

The Jefferson Neighborhood Association News



MARCH 2016

Volume 34 – Number 3



Preserving the Integrity of the Jefferson Area Since 1982

2016 Primary Candidate Forum



A well-attended forum gathered to hear the candidates for State Representative district 116 and State Senate district 26 positions. Trey Martinez Fischer at the podium.



Incumbent State Senate District 26 senator Jose Menendez makes a point.



State Representative District 116 candidates Ruby Resendez, Diana Arevalo, and Martin Golando all addressed the forum.

Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

Jefferson Neighborhood Association College Scholarship Applications are being accepted from March 1, 2016 through 6:00 PM on May 4, 2016. Please do not mail completed applications, instead call Ms. Elia Reyna at (210) 279-7204 to make delivery. Application forms can be picked up at your counselor's office, downloaded at the JNA website jefferson-sa.com. Ms. Reyna will also have extra copies. Every year scholarships are given to deserving graduating high school seniors who attend Jefferson High School, or whose parents or guardians live within the JNA boundaries (see page 7) but attend another school. The scholarship is named for JNA Member Mrs. Evelia Reyna, who was an avid supporter of education in our city.

The next JNA Meeting is on Monday, March 14, at 7:00 PM, at the Jefferson United Methodist Church, Donaldson at Wilson. Childcare will be available for 3 years and up.

Speakers:

- Jabori Scott, CoSA Waste Management Program
- Val Moore, CoSA Animal Care Services

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Mayor Ivy R. Taylor

207-7060 or 207-7107

DISTRICT 7:

Councilman Cris Medina

207-7044

PO Box 839966

San Antonio, TX 782383

Council Aide Patricia Garcia

207-0870

Fine Silver Building

4414 Centerview Dr, Suite 160

San Antonio, TX 78228

patricia.garcia@san.antonio.gov

Office of Historic Preservation:

215-9274

SAFFE OFFICERS:

Officer Marcos Serda

office: 207-5524

cell: 286-6134

marcos.serda@sanantonio.gov

Officer Joey Vidal

207-1363

joey.vidal@sanantonio.gov

SAPD Non-Emergency:

207-SAPD (7273)

SAPD West Substation: 207-7420

SAISD Police: 271-3124

SAISD Truancy Office: 223-2360

Code Compliance Issues: 311 or
download the City's "311" phone app

Krystal Towne 210-416-5852

Animal Control Issues: 311

Graffiti in Progress: 911

Graffiti Abatement Program:

207-BUFF (2833)

VIA Transit: 362-2019

SA Water System: 724-7097

CPS Energy: 353-2222

Message from the President



Hello everyone, I hope you are enjoying this beautiful winter and were able to attend the Candidate Forum. For those who missed it, I am happy to report all went well. **Phyllis Ingram** from the **League of Women Voters** was organized, professional and great in keeping the candidates on target. Her guidelines helped tremendously to make the evening run smoothly. To do that she allowed each candidate two minutes for opening remarks, after which they each answered questions generated by the audience and read by the moderator. Each candidate had up to one minute to respond. The speaking order was rotated and each candidate had up to two minutes for closing remarks. Candidates were not allowed to address questions or remark to other candidates; all questions came from the moderator. Candidates were asked to refrain from personal attacks on other candidates. In tribute to the professionalism of every candidate, each abided by the guidelines, with courtesy and good spirit.

The following is an example of two questions and answers. They are paraphrased but I believe they accurately reflect the candidates' statements. For further information please review the candidates' material or contact the candidates to find out more.

1. "Where on your priority list is a mass transit system for DFW to Houston/Austin/and San Antonio?" (I am not quoting the answer, but merely paraphrasing). It is important for mass transportation and needed, but passing such a bill would create a high risk to other bills. The opposition might want to negotiate killing a bill for Medicaid for children, or another important human interest bill. So you have to weigh the cost. In conclusion it might resemble playing a game of chess, choosing to lose a bishop to gain a pawn. Not a good idea.

2. "Do you consider it the will of the people, who regularly and by a large margin support the establishment of gambling locations in Texas by voting to legalize such locations, or do you view the role of the elected officials to know what's best for the people of Texas?" Answer: "The State of Texas is a hypocrite because the legislature apparently does not want legalized gambling "but yet you can walk into any convenience store and purchase as many scratch off cards as you want." Gambling in Texas could generate large amounts of revenue which could cover the cost of more important humane areas. However, because there are so many in the legislature opposed to the idea, it's fruitless to broach the subject.

