

**BLOSSOM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE DISTRICT 9 NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE**  
**September 2018**

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**From the President**

Hi Wonderful Neighbors!

Our community is back to school, and your neighborhood is gearing up for National Night Out -- an evening dedicated to developing relationships among ourselves and with our local police and fire responders. Timely in that we are experiencing a rash of vehicle break-ins around the Orchid/Rose Blossom area. Also a chance to thank the police and fire personnel for their prompt and professional response to the (accidentally started) house fire this past summer. We will have a popcorn making machine, tables, chairs, and again so special -- Raymond grilling our hotdogs! Our thanks to our neighbors on Peach Blossom for hosting!

Having paved and painted our streets last year, the City is working on two Bond projects we advocated for -- sidewalk access to the park trails, and a fix to the drainage ditch behind Lotus Blossom. So timely these heavy rains we are experiencing -- bring your photos and testimony of drainage and flooding issues to the meetings with TCI. Even if not within the scope of the projects, the experts and appropriate city staff who can address the issues will be in attendance. We are fortunate that our Councilman has directed his staff member -- Colt Osburn -- to liaison directly with us. Colt attends our Board of Directors meetings, keeps us updated, and accepts action items -- he will arrange for the meetings at Brookhollow Library. We will send e-blasts notices to BPNA membership, so be sure we have your email address! (For those without emails, let us know your phone numbers!)

The easiest, simplest thing you can do to help our neighborhood: **Vote in the November election.**

Voter turnout in each precinct (our neighborhood is one precinct) is noted by elected officials...!!

If you see any problem that needs to be fixed, call 311.  
If you are a victim of any crime, file a police report.

City and Police services are statistics driven!

**Message from our City Councilman**

**DRAINAGE PROJECT**

The Blossom Park Drainage Project continues to work its way through the Bond process towards construction on schedule. Design started in April 2018 and will continue until January 2019. Once 40% of the design is completed, which is expected in September, the city is required to hold a community meeting to solicit input. After the plans are submitted, the city has four weeks to review everything and set up the community meeting. This is something that the Transportation and Capital Improvements Department (TCI) and the District 9 Office will coordinate through BPNA. Notices will be sent out and our office will make sure the word gets out.

**STARCREST SIDEWALK**

For those pedestrians and bike riders looking to head down Starcrest and hit the trails, relief is on the way! Thanks to the advocacy and hard work done by your BPNA Board of Directors, the District 9 Office will use Bond Pedestrian Mobility Funding to install a brand new sidewalk. Pedestrians will now have a path on the north side of Starcrest (between Budding Blvd and Wurzbach Parkway). Folks will be able to walk/bike along Starcrest without having to get in the street or walk in the dirt. As of right now City Engineers are certifying the plans so the specifications can be given to the contractor. Once the plans are sealed and signed, a community meeting will be held for Blossom Park residents. Stay tuned to BPNA and the District 9 Office for this date.

**National Night Out**

On Tuesday October 2, come have dinner on us, meet your neighbors and enjoy drawings for door prizes as we gather together to celebrate our community with our First Responders. In addition to our traditional fare of hotdogs, chips, sodas and water, we will have a special treat this year -- Popcorn!!

So come join your neighbors at the Peach Blossom Cul-De-Sac. Turn left onto Peach Blossom as you enter Blossom Park from Starcrest.

Our thanks to *Charlie Browns* and Blossom Food Mart for their donation to help with expenses at National Night Out!

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Charlie Brown's  
Neighborhood Bar & Grill

11888 Starcrest Drive, Suite 101  
San Antonio, TX 78247  
Phone 210-496-7092  
[www.Charlie-Browns.com](http://www.Charlie-Browns.com)

**\$1.00 off any food item  
with this coupon**

Please call ahead for parties of 6 or more

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## Neighborhood Watch

As a neighborhood association and fellow neighbors, we have noticed an increase in vehicle break-ins and vandalism in the last few months. In response to this situation, BPNA will be making an effort to organize a neighborhood watch program. This program's start and success will depend upon Blossom Park residents who are willing to volunteer their time to participate in organized patrols of our neighborhood. To begin this effort, a sign-up sheet will be provided at the National Night Out event.

## Property Upkeep Reminder

There has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of possums, raccoons, armadillos, snakes and rodents. This increase is understandable given our close proximity to McAllister Park and the drought conditions we are currently experiencing.

