

# **BLOSSOM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE DISTRICT 9 NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE**

**March 2023**

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## **From the President**

Hello Neighbors!

Welcome back to our quarterly newsletter distributions! Following our 2020 January Annual Meeting, our neighborhood activities were shut down, and just resumed this past October 2022. You may have seen our flyers for: Neighborhood Cleanup, SA Neighbors Together (formerly known as National Night Out), our 2023 January Annual Meeting, and the D9 Participatory Budget voting opportunity. Hopefully you cast a vote to get our project funded – sidewalk repairs on Magnolia, Lemon, Apricot, Lotus, Lilac and Budding!

It was extremely cold the evening of our annual meeting this year, so many of you missed the opportunity to meet, talk with, and hear from our County Commissioner Grant Moody; Constable Mark Vojvodich; Councilman John Courage; SAFFE Officer Joel Freeman; City Public Works Director (Storm Water Division) Robert Renya and Engineer Amy Ronnfeldt; and Citywide Senior Planner Jacob Howard. Amy reviewed the status of our Budding Culvert Replacement Project, and Jacob described the ongoing Greater Airport Regional Planning effort affecting our neighborhood's future.

Looking forward to seeing you at our March 28 meeting (5:30 pm at Blossom Athletic Center's Piper-Bass student center facility); our Neighborhood Garage Sale event the weekend April 15-16; and our Neighborhood Cleanup Saturday morning on May 20 (garbage truck on Budding at Lotus).

Our goals this year are to build back our membership, treasury, event participation, and influence with our representatives. We want to improve communications and reach out with opportunities for more neighbors participating. This will be a transition year in which we hope to bring in new people/ideas and fresh starts, as well as carrying on past traditions pending evaluation and votes at our 2024 January annual meeting. Watch for the signs at the entrance islands for reminders of upcoming events!

## **What is BPNA?**

Blossom Park Neighborhood Association is a voluntary association with no mandatory fees and no paid fees, and we are registered with the City of San Antonio.

Unlike mandatory HOAs, we cannot and do not patrol the neighborhood assessing fines; litigate disputes; or serve as investigative officers. Our purpose is to provide an organized framework to promote, preserve, and enhance the quality of life and property values of our neighborhood. Examples include our efforts to maintain the entrance island at Jones-Maltsberger and Starcrest; organize neighborhood events; and represent the neighborhood at civic meetings. We offer a voice for the neighborhood which often is stronger than individuals in dealing with the City, its Council and staff.

## **Why Membership Dues?**

Your nominal \$20 annual contribution helps pay to maintain our entrance islands, post office box, newsletter printing, and a few administrative items including memberships in neighborhood alliances and bank fees, in addition to the annual evening free event with food/drinks as we get together with neighbors and first responders the first Tuesday in October. Most importantly, higher membership numbers in a voluntary neighborhood association give us a stronger voice with the City, other Alliances, and elected officials. A single membership covers the entire household; both renters and owners are invited to join. Eblasts to members with emails will be sent to keep you more timely informed.

## **What has BPNA Accomplished?**

An initial success was the adjustment to the footprint of the dam located between us and the park, led by past president Sherry Shaw in coordination with other neighborhoods and several government organizations. We worked with our various councilmen to fix the drainage ditches running through the neighborhood, including getting on the 2017 Bond for the Lotus Drainage Project. We have testified before redistricting committees, and prevented the split of our neighborhood following the 2010 census which initially had homes northerly of Budding to be in District 10, with those on the other side assigned to District 9. Constantly communicating with our Councilman and staff, we obtained the sidewalk alongside Starcrest from Budding to the park trailways; new sidewalks on both sides of Budding; street striping to mitigate speeding and enhance the neighborhood's appearance. Thanks to generous donations from our neighbors, we were able to refurbish both entrance islands, and are working to influence the City's future planning to help our neighborhood.

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### **How can you help?**

Our voice as a neighborhood is amplified by you by simply:

- voting in every Election
- attending meetings or events
- calling 311, the Councilman's office, and our SAFFE officer to report any concerns
- being a member of BPNA

When the City allocates funds to fix things, they look at the neighborhood call statistics. We have the reputation of an active neighborhood association, which has helped accomplish many things these past few years. And we need to have high turnout at Elections – Elected Officials, City Management, and our Representatives notice!

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We have vacancies in Officer positions of Vice President; Recording Secretary; and Bookkeeper (for membership outreach). Please let me know if you would like to serve in these positions. Later this year we will be reaching out to neighbors who would like the opportunity to serve on the BPNA Executive Committee in 2024. Other opportunities:

- distributing flyers/newsletters to your street (especially Blossom Hollow, Jolie, Petit, Ashley Court, Lemon, Apricot, Nectarine, Almond, Rose, Lilac, Lime and Peach)
  - assisting with membership growth, perhaps newcomer welcome packets?!
  - helping with pruning/cleaning the entrance islands
- Many thanks to our neighbors, especially Johnny & Nancy Migl and Jack Van Winkle, who spearheaded the efforts for drainage ditch and sidewalk repairs by providing detailed pictures/data of the problems to Councilman's staff and the City's Public Works staff.

### **Pet Registry?**

Our newly elected officer (Corresponding Secretary) Jolynn Warren is wondering if there is an interest to revive our inventory of pets in the neighborhood to help with lost/found efforts, and perhaps a pet contest? Please let her know if you think this would be a good project!

### **Elections – Please Vote!**

The next election is Saturday, May 6, 2023 (Early Voting Monday, April 24 thru Tuesday, May 2) for our City Councilman (District 9) and a Charter Amendment. The deadline for voter registration and/or change of address is Thursday, April 6 (postmarked). If you wish to vote by mail, you will need a new application for this

calendar year; the last day to apply for ballot by mail (received, not postmarked) is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 25. Contact Bexar County Elections (210-335-VOTE) for questions. Polls will be closed on Friday, April 28 for the Battle of Flowers in Fiesta. Our track record for Voter Turnout is higher than City/County averages; please keep it up!!

