



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS, INC.

November 2023

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Be Thankful! Almost a month ago, we had the first hint of Fall. The temperatures did not reach 100 (this was the hottest and longest summer in history) and it wasn't unbearable to be outside. Neighbors put out their Halloween décor. Families visited pumpkin patches; collecting pumpkins to carve. The cooler temperatures leads to calmer people, less angry drivers, more easy going afternoons and peaceful evenings. It also leads to football camaraderie for both high school and college and the sounds of bands trumpeting through the air and cheers from cheerleaders. Fall is a great time of year – one of my absolute favorites. It's the beginning of the season of cheer and thankfulness and family.

While we merge into Thanksgiving this month, try to set something to be thankful for each day. The items you're thankful for don't have to be huge... they can be as small as being thankful that you woke up on time before your alarm and actually got the kids to school before the bell. Or they can be as grand as being thankful that you survived cancer. This is the ultimate month to truly raise our cheer and count our blessings to how much we have.

November is also a great month to get to know a new neighbor. This doesn't have to be someone who just moved in. It could be a neighbor you have seen go in and out of their garage and yet you've never met. Take them some pumpkin bread or a Starbucks card for a pumpkin spiced latte. Introduce yourself and your family and make a new friend.

November is THE month to be outside too. Yes, we're still in a terrible drought and some of our trees may look like fall but are probably, in all honesty, dead, but here in South Texas, we need to take the good weather in stride and truly enjoy it to the fullest. Take your dog for a walk, get a friend to go for a bike ride, walk in the evenings with your kids – you may even catch the space station flying over!

Be thankful for each moment and cherish it.

*I'll start – I am thankful for all of you as my neighbors. You make Encino Park one of the best neighborhoods to live in and I cherish you.*

By Cara Jacobson





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- Crime & Safety Committee - Dyan Montesclaros ..210-481-7890
- EP Involvement Committee - Sunny Brown ..... 210-497-3022
- Over 50 Club - Dalia Benzick..... 210-497-3022
- Park Committee - Peggy Wardlaw .....210-386-6601
- Pet Finder - Cindy Haines.....210-573-1085
- Pool Committee - Cara Jacobsen ..... 210-497-3022
- Swim Team - John Kirschbaum..... 210-497-3022
- Women’s Club - Nancy Thomas..... 210-497-3022

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**Past Events**

Fall Fair and Chili Cook-Off – The EPIC event was a huge success, and we will have a full write up in next month’s newsletter. We plan to make it even bigger and better next year.

***Special thanks to all of our EPIC volunteers, including Sunny Brown, Gordy Brown, Gail Lamb, Cara Jacobsen, DeLisa Leopold, John Kirschbaum, Laura Seale, Mandy Williamson, Janelle Cunningham, Michelle Herr, and James Wood. Special thanks to The Gail Lamb Group for sponsoring our clown!***

Be on the look out in next month’s newsletter to see who all the winners are in both the Chili Cook-off and the Blue Ribbon Competition. Happy Fall!!

**Join Us!**

Get involved and join EPIC by helping plan and volunteer for fun events for Encino Park! Watch your email or the EP Facebook page for announcements of events. Contact Sunny Brown at [gsbrown@swbell.net](mailto:gsbrown@swbell.net) if you would like to help.

**Upcoming Events!**

**Playdate in the Park** – We continue to have a great turn out for this fun way to get out with your kids and meet new neighbors over drinks and snacks. Second Saturday each month from 10:00-11:30.

**Holiday Movie Night in the Park** – Heads up for an EP tradition! **December 2nd** will kick-off the holidays in Encino Park. That morning, The Women’s Club is sponsoring their traditional visit with Santa, including holiday crafts and photos. At dark, we will be showing a family friendly holiday movie to get everyone in the spirit of the holidays, with hot chocolate and popcorn provided!



**Annual Holiday Lights Contest** – Better start getting those decorations down from the attic to prepare for the most wonderful time of the year! Judging will take place from **December 10th to the 18th**, with winners announced on the 19th. Categories and ballot will be in next months newsletter and on the EP Facebook page.