We can however, work to decrease this number by doing everything we can to reduce the conditions that may attract these creatures. For example, high grass and piles of brush/tree limbs provide an inviting habitat for rodents. The rodents themselves are bad enough as they sometimes invade our homes looking for warm conditions and food. Additionally, the rodents are a food

source for snakes - some good (rat snakes) - some bad (rattle snakes, coral snakes).

To those of us who have "outside" cats or feel obligated to support feral cats, we may have a tendency to place food outside to feed these "pets". Unfortunately, possums, skunks, and raccoons love cat food so, in addition to feeding our cats, we are also attracting these creatures and, with a food source so readily available, these animals may set up housekeeping under decks, sheds - - even in the attics of our homes!

So - to make our neighborhood less inviting to rodents and snakes, let's mow/trim our grass and for brush, leaves, tree limbs, etc., please remember that we have easy access to the Bitters (brush) Recycling Center at 1800 Wurzbach Parkway for the times between city bulk pick-ups and BPNA sponsored neighborhood cleanups.

For those of us who tend to feed our pets outside, please try and remember to remove this food at night and hopefully reduce the number of creatures attracted by this source of food.

Please be a good neighbor and keep your area of responsibility trimmed and clean. It keeps the Blossom Park neighborhood looking great, keeps property values up and makes our neighborhood less inviting to dangerous and destructive creatures as well. Your neighbors will thank you!

## Communications

A free website/service that has been endorsed by SAPD. [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) which now has over 344 members from Blossom Park. It has proven to be a marvelous method of sharing information with our neighbors in Blossom Park and other close by neighborhoods. Reporting vandalism, theft, detailing suspicious behaviors, has been an excellent speedy, silent and safe communication method that we can all share. You can also post questions, lost and found animals and classified ads. And check out Nextdoor's Pet Directory, which allows neighbors to build a directory of all of the pets in their neighborhood to help you get your lost pet home safely. Our SAFFE Officers are now using the NextDoor system. Come to the Annual Meeting January 31 to learn how you can help the police with this tool!

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## Cityflag's 311SA app

Some of our Blossom Park residents / BPNA members may not be aware of a new mobile public service app provided by the City of San Antonio. It is called "311SA" - it is a free app and is available on both android and iOS devices. Residents can download the app from the iTunes store, Google Play, or find it on [www.sanantonio.gov/311](http://www.sanantonio.gov/311).

Once the app is installed it allows users to, within seconds, submit photos of problems like potholes, graffiti, illegal dumping, malfunctioning traffic lights, and stray animals. Reports are geo-located with flag icons, and participants can see issues being addressed and resolved by changes in flag colors. Additionally, the "gamified public service app" is interactive, rewarding users points and badges for engagement. It also allows them to follow others and to be followed - - and lets them see what is being reported city wide.

## Starcrest and Jones-Maltsberger Entrances

The Starcrest Entrance "Island" is being maintained by a Blossom Park resident/volunteer. The established plants (we think they are Pride of Barbados) are surviving and providing beautiful eye-catching color to residents and visitors to Blossom Park and area businesses in spite of the 100 degree (plus) temperatures. An effort has been and will continue to be made to introduce some additional plants. Unfortunately, this has proven to be difficult as buckets of water must be brought to the island as there is no water source available on the island itself. Blistering sunlight and high temperatures have also discouraged the establishment of these plants - - but we will continue to persevere. Solar lighting of the Blossom Park sign continues to be a welcome addition to this entrance.

A brave attempt was made by another Blossom Park resident/volunteer to add a bit of color to soften the stark appearance of the Jones-Maltsberger entrance by adding planters filled with blooming, drought tolerant plants. These arrangements were provided by the resident. Unfortunately, the blistering sun and high temperatures, magnified by the cement and asphalt surfaces ultimately defeated this effort in spite of constant watering measures. BPNA will continue to

solicit and consider reasonable ideas/suggestions for the beautification(s) of our entrance islands. To those who may wish to offer suggestions - please keep in mind that there are no water sources or power at these entrances and labor/money required for establishing/maintaining anything would be provided by committed volunteers and BPNA membership dues.

## New and existing local businesses

BPNA would like to welcome "Blossom Food Mart" to our area. This is actually a "re-opening" of the gas/convenience store located at the Starcrest entrance. The business is family owned and operated and they have expressed an interest in becoming more involved with the Blossom Park neighborhood. They have volunteered to donate all of the ice required for the upcoming National Night Out (NNO) celebration.

BPNA would also like to recognize Charlie Brown's Bar and Grill. Along with providing good food and entertainment, this business has always been involved with our neighborhood by paying their dues and becoming members of BPNA. This year, they have not only joined BPNA, they are providing an ad/money saving coupon found in this newsletter and they have made a monetary donation to this year's NNO that will be applied to table and chair rental costs.

