

MAHNCKE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1979



FEBRUARY 2023

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting on February 21 will feature Cynthia Spielman, president of the Beacon Hill Neighborhood Association and co-founder of the Tier 1 Neighborhood Coalition. Ms. Spielman will speak about common issues facing Tier 1 neighborhoods, which includes Mahncke Park.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 7pm
LION'S FIELD CENTER, 2809 BROADWAY

FLOODPLAIN MAPS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING

The SA River Authority is hosting a series of "open house meetings" to enable interested persons to review draft floodplain maps of San Antonio and Bexar County. Attendees will have the opportunity to look up any property of interest and learn of proposed floodplain designation. River Authority, City and staff from other government entities will be on hand to share information and respond to questions regarding flood insurance, floodplain regulations, and upcoming or potential projects relating to flooding/damage. The River Authority is seeking to share the draft floodplain maps with the public in advance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's formal adoption process.

Open House Meetings will be from 6pm – 7:30pm.
Feb. 16, MacArthur Park Lutheran School.
Feb. 22, SA River Authority Headquarters.
Feb. 23, D.R. Semmes Family YMCA at TriPoint.
Feb. 28, SA Food Bank.
March 7, St. Mary's University Center, Conf. Rm. B.

Questions? Call SA River Authority at 210-227-1373 or visit sariverauthority.org/draftFPM

WILL IT BE BETTER THAN SONIC?

Fiiz Drinks is expected to open soon on the site of the former Sonic Drive-In at 3521 Broadway. The new Fiiz Drinks will be a franchise operation – the only one in San Antonio and one of five in Texas. The company is based in Utah (Beehive State), where there are 36 locations. According to the company, Fiiz Drinks is the "largest specialty soda shop chain in the nation." The menu focuses on drinks, obviously, but also includes chips and salsa, cookies, and mashups. Drinks include both Coke and Pepsi, and multiple non-alcoholic drinks mixed with flavors like raspberry, coconut, pineapple, mango and many others. The opening date is pending; however, observant neighbors have noticed equipment and drink supplies have been delivered to the location.

PUBLICATION NOTE

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

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGES

Observant neighbors read a recent feature in our city's daily newspaper regarding bridges in Bexar County. Of particular note to Mahncke Park neighbors were the three bridges in our area.

The Brackenridge Park Bridge near the children's playground and Joske Pavilion was originally located downtown on North St. Mary's Street, between St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Aztec Theatre. The lenticular truss bridge was built in 1890 by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company of East Berlin, Connecticut (Nutmeg State) and is one of several iron bridges the company built that remain in use in San Antonio. This handsome bridge was damaged in the 1921 flood at its original location, then relocated to Brackenridge Park where it was repaired and remains in use today.

The Mulberry Street Bridge near Avenue B and Lion's Field Center crosses not the SA River but the Catalpa-Pershing Channel (aka Ditch), which parallels Avenue B alongside Brackenridge Park. The bridge was widened in 2011 and included a public art component as part of the project. San Antonio artist Diana Kersey, an award-winning ceramicist, created 24, blue/green tile panels representing the life cycle of the Gulf Coast Toad, our area's most common toad and an indicator species of environmental health. In 2012, the City's Fiesta medal featured Ms. Kersey's Gulf Coast Toad tilework.

The wood and red metal footbridge on the University of the Incarnate Word campus crosses the SA River about 300 yards north of Hildebrand Avenue. Located downstream from the famous "Blue Hole," the primary spring feeding the SA River, the bridge has been in place since the early 1980s and links the original campus to the athletic facility area and the 53 acre, nature sanctuary known as the Headwaters Sanctuary at Incarnate Word.

These unique bridges are among several neighborhood bridges adding character to our area.

SNOWY EGRETS IN BRACKENRIDGE PARK

San Antonio's Parks and Recreation Department has hired professional contractors to clean the picnic area near Tuleta Drive and Brackenridge Drive, behind and across the river from the Witte Museum. The area had become unsafe for picnicking, due to the large quantity of droppings from the many Snowy Egrets nesting in the trees. Work was postponed until after the nesting season and the Snowy Egrets had left the park. The area is temporarily roped off as the contractors work to finish their job, including removal of empty nests and cleaning. Target completion is mid-February.

NEIGHBORHOOD PEACOCK RESCUED FROM COLD

The peacock mascot of the 500 block of Elmhurst Avenue is alive and well despite December's Freezemageddon. After discussion amongst neighbors about how best to protect Little Dickie (aka Kevin as he is called by neighborhood children) in the face of the rapidly dropping temperature, Sharon Adelman, her kids, and across the street neighbor Bill Bordelon "escorted" Kevin onto her screened-in porch. However, by 5:00 pm it was 28 degrees and getting colder - having dropped from 65 in two hours. Too cold for this tropical bird to survive on the porch, decided Sharon's husband. Kevin was corned, covered in a blanket, scooped up, and relocated to the tool shed, where he was kept warm enough to survive the brunt of the weekend storm. Released on Monday, Kevin returned to his regular routine, wandering the street during the day not bothered by much. . .cats, dogs, or kids. And spending most nights perched on Frank and Lynne's rear shed roof.

Thanks to Sharon Adelman/Elmhurst Avenue for sharing information regarding this heartwarming example of neighbors rescuing Kevin the Peacock from the cold.

SWANKY MAHNCKE RETURNS IN 1920s STYLE

The Swanky Mahncke Party returned in January after a multiple year hiatus. It was a most welcome & energetic return.

Sincere thanks to Commonwealth Coffee at 118 Davis Court for hosting the abundant turnout and serving as neighborhood speakeasy for the night. Memorably dressed as 1920's flappers in slinky dresses with fringe accented by long strands of pearls, feathered boas, cigarette holders, and an attitude that mocked Prohibition, neighborhood ladies turned back the clock on an evening that will be long remembered. Men's outfits included suits, ties, vests, hats (including a straw boater), and one Scottish kilt.

Singer/Songwriter/Redhead Ms. Lacy Brinson very generously provided live entertainment to the evening's gathering. Her beautiful voice and impressive guitar playing made the night extra special. See lacybrinson.com

We salute the unrelenting magic of Naz Caporale/Claremont Avenue, the driving force behind last month's party - yet another of her extremely well-planned and successful neighborhood gatherings. And very special thanks and acknowledgment to Jessica Garza/Thorman Place, who created and curated the original Swanky Mahncke Parties over 10 years ago - Jessica recognized the positive energy within Mahncke Park and was able to brilliantly conceive/plan/implement an entirely new event with custom cocktails, fine dining, prizes & an opportunity for friends to dress up, come together, and revel in the company of clever, charming neighbors.

YOUR TAX \$\$\$ AT WORK, PART 2,103,171,191

Recent work repairing damaged asphalt on N. New Braunfels is part of the City's 2023 Infrastructure Management Plan. The \$205,322.31 project will include a "microsurface preservation treatment" across the entire length of N. New Braunfels from Eleanor Ave. to Burr Rd. this summer. The purpose is to extend the life and usability of the street without major repairs or reconstruction.

SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT

SAPD Officer Juan Hernandez patrols our neighborhood. Officer Juan Hernandez' duty hours are M-F, 7am-3pm. Contact him regarding concerns of illegal activity or to request a "patrol by" of your property while out of town.

Juan.hernandez3@sanantonio.gov

210-218-6939, cell, 210-207-7413, Central Substation

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