

# Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



HISTORIC HOMES AND FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS IN THE HEART OF SAN ANTONIO NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

**Monday, 11/27/23, 7 PM**  
**Grace Presbyterian Church**  
**950 Donaldson**

**Speaker: D7 Updates**

## IN THIS ISSUE

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*“Keep your eyes on  
the stars, and your  
feet on the ground.”*

**Theodore Roosevelt**

## Get your Tickets Today for the MPNA Home Tour

Eight of your neighbors are completing last minute projects and decking out



**HOME TOUR**  
**by Gary Hudman**

architectural styles this year, including, Spanish Revival, Tudor Revival, Greek Revival, Georgian Revival, and Mid-Century Ranch. There will also be a big surprise, as we feature something very unique for a traditional home tour. If you want to see what this is all about, you'll need to buy a ticket. You will not be disappointed!

their homes in holiday finery, preparing to showcase their homes for the MPNA Holiday Home Tour on December 3, 2023.

We will feature a wide variety of

Many of these homes are full of original details. Come see the pastel bathroom tiles, antique light fixtures, hardwood floors, phone nooks, and more. You will also see many outstanding examples of renovation, so be on the lookout for houses with restored windows, period appropriate kitchens, and new additions which blend into the historic fabric.

All of these homes are full of charm and character. Plus, they will be decorated for the Holidays just in time to welcome our Home Tour guests.

Please buy tickets for the tour and encourage your friends and family to as well. This is the neighborhood's only major fundraiser, and we use the proceeds to fund scholarships, beautification awards, events, and even this newsletter. Without your support and the support of our entire community, we cannot continue with



*Homeowner John Hernandez explains his renovated kitchen to our visitors.*

**Continued on page 3**

# Much is happening as we wind up 2023 in MPNA

Neighbors,

Join us for the last General



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
by Drea Garza

Assembly meeting of 2023 on Monday, November 27th, at 7 PM, Grace Presbyterian Church, 950 Donaldson. We will be holding elections for the 2024 MPNA Board of

Directors. If you paid your MPNA dues prior to January 31st of this year, you are eligible to vote. If you aren't sure whether you paid your dues in time, don't worry, we will have a list of all eligible members. It's also a great time to pay your 2024 dues!

A few weeks ago, homeowners located around the middle of the block received a postcard and/or letter from City of San Antonio notifying them that their property may be eligible for a streetlight. This garnered a lot of discussion since many of our streets are so dark in the evenings. The notice did not provide much information regarding the height of the streetlight, whether the pole would be metal or wood, or what exactly the granting of a five-foot easement entailed. Responses to the streetlights appeared to be rather mixed, but ultimately, even those who agreed to grant an easement may not meet the criteria to have a streetlight placed in the front easement. The five-foot easement is not limited to the right-of-way (ROW) along the street where the light would be located; it also refers to the swath of property where the

electrical line would be run from the rear of the property to the front ROW. No trees or structures can be located below the line or within five feet for fire/safety reasons. Since our lots are so narrow, very few would meet the clearance requirements.

There are other ways we can illuminate our neighborhood. Please consider using dusk-to-dawn lights on your front porch or landscape lighting (be sure to first obtain a certificate of appropriateness). You have more flexibility with the lumens and can direct/point the light as needed. If you are worried about a dark alley, you can contact CPS to install a light at the pole; you would be responsible for the electricity usage.

The MPNA Holiday Home Tour is right around the corner, and this year, we have eight homes being showcased on Sunday, December 3, 2023. This great event is our largest fund-raiser and proceeds from the tour stay in the neighborhood to help fund scholarships and home restoration/beautification grants. Tickets are only \$20 online and can be purchased on the MPNA website (monticelloparkna.org). Tickets will be \$25 on the day of the tour. Be sure to pick up your tour booklet (this is your ticket) at the Jefferson Community Church at 758 Donaldson Avenue.

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 40<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.monticelloparkna.org)  
[facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA](https://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 5<sup>th</sup> 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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	Bianca Maldonado
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	Nick Rangel
	Carol Rea
	Tony Sanchez
	Barbara Simpson

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[www.monticelloparkna.org](http://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



**Home Tour from page 1**

these programs.

Visit [monticelloparkna.org](http://monticelloparkna.org) or use the QR code below to buy your tickets online. Tickets are on sale for \$20 until the day of the tour, when the price will be \$25. Don't miss out on the savings, and buy your tickets today!

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, you will pick up the tour booklet at Jackson Hall, the community room at Jefferson Community Church, 758 Donaldson. The tour booklet will gain you entry to each house.