## BPNA Membership

If you haven't joined or already renewed your BPNA membership in 2018, you may do so at the Neighborhood Cleanup (Sept 22), National Night Out (Oct 2), or mail in the attached form with your \$20 membership check. Thank you!

## BPNA Board Opportunity

### **We want you!!**

Would you be willing to give a few hours each month to support our wonderful community as a volunteer member of the Blossom Park Neighborhood Association Board? We currently have an opening for the position of Secretary. The position would require keeping the minutes of Board meetings - - distributing those minutes to all Board members and presenting those minutes at

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subsequent Board meetings. If you are interested - please contact Esther Grindle at (210) 334-9031 or (210) 496-5949.

### **Spotlight on Dog Safety**

Many residents walk for exercise for themselves and at times, for their dogs as well. For the most part, Blossom Park is a safe "walkable" neighborhood. There have been instances however, where BP residents have encountered dogs running loose and that poses a "safety" issue, not only to their person(s) but to their canine companions as well.

More than 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs in the United States each year. An average of 3,500 people are bitten annually in San Antonio. In addition to postal carriers, children and older adults are the most frequent victims of canine aggression. Dog "safety" then, is an issue that needs to be addressed from time to time.

To that end, Animal Care Services (ACS) has partnered with the U.S. Postal Service to spotlight dog safety tips. ACS has developed a series of free five-minute videos. The videos outline basic canine behavior and provide dog safety and bite prevention tips for bicyclists and walkers. The videos include "Understanding Dog Body Language", "Dog Bite Defense", and "Being a Good Pet Parent" The series also has a review of dangerous/aggressive dog laws along with the investigative process and legal definitions. The videos are available at [www.saacs.net](http://www.saacs.net) under the Resources tab.

### **Scoop the POOP!**

Be a good neighbor and remember when walking your animal on a leash, please bag and take home the waste.

### **Neighborhood Garage Sale**

October 27, Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm

Participating households who are members of BPNA may notify Don George by Sunday, October 21 to be included in our on-line advertising and to have your addresses listed on maps distributed by NCTONA!

### **Save the Dates 2018**

September 22 - **BPNA Cleanup** ( "Dial-a-Trailer" )

October **City Scheduled Bulky Item Pick-up. You will be notified via Door Hanger.**

October 2 - **National Night Out**

October 22 - **Nov 2 Early Voting for Mid-Term Elections**

October 27 - **Neighborhood Garage Sale with NCTONA**

November 6 - **Election Day**

**Special Note: The Blossom Park Neighborhood Association will hold its Annual meeting in January, 2019**

### **Board of Directors**

President - Marilyn Jowdy (210) 499-5233 [mjowdy@yahoo.com](mailto:mjowdy@yahoo.com)

Vice President Esther Grindle (210) 496-5949

[estherfayeg@yahoo.com](mailto:estherfayeg@yahoo.com)

Treasurer - Clint Scheible (210) 912-2433 [clintscheible@gmail.com](mailto:clintscheible@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary – **Open Position**

Director - Jack Van Winkle (210) 494-5813 [jack.vw@att.net](mailto:jack.vw@att.net)

Director – Dennis Duggan (210) 8811-9010 [dduggan@ncmich.com](mailto:dduggan@ncmich.com)

Director Special Projects -- Bill Hayman (210) 494-7104

[haymanw@yahoo.com](mailto:haymanw@yahoo.com)

Past President - Sherry Shaw [sshaw@satx.rr.com](mailto:sshaw@satx.rr.com)

Director of Communications – Alana Woods (210) 455-5194

[alana005@yahoo.com](mailto:alana005@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Distribution – Johnny & Nancy Migl (210) 494-7950

BPNA Website - Jack Van Winkle (210) 494-5813 [jack.vw@att.net](mailto:jack.vw@att.net)

D9NA Representative - Marilyn Jowdy (210) 499-5233

[mjowdy@yahoo.com](mailto:mjowdy@yahoo.com)

BPNA Garage Sales – Don George (210) 421-9604

[donsfinds@gmail.com](mailto:donsfinds@gmail.com)

NNO Door Prizes - Donna McPeck

### **Helpful Numbers**

Police non-emergency (210) 207-7273

Jones Maltsberger Police Substation (210) 207-8126

SAPD SAFTE Officer (210) 207-5191

Vector Control (mosquitoes) (210) 207-8853