

BLOSSOM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE DISTRICT 9 NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE

January 2019

Annual Meeting of Blossom Park Neighborhood Association

Our Annual BPNA Neighborhood Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 6, at Brookhollow Library. (Meet/Greet at 5:30 pm; Program starts at 6:00 pm) Speakers and light refreshments.

We also will be electing our Association's 2019 Board of Directors. Please mark your calendar for this important event.

From the President

Hope to see you at our annual meeting! Thanks to your recent neighborhood turnouts at:

- (1) our October National Night Out, where we had the opportunity to review engineering plans for the Starcrest sidewalk now being built to the park trails at Wurzbach parkway;
- (2) the November mid-term elections (60% turnout from our Precinct 3180, compared to 50% city-wide average);
- (3) our December community meeting with the City to review design plans for the Lotus drainage project, where many residents spoke about other drainage issues in conjunction with the limited Lotus project;

our voice is being heard, our concerns addressed, and credibility given to your Board when dealing with the City offices. So we need to ask you again to attend the annual meeting, where turnout is again important – it will be seen by our guests (including police, city TCI employees, Councilman's staff et.al.) as a measure of the strength of our Association.

Plus it will give you an opportunity to meet your neighbors and city staff and police and BPNA Board members to voice any concerns, recommendations (and compliments!). I know you are busy with your lives, as we are busy representing you and helping our neighborhood – so we just need your time to join us for this short get-together, to handle some business, but mainly to have two-way communication. Or just listen and help by being there to show your support for the Association, its work in the neighborhood, and the Board's service as your representatives and our neighborhood voice.

If you were unaware of the design meetings for the Starcrest sidewalk and the Lotus drainage project, we did email our membership for whom we have emails. During this upcoming year there will continue to be short-notice meetings for which advance notice in newsletters won't be possible, including candidate forums. We will be emailing a copy of the power-point used in the Lotus project design meeting -- if you do not receive an email from us by January 31, please notify our Treasurer or Vice President (contact information listed herein under Board of Directors) to update your email and/or membership. If you don't have email access, please let us know so that we can give you telephone notification if you wish.

We decline requests for membership lists and emails, and we limit our neighborhood email blasts to the minimal essential, in recognition of everyone's clogged email boxes. We don't duplicate notifications sent in Nextdoor, other than perhaps expansion of the agenda for our own neighborhood specific meetings. We hope to keep you informed of the progress of our dialogues with city staff, design teams, and other issues of time-sensitive nature.

And, I would be remiss if I didn't personally thank you, neighbors, for your support – for making this a wonderful community. And many thanks to our Board members for their work in 2018, and the volunteers who keep the neighborhood activities a-going, who help maintain the entrance islands, who prepare the newsletters, who distribute the newsletters --- and many more!

And Special, Special Thanks to Raymond Seymour (our hot dog chef and Entertainment Chief!) and Robert Lowry and all the families who hosted our **2018 National Night Out**; to the volunteers who manned the popcorn machine, registration and food tables; and to Charlie Brown's Neighborhood Bar and Grill for their sponsorship to help us rent the tables and chairs; and to Blossom Food Mart (our local gas station at the corner of Budding and Starcrest) who donated the ice for NNO; and to Bill Hayman who took photographs and prepared our report for the police NNO program!

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Our Blossom Park NNO attendees met with and heard from:

- County Constable Mike Vojvodich and deputies
- City Councilman (and First Lady) John Courage
- SAPD North Sub-station Commander
- SAFFE Officers
- McGruff and Police Explorers
- SAFD E-23 and crew
- City TIC engineers for sidewalk bond project coordination

The children especially enjoyed meeting McGruff and seeing the fire-engine. We are grateful for the wonderful support from the police and fire departments – various first responders were in attendance throughout the event. There was background music played in between the speakers and door prize drawings, led by Donna, as well as live guitar playing, singing and a duet! A fun and informative night enjoyed by all. Please join us this year for **NNO 2019, October 1**, first Tuesday in October – same time, same wonderful place; same delicious food/drinks, for interaction with and celebration of our first responders and our neighbors!! The event is free to all our neighbors, paid by our membership.