I must say that all the candidates were articulate and well informed. My estimation is that it was a much better candidate forum than what is currently being nationally televised.

At our next meeting, on March 14, you will be introduced to our new Code Compliance Officer, **Krystal Towne**, and we have two guest speakers: **Jabori Scott** from the City of San Antonio Waste Management Program, and **Val Moore** from Animal Care Services. I appreciate your civic-mindedness and support, and look forward to seeing you then!

Marie Cooper
JNA President

Advantages of Historic Designations

- The Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) process protects the unique physical assets in a community.

- Tax exemption for substantial rehabilitation: property owners who substantially rehabilitate a historic property can (1) have their city property taxes frozen at the assessment value prior to improvements for up to 10 years (for residential properties), or (2) owe no City taxes for the first five years and then have City property taxes assessed at 50% of the post-rehabilitation assessed value for the next five years (for residential or commercial properties). Substantial rehabilitation requires certification and verification by HDRC. The tax exemption remains with the property regardless of a change in ownership or sale of the property.

- 20% tax exemption for owner-occupied residences in new historic districts: all residential properties occupied by the property owner at the time of district designation receive a 20% tax exemption on their City taxes for up to 10 years. For those receiving the 20% exemption for new historic districts that remain in the same house for the entire 10-year life of the exemption, a maximum 5-year Long-Term Resident Extension of the exemption is offered. The exemption and extension are only effective for as long as the property owner is living at the address for which the exemption is given.

From Code Compliance

We look forward to continuing our work for and with the community to make San Antonio safe and healthy. If you have any compliance issues, there are a few ways you can let us know:

- Call 311
- Download the free "311" app onto your smart phone
- Visit our website at sanantonio.gov/ces and click on the "Report a Violation" icon on the right

Save the Dates!

Wed, Mar 2: **Texas Independence Day**

Wed, Mar 2, 9a-2p: **Senior Spring Fling**, HB Gonzalez Convention Center, Hall 3

Weekends, Feb 5-Mar 6: **Rock of Ages**, Woodlawn Theater, woodlawntheatre.org/peterpan

Weekends, Feb 12-Mar 6: **The Seagull**, Classic Theater, classictheatre.org

Mon, Mar 14, 7pm: JNA Meeting, Jeff United Methodist Church

Sun, Mar 17: **St. Patrick's Day**

Sun, Mar 20: **First Day of Spring**

Mon, Mar 28, 7:30p: **Saltarelli String Orchestra concert**,

1st Mexican Baptist Church, 201 Meredith, free

If your non-profit organization has an event that might be of interest to JNA members please e-mail the details to Chuck Whitehead, cdw.fifty@gmail.com by the 20th of the prior month.

Ad rates/month: 2"x3.5"=\$30; 3.5"x3.5"=\$40; 3.5"x7"=\$50

Ads accepted on a space available basis.



JNA CONTACTS

Jefferson Neighborhood Assn

PO Box 28552

San Antonio, Texas 78228

www.neighborhoodlink.com/jefferson

www.jefferson-sa.com

www.facebook.com/groups/jeffersonneighbors

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210-391-7889

mlcooper@satx.rr.com

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elia62542c@yahoo.com

Secretary: Susan Hudnall

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sch4415@earthlink.net

Treasurer: Liliana Mireles Moreno

210-845-8012

lilianamireles@sbcglobal.net

Board Members:

Henry Garcia

210-736-0851

henryg@stic.net

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JNA Scholarship Chair: Elia Reyna

Hospitality Committee:

Judy Jackman

Mary Morales

Ande Tokoly

Newsletter: Chuck Whitehead

210-733-9341

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JNA Business Member Spotlight:

By Mary Morales

"Strong neighbors build strong communities, forging and building relationships that become the enduring mortar that unites."

Network for Young Artists

501c3 non-profit organization

Have you ever wondered how any musician kept his inspiration and perseverance to pursue his dream? It couldn't be easy, not without much support and encouragement...

One of the newest JNA Business members is not a business in the traditional sense, it's a 501-c3 non profit, and they are in the business of nurturing the musician's dream. The **Network for Young Artist**, 1800 Fredericksburg Road, was established in 1999 in the heart of the Deco District by Terry Lowry, a former Edgewood ISD educator. Its mission is to promote art and culture and to provide venue opportunities for youth to showcase their talents. "NYA" has shared its mission and vision with an ever growing group of aspiring young musicians, recently extending its reach to **Haven for Hope** residents.

