adult residents living in your home can vote in

this fall's election. Membership can be a real bargain for multi-generational families—the dues are only \$10 for anyone over the age of 65 and one person paying that amount entitles all adults under the same roof to vote; everyone just needs to show up at the meeting with proof of residency. Even at \$15, dues can permit parents and grown children or other related adults in a household to vote, still quite a bargain.

While it's true that filling out the form below and submitting your dues with it or joining online today won't allow you to vote in this year's election, the funds will help the MPNA to continue operating,

including offering scholarships, hosting social events, and printing this newsletter! If you have any questions about membership in the MPNA, please email membershipmpna@gmail.com. We accept donations, too!



If you see either of these women at your door or around the neighborhood, say hello! They're the Membership Committee Welcome Team and they deliver packets of information and gifts to our new residents. If you're new in the neighborhood and haven't met them yet, email Marti Campbell (left) and Carol Rea (right) at MembershipMPNA@gmail.com



Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

Membership Application

Memberships are available online at MonticelloParkna.org; click on "Store."
 Or, please complete this form and mail with check to MPNA, PO Box 100315, San Antonio, TX 78201
 You can also bring cash or check and form to the next MPNA General Assembly Meeting.
 Membership runs January 1 – December 31. Dues must be paid prior to February 1 in order to vote.
 The MPNA is a 501(c)3 organization.

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount included with application \$15 \$10 if over 65. Additional Donation \$ _____

Interested in Volunteering with:

Alley/Graffiti Cleanup Newsletter Delivery Host a Social Event Home Tour

Other: _____

How Would You Like to Join the Board?

Advocating for improvements and building a better community are our top goals

MPNA is a volunteer-driven neighborhood association and we need



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
by Drea Garza

your help in establishing the 2024 Board of Directors.

Please consider volunteering for the MPNA Nominations Committee. The committee is active for a short period of time—

usually the September/October timeframe—but serves a vital purpose by identifying individuals who are willing to serve on the MPNA Board as either an officer or board member. Duties include

calling and/or visiting with potential board members to gauge their interest, and hopefully their commitment, to serve on the board.

Do you want to get more involved in neighborhood activities? Become a part of the MPNA Board of Directors. MPNA has a ten-member board consisting of four officer positions and six members at large. Elections are held in November and service on the board begins in December. Serving on the board is only a one-year commitment, but many board members return and serve for three or four years. We are very grateful for all returning board members and hope to welcome new members!

The Board meets only once a month for board meetings and every other

month for General Assembly meetings. What does the Board do? The Board advocates on behalf of Monticello Park, liaisons with the District 7 Office to address neighborhood concerns, and helps bring attention to our great neighbors and community through the Historic Home Tour and other events.

What has the Board accomplished for the neighborhood? A lot, including upgrades to the pocket park, new sidewalks, street repairs and reconstruction, and drainage projects through advocacy for bond funding. Help us bring more of these improvements to our community by volunteering for a board position.

If you are interested, please email us at boardmpna@gmail.com.

A New Yorker in Monticello Park

How Charlie and Ressie O'Connors found and fell in love with our neighborhood

I grew up in the small town of Waterloo, New York, which is where Memorial Day



NEIGHBORHOOD
by Charlie O'Connors

was founded and where the Woman's Suffrage Movement began. And the furthest west I had ever been before 1975 was Dayton, Ohio. I had been to large cities like Rochester and Syracuse—and in

the early 70s while living in New Jersey, I spent a lot of time in New York City. Then, in July of 1975, I enlisted in the Air Force and took my first trip to San Antonio for basic training. I had never experienced heat like what I experienced that summer. But, I survived, and although basic was not all fun and games I enjoyed my short visit to San Antonio.

Following basic training I flew home to spend some time with family and friends and to pick up my car. It was then time for my first duty assignment at Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, Texas. I drove my little British sports car all the way to Del Rio enjoying the experience of seeing parts of the country I had never seen before. It took me a few days to make the trip, but what an experience.

