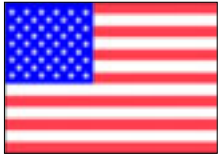


The Jefferson Neighborhood Association News



January 2015
Volume 33 - Number 1

Preserving the Integrity of the Jefferson Area Since 1982

Message from the President

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday. As I write this, we are closing in on New Year's Eve when we start making all sorts of heartfelt resolutions. At a later date some of us will rationalize reasons not to continue, but I think the most important thing to



concentrate on is to continue to have positive intentions. Let's hope for the best in 2015 where there is peace and good will throughout our neighborhood and throughout the world. We live in a great place and one of the city's best kept secrets. Sometimes we may not realize it.

This is a perfect time of the year to reflect upon what we have accomplished as an organization in 2014. In June we gave 12 scholarships and 9 went to students from Jefferson High School. We had our second block party, which was even better than the first and entirely organized by our member Liliana Mireles. In October we celebrated National Night out together with the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association, and also held our second Fall Social Scholarship Fundraiser; we held Turkey Bingo in November, and in December held our annual holiday party. We also coordinated several political forums.

Just as it is important to reflect upon our past accomplishments now is also the time to set goals for 2015. Here are some goals to consider:

Let's make Jefferson Neighborhood virtually crime free. We can start by requesting that the City provide pedestrian street lamps on blocks which are dark and unsafe. We can start a campaign for all neighbors to turn on porch lights. We can ask our Councilman, Cris Medina, to start a pilot program in our neighborhood to have surveillance cameras to deter crime. We used to have old school Crime Watch signs but now might be the time to change them to read "you are under surveillance camera watch". We encourage all

Message continues on page 4

Holiday Lights Bring in the New Year



During the past few weeks our neighborhood and city have been bustling with all sorts of decorations that make it fun to drive through our streets. I took some photos and hope you like them, and if one of them is your home I hope you don't mind sharing what you have done with our members.



HELPFUL CONTACTS

Mayor Ivy R. Taylor

207-7060 or 207-7107

District 7:

Councilman Chris 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@sanantonio.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

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

The City Organization: How It Works

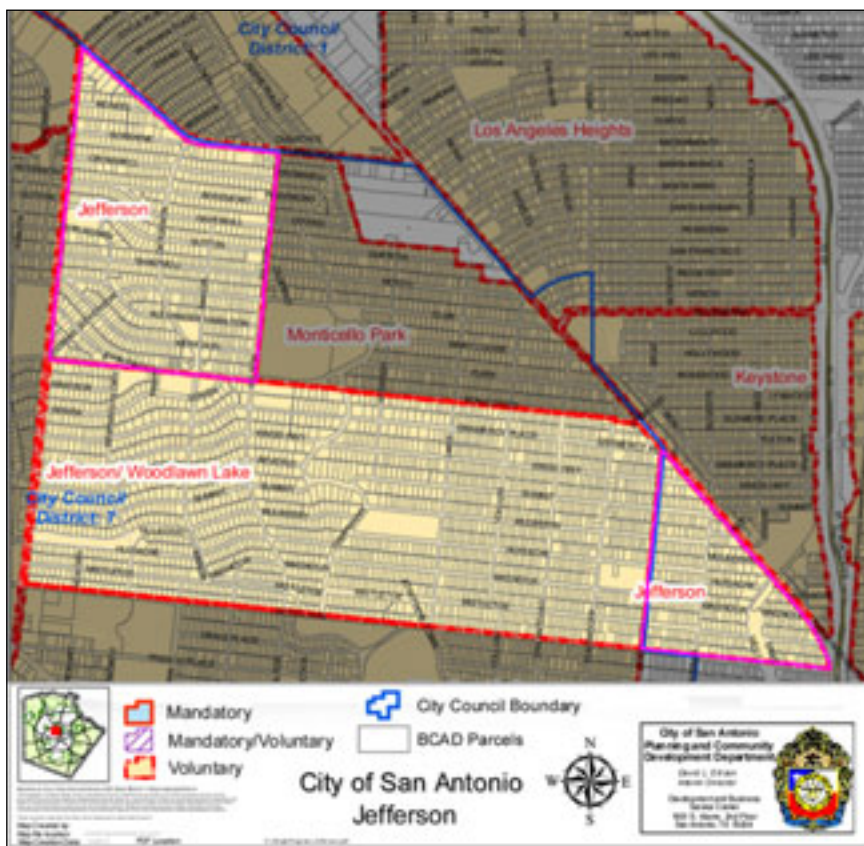
The council-manager form of government is the most popular structure of government organization in the United States. Utilizing this form of administration, San Antonio voters elect 11 representatives (10 district representatives and a mayor) to pass laws and establish policies for the city. The Mayor and each member of council is paid \$20 per meeting attended. The Mayor is paid an additional \$3,000 annually.

