

MAHNCKE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1979



FEBRUARY 2025

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting will feature a presentation regarding efforts to create a Greenway Hike & Bike Trail from Brackenridge Park to Austin. Specifically, SA River Authority will discuss work to be done in Brackenridge Park and on Incarnate Word University campus. Join us as we learn of this exciting effort.

**FEBRUARY 18, TUESDAY, 7pm
LION'S FIELD CENTER, 2809 BROADWAY**

EARTHQUAKE SHAKES MAHNCKE PARK

The U.S. Geological Survey reported three earthquakes occurred last month near Karnes City, Texas, which is located 52 miles south of San Antonio. A 4.5 magnitude earthquake on January 29 at 9:26pm was felt in our neighborhood, but there were no reports of damage. Two quakes followed on January 30 at 12:17am and 9:59pm with magnitude readings of 2.7 and 3.6, respectively.

BASURA BASH IN BRACKENRIDGE PARK

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy is hosting a community river clean-up effort in the park on Saturday, February 22, 9:00am – 12:00pm. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity to remove trash and enhance the health of the San Antonio River in our wonderful, historic Brackenridge Park.

Location: Brackenridge Park, meet at Joske Pavilion
Pre-registration preferred at brackenridgepark.org

MAHNCKE PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

The MPCG's Spring Garden Season will run from February 1 – July 31. Some private, raised beds may be available – interested gardeners may send their contact info to mpcgarden78209@gmail.com

The Spring Garden Party is set for Saturday, April 12 from 10:30am – 1:30pm. Very popular plant sale will return. In addition, food & drink, live music, activities for the kiddos, garden presentations, and a silent auction will all be part of this special day. Mark your calendar now!

Garden Workdays are always held the second Saturday of the month, starting at 9am. All are welcome to come feel the earth.

SUNSET RIDGE FARMERS MARKET IS A GEM

The Sunset Ridge Farmers Market operates each Saturday morning from 9am – 1pm in lovely Charis Park, located at 95 Brees behind Sunset Ridge shopping center. The 1-acre greenspace is a green gem just a short drive north via North New Braunfels Avenue. This wonderful market is a fine option for buying local food.

SMELLED ANY SKUNKS LATELY?

Residents in the 300 block of Pershing Avenue are sure they are not the only ones in the neighborhood with a skunk problem, but they feel like theirs may be the worst. Neighbors report repeated sightings of skunks nonchalantly crossing the street, wandering up a driveway, or dancing in the backyard. . .they have videos to prove it! Part of the problem may be that Pershing Avenue serves as a sort of thoroughfare between the Country Club and Brackenridge Park. Also, neighbors on the north side of the street where there is an alley seem to have more smelly visitors than those on the south side of the street. It probably does not help to remind ourselves that skunks are really good guys in the animal kingdom and in our neighborhood. These petite omnivores eat grubs, roaches, mice, and snakes. In fact, 70% of their diet consists of insects that are harmful to people.

What to do? We wish we had a solution, but only can offer suggestions for deterring these odiferous critters. First and foremost, NEVER put out food, particularly dog and cat food, which is easy for skunks to access. If you are feeding a pet outdoors, put out just enough food for one meal for that particular animal, then move the dish indoors. In addition, although skunks are not as adept as raccoons at getting into your trash, it can happen so perhaps wait until morning to add food or food containers to your collection bin. Maybe even freeze leftover food first.

Many neighbors have had success deterring critters by reinforcing the barriers to the space under their homes - the better the barrier, the better the prevention. Still, skunks can and do dig, and if they smell something wonderful, they will probably work to get to it.

Skunks can be trapped via live animal traps. If you try this, consider placing a quilt or heavy cloth on top of the trap while leaving the entry point accessible. You can move a trap with a live skunk inside, but do so very carefully while wearing gloves and a mask - and preferably place your cargo in the back of an open vehicle and not on your lap. Or you can call Wildlife Rescue 830-336-2725 to "rehome" your captured creature. If you find a dead skunk on your property, carefully put it in a plastic bag and call 311 to arrange collection by Solid Waste Dept. within a couple days.