## SA Veterans Day at Hemisfair

Presented by Endeavors is a FREE celebration that will honor our veterans of today and tomorrow with live entertainment and fun, interactive activities for the whole family. Veteran-embracing organizations and businesses will also be present to offer resources and services. Attendees will enjoy activities for people of all ages and abilities, living history exhibits, and the newly opened Civic Park at Hemisfair! The third annual SA Veterans Day at Hemisfair presented by Endeavors will take place on **Saturday, November 11 from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** 630 E. Nueva Street, San Antonio, TX 78205. FREE

## SA Veterans Day Parade

The 2023 Veterans Day parade will be on **Saturday, November 11, 2023**. The parade will start at 12 noon and travel down Houston St. right in the middle of downtown San Antonio. Please make plans to come celebrate with us. **@11am - Milam Park**. FREE

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## OVER 50 CLUB

Submitted by **Dalia Benzick**

November is the month dedicated to remembrance and to being grateful for the blessings we have received. This month, during our **November 7th meeting**, our group will honor the former members that are no longer able to attend our meetings. They are truly not forgotten. On **November 21st**, there will not be a formal meeting due to holiday activities for some, but those that come will enjoy lunch and our usual games and fellowship in the community center.

*Our group extends it's warm wishes to our Encino Park neighbors and friends for a happy Thanksgiving Day to all.*






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# ENCINO PARK'S BLOCK CAPTAIN'S NEIGHBORS TOGETHER EVENT

*Daphne Sohocki & Gail Lamb*

*Encino Park Block Captains Co-Committee Chairs*

*Thank you to all of you who participated in the multiple San Antonio Neighbors Together national night events held throughout Encino Park last month on October 3rd!* There were 33 events (10 more than last year), with most of those being multi-street gatherings with over 500 of our residents attending!

All residents are encouraged to join our Encino Park Block Captain Social Media groups to see more photos from that night, and to keep up on events and activities happening in your community:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EPBlockCaptains/>

[https://nextdoor.com/g/qg6mg8nle/?is=nav\\_bar](https://nextdoor.com/g/qg6mg8nle/?is=nav_bar)

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7073004/>

**If you are the "Go-To Person" for your street, please think about becoming the Block Captain, Co-Block Captain, or "Neighborhood Ambassador" for your street or block of Encino Park!** Here are the streets that currently do not have any coverage:

Encino Brook (19602-19734)

Encino Brook (19810-19911)

Encino Cabin

Encino Cliff (2136-2202)

Encino Crest

Encino Crossing

Encino Crown

Encino Gap

Encino Rio (1706-1726)

Encino Rock

Encino Royale (19918-19967)

Encino Spur

Encino Valley

Encino Valley Circle



*Thank you all again for participating and thank you to all of our Encino Park Block Captains and Neighborhood Ambassadors for a successful 2023 San Antonio Neighbors Together national night out! Together we make our community a safe and great place to live!*



*Encino Park Women's Club cordially invites you to our*

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

**Monday, December 11th  
6:30 pm**

***Save the Date!***

*Missy's*   
*Creations*

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**Saturday Art Class  
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# ENCINO PARK WOMENS' CLUB

By Donna Morton

Ladies, we are having a wonderful year! Recently, our "hair-raising" Boo-fest!!! and Market Days and our membership!

All successful endeavors!

Get ready there is more fun coming;

"Bee Happy" presented by Bee Experts, Valorie Robertson and Julie Morgan. They want to share the importance of bees in our ecosystem and food chain. If you love flowers, feeding your family healthy foods, and living a healthy life you are going to enjoy what they will be sharing with us. They are bringing fascinating facts about bees, how they can help us and how we can help them!! We will also talk honey!

They are bringing recipes and sharing skin and wound care!! You do not want to miss this meeting. Actually, you will be ready to start your pollinator garden when spring arrives, you will find you are shopping differently and feel better about how you are feeding your family.

Buzz in at 7pm on Monday, November 13, start with a light supper, and maybe a little glass of wine (compliments of bees), and be ready for a short business meeting before we introduce Valorie and Julie.

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## Out to Lunch



Our November lunch outing will be a bit different than the norm. Beverly Anderson, EPWC member, is inviting us to her home in Timberwood Park for a luncheon prepared by her. This will be on **Thursday, Nov. 16th at 11:30**. There is, however, a limited number of people who can attend, and priorities are being given to different groups for signing up.

