



MAHNCKE PARK

Neighborhood Association
Established 1979

FEBRUARY 2021

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

General Membership Meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 7pm. Login info below.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83321355825?pwd=WjZuR1lyZWlPeEkrRTFxbUIXOGpnQT09>

Meeting ID: 833 2135 5825
Passcode: 725292

Visit www.MahnckePark.org, as well as Facebook and Nextdoor, for more news.

ELECTION FOR MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL, MAY 1

May 1, Saturday, is Election Day for Mayor and City Council positions. As of the end of January, eight persons had submitted applications to be placed on the ballot for election to City Council, District 2 (which includes Mahncke Park).

	Occupation	Length of residence in District 2
Dori Brown	Tax Preparer	19 years 6 months
Kristi Villanueva	President/Business Owner	3 years 7 months
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez	Teacher	3 years 9 months
Pharaoh J. Clark	Chef/Caretaker	33 years
Walter E. Perry, Sr.	Professional Tax Preparer	5 years
Nneka "Miss Neka" Cleaver	Owner of Thai Hub	10 years 3 months
LTC (retired) Andrew Fernandez Vincenzo	Retired U.S. Army	10 years
Carl Booker	D2.com Publisher	4 years 10 months

YOUR TAX \$\$\$ AT WORK, PART 3,614,430,281

Clark Construction began work last month to re-pave Pershing Avenue between N. New Braunfels and Old Austin Road. Per the City's Public Works Dept., the scope of work also includes installation of curbs, driveway approaches, and ADA ramps, but no sidewalks. The schedule estimates completion by February 19. Project cost is \$478,000.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues of \$10 are due for 2021. If you wish to continue receiving the MPNA's newsletter, please take a moment to complete the form on back page and mail that with a \$10 check payable to the MPNA. Thank you!

HOLLYWOOD IN MAHNCKE PARK

Did you ever wonder where they filmed the commercials in those nice, but not extravagant homes? One of them is here in Mahncke Park on Parland Place. A few years ago, the homeowner was contacted by a location scout looking for just such homes – the home on Parland was determined to be just right. Since then, commercials have been made there for Walmart (the street was completely taken over for several days), Blue Cross (only still photos made this job really easy), and CPS Energy (seemed to be aiming for middle America look). In December, a small pharmaceutical company filmed a commercial in the lovely home on Parland - appropriately, one person was on-site enforcing virus safety protocols, making very sure everyone wore masks as well as face shields and that 6-foot distancing was respected.

Not surprisingly when your house is used for filming, the furniture tends to be repositioned, but put back afterwards. The hard part is that it is natural to want to remain when others are in your home, but since the film crew has taken over your home you are frequently at loose ends all day. When a handsome bungalow on Ira Avenue was used to film a movie scene several years ago, the production company repainted parts of the house and paid to have a utility pole relocated from alongside the sidewalk in front of the house. And in case you are wondering, the homeowner does get paid, but it can be a toss-up as to whether the payment is worth the inconvenience. So maybe we don't all want Hollywood in our homes.

WANT TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS?

You may not be aware that some of Lamar Elementary School's students have very challenging financial difficulties. These challenges have been made worse by the current pandemic. Many neighbors are already helping out these kids. Lamar School's counselor, Kim Aston, reports their most urgent need is sweatshirts/hoodies from sizes 4T-16, for both male and female students (unisex ones are great also) and that they are always in need of underwear and socks of all sizes. You may contact Kim individually, or you could connect with your nearby neighbors and collect a box of items to donate. If you would like to help, either with goods or with money, please contact Kim Aston at kaston@saisd.net or 210-504-6939.

S.A. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Joel Zulaica is our neighborhood's patrol officer. Contact him re: concerns of illegal activity. joel.zulaica@sanantonio.gov 210-275-2281.

TO SURVIVE A PANDEMIC IT TAKES A N'HOOD

We know many Mahncke Park residents have helped each other in various ways during the past year. This is the story of how one section of one block has done that. The author would love to hear from you regarding others. carlynn.ricks1@gmail.com

Soon after the pandemic shut down began, 5-10 people from 6 households on Pershing Avenue figured out we needed to be in touch with each other to stay mentally healthy, but we wanted to do so safely. We created what we came to refer to as "Wining Down Wednesdays." Every Wednesday in late afternoon we gathered - initially at the street end of one of our driveways in the shade of a wonderful tree. We placed our chairs a careful, socially-distanced 6 feet apart, except for couples living together. Sometimes people driving by would honk and shake their fingers at us, thinking we were violating pandemic guidelines, but mostly people just waved and smiled. As the summer progressed and the sun moved, we moved too, from one neighbor's split-level deck under big pecan trees to another neighbor's *sombrilla*. With cooler weather, the backyards with propane stoves or *chimineas* became popular.

Sometimes one of us brought an item we no longer wanted, but that was still useful – a new home was most often found (See photo below taken in a back yard.) And sometimes we shared food, which gradually evolved to full meals of sliders or stew, from quiche to chili, with all kinds of interesting side dishes. Frequently, wine was consumed and sometimes sparkling wine appeared when we celebrated various events. Once, we had a full turkey dinner served on long narrow tables with neighbors sitting alternatively, rather than directly opposite each other. Our precautions worked. One only couple got COVID-19, and due to our precautions, the virus did not spread among us.

Most importantly, we came to know and depend on each other for support and advice, for warmth and caring. Our discussions grew much more personal than they ever had in the 10 years we had known each other. We discussed political differences with civility and learned from each other. Those that lived alone realized the importance of socializing in person and to know that others were paying attention to how we were doing. Those of us sharing a home were grateful for outside input and perspective. We became much closer than neighbors usually are. We helped with meals when workloads became overwhelming, with reconfiguring our homes to accommodate visiting relatives, and with advice on how to handle various pandemic situations. If someone had to miss one week or several, there was a real sense of incompleteness within the group.

In short, we learned what community meant, perhaps in a small sense of the word, but an important one.

YOUR TAX \$\$\$ AT WORK, PART 2,106,013,518

See link to new Neighborhood Engagement page regarding City's proposed changes to neighborhood registration policy & community outreach. <https://www.sanantonio.gov/NHSD/Neighborhoods>

THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR

This month's sponsor is The Synergy Studio Community – we appreciate their support of the MPNA newsletter.

The Synergy Studio Community, 501c3, is the non-profit arm of The Synergy Studio. We are presently collecting discarded electronics of any kind: cell phones, iPods, iPads, computers, game consoles and more. Partnering with Ole School Electronics, these will be sold on Ebay and proceeds will be used to further our mission.

The mission of The Synergy Studio Community is to offer classes in health and wellness for everybody, providing opportunities for individuals to learn and grow, both personally and professionally. We strive to expand our outreach to public schools, offering free classes in yoga, meditation, breath and more. Please contact Todd Morgan for pick up at 818-521-1007, or email tmo007@yahoo.com.

To learn more about how to donate: www.oleschoolelectronics.com
To learn more about The Synergy Studio Community, visit the studio website: www.thesynergystudio.com



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2021 MAHNCKE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC. MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION	
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	
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