

MAHNCKE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1979



MARCH 2024

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

City Councilman Jalen McKee-Rodriguez will be our speaker at this month's meeting on March 19.

Councilman McKee-Rodriguez represents District 2, which includes Mahncke Park. He was re-elected to a second two-year term in May, winning with over 56% of votes cast. As a Councilman, he has successfully advocated for additional resources in support of Animal Care Services and for Home Repair & Housing Assistance programs. He serves on three City Council committees: Municipal Court, Public Safety, and Transportation & Infrastructure. Before his election to City Council, McKee-Rodriguez taught math at Madison High School.

Plan to attend this meeting to hear directly from your City Council representative.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 7pm
LION'S FIELD CENTER, 2809 BROADWAY**

ANOTHER N'HOOD RESTAURANT RECOGNIZED

Best fish tacos in San Antonio? The *SA Express-News* thinks so. In February the newspaper published their list of the 10 Best Fish Tacos in San Antonio. #2 on the list was Paladar Fusion Mexico Cuba, located on Ave. B across from the Witte Museum parking garage. Maybe you know the location better as the backside of the former Park Motel, 3615 Broadway. The newspaper reported the owners' affections for Mexican and Cuban foods is successfully expressed and that "Paladar is one of the strongest restaurant openings of the past year." Of the fish tacos it was written, "Great fish tacos fly their own flag here, a trio constructed with true nixtamal tortillas, grilled red snapper with sesame and a dress of pico de gallo, avocado, microgreens and chile seco aioli."

URBAN MARKET GARDEN IS GROWING IN N'HOOD

Observant neighbors have noticed compost being shoveled as part of the creation of plant beds near Eleanor Avenue and North New Braunfels. Mahncke Park residents Alec Ferguson and Valerie Jeannin are transforming the vacant lots there into an urban market garden, and their produce will be sold at the Alamo Heights Farmers Market beginning this month. Find out more at armadillogardens.com

Please respect Valerie and Alec's hard work by staying on the public sidewalk and out of the plant beds.

The Alamo Heights Farmers Market operates in the Quarry Market shopping center parking lot near Whole Foods. Alamo Heights Farmers Market is open Sundays from 10am until 2pm.

HALF PRICE BOOKS ON BROADWAY TO CLOSE

The Half Price Books store at 3207 Broadway will close May 5. This sad news was announced last month. The property was purchased by Glenn Huddleston, who also purchased the adjacent property at 3127 Broadway occupied by Antiquarian Bookstore – which is set to close this spring, too. Huddleston owns multiple properties on Broadway, including the former Intercontinental Motors auto dealership at 3303 Broadway built in 1963 with its "exceptional auto showroom" designed by architects O'Neil Ford and Howard Wong.

SPRING BLOOM EVENT IS SATURDAY, MARCH 9

SA Water System is hosting its annual Spring Bloom event Saturday, March 9 from 9am until 1pm at their headquarters property, conveniently located at 2800 US Hwy 281 (perhaps better described as across North St. Mary's Street from the west edge of Brackenridge Park; north of intersection of Mulberry & St. Mary's; a comfortable walk in the park from our neighborhood). If you prefer to drive, parking is free. Admission is free, too.

This popular event has been held for several years and features presentations from local gardening experts re: secrets to successful plant selection & care and landscape design. Practical gardening tips will be shared and the SA Native Plant Society will have plants for sale. SAWS will give away drought hardy plants to the first 1,000 adult guests.

MAHNCKE PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

The following events are scheduled in the Mahncke Park Community Garden on Funston Place:
Spring Solstice Drum Circle, March 17, 2pm
Spring Fling Garden Party & Plant Sale, April 13

YOUR TAX \$\$\$ AT WORK, PART 2, 108,226,095

Ms. Maria Castro serves as Director of Branding & Marketing for City Council District 2. She attended last month's Mahncke Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) meeting and encouraged neighbors to contact her for support related to City services.

Ms. Castro spoke of this month's "Last Twosday Block Party," which will be Tuesday, March 26 from 5:30-7:00pm at 4351 Rittiman Road. The block party is hosted by City Councilman McKee-Rodriguez and will include a produce market, food trucks, art vendors, music, games for the kiddos, and a tree adoption (limit 1 tree per household; while supplies last, first come/first served).