Message from our City Councilman Office

Note: Article taken from Councilman's notice in the Nextdoor website, per his staff's recommendation.

How would you spend \$1,000,000. In your community?

Good morning District 9, The project submission process for the second round of District 9 Participatory Budgeting is now open! We're changing the branding up a little bit to the District 9 People's Budget so that the process name is a bit more approachable. Visit the website (<http://d9pb.org>) to check on the construction progress from last year's winners and to submit your ideas for the projects that will be on this year's ballot.

Thank you for making last year's endeavor such a success. We can't wait to see your ideas! Also, Blossom Park neighbors can submit ideas for smaller-scale community improvement projects simply by going to D9PB.org

Lotus Drainage Project

As a result of BPNA's efforts to correct drainage issues in Blossom Park, the drainage channel along Lotus Blossom was included in the city bond initiative passed in 2017.

The BPNA President and officers have continued to follow up on the status of this project and have been communicating with our City Councilman and San Antonio Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI) as this project proceeds through various stages. Our focus is addressing the entire drainage issue of the neighborhood, including upstream and downstream of the Lotus project, and getting neighborhood input to the design/construction process.

TCI and Councilman Courage's office have been very open to providing ongoing status of this project by sending representatives to BPNA Board meetings and community events such as BPNA sponsored National Night Out and the BPNA Annual Meeting. The latest event was a Community Informational Meeting held at the Thousand Oaks Christian Church on December 11, 2018. The Lotus Blossom Channel Improvements (flood control) design started in July 2018 and the design was at 40% completion, which triggered the Community meeting. We learned the scope of the project, limited to the elbow turn of the drainage ditch – a few yards upstream and a few yards downstream of the culvert bridge at Lotus. We expressed concern that the engineering design assumed no additional down-stream effect, nor was analytical consideration given to the upstream contributions from the commercial parking lots. Hence, at the recommendation of NCTONA President Larry Lamborn who conducted the initial D9 assessment of Blossom Park drainage issues, we resent his committee's comprehensive report to TCI for use by the project contract engineers. Current schedule estimates: Completion of design in the summer of 2019, which will trigger another Community meeting; followed by the estimated construction start in Fall 2019 with completion projected to be in Summer 2020.

Prior to this Informational Meeting, BPNA Directors/Members became concerned about the condition of the existing drainage channels" downstream" from what will eventually be improved Lotus Blossom drainage resulting in an increase in

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storm water runoff volume. These individuals “walked” the drainage ditches making notes and taking pictures of eroded concrete aprons and huge ruts/holes that impede storm water flow and cause water to pool for days after rain occurs. These pools of standing water have caused a terrible mosquito infestation problem throughout Blossom Park. Of particular concern was the culvert under Budding Blvd just before storm water drains into McAllister Park. Flooding over the roadway and into resident yards in front of this 2-hole culvert has occurred in the past. Potential flooding in the future may occur with the projected increase in water volume caused by the Lotus Blossom drainage improvement.

All of this information as well as pictures were compiled into a report by BPNA Directors. They presented this report to a representative from Councilman Courage’s office and also presented the information to TCI at the Dec 11 Informational Meeting. Members of BPNA and several residents of Blossom Park who attended the meeting voiced their concerns as well. TCI agreed to consider improvements to these drainage areas. BPNA will continue to address and seek solutions to these drainage concerns.