A normal weekend for young Airmen stationed in Del Rio is driving to San Antonio for concerts, basketball games, Wurstfest, and so much more. I had some incredible friends who refused to just sit around the barracks all weekend. Our trips to San Antonio were always a lot of fun. Then, I met this cute redhead who was also in the Air Force. I knew on our first date, she was the one—and even called my mom to tell her so. While we were dating we would drive to New Braunfels to spend the weekend with Ressie's mom and dad. We would go tubing on the river, visit Wurstfest, and of course we would go into the city.

We both loved areas of city that had old homes but never even thought that we would live in one. Then, shortly after we were married, we both received an assignment to Lackland AFB and decided to buy a home. Even though we loved the historic districts, these homes were way beyond our budget. So we purchased a home near Lackland. We really enjoyed living in San Antonio and having so much to see and do. We put a lot of sweat equity into our new home and really enjoyed being first time homebuyers.

After a couple of years in San Antonio, it came time for another assignment - and more assignments after that. We always tried getting an

assignment back to San Antonio, but it just wasn't in the cards. But throughout the years of military service we regularly traveled "home" to visit with Ressie's mom and dad in New Braunfels and friends who lived in San Antonio.

One couple that we knew and visited on our trips home lived in a historic home located near Woodlawn Lake. We loved their home and the area. We retired from the Air Force and had been living in Tallahassee, Florida for about 15 years when we decided it was time to "move home." Once we made the decision, it was only a few months before we were selling our home in Florida and buying our home in Monticello Park.

We have lived here now for 12 years and consider ourselves extremely lucky to have settled here. We love our historic home in a historic district with the best neighbors anyone could ask for. We enjoy going downtown for dinner, concerts or just to visit the Riverwalk. Many of you will recognize us as the couple who walk their Collie and Golden Retriever up and down North Drive. My New York friends and family cannot understand why someone from New York would want to live here. But I can assure you, if they were to spend any amount of time here, they would understand.

The Mystery of The Castle's Toltec Statue

Plus how the Karam's statues actually originated with the owner of The Castle

Long-time residents may remember a large statue towering over the backyard of The Castle on Mary Louise.



HISTORY CORNER
by Gary Hudman

Some considered this monolith to be evil, and certain mysterious circumstances were certainly aligned with its tenure. This is the story of that statue and its

brethren, which is deeply interwoven into the fabric of two prominent San Antonio families, both of whom lived on Mary Louise Drive.

In 1966, Dr. Max Morales, a well-known physician, bought the house at 250 Mary Louise and moved in with his young family. He also brought with him the dream to build a magnificent Mexican restaurant using family recipes and themed with décor from the Mayan and Toltec cultures.

He and his business partner hired architect Carlos Flores to design La Piramide, which was to be built near Evers Road and I-410. The restaurant was designed to resemble a pyramid, and in an example of stunning architectural design, the entrance was to be lined with Toltec statues. This would have been a very special place and a true regional destination.

Dr. Morales hired a local sculptor,

Antonio Medina, to build the six Toltec statues and a variety of smaller pieces for the restaurant. Mr. Medina was both extremely talented and prolific. He built the "Jolly Jack" statue at Sea Island Shrimp House, the fountain at the now-razed Central Park Mall, a huge plaque of Gen. Douglas McArthur at his namesake high school, and architectural elements which decorate numerous theaters and commercial buildings throughout the area. Most of his work was cast concrete or fiberglass, molded from originals he sculpted in clay.

Soon after the Toltec sculptures were completed, tragedy struck Dr. Morales, when his business partner embezzled the funds for the restaurant and absconded to Mexico! No longer able to fund his dream, Dr. Morales decided to erect one Toltec statue in his backyard while he looked for a plan for the rest. The Morales kids loved the statue and named it "The Coloso," and their visiting friends were always in awe of the immense and mysterious object. As I see it, the end of Dr. Morales' restaurant dream was the first of several calamities associated with the statue.

