

MAHNCKE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1979



APRIL 2024

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting will feature a presentation from the Bexar County Appraisal District. Learn helpful information regarding the appraisal district – in particular, discover key steps property owners should take to minimize their property tax burden, as well as insights about protesting your appraised property value.

Plan to attend this valuable meeting as doing so could save you \$\$\$.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 7pm
LION'S FIELD CENTER, 2809 BROADWAY

EASTER EGG HUNT

Last month's Egg Hunt in Clover Lawn was a most successful event on a mild, cloudy morning. Approximately 30 children collected over 400 colorful eggs including cascarones and plastic eggs with treasures of candy and some with crisp U.S. currency. Adults were not authorized to hunt eggs.

Liz Kish of Natalen Street organized the very successful hunt. She was supported by a band of happy volunteers, including Chief Rabbit Paul Vaughn of Thorman Place whose thoughtful rules and encouraging cheers helped create equitable egg hunting and positive memories. Among the egg-hiding volunteers were Caroline Rickels, Ruth Rodriguez and Colt Dow of Thorman Place; Kristen and Jack Driscoll from Carnahan Avenue; Deborah Teng and Jackson Mannett from Pershing Avenue.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS CHANGING

Jim's Restaurant aka Coffee Shop has closed. Located at the NE corner of Broadway and Allensworth Street, the business operated in our neighborhood for 53 years. Its popular counter with stools and comfortable booths with views onto Broadway will long be remembered. Their final day was March 5. A sign on the door directs customers to visit Jim's #1 at Broadway and 410.

NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

During excavation about 20 years ago to install a sidewalk and street lights on the south side of Mulberry Avenue alongside Brackenridge Golf Course, a prehistoric midden and spear point were discovered. Carbon dating suggested human visitation extending into the late Paleoindian era. This discovery led to local excitement, including pronouncements that the find proved people have been grilling meat in Brackenridge Park for over 10,000 years.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN (ALMOST)

On Monday afternoon, April 8, a 99.96% solar eclipse is forecast to occur in our neighborhood.

MAHNCKE PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN PARTY

Join the Mahncke Park Community Garden Party on Saturday, April 13, 10:30am – 1:30pm. The eighth year for this popular event will include a Plant Sale, Garden Presentations, activities for kiddos, unamplified music, food providers, and a silent auction with a variety of items, including donations from area businesses. The Plant Sale will feature locally grown plants, including plants that are not commonly available at area nurseries.

WILDFLOWERS IN MAHNCKE PARK

This was a good year for Texas Bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*) in Mahncke Park. Among the first wildflowers to bloom each Spring, this year's Bluebonnet crop peaked in March and is fading as a variety of other wildflowers begin their show. Wild Honeysuckle (*Gaura suffucta*) is white and pink, Indian Blanket aka Firewheel (*Gaillardia pulchella*) is the Oklahoma State Flower with showy petals of red and yellow, Prairie Verbena (*Glandularia bipinnatifida*) is low growing with light purple flowers – look alongside curb on Funston Place. Fleabane Daisy (*Erigeron philadelphicus*) has tiny white flowers and grows low; Prairie Zinnia (*Zinnia grandiflora*) is bright yellow; Greenthread (*Thelesperma filifolium*) is a lovely yellow with dark center and is named for its extremely slender leaves. Look closely toward the center of the park across from 415 Parland Place for orange flowers of Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja indivisa*). In fact, the front yard there features a 24 year old agave aka Century Plant (*Agave americana*) that is putting up a dramatic flower stalk (mast), which will soon be attracting bees, moths, butterflies, hummingbirds, and possibly bats.

The predominate blooming plant in the park now is an invasive species, Turnip Weed, aka Bastard Cabbage (*Rupistrum rugosum*). Standing about 2' tall with numerous, small yellow flowers, this non-native plant is growing in scattered patches across the park. Native to southern Europe and northern Africa, this plant was introduced to Texas years ago to secure soil at construction sites and new roadways; unfortunately, it has quickly moved across the state frequently out-competing native wildflowers and grasses.

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

Bike lanes on N. New Braunfels Avenue between Eleanor Avenue and Burr Road are still missing. The bike lanes disappeared in April 2023 when N. New Braunfels was resurfaced. In June, Public Works Dept. replaced crosswalks and center lane striping. In January, Public Works emailed "if everything goes well" reinstallation of bike lane striping could "get started in early March if not before." Clearly, everything is not going well.

ISABEL ZSOHAR, 1951 – 2024

Longtime Groveland Place resident, MPNA Block Captain, and former MPNA Board Member, Isabel Zsohar died March 3, 2024. Born and raised in Waxahachie, Texas, she attended Trinity University, taught math at Alamo Heights High School, and tutored students in retirement. Isabel was often seen whizzing by on her bicycle or walking her very lucky dogs (one of her dogs was a stray she adopted four blocks from her house – she named him Pershing). She loved nature, Brackenridge Park and her neighborhood. Isabel will be missed by many.

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

SAN ANTONIO BOOK FESTIVAL, APRIL 13

The annual San Antonio Book Festival is a free, family-friendly event with a full day of author presentations, panel discussions, book sales, signings, children and teen activities, and food trucks. The free Festival will take place Saturday, April 13 from 9am to 5pm at the Central Library, 600 Soledad Street.

MEET BOARD MEMBER ISABEL GARCIA

Isabel Garcia is at it again. A resident of Queen Anne Court, she was a member of the MPNA Board of Directors at the turn of the century, she was on the Home Tour Committee twice, and she served on the original Neighborhood Conversation District (NCD) committee and then again when the NCD was revised. Bringing lots of experience and perspective, she’s volunteered to be the Board Secretary. Isabel said she just can’t say “no” when there is a need. She feels the variety of Board members will make this year’s Board an especially good one.

In addition to volunteering for Mahncke Park, Isabel teaches architecture at SA College. Originally a fulltime architect, she developed a love for teaching architecture and has been doing so for 30 years. Isabel plays competitive tennis and loves animals - her own dogs and neighborhood skunks, possums, and raccoons. Asked about her view of the neighborhood, she is basically pleased, although is less pleased with burger chains appearing on Broadway. But, like most of us, she’s in love with Mahncke Park. Thank you for all you do, Isabel.

MPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Day, Eleanor Ave., President
Wendelyn Miller, Natalen St., Vice President
Isabel Garcia, Queen Anne Ct., Secretary
CJ Van Green, Lucas St., Treasurer
Angelique Snyder, Pershing Avenue
Gene (Chip) Turner, Pershing Avenue
Email info@mahnckepark.org

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Carlynn Ricks
Bruce Martin

PUBLICATION NOTE

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

LION’S FIELD CENTER – 2809 BROADWAY

Lion’s Field Center is operated by the SA Parks Dept. and hosts a variety of classes, including art, music, and exercise. Call 210-207-5380 to learn more. Here are some highlights this month. Especially note the variety of evening classes: creative writing, beginning crochet, and creative alterations, among others. Daytime topics include staying safe during Fiesta with advice from Park Police, saving money with CPS, an open mic in celebration of poetry month, an Earth Day celebration, and on April 13, Bargains on Broadway, a giant yard sale. Details of all these events and many more are available at the phone number above or online at

<https://www.sanantonio.gov/ParksAndRec/Parks-Facilities> Under Parks, select Lions Field, View Classes.

CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

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



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