STARCREST SIDEWALK

In addition to Blossom Park drainage issues the BPNA Board responded to requests from BPNA members and Blossom Park residents for a sidewalk along Starcrest road to the park pathways at the Wurzbach Parkway crossing. After several discussions with city departments and Councilman Courage, citing the need for this sidewalk to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety, Councilman Courage secured the funding from available Sidewalk Bond money allocated to District 9. Residents attending our NNO in October 2018 reviewed the engineering plans for the sidewalk. Width of the sidewalk is 6 feet, except alongside Blossom Park neighborhood it will be 4 feet. Of keen interest to residents was plans for the trees screening the neighborhood. The engineers assured us that, considering our input, they would make extra effort to ensure tree removal would be minimized. A heritage tree study was underway, and if necessary replacement trees would be provided. Subsequently, the engineers informed us that: *After reviewing the tree permit there*

are no Heritage trees identified within the project limits. We have confirmed that only 3 significant trees will be removed. We are also preserving 68% of the trees within the project therefore no replacement trees will be provided on this project. The trees that screen the neighborhood from Starcrest should not be affected. Construction of the sidewalk is underway!

Communications

A free website/service that has been endorsed by SAPD. www.nextdoor.com which now has over 378 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 February 6 to learn how you can help the police with this tool!

Starcrest and Jones-Maltsberger Entrances

Our continued thanks to our board members for their volunteer efforts in maintaining both entrance islands. Your membership helps with procuring supplies. We’ve noticed some labor intensive work that is needed for the monuments this year, including sanding – if you can help for a few hours, please let us know!

BPNA Membership

If you haven’t joined or already renewed your annual BPNA membership in 2019, you may do so at the Annual Meeting, at one of our Neighborhood Cleanups, during National Night Out, or by simply mailing in the attached form with your \$20 membership check.

Thank you!

Scoop the POOP!

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

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Save the Dates 2019

Annual Meeting – Wednesday evening, February 6
At Brookhollow Library (6:00 - 7:45 pm)

Neighborhood Cleanup Opportunities

March – City Bulky pickup (door-hanger notice)
June 1 -- **BPNA Cleanup** w/ city truck (brush & Junk!)
At Lotus/Budding, Saturday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm)
July -- City Brush pickup (door-hanger notice)
Sept 28-- **BPNA Cleanup** w/ city truck (brush & Junk!)
At Lotus/Budding Saturday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm)
October – City Bulky pickup (door-hanger notice)
December – City Brush pickup (door-hanger notice)

National Night Out – Tuesday evening, October 1
At Peach Blossom (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Elections

City Council – Saturday May 4 (7:00 am – 7:00 pm)
Early Voting – Monday April 22 to Tuesday April 30
TX Constitution et al – Tuesday November 5 (7am-7pm)
Early Voting – Monday Oct 25 to Friday November 1

Neighborhood Garage Sales with NCTONA

May 25 – notify Don George if you're considering!
October 26 -- notify Don George if you're considering!

Helpful Numbers

Police non-emergency (210) 207-7273
Jones Maltsberger Police Substation (210) 207-8126
SAPD SAFFE Officer (210) 207-5191
County Constable (210) 335-4850
(Precinct 3) Mark Vojvodich
Vector Control (mosquitoes) (210) 207-8853

Our Lawmakers

City Councilman (District 9)
John Courage (210) 207-0955
County Commissioner (Precinct 3)
Kevin Wolff (210) 335-2613
TX State Representative (District 121)
Steve Allison (512) 463-0686
TX State Senator (District 25)
Donna Campbell (512) 463-0125
U.S. Representative (District 21)
Chip Roy (202) 225-4236
U.S. Senators
John Cornyn (210) 224-7485
Ted Cruz (210) 340-2885

From the Kitchen

~Almond Iced Coffee~

Wonderful Drink (without alcohol)

Combine one cup of strong brewed coffee with one cup of skim milk, one -fourth teaspoon of almond extract and one teaspoon of sugar. Pour the mixture into two ice-filled, 10-ounce glasses and garnish each with light sprinkling of ground cinnamon. Makes two servings.

Board of Directors

President - Marilyn Jowdy (210) 499-5233 mjowdy@yahoo.com
Vice President - Esther Grindle (210) 496-5949
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Treasurer - Clint Scheible (210) 912-2433 clintscheible@gmail.com
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Director – Johnny Migl (210) 494-7950
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Director Special Projects -- Bill Hayman (210) 494-7104
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NNO Door Prizes - Donna McPeck



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