We love to have you volunteer to be a docent for a house on the tour. If you are interested in helping out, please reach out to Ressie O'Connors at (210) 284-0092. Each docent works a three hour shift and gets a free ticket to the tour to use outside their shift.

And we absolutely must send a huge THANK YOU to our our amazing sponsors who are financially supporting this effort. Without them, this tour could not take place, and we are extremely grateful.

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Mike Kennedy  
La Mana Boutique  
Monticello Park Bunco  
Needle Noise  
Adan Ochoa, AO Design  
Kreesha Rodriguez, Realtor  
Vee's Hair & Spa

**BRONZE**

Earline & Enrique Valdez

**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

**WHICH EMERGENCY  
NUMBER DO I CALL?**

**911** For crimes in process and life-threatening emergencies. Dispatched 24/7 based on level of priority and cases in the queue.

**SAPD non-emergency (210)207-7273** An officer will be dispatched based on a level of priority for calls at the time your call is received. If it is a busy time, you may wait awhile for an officer.

**SAFFE Officer Vincent Cano (210)394-1398** Officer Cano should not be the primary contact during an active situation. Rather, he should be contacted as a follow up to a situation involving SAPD which has already occurred and SAPD has responded, or for questions in general. His hours are typically noon-8 PM, M-F. If he is out, you may contact the West Substation, (210)207-7420, and speak with a SAFFE Sergeant, if there is one on duty.

**Buy Your  
Home Tour  
Tickets Now!**

Tickets are online at the neighborhood website: [monticelloparkna.org](http://monticelloparkna.org). Or simply scan this QR code.



# Meet Aemond, Gato Bello de Monticello 2023

*Laura Reyna rescued this injured and limping cat*

Laura Reyna and her husband moved to Monticello Park from Austin in September 2022. As they settled into their new home, Laura's mom forwarded a photo of a cat in Animal Care Services that needed a home. Even though Laura's family already had dogs and cats, she thought it wouldn't hurt just to go look. They met Aemond, named by ACS workers after a Game of Thrones character.



Aemond limped because he had been attacked by a dog. Fortunately, the dog's owner brought Aemond in to be cared for and adopted. Even though, Aemond was very friendly, unlike his Game of Thrones namesake, Laura didn't bring him home. But then, she couldn't sleep that night, thinking about him and went the next day to get him. He came home to his new family on Christmas Eve. He gets along great with the other animals in the house, even though they've noticed that Aemond has become Laura's favorite. Now, he is living his best life in Monticello Park. Even though Laura was told he would probably limp the rest of his life, he no longer limps at all because of the excellent care he's received. Aemond's message to all his neighbors is to watch out for animals that need your help, like he did. Animals are dependent on our mercy. If it weren't for the kindness of humans in his life, he wouldn't be around to serve as Gato Bello de Monticello



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# Download City's 311 App

*Easy access to city services in the palm of your hand.*

Whether it's a junk vehicle parked on the yard, a menacing stray dog in the park, or a growing pothole at a nearby intersection, San Antonio's 311 app is the fast and easy way to report your concerns.

Download from the App Store or Google Play. If you have used it before, improvements from prior versions have made it easier to report activities. You can flag locations through geo-location, attach photos, and give supporting information for a variety of issues.

You can still call 3-1-1, tweet (or is that X?) @sanantonio311 or use your computer to report possible violations and seek city help, whichever you prefer.

The next time you see a problem in and around Monticello Park, please take a few minutes to report it. Your action makes our neighborhood safer, more attractive, and shows you care!

## Submit Service Requests on the App

- Animal Concerns
- Garbage/dumping
- Graffiti
- Parks Issues
- Permits
- Property Maintenance
- Scooters/Dockless Vehicles
- Sidewalks
- Streets/Traffic

# IMPORTANT DATES

## NOVEMBER

- 24 Holiday River Parade
- 27 MPNA General Assembly & Elections

## DECEMBER

- 3 MPNA Home Tour
- 6 Historic Design Review Commission Meeting
- 9/10 Gran Tamalada, Market Square
- 11 MPNA Board Meeting
- 16 MPNA Holiday Party
- 20 Historic Design Review Commission Meeting

## JANUARY

- 8 MPNA Board Meeting
- 17 Historic Design Review Commission Meeting
- 29 MPNA General Assembly

## FEBRUARY

- 7 Historic Design Review Commission Meeting
- 12 MPNA Board Meeting

## MARCH

- 11 MPNA Board Meeting
- 25 MPNA General Assembly

**Buy Home  
Tour Tickets  
Today**



## Monticello Park Neighborhood Association General Assembly Meeting

Monday, November 27, 2023, 7 PM

950 Donaldson

Grace Presbyterian Church Community Room

**Crime Report from Officer Cano  
District 7 Updates  
Board Election  
Holiday Party**

**Please Join Us and Help Build a Stronger Neighborhood.**



# Join us for MPNA's Annual Holiday Party

*Gathering together to socialize helps build a better neighborhood for all*

This December 16th, Dr. Wayne Ehrisman will host the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association's Holiday Party at his beautiful home located at 402 Mary Louise Drive (corner of Lake and Mary Louise).