With a very affordable tuition, NYA enrollment has grown from 30 students to 250, and has awarded over 21 scholarships and granted many performance opportunities via public performances. Offering voice, guitar, percussion, keyboard, and dance to students 4 to 20 years old, the enrichment opportunities in the arts are abundant and encouraged.

Some NYA members/alumni have actually achieved notoriety, receiving professional contracts, competing in the X Factor, Sabado Gigante and America's Got Talent.

This year NYA will host the **2016 Deco District Arts and Music Festival**, on Sunday, April 15th. This is a free outdoor boutique festival with dozens of local and national performers of all ages. With the usual festival foods and drinks and local art vendors that promote the cultural, economic and social vitality of the Deco District, NYA continues to add diversity to our community.

With an open enrollment year round, there's always an opportunity to give any young artist in your life the gift of encouragement and support!

SAISD 'blueprint' gets off drawing board

by By Alia Malik, staff writer San Antonio Express-News

Community Forum held on Wednesday 2/10/2016 at Jefferson High School.

"We've raised the bar for everybody," Pedro Martinez, SAISD Superintendent said. "For central office, principals, and teachers."

The strategies support a five-year turnaround plan Martinez laid out last fall.

The plan calls for 70 percent of SAISD schools to achieve "A" or "B" letter grades by 2020 under a new state rating system, increased passage rates on state and national standardized tests, more options for gifted students and increased college attendance among graduates.

Martinez said he finalized the strategies last month based on national best practices and feedback from district employees and community members.

As part of the plan, several district high schools next year will launch or expand new magnet programs.

Jefferson High School is a candidate for International Baccalaureate, a program already in place at Burbank High School.

Students also can choose engineering programs at Sam Houston, Highlands and Lanier High Schools or health programs at Fox Tech and Edison High Schools.

All high schools will have more dual credit and advanced placement options.

IB programs also will be introduced at Longfellow Middle School and Harris Academy, joining one already in place at Woodlawn Academy, Martinez said.

Middle schools will begin offering pre-AP courses in English, he said. A middle school science, technology, engineering and math program through Rice University is also being considered, he said, and a new literacy initiative is in the works.

SAISD will offer more prekindergarten-through-eighth-grade academies next school year, and more will be dual-language, similar to Bonham Academy, Martinez said.

About 10 elementary schools could incorporate the sixth grade next year, based on research that says sixth-graders develop better academically and socially when placed with lower grades. The selectins of expanded elementary schools will not be finalized until the end of the month.

Martinez said he wanted the majority of lower-level schools to eventually become pre-k-8 models, noting about half of SAISD's middle schools last year failed to meet state academic accountability standards.

SAISD Blueprint continues on page 7

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS IN 2016!


We're proud that the following businesses have chosen to grow in partnership with the Jefferson Neighborhood Association. We encourage all members to frequent these businesses. To join the JNA as a business member, or to inquire about advertising rates or any other questions please contact: Mary Morales, veesalon@sbcglobal.net



**BALLET
FOLKLORICO**
DE SAN ANTONIO
1008 Donaldson
(210) 478-7830



BIHL HAUS ARTS
2803 Fredericksburg Road (210) 383-9723



La Botánica
CREATIVE DRINKS VEGAN EATS
2911 N St Marys St
(619) 886-2594
vivalabotanica.com

Chile, Tomate y Cebolla
Mejican Restaurant
1009 Donaldson Ave. (210) 736-0223

DIBBLE'S HOBBIES
1029 Donaldson Ave. (210) 735-7721



FLORAL ELEGANCE
1039 Donaldson Avenue
(210) 434-1133

Cynthia Gomez
Realtor, Texan Legacy Group
(210) 254-0503 cynthia@texanlegacy.com

Jefferson Thrift Store
2002 Bandera Road
(210) 438-8968

Leal's Jewelry
506 W. Hildebrand
(210) 733-9179

Network for Young Artists
501c3 non-profit organization
1800 Fredericksburg Road, Ste 122
(210) 226-561
nya@nya.us

Camille Rodriguez Brigant
Realtor, Rey Garza Realty
1650 W Huisache (210) 802-9797
HomesbyCamille@gmail.com