The Mayor and City Council are the community's key decision makers. They focus on: the provision and efficiency of basic services; their district's growth; capital improvement projects; land use and development; the city's financial growth and economic development; and other important issues. Council members focus on how City policies not only meet the needs of their constituents, but also how they meet the goals of the entire community.

The Council hires a City Manager to serve as the City's chief administrator. The City Manager is responsible for carrying out the actions and policies of the council by overseeing the day-to-day operation of the organization. Council members also rely on the city manager to provide them with professional advice before they take action on a specific issue.

Today, San Antonio's City Manager oversees more than 12,000 employees in 37 departments who provide a wide range of municipal services. For example, City employees fight crime, put out fires, collect wastes, maintain streets, issue building permits, help senior citizens, provide recreation and cultural activities, and provide hundreds of other important services. The City Manager relies on department directors to ensure that these services are provided in an effective and efficient manner. The Manager also is charged with developing and overseeing an annual budget, which is approved by City Council each year, that pays for all of services the City provides to its customers.

Source: sanantonio.gov/yourcity/organization.aspx



JNA Boundaries

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

We're proud that the following businesses have chosen to grow in partnership with the Jefferson Neighborhood Association. If you are a JNA member ask if they give a JNA discount!

- **Cynthia Gomez**, Realtor, Texan Legacy, 210-254-0503
- **Horno Mision San Jose Bakery/Uptown Taco**,
1212 Fredericksburg Road
- **Jefferson Thrift Store**, 2002 Bandera Road
- **Jorge Sanchez**, Farmers Insurance, 210-732-1886
- **Vee's Hair and Spa Salon**, 1022 Donaldson
- **Camille Rodriguez Brigant**, Realtor, Rey Garza,
210-802-9797
- **Janice Wolf**, Realtor, KellorWilliams, 210-416-6100

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

I want to thank Cris Medina for his JNA support and the Leadership Award he bestowed upon me. Actually the JNA organization as a whole deserves this award. We come together as a unified community service neighborhood organization. JNA has a great board and officers. They band together and work hard towards making our organization successful. If it weren't for them not much would be accomplished. Starting from the Vice President, Elia Reyna; Secretary, Stan Waghalter; Treasurer, Liliana Mireles Moreno; board members, Gil Moreno, Henry Garcia, and last but not least, Lynn Waghalter. And I want especially to recognize our JNA Newsletter Editor, Chuck Whitehead, who works so hard to get this letter out to you on time. And thanks to all our volunteers and donors for always being there when we need help.

—Marie Cooper

If your non-profit organization has an event date that would be of interest to JNA members please e-mail the details to **Chuck Whitehead**, cdw.fifty@gmail.com by the 15th of the prior month.



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

President: Marie Cooper

210-391-7889

mlcooper@satx.rr.com

Vice-President: Elia Reyna

210-279-7204

elia62542c@yahoo.com

Secretary: Stan Waghalter

210-732-9426

sjw3@satx.rr.com

Treasurer: Liliana Mireles Moreno

210-845-8012

lilianamireles@sbcglobal.net

Board Members:

Henry Garcia

Gil Moreno

gilmoreno@aol.com

Lynn Waghalter

210-732-9426

Scholarship Chair: Elia Reyna

Hospitality Committee:

Judy Jackman

Mary Morales

Andi Tokoly

Newsletter: Chuck Whitehead

210-733-9341

cdw.fifty@gmail.com

At our next JNA Meeting, we will have two guest speakers: **Raymond Diaz** will discuss hosting students from other countries. Both he and his wife have hosted high school students from around the world. **Robert Saucedo**, a former probation officer, and now founder and owner of *ProbationSolutions.Net*, will conduct a brief presentation titled, *What's Yours Is Mine, a Home Burglary Prevention Dialog*. Accompanying Mr. Saucedo will be individuals who have been convicted of home burglaries who will discuss why and how burglars target you.

