

MAHNCKE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1979



JULY 2024

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Lamar Elementary School property is the subject of this month's meeting. Deputy Superintendent Patti Salzmann will present SAISD's process for repurposing Lamar and the 14 other school campuses closed as part of the district's "rightsizing decision." She will discuss the status of the process and respond to questions. Please join us.

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

BOTANICAL GARDEN: N'HOOD WORKSHOP

Neighbors are invited to attend a workshop regarding the Botanical Garden's new master plan. This is an excellent opportunity to participate in the process of planning the future of the Botanical Garden, one of our neighborhood's most significant properties.

The Botanical Garden wants your input. If you have not already done so, please provide your thoughts, concerns, and opinions via survey at <https://forms.gle/4Cmo4sVCgytKGLAp6> Complete survey no later than July 17. Survey results will be shared at July 25 workshop. All neighbors are strongly encouraged to attend.

Neighborhood Workshop
Thursday, July 25, 6pm
SA Botanical Garden

PUBLIC ART REMOVED

Four large, metal "box" sculptures by Artist Catherine Lee of Wimberly were removed from Mahncke Park on June 7. The sculptures were exhibited in the east end of Mahncke Park near N. New Braunfels Avenue since March 2019, per an agreement between the Parks Dept. and Tres Centurias Foundation, a local non-profit entity. The Foundation paid the costs of installing and removing the sculptures, their concrete pads, and the temporary lighting.

Three granite stone sculptures by the late artist Jesus Morales in the west portion of Mahncke Park were installed in February 2020. They will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

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

The fountain in Mahncke Park is operating again. City Councilman McKee-Rodriguez' office worked with the Parks Dept. to expedite repairs. A variance to SA Water System's watering restrictions was granted authorizing the fountain's operations.

Anna Marie Mahncke Deutz donated the fountain in 1964 to the memory of her father, Ludwig Mahncke.

BOTANICAL GARDEN OFFERS N'HOOD DISCOUNT

As a result of a recent meeting in which area residents expressed the need for more affordable annual membership fees, the Botanical Garden announced last month a 30% discount on annual memberships for Mahncke Park residents. The discount means that a regular \$75 membership will be \$52.50, a regular \$65 senior membership will drop to \$45.50, and a dual membership will go from \$95 to \$66.50. Use discount code MAHNCKE. The Botanical Garden's responsiveness is encouraging and appreciated.

SAVE \$ TO RIDE THE RAILS IN BRACKENRIDGE PARK

A miniature train has operated in Brackenridge Park since 1956, entertaining adults and kiddos, visitors and locals. Known now as the Zoo Train, there are two new, different locomotives with new, covered passenger cars, which are less cramped than earlier models.

A \$24 annual pass was recently announced. If you ride twice or more monthly, the annual pass will enable savings over the standard \$3.50 per ride price. The train runs during zoo hours, 9am - 5pm daily, except Saturday when the hours are 9am - 7pm. Note that riders under 14 must be accompanied by an adult, but judging from the smiling adults seen on the trains that will not be a hardship.

BRACKENRIDGE PARK: NEW LEADER

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy has hired Chris Maitre as its new CEO. He is the former operating officer of the New Orleans City Park Conservancy. Maitre replaces Interim CEO and former San Antonio City Manager Terry Brechtel.

AFTERNOON AT THE WITTE MUSEUM – FREE!

The Witte Museum is free to all Bexar County residents on Tuesdays from 3pm – 6pm. Have you visited the Witte recently? Treat yourself to their lovely, big screen overview of Texas, beautiful gift shop, and excellent air conditioning. Please note that some exhibits require a "special ticket" during Tuesday's free afternoons – at present, Shark exhibit is \$10 and Astronaut exhibit is \$6.

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

PUBLICATION NOTE

The printing of this newsletter is supported by the Circle School, 217 Pershing Ave. thecircleschool.org
The MPNA appreciates their longstanding support.

NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY: TRAIN ROBBERY

On Saturday afternoon, July 18, 1970, the Brackenridge Park train was robbed at gunpoint by two masked gunmen. Perhaps inspired by that year’s popular movie “Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid” which featured men on horseback robbing trains, the two men rented horses at Brackenridge Stables, asking 13 year-old Lana Sue Fincke for directions to the train tunnel near Avenue B. (Lana Sue now lives in Mahncke Park). The men rode to the tunnel, one put on a red & blue ski mask – the other pulled a woman’s blue stocking over his head, and when the train exited the tunnel they stepped onto the track, pointed a .22 caliber pistol at the train’s engineer, and ordered him to stop the train.

The robbers moved down the train taking about \$300 cash, credit cards, car keys, cameras, checkbooks, and purses from the passengers. Several believed the robbery was a joke. Some managed to hide their valuables. Before reaching the end of the train, the robbers noticed the engineer speaking on his walkie-talkie – they ran to their getaway car, a red Ford Mustang.

Ten days later, Paul E. Smith and James R. Brown, ages 21 and 24, were arrested for Robbery by Assault with Firearms, following a tip to SAPD from an acquaintance of both men. Smith and Brown were US Army non-commissioned officers stationed at Ft. Sam Houston. They lived in the Park Terrace Apartments, 106 Chinaberry (the six building complex that once stood south of Mulberry Ave. and east of the present-day Doseum parking lot). Both men pleaded guilty to the train robbery, and Smith also pleaded guilty to robbing the Lone Star Ice House at 3819 West Avenue on July 13, 1970. The District Attorney’s Office recommended minimum sentences and Judge Preston Dial concurred, sentencing both men in 1971 to serve no less than 5 and no more than 10 years in the Texas Dept. of Corrections prison system.

Paul E. Smith was in prison from February 1971 until July 1973. Following an unsuccessful appeal, James R. Brown served from May 1972 until February 1975.

NOTE 1: After the train robbery but prior to going to prison, James R. Brown married and lived at 443 Eleanor Ave.

NOTE 2: Paul E. Smith died April 29, 2010 from natural causes at age 61.

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

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 or visit

www.sa.gov/Directory/Departments/Parks/Parks-Facilities/Buildings-Centers/Lions-Field-Adult-and-Senior-Center

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

MPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Email info@mahnckepark.org

HELLO FROM THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

There are two Facebook pages area residents may visit to share and gather information.

This is the link to MPNA official page
www.facebook.com/MahnckeParkNeighborhoodAssociation

Unofficial neighborhood page with online community socializing www.facebook.com/groups/66362695532

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Carlynn Ricks
Bruce Martin



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