

MAHNCKE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1979



FEBRUARY 2024

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting will highlight recent and upcoming changes within the neighborhood, as well as provide an opportunity to meet new neighbors and members of the Mahncke Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) Board of Directors.

Plan to attend this meeting – we look forward to seeing you there.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 7pm
LION'S FIELD CENTER, 2809 BROADWAY**

LOST DOG STORY WITH HAPPY ENDING

During last month's BIG FREEZE of four consecutive days under 20 degrees, concerned neighbors noticed a regal German Shepherd, seemingly lost and stoically weathering the conditions along Pershing Ave. and Old Austin Road. Good Samaritans left blankets, water and food along his route headquartered at the street intersection. The handsome dog spent most nights outside at that location. (He did locate a heat lamp in a garage on Pershing one night, but did not receive a "warm welcome" from the resident cats).

Two kind animal lovers were finally able to coax him into transport to a veterinary facility in Alamo Heights. There it was determined that his chip was not registered. His fate became more dire after two fostering attempts failed because of his destructive behavior (an animal behaviorist was even consulted). Happily, further sleuthing unearthed the original owner, who claimed Duke. He had been stolen a year earlier. Duke and his owner are happily reunited, and further destructive events have not been reported.

NEW BLOCK CAPTAIN, PERSHING AVENUE

Kaylee Bell has taken over as new Block Captain for middle Pershing Ave. from Marcia Harmon. Thanks, Marcia, for years dependably delivering newsletters. Welcome, Kaylee, we appreciate your volunteering.

PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Have you noticed vehicles driving in Mahncke Park? Doing so is inconsiderate and destructive, as well as illegal, per SA Municipal Code 22.5. Call 210-207-7273 immediately & request Park Police respond.

CIRCLE SCHOOL, 217 PERSHING AVENUE

The Circle School is currently accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. They provide an academically enriched program for students from PreK to 8th grade. Interested persons may complete the inquiry form found at the Circle School's website to sign up for a campus tour. thecircleschool.org

OBSERVANT RESIDENTS KEY TO NEIGHBORHOOD

Driving and walking in our neighborhood yields interesting information. For instance, a neighbor noticed the beginning of what looked like a house demolition near her home. She contacted the City of San Antonio and was told that there were permits for foundation work and extensive remodeling, including the addition of a second story. Satisfied City staff had been notified, the neighbor went about her business. Other neighbors observed the foundation work being accomplished, which was fine since the house needed lots of work. Soon, however, the extent of the remodeling became obvious. The entire structure of the house was removed and only the foundation remained. This information was shared with the City and quickly a "stop work order" was issued. Evidently, the City's building inspector felt the owner/contractor moved "outside the scope of work" of the project for which permits had been issued.

What to take away from this? The City is willing to question work being done, but must know what is going on. Neighbors are responsible for ensuring that City staff knows what is happening in our neighborhood so that permits may be enforced. Generally all vertical construction or revisions to existing structures require a permit, so please ensure that appropriate permits for work on your home and property are obtained.

WATCH FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CONSTRUCTION

Not sure what to watch for? The Neighborhood Conservation District guidelines are available at https://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/Planning/NPUD/NCD6_MahnckePark.pdf. A brief summary of construction to pay attention to includes curb cuts, garages and carports, fences, lighting, driveways, front walkways, new accessory structures, building height, and building setbacks – front, side, and rear.

In addition to the particular requirements of the NCD, virtually all construction requires a permit, including roofing and house levelling. The City's Development Services Dept. website is tolerably easy to work with in terms of getting a permit and staff at 210-207-1111 are helpful.

YOUR TAX \$\$\$ AT WORK, PART 2,109,303,866.A

Observant neighbors have noticed the dedicated bike lanes on Broadway Street in the area north of Jones Avenue have been removed. There are now three traffic lanes – both north & southbound - with right lanes that include bike images welcoming cyclists to share space with VIA buses and all other vehicular traffic.

MEET MPNA BOARD MEMBER GREG TURNER

Greg "Chip" Turner is new this year to the MPNA Board of Directors, but he is certainly not new to our neighborhood. Chip and his wife Connie have lived on Pershing Avenue since 1999. His impression is that things were a "little sketchy" in the 80's but improved in the 90's. He credits the upturn with improvements in businesses on Broadway.

A self-described military brat, Chip was raised in San Antonio and attended Highlands High School. He worked in health care benefits for CVS prior to retirement. He and his wife like to celebrate their Celtic heritage and enjoy participating in the Renaissance Festival in Kerrville. He often wears kilts, and they both play Celtic music on various stringed instruments. Chip participates in Viking re-enactments with (blunted) steel swords and axes. Is it a surprise his very popular Halloween front yard display is an inflatable pirate ship?

When asked about changes he would like to see or be part of, he said for now he will just play it by ear, enjoying the "great community" of Mahncke Park. He loves being able to walk to so many places, saying, "It's like living in a small city."

Thanks for serving on the board, Chip!

YOUR TAX \$\$\$ AT WORK, PART 2,109,303,866.B

Neighbors once hoped for the prompt return of bike lanes on N. New Braunfels Avenue between Eleanor Avenue and Burr Road. The bike lanes disappeared in April when N. New Braunfels was resurfaced. And while Public Works Dept. replaced crosswalks and center lane striping in June, the stripes defining bike lanes on both sides of the street remain absent.

Throughout summer and autumn, Public Works Dept. reported reinstallation of bike lane striping was contingent upon design approval from the Traffic Dept. Finally in January, Public Works Dept. stated what they hoped was their final design revision had been submitted to the Transportation Dept. and "if everything goes well" reinstallation of bike lane striping could "get started in early March if not before."

MPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Day, President, Eleanor Avenue
Angelique Snyder, Vice President, Pershing Avenue
Isabel Garcia, Secretary, Queen Anne Court
Susan Geery, Natalen Street
Camis Milam, Davis Court
Gene (Chip) Turner, Pershing Avenue

Email info@mahnckepark.org

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 35

Congressman Greg Casar
District Office 210-580-7000, casar.house.gov/help
District Director Irene Chavez Galvan, 210-307-0357
Irene.chavezgalvan@mail.house.gov

TEXAS STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 26

Jose Menendez, District Office 210-733-6604
District contact person Alexandra M. Calve

TEXAS STATE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 120

Barbara Gervin Hawkins, District Office 210-822-2534

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 of more scheduled activities.

CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

Mr. Jalen McKee-Rodriguez is the District 2 City Councilman and 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

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Carlynn Ricks
Bruce Martin

PUBLICATION NOTE

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

WONDERFUL MONTH

This is a wonderful month to pay annual MPNA dues.



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