"Eat Dessert First"

- Coffee
- Breakfast
- Lunch



- Baked Goods
- Box Lunches

Cake Cafe
Mon-Fri: 6:30 AM-4 PM
Sat: 7 AM-2 PM

Cakes & Catering for All Occasions
1025 Donaldson Ave, 210.365.6797
cakecafe2012@gmail.com

Message from page 1

members and neighbors to join the JNA group on Facebook, which is a good medium to get and to share information, and also serves as "new school" community watch.

In order to encourage parents with young children to attend JNA meetings we may be able to offer babysitting on site. This has been suggested in the past but we haven't followed through. Already I have found out that Jefferson High School students may possibly get community service credits for babysitting. I welcome further suggestions concerning this and other goals for the upcoming year. Please email me at mlcooper@satx.rr.com

Let's work together to make 2015 a great year!

Happy New Year everyone!

Marie Cooper

The Parks and Recreation Department invites youth, ages 6 to 16, to participate in the SPURS YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE!



REGISTRATION BEGINS DEC. 1, 2014
at 16 Parks and Recreation Community Centers
Cost: \$10 (includes shirt and water bottle)
League play begins the week of Jan. 26, 2015



For more information call 207-3000
sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/youth.aspx

Many thanks to Mark and Marie Cooper who subsidized last month's color issue of the JNA Newsletter. We are also grateful to **Andi Tokoly** who generously provided the turkey and brisket for last month's Holiday Party. Also to **Myra Lorenz** for the beautiful poinsettias and Xmas cacti that graced the tables and went home as door prizes.



If you are new or visiting Jefferson United Methodist Church, we here would like to extend a warm welcome to join us this Sunday for worship or activities through out the week. Jefferson is a welcoming congregation to all newcomers and hope you enjoy your visit here. Below is some information that may be helpful upon your visit and you are always welcome to contact the church for any questions or concerns you may have. Hope to see you soon! Sunday Worship Service begins at 10:15 AM in Wheeler Chapel. www.jeffumcsa.org

Fun for All at the JNA Holiday Party!



Clockwise from upper left: A happy crowd enjoys the festivities; Mrs. Santa Claus with youngsters; JNA group; Lucky door prize winner; Councilman Medina enjoys supper with constituents; Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer and Lilianna call door prize winners; Henry, Toni and Judy serve turkey and brisket.





(photo: SA Light 11/15/26)

Hannibal Pianta Architectural Sculptor

By Charlotte Kahl

Is it a coincidence that architects began using cast stone enhancements when Hannibal Pianta arrived in the United States? Is it a coincidence the use of such enhancements declined after his death?

Hannibal Pianta came to Chicago from the town of his birth, Bocciolo in northern Italy, at the age of 17 to work with his father, John, on the 1892 Columbian Exposition - an innovative white city built of plaster and concrete. John Pianta had worked in the US for 20 years creating decorative stone and plaster enhancements to prominent buildings nationwide - including the state capitals of Texas and Georgia. John's daughter, Letizia, married into the Chicago Giobbia family, known for their stonework all across the northern U.S. Early in the 1900s John relocated to San Antonio, where concrete and plaster ingredients were plentiful.

Hannibal married Rose Nees in Charleston, Illinois, January 26, 1898 and worked in 28 states before settling in San Antonio in 1908 where he again worked beside his father. Following John's death in 1912,



Hannibal Pianta's Studio being built, 320 Fredericksburg Rd, c1912
(photo from James Pianta scrapbook)

Hannibal, and his young sons built their own shop in the 300 block of the Fredericksburg Highway; expanding as business grew and adding a second story residential hotel. The family lived in nearby rental houses until Hannibal built their 242 Cornell Street home in 1915.

Hannibal was a member of the Manufacturers' Association and Italian Chamber of Commerce, fostering others to create their own businesses. He invested in oil exploration, and allowed the new St. Ann's parish to hold mass in his Sandoval Street pool hall until their small wooden church was finished in 1911. He cast Waldine Tauch's 1914 Commerce Street Bridge Indian, and began decorating homes and office buildings all across Texas. Pillar capitals, lawn furnishings and ornaments, individual door and window surrounds, and other items were molded and cast in his shop. For many projects, schools, theaters, churches, fire stations, retail shops, and office buildings, the casting equipment was moved to fields near the locations, sections were produced on site, arranged to dry, and then hoisted into place.