We appreciate Ms. Castro's work on behalf of Mahncke Park, District 2 and San Antonio. Contact Ms. Maria Castro at 210-207-0950, maria.castro@sanantonio.gov

MEET MPNA BOARD MEMBER WENDOLLYN MILLER

Wendollyn Miller of Natalen Avenue was elected to the MPNA Board of Directors in November. She has lots of ideas about the neighborhood while still realizing that she needs to know more history to put things in perspective. Wen has lived in Mahncke Park for three years. She grew up in San Antonio, attended Roosevelt High School and Texas A&M/San Antonio, with a year in Belgium as an exchange student. After earning her master's degree in public administration, she now works at Lackland AFB. Wen is interested in getting involved in local community organizations, where she sees real value to everyone involved. Of course, she also needs time to feed her interest in international travel.

Wen identified the following neighborhood concerns: homeless persons that can often be found near the fountain in Mahncke Park, overflow parking from the Botanical Garden, and the future of the Lamar Elementary campus. Following an orientation meeting for new board members, she recognized the value of continuity from last year's board to this year's board - a major concern of hers. Wen has several ideas for membership and fund-raising, and she is already making sure the MPNA is current with required submittals to the Internal Revenue Service. Welcome aboard, Wendollyn! We appreciate your willingness to support the MPNA and neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY, PART 2,103,813,093

Early area history includes arrival by a Spanish patrol on June 13, 1691. Drawn to the river and its springs surrounded by great trees and abundant wildlife, a priest accompanying the soldiers said Mass on the riverbank and the commanding officer wrote in his diary, "We traveled over a broad plain (the most beautiful in all of New Spain) and we called this place San Antonio because we arrived here on his day." The feast day of Saint Anthony ("San Antonio") is June 13 and due to the Spanish general naming this location for the significance of the date they arrived, over 300 years later we continue to call this place San Antonio.

The Spanish returned to establish a permanent settlement in 1718. Mission San Antonio de Valero was initially located west of the SA River, closer to San Pedro Creek. Later, the mission relocated to a site east of the SA River and is better known today as the Alamo. The mission required water for domestic and agricultural uses; therefore, the technology of moving water was introduced by the Spanish via a series of hand-dug ditches ("acequias") which operated strictly by means of gravity. The first acequia in SA was fed from a bend in the river (located today behind the Witte Museum) and curved through our present day Mahncke Park Neighborhood on its way toward the mission. In 2001, medallions were installed in sidewalks from Pershing Ave. to Mulberry Ave. marking the route of the Acequia Madre, San Antonio's first Spanish acequia.

LION'S FIELD CENTER – 2809 BROADWAY

Lion's Field Center is operated by the SA Parks Department and hosts a variety of classes, including art, music, and exercise. Call 210-207-5380 to learn details of scheduled activities.

TODAY IS WONDERFUL

This is a wonderful day to pay annual MPNA dues.

CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

Mr. Jalen McKee-Rodriguez is the District 2 City Councilman. His district includes Mahncke Park.

Main Office, City Hall, Military Plaza, 210-207-7278
Constituent Office, 2805 E. Commerce, 210-207-0950

Mahncke Park residents may contact Maria Castro directly with concerns. Maria.castro@sanantonio.gov

S.A. POLICE DEPARTMENT

SAPD Officer Juan Hernandez patrols our neighborhood. Officer Juan Hernandez' duty hours are M-F, 7am-3pm. He regularly attends the MPNA's monthly meetings and provides information regarding illegal activity. Contact him regarding concerns or to request a "patrol by" of your property if out of town. Juan.hernandez3@sanantonio.gov
210-218-6939, cell 210-207-7413, Central Substation

SAN ANTONIO CODE COMPLIANCE

The Code Enforcement Officer for our area of San Antonio is Cynthia Santana. She regularly attends the MPNA's monthly meetings and is responsive to concerns from within our neighborhood. Cynthia.Santana@sanantonio.gov
210-394-2544

MPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Day, Eleanor Avenue
Isabel Garcia, Queen Anne Court
Susan Geery, Natalen Street
Camis Milam, Davis Court
Wendellyn Miller, Natalen Street
Angelique Snyder, Pershing Avenue
Gene (Chip) Turner, Pershing Avenue
Email info@mahnckepark.org

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Carlynn Ricks
Bruce Martin

PUBLICATION NOTE

The printing of this newsletter is supported by the Circle School, 217 Pershing Ave. thecircleschool.org



2024 MAHNCKE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP	
Membership is open to homeowners, renters, property owners, businesses or anyone having an interest in our area. Dues are \$10 per household & \$5 for retired neighbors per year. Non-resident dues are \$20 to help cover postage costs.	
Name	
Address	
City, State, zip code	
Email address	
Phone	
Type membership	Regular____, Retired____, Nonresident____
Mail completed form & payment to: MPNA, PO BOX 6752, SA, TX 78209	