Jorge Sanchez
Farmers Insurance
1006 Donaldson (210) 732-1886

Vee's Hair and Spa Salon
1022 Donaldson Ave.
(210) 733-7131

Steve Vitola Insurance Agency, Inc.
1505 W. Huisache Ave
(210) 342-3406 cell: (210) 842-4432

JANICE WOLF
Realtor, KELLERWILLIAMS
(210) 416-6100 janice@janicewolf.com



JEFFERSON
united methodist church
The Jefferson Neighborhood Association thanks the Jefferson United Methodist Church for the use of Jackson Hall for our meetings! For more info: www.jeffumcsa.org

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." - Colin Powell

MARCH IS CONTEMPORARY ART MONTH

Every March, during Contemporary Art Month (CAM), San Antonio artists, performers and curators present the best our community has to offer at galleries, museums, performing art spaces, schools, artist studios and various unconventional locations around the city.

As a proud Official Sponsor of CAM, I encourage you to visit some of the many open studios throughout our neighborhood and city as we celebrate San Antonio's exciting art community.

For more information about all CAM events go to contemporaryartmonth.com or #CAMSA2016



DATES TO REMEMBER

March 3 CAM Kick-Off & Crowning of Miss CAM San Antonio at Blue Star Contemporary

March 5 CAMx Black Cube Nomadic Museum at Sala Diaz

March 20 Open Studio Tours & After Party at Zollie Glass Studios

March 25 CAM Closing Party & CAMMIE Awards at LPF/CHRISparks

Local Resident and Realtor Camille Rodriguez Brigant is dedicated to supporting the arts in our local community. Camille specializes in the marketing and selling of historic properties. Historic homes require a Realtor who understands how to accurately price each unique property and market to specialized buyers. You can contact her for a free personalized evaluation of your home's value. Call or stop by her office, conveniently located at 1650 W. Huisache Ave.



Camille Rodriguez Brigant Realtor®

p: (210) 802-9797

HomesbyCamille@gmail.com

1650 W. Huisache, SA, TX 78201



SAISD Blueprint from page 4

"Every year for at least the last decade, we have lost the most children in the transition from fifth to sixth (grades)," Martinez said. "They leave the district or go to charter schools. They don't feel that we have high-quality options."

The district is also planning two K-12 gifted academies, which will require money from funding sources that are not yet finalized, Martinez said. They will double as "laboratory schools," where teachers work alongside master's level university students. More details are expected within two weeks.

With a \$2 million grant over three years from H-E-B, the district is developing a residency program to train at least 15 future principals, all educators who will be mentored under lead principals. Other urban districts nationwide have implemented the model successfully, Martinez said.

SAISD's overall plan means dramatic changes for some teachers and instructional support staff. The district hires about 400 teachers a year, and this year the process is being sped up, with the goal of having half of next year's positions staffed by the end of April. Teachers are getting three-year professional development plans that emphasize leadership possibilities. By the late spring, some underperforming teachers could be terminated, Martinez said.

"We have more people now on growth plans or being coached than ever before, at least the last five years," Martinez said. "Some are responding very positively, and they are getting better."