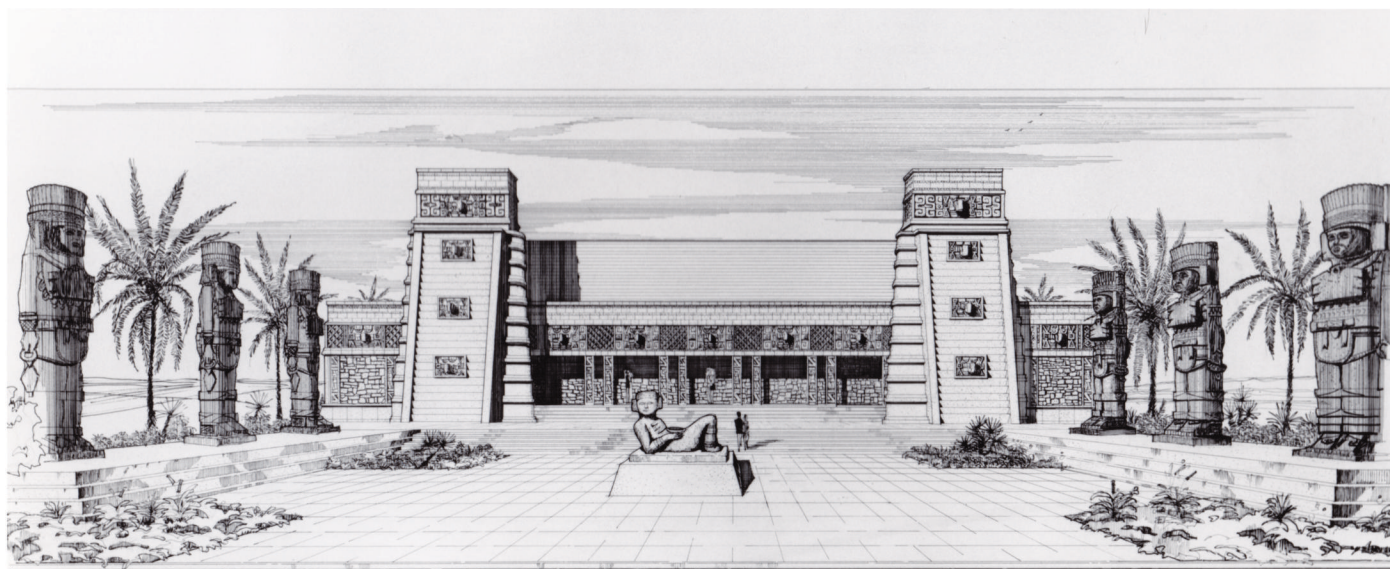
As it turned out, the Morales family was friends with the Karam family,



Toltec warrior statue at the Castle in 1980

proprietors of Karam's Restaurant on Zarzamora. The Karams lived just down the street on Mary Louise and the families often visited with each other. Soon a deal was struck, and Karam's became the new owner of all of the statues, save the one Dr. Morales kept in his yard. These sculptures graced both

Continued on page 13



LA PIRAMIDE

MAX MORALES JR. M.D.

FLORES-DESIGNS

Architect Carlos Flores' stunning design for La Piramide, featuring a breathtaking entrance lined with Toltec warrior statues.

Toltec from page 12

the original Karam's on Zarzamora and a second location, Karam's North, near Callahan and I-10. The latter eventually closed and its statues were transferred to the Zarzamora location. They remained there until the restaurant closed in 2008.

The Morales family sold The Castle in 1971 and left the Toltec statue in the back yard. In 2016, I met the now-adult Morales children, and they shared that their mother did not appreciate that statue at all, so it would appear she finally had her way when they moved!

Several years later, the statue was featured in the June 1980 issue of *Texas Monthly*, where it was described as being 25 feet tall, a gross exaggeration. Based on multiple photos, I would judge the height to be approximately 12 feet.

“Everyone who left that house after it was put up left in a box.”