Hannibal was educated at the Milan Technical Institute. He traveled often back to Italy to assess European concrete advances, and maintained strong relationships with colleagues willing to invest in his U.S. ventures. Hannibal's sons John Dale, Emanuel, and Eugene began handling most of the production work of the Pianta and Sons firm. Daughter Catherine married William P. Mahaffey.

In 1920 William Nelson came to San Antonio to ask Hannibal to experiment with his new, easily managed, fireproof concrete building blocks. The Piantas built their own larger new 102 Cornell Street shop of the NelStonE blocks, and worked with prominent architects such as Harvey Page, who practiced NelStonE office, home, and farm



Detail of University Baptist Church in Austin (photo by C Kahl)

construction. Hannibal's investors were eventually able in 1925 to build a huge NelStonE Company on Texas manufacturing plant at 347 Rivas Street to fill the needs of the Texas building trade. In 1923, Hannibal built a home at 102 Beal Street of NelStonE with artistic features for his wife. However Rose refused to move so far from town into the dairy pastures along the highway, and remained at 242 Cornell, near other family members, until her death in 1961.

The chemistry of concrete is a fine art. From the finest, smoothest, plaster-like mixtures Hannibal used on religious buildings such as Our Lady of the Lake Chapel and St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, to the sparkling, rougher textures of Tauch's Indian and his own sculpture above 320 Fredericksburg, to the tough enduring NelStonE blocks with their rock-filled slurry mixture poured in between - Hannibal created strength and beauty for us all to enjoy. Those interviewed for this Pianta article each ended the interview, with awe in their voices, softly repeating the same words, "Hannibal Pianta was an artist."

Hannibal died tragically when the truck he was driving was hit by a train on Saturday, November 13, 1937. His sons continued in the business for a while until the use of artistic cast stone, that had gained so much popularity early in the 20th century, nearly faded away in the 1940s.

To commemorate the centennial of Hannibal Pianta striking out on his own, the Old Spanish Trail Centennial Celebration Association offered a January 15, 2012 bus tour of some of Hannibal Pianta's confirmed work throughout San Antonio. His first shop was built on a portion of Fredericksburg Road that, before 1920, was chosen as the San Antonio corridor of the 3000-mile, 8-state transcontinental auto highway named the Old Spanish Trail.

DISCOVER THE ARTISTS OF THE DECO DISTRICT. SUPPORT OUR LOCAL RESIDENTS.



Some of you may have received my Holiday cards featuring the art of Jefferson resident Margaret Craig. Margaret is only one of the many artists that call our thriving neighborhood home.

"Grackle Dance" is a commentary on manipulation of the environment that makes it perfect for species that we humans love to hate. Personally though, Margaret loves the Texas Great Tailed Grackles.

Currently she is Chair and Professor of Printmaking at San Antonio's Southwest School of Art. She has lived on Donaldson Avenue for 15 years, where she has found her pie-shaped lot is perfect for pecan trees, spring wildflowers, cactus and elaborate graveyards for Halloween. You can find information on Margaret's art by visiting her website at MargaretCraig.com.

This artist spotlight is brought to you by local Realtor Camille Rodriguez Brigant. You can contact her for a free personalized evaluation of your home's value. Looking to buy? Camille can provide information on assistance programs which can enable you to move in with no money down. Call or stop by her office, conveniently located at Huisache & Zarzamora.



Camille Rodriguez Brigant Realtor®

p: (210) 802-9797

HomesbyCamille@gmail.com

2722 N Zarzamora, SA, TX 78201



Detail of front entrance columns at Jefferson High School created by Hannibal Pianta and sons in 1931-32 (photo by Victor Weiss, courtesy of TJHS Historical Preservation Society)



Mejian Restaurant

Mon-Thu: 7 am to 2 pm

Fri: 7 am to 8 pm

Sat: 7 am - 3 pm

Sun: 8 am - 3 pm

FOOD TO GO

1009 Donaldson Ave.

210.736.0223

Our condolences to the families of JNA members Alfred L. Flores who passed on November 5, 2014, and Marguerite Nemky who passed on November 21, 2014.

The JNA Needs Your Support

Dues are accepted year round. They support our scholarship program and help pay for the newsletter published each month. 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 2014-15

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 Monday, January
12, 2015, at 7 PM at the Jefferson United
Methodist Church, Donaldson and Wilson.

The Jefferson Neighborhood Association
PO Box 28552
San Antonio, Texas 78228