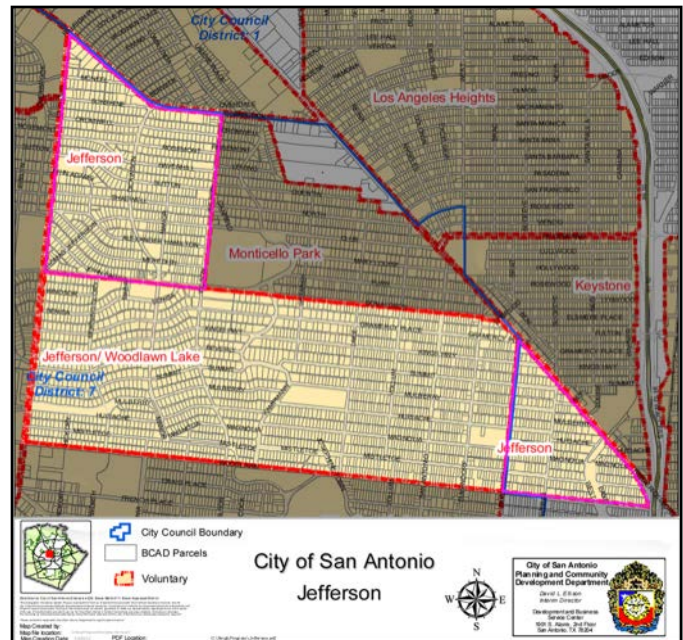
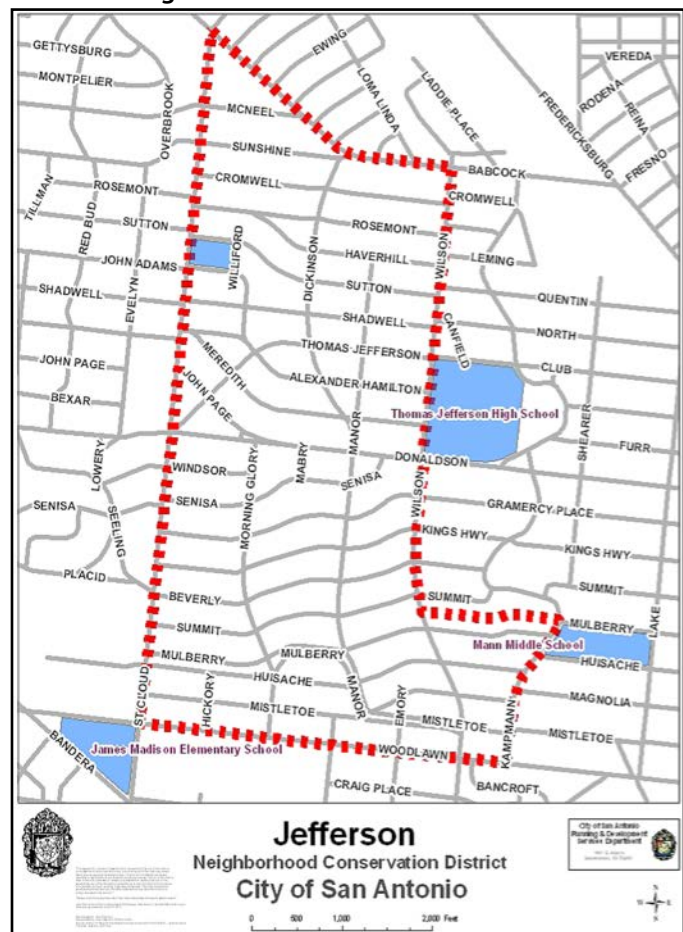
According to an email sent recently to employees, the way English-language learners and special education students are served will also change. To implement all the changes, 200 instructional support positions are being restructured, spokeswoman Leslie Price said. New job descriptions are being developed that emphasize sending instructional coaches to schools to work directly with teachers, Price said. The restructuring will not affect the budget or number of positions, but employees will decide whether to apply for the new positions.

"Some of them will be very different, and some of them will have less change," Price said. "The idea around this is to provide more support to the campuses."

The overall amount of money required to execute the "Blueprint for Excellence" has not yet been determined, Martinez said. Trustees and administrators just began the planning and budgeting process for the next school year.

"That's the challenge that we have, because I wish we had more resources," Martinez said. "Everything requires us to look at our dollars."

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Jefferson Neighborhood Association Boundaries**Jefferson Neighborhood Conservation District Boundaries**

Download a copy of the **Jefferson Neighborhood Conservation District** document at:

sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/Planning/NPUD/NCD7_Jefferson.pdf

Download a copy of the **Near Northwest Community Plan** at:

sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/Planning/NPUD/NearNorthwestCP_2002.pdf

The JNA Needs Your Support

Dues are accepted year round. They support our scholarship program and help pay for our monthly newsletter. Memberships expire at the end of August each year.

Jefferson Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name _____ Birthday (mo/day) _____

Name _____ Birthday (mo/day) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Dues:

☐ \$10 per year for an individual

☐ \$15 per year for families

☐ \$25 per year for business

☐ I would like to receive updates and news through my e-mail address

☐ I would like to volunteer _____

☐ Unique skills I have to offer _____

FY 2015-16

Calendar year is September to August
For business memberships see page 3

Cut out and mail form to:
JNA, PO Box 28552, SA TX 78228

The next JNA Meeting will be on Monday, March 14, 2016, at 7:00 PM
at the Jefferson United Methodist Church, Donaldson and Wilson.

The Jefferson Neighborhood Association

PO Box 28552

San Antonio, Texas 78228

