



## MAHNCKE PARK

Neighborhood  
Association  
Established 1979

**JANUARY 2021**

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING

There will be no in-person meeting this month due to the COVID19 virus pandemic. Visit [www.MahnckePark.org](http://www.MahnckePark.org), as well as Facebook and Nextdoor, for more news.

### YOUR TAX \$\$\$ AT WORK, PART 5,056,700,366

Funston Place was recently modified to create a four way stop at its intersection with Milton Street. Area residents had expressed concerns to the City regarding high-speed traffic, particularly traffic heading westbound (downhill). It is hoped this change will make Funston Place and Milton Street safer for all neighbors, in particular students walking to/from nearby Lamar Elementary School.

### PUBLIC ART, PART ONE

Observant neighbors noticed a seasonal enhancement to one of the multiple sculptures on display in Mahncke Park. James Surls' artwork called Walking White Flower was temporarily modified to include a scarf and a single red Christmas tree ornament. The person or persons responsible for the additions are not known; however, unlike many holiday decorations, the scarf and ornament were very promptly removed following December 25. Nearby residents in the 400 block of Parland Place are uncertain if Valentine's Day or St. Patrick's Day will encourage comparable behavior.

### AN INVITATION FROM LAMAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lamar Elementary is a vitally important part of our neighborhood and several key attributes include:

- Tuition-free, neighborhood public school
- Access to authentic, project-based learning
- Dual-language academic approach
- Focus on emotional intelligence

Lamar Elementary Operations Coordinator recently extended an invitation to learn more about the school and the 2021-2022 school year via a virtual information session. The session will include an opportunity to meet the administrative team, learn about their academic model, and take a virtual school tour. Details re: information session are:

- January 12 @ 5pm
- Zoom meeting ID: 822 6781 2846
- Passcode: lamar

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues of \$10 help fund the monthly newsletter of the Mahncke Park Neighborhood Association. 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!

### UPDATE REGARDING DAVIS COURT PARKING LOT

As reported in the November newsletter, neighbors observed a parking lot being constructed at 115 Davis Court behind the shopping center at 4400 Broadway. The parking lot was built without City authorization or permits. Also, 115 Davis Court is zoned R-4 Residential which does not permit parking lots. The owner of the property, who also owns the shopping center at the NE corner of Broadway and Davis Ct., was contacted. The owner's representative advised the MPNA that the owner proposed re-zoning the lot to C-2 Commercial, the same zoning as the shopping center. The owner's representative met with the MPNA Land Use Committee (LUC) by Zoom conference on August 20, 2020, explaining that the intent of the parking lot was to provide parking for the adjacent shopping center. LUC committee members objected to the change to C-2 Commercial as this would permit future commercial encroachment on Davis Court. The owner agreed to maintain the R-4 Residential zoning and instead request from the City a "Conditional Use" permit for a non-commercial parking lot (non-commercial means the lot cannot be used as paid parking for off-site uses). The LUC committee recommended to the MPNA Board that it not oppose the proposed change for a Conditional Use permit, and the MPNA sent a letter of non-objection to the Zoning Commission which voted to recommend the change at its meeting on September 15, 2020.

Subsequently, but prior to City Council's consideration of the Conditional Use permit, Davis Court residents met to discuss issues with the parking lot. Primary concerns were:

- Increased traffic and safety issues,
- Esthetics,
- Setting a precedent for further commercial encroachment, and
- Deterring from the neighborhood character.

Davis Court residents sent a unified position notice opposing the proposed change to the MPNA Board and City Councilwoman Andrews-Sullivan. Davis Court residents were thankful for support received from residents throughout Mahncke Park, who expressed their opposition to a parking lot on property zoned R-4 Residential. The MPNA Board withdrew its letter of non-objection to the permit.

In response to opposition, the owner (Perez Family Management Trust) of 115 Davis Court withdrew its request for a Conditional Use permit from City Council's December 3 agenda.

Until the City Council acts, the parking lot may not be used.

THE CHICKEN SHACK: GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



The Chicken Shack opened in January 1938 at 4020 Broadway. The San Antonio Express reported on January 9, 1938 that The Chicken Shack would be exclusive handlers in San Antonio of Leslie's Fried Chicken. The newspaper went on to say the property's total frontage on Broadway was 150' ("most of which will be used for parking space. The lot is 200' deep. The Chicken Shack also operates in Waco, Austin, and Houston.") The San Antonio Express on January 24, 1938 featured a photo of The Chicken Shack with a caption reading in part, "Pictured here is the latest new drive-in place in San Antonio." The newspaper mentioned the horseshoe-shaped counter and its stool seats.

By 1955, The Chicken Shack had ceased operations at 4020 Broadway. An ad in the March 5, 1955 San Antonio Express touted the property as follows, "Big drive-in for lease. Broadway, formerly Chicken Shack, suitable for any type of business." And by 1982, the property had been consolidated with adjacent lots and developed by local businessman Bob Callaway (1930-2018) as the 4040 Broadway Building, which now serves as home to multiple tenants, including Comerica Bank. Another example of the continuing vitality of our neighborhood and Broadway Street over the decades.

Thanks to Ms. Clarissa Chavira of the SA Central Library's Texana & Genealogy Department for her very generous research providing information regarding The Chicken Shack.

PUBLIC ART, PART TWO

This fall, observant neighbors spotted an unsanctioned, artistic enhancement to the City's traffic signal box at the SW corner of N. New Braunfels & Funston Place. The metal box which stands on a metal conduit pipe had been covered in a black, texturized paint, then all four sides were decorated in what appeared to be a stenciled pattern but in a different color on each side of the box. By the end of last month, the colored designs were gone, having been painted over in a dark color - presumably by the City's Public Works Dept.

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BRACKENRIDGE PARK

The iron bridge in Brackenridge Park that crosses the San Antonio River is one of five iron bridges the City of San Antonio commissioned in 1890 from the Berlin Iron Bridge Co. in Connecticut. The Brackenridge Park bridge originally crossed the river in downtown at North Saint Mary's Street, but the bridge was moved to the park following significant damage from the historic flood of September 1921. The flood caused loss of life across San Antonio and downtown streets were under up to 9 feet of water, damaging bridges and many buildings. Three of the five iron bridges remain today in their original locations - at Crockett, Augusta, and South Presa streets.

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy provided much of the information above in their most recent newsletter. The Conservancy is a steward of and an advocate for the park and an instrument for preserving and enhancing the park's natural, historic, educational, and recreational resources for the enjoyment of current and future generations. Persons wishing to support the Conservancy can learn more at [brackenridgepark.org](http://brackenridgepark.org)

ELECTION FOR MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL, MAY 1

May 1, Saturday, is Election Day for Mayor and City Council positions. The first day to submit an application for a place on the ballot is January 13 and the last day to submit is February 12. Mayor and City Council members are limited to being elected for up to four full terms (a term is two years). Annual salaries are paid in the amount of \$61,725 for Mayor and \$45,722 for each City Council representative.

Candidate packets containing pertinent election information are available in the Office of the City Clerk. The cost of the packet is \$30. Packets contain the following information: Filing Procedures, Important dates related to the election, Application Form for a Place on the Ballot, Petition Form and number of signatures, State and Municipal Political Advertising Information, Financial Disclosure Information, and State & Local Campaign Finance Regulations.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Carlynn Ricks  
 Bruce Martin

<b>2021 MAHNCKE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION</b>	
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	
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