Good luck - and if you are in a position to watch them without smelling them, enjoy their beauty.



MEET NEW MPNA BOARD MEMBER ERIN KELLY

Erin Kelly of Elmhurst Ave. was elected to the MPNA Board of Directors in November and she is looking forward to getting to know more people. A native Texan from Pflugerville, she has joyfully adopted Mahncke Park as her new home. Working as a loan review officer at neighborhood-oriented Jefferson Bank's new headquarters building at Broadway & Grayson, Erin likes the short commute and said, "It is an easy bike ride - if it's not freezing."

Erin loves our neighborhood - the walkability, great location, kind neighbors, and being able to watch fireworks from her house. She said, "I've learned that great neighbors make great neighborhoods."

Erin seems to have been born to be a public relations agent for Mahncke Park. She could not say enough nice things about our neighborhood. While she notes that her generation of adults often has problems with loneliness, that has not been a problem for her here. "I've learned that I can build community wherever I live." Having lived in other neighborhoods that appeared to be similar to Mahncke Park, both in San Antonio and elsewhere, Erin observed, "Residents didn't take much pride in the neighborhood. It's easy to see the pride that Mahncke Park residents take in their neighborhood." She sees one problem with this neighborhood, however, "the soil." That and when cars speed on neighborhood streets. Amen, sister.

Asked what she thinks needs work in Mahncke Park, she pointed to the sidewalks - sloping and cracked surfaces can make walking difficult. And she would like to see the perimeter sidewalk around Mahncke Park completed. Erin is very interested in the future use of Lamar Elementary School property - SAISD closed the school in 2024 and the school is vacant.

Outside of work and enjoying the neighborhood via walking and biking, Erin likes to cook and play with her cat. And her dog, "a San Antonio special."

We are glad to have Erin Kelly in our neighborhood. Thank you for serving on the MPNA Board, Erin!

MPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Scott Day, Eleanor Ave., President
- Jimmy LeFlore, Parland Place, Vice President
- Isabel Garcia, Queen Anne Ct., Secretary
- C.J. Van Green, Lucas St., Treasurer
- Kevin Nguyen, Eleanor Avenue
- Gene (Chip) Turner, Pershing Avenue
- Erin Kelly, Elmhurst Avenue
- Email info@mahnckepark.org

VISIT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ON THE COMPUTER

There are two Facebook pages neighbors may consider for sharing and gathering information regarding our Mahncke Park Neighborhood.

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

FREE LUNCH AVAILABLE AT LION'S FIELD CENTER

Lion's Field Adult Center at 2809 Broadway has partnered with the City's Human Services Dept. to offer free lunch to persons 60+ years of age. Meals are served in the Community Room from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Meals include a hot entree with sides, juice or milk, and fruit or dessert. Those interested may register in person at Lion's Field or online at <https://www.sa.gov/Directory/Departments/DHS/Senior-Services> . Center Director May Runner said it can take two working days to become active "within the system" and receive a meal after registration.

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; his duty hours are M-F, 7am-3pm.

Juan.hernandez3@sanantonio.gov
210-218-6939, cell, 210-207-1039, St. Mary's Street Substation, 2020 N. St. Mary's Street

SAN ANTONIO CODE COMPLIANCE

The Code Enforcement Officer for our area of San Antonio has changed. Until a permanent replacement is assigned, Officer Leticia Villarreal is temporarily serving our neighborhood. She can be reached at Leticia.villarreal@sanantonio.gov 210-392-5669

PUBLICATION NOTE

The printing of this newsletter is supported by the Circle School, 217 Pershing Ave. thecircleschool.org
We appreciate their very generous support.

TAKE A MOMENT TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES

Please take a moment to pay your annual dues via the form or QR code below. The price is reasonable and doing so will make you feel so very good inside.



2025 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	