

MAHNCKE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1979



JULY 2023

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting will feature Ms. Siboney Diaz-Sanchez, Community Engagement Administrator with the City of San Antonio's Neighborhood and Housing Services Department. She will speak about the department's role, the recent housing bond issue, and major housing and rental assistance programs.

JULY 18, 7pm, LION'S FIELD CTR, 2809 BROADWAY

LAMAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE SLIPS

A \$16M improvement project at Lamar Elementary School on Parland Place was approved in 2020 as part of the SA Independent School District's bond issue campaign. Senior Executive Director Yvonne J. Little of SAISD's Construction & Development Services Dept. presented project details at the Mahncke Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) meeting in March 2022, including a timeline with construction to be complete in July 2024. That schedule has slipped.

Ms. Little submitted the following update last month:

"The SAISD Bond Program is working through supply chain and labor shortages created by the pandemic. The first phase of bond projects has started construction, and we are now working on the next round. Based on the bids received from the first round of projects construction cost is reflecting a 25% – 35% increase since the pre-pandemic planning stages. Through strategic planning and extensive cost containment strategies the district has been able to keep projects in an allowable budget. These savings do not come without changes to design, materiality, and constructability."

"The Lamar project is not immune to the current market conditions. Recently the Lamar Elementary School project was temporarily put on hold as the district evaluated the market conditions. Currently we are taking a deep dive into design and evaluating scope options that will deliver the academic program needed for the campus. The Project team made up of the SAISD Project Managers, Architect and General Contractor, are developing options for the campus and stakeholders to review in August. Once the final project scope to budget alignment is agreed upon, the project will be put out for bid in Q2 of 2024, with Construction planned to start in June of 2024."

Quarterly updates are available on the SAISD website Bond Page, bond.saisd.net, and questions may be sent to Bond@saisd.net

GOATS BACK TO BRACK

Following a formal "welcome back" event on June 14, Brackenridge Park had some hungry visitors staying in the park for almost two weeks. For the second year in a row, about 150 goats from Ruminants for Rent were hired to sample the green goodies of the park. In less picturesque terms, their job was to clear out underbrush and low-lying bushes. The goats began their nibbling from behind temporary, electric fencing alongside the railroad track visible from Avenue B.

Ruminants for Rent is based near Abilene, Texas and is owned by Carolyn and Kyle Carr. Terry Carr, Kyle's father, was brought out of retirement by his son and daughter-in-law to assist in the operation, which included answering questions from people curious about the goats. A role he clearly loved and was very good at. He pointed out there were female goats and neutered male goats as part of the Brackenridge Park crew, and that although it may have looked like there were a bunch of goats just standing around taking a long coffee break, they were really chewing their respective cuds, bringing up what they had already eaten and breaking it down further so their digestive system could handle it. Terry also cleared up a misconception about horns; both male and female goats have them, and the horns grow constantly. Terry noted that they have a mixture of 4 breeds of goats: Spanish, Boar, Nubian, and Alpine. These goats aren't quite pets, but nearly. The Carrs know their goats by name without looking at the name on each goat's ear tag. And Terry admitted some of the goats are a little spoiled, begging for treats, and often receiving them.

Since goats can clear vegetation without chemicals and can work on slopes too steep for mowers, Ruminants for Rent is in great demand. Their schedule is full for the next few months, so don't get rid of your lawnmower just yet.

CARNAHAN STREET FESTIVAL A GRAND SUCCESS

The Carnahan Street Festival on June 17 was a blistering success with over 100 area residents & friends attending. A food pop-up served pulled-pork tostadas & shrimp ceviche. The Mahncke Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) and the Mahncke Park Community Garden were both represented by volunteers, signing up new members and accepting some donations. There was a bouncy castle for kids and very popular paletas for everyone – over 100 were given away. A stage was constructed at the end of the street and live music was performed. The Swinging Richards from the Lavaca Neighborhood just south of downtown played first. Then the band Hogg Shedd performed - featuring Mahncke Park neighbor Dan Lopez of 355 Carnahan. A hot, safe, fun time.

A BLOCK CAPTAIN DELIVERS YOUR NEWSLETTER

Since 1980, the MPNA has published a monthly newsletter, and every month volunteer Block Captains have distributed newsletters to neighbors. The newsletter is mailed to several elected officials, as well as several individuals that pay a modest annual amount to receive it. One volunteer is responsible for promptly mailing the newsletters each month – Susan Geery performs this role now, after taking over from Morgan Price in 2022.

This month we welcome two new Block Captains. Jim Bulgrin is now the Block Captain for Allensworth Street and Jack Kennedy is the Block Captain for the 300 block of Queen Anne Court. They replace Matthew Shaddock and Tim Duda, respectively. We appreciate the years of service Matthew and Tim each contributed on behalf of the MPNA providing their neighbors with monthly newsletters.

Area Captains are three equally important volunteers responsible for getting the 800 monthly newsletters to the 25 Block Captains. Last month we welcomed new Area Captain Kali Kurth but incorrectly identified her street – Kali and her family live on Claremont, not Natalen Avenue. Our veteran Area Captains are Francille Lewis Radmann of Elmhurst Avenue and Polly Noel of Queen Anne Court.

The MPNA is very fortunate to have such a strong group of volunteers willing to contribute their time in support of distributing your monthly newsletter.

FREE INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT CAN BEAT HEAT

Exceptionally high temperatures in June made outdoor activities challenging and it is quite likely this month will bring more hot days. Several free options to beat the heat are available.

Witte Museum is free for children ages 3 and under at all times. On Tuesdays from 3 – 6pm general admission is free to everyone.

DoSeum children's museum offers free family nights on the first Monday of each month. Registration is required via the DoSeum website and is available starting at 8am on that Monday.

SA Museum of Art is free to Bexar County residents on Tuesdays from 4 – 7pm and Sundays from 10am – 12 noon.

Briscoe Western Art Museum is free to Bexar County residents on the first Sunday of each month. In addition, the museum is always free for kiddos age 12 and under, active duty military with ID, and persons receiving SNAP, WIC, and MAP with ID & EBT card.

2023 MPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SAN ANTONIO 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 while 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, Development Services Dept.

PUBLICATION NOTE

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

IT IS EASY TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

The adjacent QR code to MPNA PayPal enables you to pay easily & electronically. Doing so supports the monthly newsletter & Mahncke Park activities. Thanks.



THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR

This month's newsletter sponsor is Good Time Charlie's Bar and Café, located at 2922 Broadway, at the SE corner of Broadway & Mulberry.

Since 1979, Good Time Charlie's has served award winning hamburgers & chicken fried steak, outstanding onion rings, superior fried catfish, perfectly steamed broccoli, impeccable patty melts, terrific cilantro chicken, and many other popular – and delicious – items.

Charlie's is a longtime friend & supporter of the MPNA. We appreciate their support of this month's MPNA newsletter and we encourage all readers to support our sponsors and area businesses.

Good Time Charlie's Bar and Café
2922 Mulberry at Broadway
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