### **Neighborhood Garage Sales**

Neighbor Don George is leading the planning for the Neighborhood Garage Sales scheduled for the weekend of April 15-16. His Garage Sale Tips:

1. According to professional organizers anything you have not used in 6 months should be tossed. (Sure like that is going to happen!) In addition, think about things that you move from place to place just to get it out of the way or things that are in boxes that you have not looked at in over a year.
2. Start gathering your stuff now. As you gather up your items take digital photos of the items, this will help later.
3. Pricing – of course you want as much money as possible. Ask yourself “how much would you pay for this item at someone else’s sale?”
4. When setting up your sale try to use as many tables as possible. Saw horses and even stacked boxes will help. You want as few items as possible on the ground. Group your items; put glassware, luggage, tee shirts together. That way people see what a great selection you have all at once.
5. Advertise: This is the most important thing. Start with Craigslist, Facebook and there are two strictly garage sale sites called GARAGESALES.COM , GSALE.COM & NEXTDOOR. You can list it as “Blossom Park is having a sale” or “I am having a sale within a community sale”. Within the body of the message list what you have for sale. Baby items & electronics always sell the best. Post your photos!!! Most of these sites will allow more than 5 so post as many as possible.
6. You must get a permit from HEB for your sale and it must be posted where an inspector can see it. The permit is for 2(two) days. So you can have your sale Saturday and Sunday if you want. Blossom Park’s sale officially starts at 9am and ends at 4pm. Some people start earlier and stay later, which is your choice.
7. If you have children, they can assist by selling bottle water.

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8. Have plenty of change on hand. A lot of the customers will take advantage of you if you don't.  
9. Goodwill does not come to pick up your leftovers, Salvation Army does. We will have a neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, May 20 where you can deposit items into the garbage truck; it takes almost everything, including electronics and furniture.  
Hopefully these tips will help you in making a lot of money and getting rid of items you no longer need or want. Please let Don George know if you are planning a garage sale and he will include you in the neighborhood's advertising (for BPNA members). Don George: 210.421.9604

### **Neighborhood Cleanup**

We participate in the City's Community Collections program whereby they send a garbage truck in which we can get rid of brush and bulky items. We qualify for the heavy-duty truck which crushes everything (including furniture and electronic items – no need to worry about drilling hard drives!) due to having two tons at the last cleanup. Please bring your items so we can continue to qualify for this perk! The truck will be located from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm on Budding between Starcrest and Lotus on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **SA Neighbors Together**

Formerly titled "National Night Out", this annual outdoor evening event is celebrated citywide and will occur this year on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our thanks to last year's cul-de-sac hosts on Peach Blossom! We had a large turnout and ran out of food and popcorn early, so will plan for more this year. Firetrucks and police and City/County dignitaries arrived at 5:30 pm making us their first stop! Great time had by kids tossing football! If you would like to help out with this event, please contact Debbie Scheible.

### **Scoop the POOP!**

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

### **Property Upkeep Reminder**

If you rent or own your home and it abuts a street, alley, or drainage ditch, it is your responsibility to keep grass, weeds, and brush neatly trimmed. Do not throw trash, brush and tree trimmings in the alley or drainage ditch. Code Compliance checks these areas and if they find a violation, you may be cited and fined.

To those residents who may be new to Blossom Park, please be aware that we have access to the Bitters Recycling Center at 1800 Wurzbach Parkway for the times between city bulk pick-ups and BPNA sponsored neighborhood cleanups. This facility accommodates Bulky Waste (lumber, broken appliances, "junk") and Brush Recycling. Household Hazardous Waste will also be accepted on the first Saturday of the month. Please call 311 for days and times of operation.

### **Save the Dates 2023**

March 09–18	Vote D9BPon item #14
March 28 Tues	BPNA Meeting Piper-Bass (5:30 pm)
April 15-16 Wknd	Neighborhood Garage Sales
April 24 - May 2	Early Voting for City Election
May 6 Sat	Election Day for City Election
May 9 Tues	Community Open House Piper-Bass (5:30 pm)
May 20 Sat	Neighborhood Cleanup (8 am -1:pm)
(Garbage truck – Budding at Lotus)	
June 10 Sat	City Election Runoff
July 10 Mon	City Brush Pick-up
Sept 30 Sat	Neighborhood Cleanup (8 am -1:pm)
(Garbage truck – Budding at Lotus)	
Oct 3 Tues	SA Neighbors Together (5:30 pm)
Oct 7-8 Wknd	Neighborhood Garage Sales

## **BPNA Executive Committee**

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

**Vice President Open Position**

**Treasurer** - Debbie Scheible (210) 219-3109

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

**Recording Secretary Open Position**

**Corresponding Secretary** – Jolyn Warren (210) 789-8302

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

**Bookkeeper (membership) Open Position**

**Director** - Jack VanWinkle (210) 776-5776 [jack.vw@att.net](mailto:jack.vw@att.net)

**Director** – Johnny Migl

**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) 422-9273

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

**Newsletter Distribution Open Position**

**Membership Update** – Adela Puga

**BPNA Website** -Jack VanWinkle [jack.vw@att.net](mailto:jack.vw@att.net)

**D9NA Representative** - Marilyn Jowdy [mjowdy@yahoo.com](mailto:mjowdy@yahoo.com)

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

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

**Event Door Prizes** - Donna McPeck

**Bylaws** – Elizabeth Hilburn