And tragedies surrounding the statue continued, for the next two owners of The Castle each had mysterious deaths in their families, including one death rumored to be caused by spontaneous combustion! I am not certain there is any truth to



Two Toltec warrior statues greeted visitors to the short-lived Karam's North on I-10

that, but it fueled the legend that the backyard Toltec statue caused all of these tragedies.

The statues were built with a combination of cement and fiberglass and were supported by an internal wooden armature. During an intense rainstorm in the early 2000s, the wood within the statue at the Castle finally shattered and the Coloso fell to the ground in a heap of rubble. Only the head remained in one piece, and the owners took that with them to their new home in 2006, where it remains to this day.

In reference to the deaths and the “bad voodoo” associated with the statue, one neighbor actually remarked “I will just say that everyone who left that house after it was put up left in a box. I am glad that it is gone.”

As for the other sculptures, once Karam's closed those statues were dismantled and now reside in pieces at the Land Heritage Institute, 1349 Neal Rd., on the south side of San Antonio.

I hope you have enjoyed learning a bit about the history of this former neighborhood icon and how it was related to the legendary Karam's in San Antonio.



Dr. Max Morales in Mexico visiting an original Toltec statue.



Remains of the statues now reside at the Land Heritage Institute.

Holiday Home Tour Will Be Here Soon

Help us set an attendance record by bringing all of your friends and neighbors.

As I write this in July, we are having a record heat wave, with temperatures



HOME TOUR
by Gary Hudman

over 100 degrees for more days than I care to count. But the holiday season is fast approaching, which means it is time to plan for the Monticello Park Holiday Home Tour.

I invite you and all of your friends to join us for this year's tour on December 3, 2023. This event is not only an enjoyable way to celebrate the festive spirit, but it also serves as a significant fundraiser for our community.

The Monticello Park Holiday Home Tour is a unique opportunity to step back in time and explore the rich history of our neighborhood. As you and your friends stroll through the beautifully decorated historic homes, you will be transported to an era of style and charm.

Each house has its own captivating story, and you will be amazed by the

architectural details and timeless beauty preserved within their walls.

The funds raised from the event will go toward neighborhood preservation, scholarships, our newsletter, and a variety of programs focused on building a better and stronger neighborhood.

So, let's make this year's holiday season truly memorable.

Bring all your friends and neighbors to the Monticello Park

Holiday Home Tour and immerse yourselves in the enchanting world of our historic homes. Together, we can celebrate the past, create a brighter future, and build a stronger community.

Tony Sanchez and Ressie O'Connors have a number of homes signed up for



Homeowner Tony Sanchez (left) enjoyed sharing the story of his home with visitors during the 2016 Holiday Home Tour.

this year's tour, and their owners are excited to participate. If you'd like to help in any way, contact me at mpnahometour@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars, spread the word, and let's make the 2023 Holiday Home Tour a resounding success!

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Reasons Neighbors Love Our Social Events

Gathering together to socialize helps build a better neighborhood for all

Many people are social by nature. Getting together with neighbors



SOCIAL
by Ressie O'Connors

encourages the exchanging of ideas and sharing of resources.

I, too, am social and curious by nature, so I posed a question to several people in our neighborhood.

“What do you like about our Pink Flamingo Socials?” Here are several of the great responses I received.

“Being new to the neighborhood I was happy to meet our neighbors and getting to know them a little bit. I look forward to more socials and other neighborhood events.”

“I enjoy meeting my neighbors and learning more about them.”

“We’ve enjoyed hosting and attending and have had lots of fun each time.”

“Getting to connect with our neighbors and meeting new ones is always a plus.”

“I always enjoy spending time with my neighbors in a relaxed setting.”

“I like having socials when you can walk and not have to drive.”

“As a military veteran I’ve enjoyed

meeting other veterans and sharing our military experiences.”

All great responses and reasons why we should continue our Pink Flamingo Socials. If you are interested in hosting one please contact Ressie O’Connors at 210-284-0092. See you at the next Pink Flamingo Social!



MPNA social events are great ways to connect with neighbors and build our community.

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