**SOCIAL**  
*by Ressie O'Connors*

Festivities begin at 7 PM.

Dr. Ehrisman has been hosting this party at his home for a number of years with an abundance of good food, plenty to drink and a lot of good cheer.

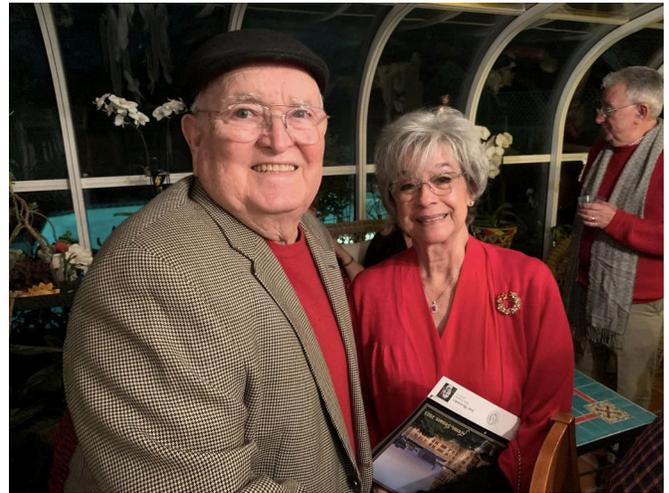
You will discover that you have some of the most interesting neighbors in San Antonio. Many are young professionals working in city, county, state, and federal government positions. We have neighbors who are in the military (active and reserve). We have teachers, entrepreneurs, small business owners, stay-at-home moms and stay-at-home-dads, and we have retirees (who

more than likely worked in one or more of the areas mentioned above).

You will also discover that many of your neighbors have lived here long enough to have experienced issues with their historic home that you may be experiencing, and can probably give you advice on how to resolve. Or they may have done some updates to their home that you may want to consider for your

home. There is a wealth of knowledge that shows up at MPNA's Holiday Party.

And finally, you will discover that your neighbors are amazing in the kitchen. The appetizers, side dishes, and desserts that everyone brings to the Holiday party are out of this world. Better yet, lots of leftovers go home at the end of evening. Did I mention, those



*Frank and Martha Ramirez had a great time at the 2022 Holiday*

attending are asked to bring their favorite side dish, dessert, or beverage to share with others?

All in all, it's an incredible opportunity to catch up with neighbors who you haven't seen in a while and to meet new neighbors who we hope will join in on this joyous neighborhood tradition. I hope to see you there.

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# HOLIDAY PARTY

Please bring a  
side dish, dessert,  
or a beverage to  
share



DEC 16  
2023

7 PM

☀️ Hosted by ☀️  
Wayne Ehrisman

402 "MERRY" LOUISE DRIVE



# You Could Win the Holiday Decorating Contest

*Show your holiday spirit by decorating the exterior of your home and win prizes!*

Following the success of last year's event, it's time again to let your holiday spirit and creative juices flow for one of our neighborhood's latest traditions, the Holiday Home Decorating Contest.

Each year, a team of independent judges travels the entire neighborhood and determines 1st, 2nd and 3rd place award winners. This year, we want to make it even harder by you giving them the best decorations they have ever seen.

Homes large and small, quaint and creative are all eligible. We want to make this December one to remember for all the right and bright reasons.

Remember, if you expect to be among the contestants, please make sure your home address can be seen by drivers. It will help the judges as well as families touring our neighborhood

looking at all of the beautiful decorations.

The judge's results will be announced by December 23<sup>rd</sup> on the

neighborhood Facebook page, and the winners will be featured in the January newsletter. Plus, the winners get fantastic prizes. Please join in the fun!



## Historic District Gentle Reminders

Remember 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.

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](http://www.sanantonio.gov/historic/HDRC/ApplicationsPortal)

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

## Putting the Polish on Monticello Park

*Please keep the neighborhood beautiful for our Home Tour visitors*

With many visitors expected in our neighborhood during the Holiday Home Tour, please consider decorating the exterior of your homes early to make the community as festive as possible.

