



OCTOBER 2025

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month's meeting will feature Fran Hutchins, Director of the Bracken Cave Preserve, the amazing resource located on the edge of San Antonio. Hutchins will share information regarding bats and help us better understand how these flying mammals benefit our gardens and community. We will also provide updates about neighborhood projects.

**OCTOBER 21, TUESDAY, 7pm
LION'S FIELD CENTER, 2809 BROADWAY**

REVISIONS TO MPNA BYLAWS APPROVED

Proposed revisions to the Mahncke Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) Bylaws were unanimously approved at last month's meeting, which was held at the Botanical Garden on September 16. We appreciate the hard work by all those involved in this process, particularly Jimmy LeFlore and George Grimes, both residents on Parland Place.

LAMAR SCHOOL PROPOSALS SOUGHT

The San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) issued a request for proposals September 5 for "the lease and repurposing" of Lamar School at 201 Parland Place and four other properties. Per SAISD's solicitation document, the proposed use must "serve the community interests" and "further the District's purpose. The primary goal is to transform the properties into productive assets that address community needs and advances a District purpose, as identified through extensive public engagement." Proposals are due by October 17.

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL, 217 PERSHING AVENUE

The Circle School's Fall Family Festival is Saturday, October 18, 4-8pm. Neighbors are invited; children are free, adults are \$5. Haunted House, Pumpkin Path, storytelling by students, dance party, food, games, live performances. Good, old-fashioned fun.

2nd ANNUAL FRIENDSGIVING GET-TOGETHER

Because we are thankful for our neighbors and our neighborhood, the MPNA is hosting a Friendsgiving gathering at The Hayden, 4025 Broadway on Saturday, November 15 from 4:00-6:00pm. Some snacks and drinks will be provided, plus some special deals. For more details watch MPNA's Facebook page.

FREE TREES AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 8

Celebrate Texas Arbor Day on Saturday, November 8, at Mission Marquee Plaza (aka Mission Drive-In), 3100 South Roosevelt Ave. from 10am-1pm. The City will give away 1,000 trees. Event will include nature activities and crafts, and tree care resource information.

MAHNCKE PARK WALKING TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Construction began last month on a new walking trail within Mahncke Park. Parks Dept. staff identified several ways to minimize concrete installation – and lower costs - by softening extreme bends in the original trail plan and eliminating connections between bends. The revisions maintain the goal of a slightly meandering walking trail that is partially shaded; however, the removal of one existing mesquite tree growing within the concrete-lined drainageway will be required in order to accommodate installation of a pedestrian bridge. The existing railing on the north side of Funston Place that crosses the drainageway will be replaced to achieve an equally functional, but more visually appealing result. At the beginning of this month, base material, rebar and forms for the new walking trail (aka sidewalk) were complete and a portion of the concrete had been poured. Construction work was in process on a recent Saturday.

ELEANOR AVE. FRONT YARD IMPERVIOUS COVER

The City's Code Compliance Division cited the owner of 409 Eleanor Ave. in August for starting to pour concrete parking pads in the front yard without a permit and for exceeding the maximum allowable impervious cover on the front yard. City code allows up to 50% of front yard to be covered by impervious cover – typically, concrete. Three concrete pads were poured, totaling slightly more than 866 sq. ft.

The property owner submitted a variance request to allow 90% impervious cover on the front yard. City staff recommended denial, which included the following statements:

1. Granting a variance to nearly double the allowable impervious surface undermines the intent and sets a precedent that could lead to widespread degradation of front yards in the district.
2. A front yard that is over 50% paved would be visually out of character with surrounding conforming properties, disrupting the uniform and landscaped appearance of the neighborhood.

The MPNA also recommended denial.

On September 30, the SA Zoning Board of Adjustment considered the variance request. During the hearing, the property owner stated:

I am here to right my wrongs.

I am here to fix whatever I need to do.

I just want to be able to park here (on 21x11.6 pad).

I am willing to do the right thing.

By a vote of 9 in favor and 2 opposed, the Board granted a variance authorizing 60% impervious cover on front yard, not the requested 90%.

NEW BLOCK CAPTAIN ON ELEANOR AVENUE

Kara Wild is our newest Block Captain and will be distributing newsletters on Eleanor Avenue west of N. New Braunfels Avenue. We are delighted to have her volunteer to support the MPNA newsletter.

Welcome, Kara!

Current Block Captain Valerie Jeannin will deliver to Eleanor Avenue east of N. New Braunfels.

NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY, PART 2, 102,695,930

In his 2003 self-published autobiography, *Tales from the Southwest Courtroom*, retired State District Court Judge James E. Barlow (1928-2010), described his move, at age 14, with his widowed mother from Crockett, Texas to San Antonio. "We lived in many places in San Antonio – on Snake Hill, August Street, and finally on Funston Place. Bill Ochse built a series of low-rent duplexes for government workers, and I grew up in one. They have all been torn down now. They were considered by the city as eyesores across from the Botanical Gardens. I grew up in one of those eyesores."

ELECTION DAY AND EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

November 4 is Election Day and polling places will be open from 7am until 7pm. Early voting will occur from October 20 through October 31. Bexar County voters will have the opportunity to vote on Propositions A and B. Proposition A proposes \$192M to renovate Frost Bank Center, Freeman Coliseum and surrounding facilities for the SA Stock Show & Rodeo. Proposition B proposes to devote up to \$311M of Bexar County's taxes on hotel rooms and car rentals to support construction of a \$1.3B arena for use by the SA Spurs basketball team.

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

East Field Office, 2805 E. Commerce Street

Northeast Field Office, 4351 Rittiman Road

Constituent services staff are available at both field offices to meet and work to resolve concerns.

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

Officer Hernandez encourages neighbors to call 911 regarding time sensitive concerns, such as suspicious individuals or illegal activity. 911 operators are trained to prioritize calls. If you are going to be out of town, you may email Officer Hernandez to request SAPD drive-by your property while you are away.

NEW SAN ANTONIO CODE COMPLIANCE INFO

Code Enforcement Officer Jennifer Hernandez is temporarily assigned to our neighborhood.

210-275-5249 jennifer.hernandez2@sanantonio.gov

LION'S FIELD ADULT CENTER, 2809 BROADWAY

Lion's Field is operated by the Parks Dept. and is open Monday-Friday. A variety of classes are offered with a focus on encouraging healthy lifestyles.

For additional information call 210-207-5380.

MPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jimmy LeFlore, Parland Place., President

Scott Day, Eleanor Ave., Vice President

Isabel Garcia, Queen Anne Ct., Secretary

Erin Kelly, Elmhurst Avenue, Treasurer

C.J. Van Green, Lucas St.

Gene (Chip) Turner, Pershing Avenue

Email info@mahnckepark.org

HELLO, DIGITAL NEIGHBOR!

Mahncke Park Neighborhood Association website is

www.mahnckepark.org

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

This is the link to MPNA Facebook page

www.facebook.com/MahnckeParkNeighborhoodAssociation

Unofficial neighborhood page with online community socializing

www.facebook.com/groups/66362695532

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Carlynn Ricks

Bruce Martin

PUBLICATION NOTE

The printing of this newsletter is provided by the Circle School, 217 Pershing Ave.

Their web address is thecircleschool.org.

We appreciate the Circle School's generous support.



2025 MAHNCKE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM, OR USE QR CODE ABOVE

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	
Email	
Phone	
Type membership	Regular____, Retired____, Nonresident____

Mail completed form & payment to:

MPNA, PO BOX 6752, SA, TX 78209