Consider raking leaves, removing toys, putting away gardening equipment and trash cans and trimming back overgrown shrubs from sidewalks, especially if you are within walking distance of one of the homes on the tour.

If you're someone who likes to walk in the neighborhood, please consider bringing along a trash bag in the days

before the tour to pick up left over Halloween candy wrappers, cans and water bottles and any other trash that might distract from the look and feel of our community.

Thanks in advance for doing your part to make our community's only fundraiser a success. With hundreds of visitors expected, we want our neighborhood to be seen in the best light possible. Thank you neighbors!



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NEW LOCATION COMING 12/1/23  
1818 FREDERICKSBURG ROAD

# Pianta's Cast Stone Featured in Neighborhood

*Italian immigrant also decorated homes and businesses throughout San Antonio*

Have you ever noticed the beautiful sculptural elements decorating Thomas



**HISTORY CORNER**  
by Gary Hudman

Jefferson High School? These are "cast stone," formed by pouring concrete into rubber molds. The acknowledged expert in cast stone was Hannibal Pianta, an Italian

immigrant who went into business with his father in 1908 and took over in 1912, when he was 37 years old.

Pianta carved his art in clay, then created molds in rubber for the concrete mixture. He did all of this work at his workshop at 300 Fredericksburg Road then transported each piece to the job site for installation.

Much of Pianta's work remains uncatalogued, but some of his known works include the Municipal Auditorium (now Tobin Center), the San Antonio Light Building, the Aztec, Empire, and Empire theaters, and dozens of homes in Monte Vista, Alamo Heights, and Monticello Park.

Look around the neighborhood and you will see many examples of cast stone. Most of these are likely the works of Pianta. The cast stone at Thomas Jefferson High School is clearly documented as Pianta's, and most experts agree it is his finest work.

Hannibal Pianta died in 1937 when a train struck his delivery truck on Zarzamora, but his work lives on throughout San Antonio and certainly within our neighborhood.



*Hannibal Pianta carving in clay, which would then be used to form a mold for concrete.*



*The Pianta workshop at 300 Fredericksburg Road*



# Membership Dues Changing for 2024

Please purchase your dues before January 31<sup>st</sup> for full benefits.

In accordance with the MPNA by-laws, the Board of Directors voted at the



**MEMBERSHIP**  
by Marti  
Campbell &  
Carol Rea

October 9 board meeting to raise the annual membership dues for each household whose members are all under the age of 65 from \$15 to \$20 for 2024. For each household having at least one member over the age of 65, dues remain at \$10. Paying either \$10 or \$20 allows all adults at the same address to vote, whether one person or ten or more live there and there is no minimum period of residency required.

It's very important to note that, in order to vote on MPNA issues in 2024 or for the board elections next year in November, dues must be paid by January 31, 2024, so take care of it now

so that you don't forget!

To pay your dues for the January-December 2024 year, you may use the form below and mail it to the MPNA post office box, listed on the form. You can also pay in person at the November 27 or January 29 general assembly meetings or go online to [monticelloparkna.org/mpna-store](http://monticelloparkna.org/mpna-store). We gratefully accept any donations beyond the minimum amount if you choose to further support MPNA operations.

Funds raised through membership dues and donations go toward printing the newsletter, hosting social events like the recent Neighbors Together Party and the 4th of July Kids Parade, as well as scholarships and beautification awards and more. The MPNA is a 501(c) 3 organization and your donations may be tax deductible. If you have any questions about membership, email [mpnaboard@gmail.com](mailto:mpnaboard@gmail.com).

## It's Easy to Pay Your 2024 Dues

- \$10 per household where at least one person is 65+
- \$20 per household when all are under 65
- Complete form below and mail with payment to MPNA, PO Box 100315, San Antonio, TX 78201
- Pay in person at 11/27 General Assembly Meeting
- Pay online at [monticelloparkna.org](http://monticelloparkna.org) in the online store



## Monticello Park Neighborhood Association Membership Application

Memberships are available online at [Monticelloparkna.org](http://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 per household to be included with application:

\$20  \$10 if one member is over 65.  Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in Volunteering with:

Alley/Graffiti Cleanup

Newsletter Delivery

Host a Social Event

Home Tour

Other: \_\_\_\_\_



# HOLIDAY HOME TOUR 2023

TICKETS

SUNDAY 12/3/23  
11AM-5PM



OFF FREDRICKBURG ROAD  
IN THE DECO DISTRICT



[MONTICELLOPARKNA.ORG](http://MONTICELLOPARKNA.ORG)



MonticelloParkHomeTour

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Margaret Mireles

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