Call Janet at 210-481-9956 if you are interested, by **Monday the 13th**, and you will be either put on the list to go, or put on a waiting list should someone cancel, depending on how the sign-ups have gone. Carpooling will be available.

Our September lunch at "Seasons 52" in The Quarry was delightful. This fairly new restaurant in our city boasts of seasonally fresh food, and it did not disappoint. All twelve of us who attended thoroughly enjoyed what we each had ordered, and our service was wonderful. Bear in mind that groups over 8 people will have to be seated in a split-up manner of 2 groups, unless you want to commit monetarily to the party room.

## EP future meeting dates and events:

**Mon., Nov. 7th & 21st**  
Over 50s Club

**Mon., Nov. 13th 7:00 pm**  
Bee Ready! Womens Club

**Mon., Nov. 16th 11:30 pm**  
Out to Lunch, Womens Club

**Sat., Dec. 2nd @ night**  
EP Movie Night  
in the park

**Sat., Dec. 2nd 10am-12pm**  
EP Santa Visit!  
EP Community Center

**Sun-Thurs., Dec. 10-19**  
EP Light Contest

**Mon., Dec. 11th 6:30 pm**  
EP Holiday Dinner/Auction!

If you have questions about the club, call **Nancy Thomas @ 210-410-7614**.



# SANTA IS RETURNING TO ENCINO PARK!

**Saturday, December 2nd**

**10:00 am–12:00 pm**

**1923 Encino Rio | San Antonio, TX 78259**

Come to the Community Center to visit with Santa and have your child(ren)'s holiday photo taken. Kids will also get to decorate their own cookie and make a fun craft. All this for the low price of \$10.00. Each additional photo \$5.00. Eliminate the lines at the mall!

The proceeds will benefit a women's or children's charity.

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# EP TEEN DIRECTORY



Name	Age	Contact	Services
Wyatt Belz	17	210-309-5570	Power Washing, Brush Hauling (2/23)
Joseph Bush	16	210-323-6708	Lawn mowing & dog walking (6/23)
Emma Cline	17	210-912-9588	Pet sitting, dog walking and house sitting
Javier Garido	17	210-997-0771	Lawn mowing, Pet sitting, car wash, weed eating (3/23)
Erin Heilbrun	16	210-801-5288	Babysitting, Pet sitting, dog walking, house sitting (2/23)
Maggie Micklitz	17	210-410-2990	Babysitting, Pet sitting, house sitting (8/23)
Clayton Micklitz	15	210-410-2990	Babysitting, Pet sitting, house sitting, Lawn Mowing, Power Washing (8/23)
Vincent Prusinsky	18	210-722-5545	Lawn Mowing, trim hedges, weed eating, power washing services, Pet sitting, dog walking (12/22)
Caleb Schoellhorn	14	210-996-9163	Lawn maintenance (10/23)

Teen Service listings are free to all Encino Park residents under nineteen (19) years of age. Ads will run for one year, unless the advertiser calls and requests renewal. To add, remove, or edit your ad, call 210-558-3160 or email [Ariel@neighborhoodnews.com](mailto:Ariel@neighborhoodnews.com). Please put "Encino Park Resident" in the subject line.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Wooden Poker Table With Chairs. Great gift for that hard to buy person. Table measures 54" across and seats eight. Has fold up legs for easy storage. There is space for food, drinks, and chips for each person and has only been used on five occasions. The chairs are folding, nicely padded, and are comfortable, \$350. Call 210-218-1737 or 210-219-1544.

To place a FREE classified ad, call 210-558-3160 or email [Ariel@NeighborhoodNews.com](mailto:Ariel@NeighborhoodNews.com). Put "Encino Park Classified" in the subject line. One ad per resident. (NO services please). Ads will run for ONE month unless you request renewal. Ads will run on a space-available basis only.

## WE'RE GLAD YOU ASKED!



**Question:** Why did our homeowners annual assessments go up again this year? What do they even go towards?

**Answer:** Thank you for a great question. Due to the 7.5% inflation over the last 2 years, in conjunction with the increased cost of vendors, services and utilities, we have all seen the cost of doing business increase. Our homeowners association has been impacted as well. The Board of Directors continually works to negotiate contracts, bids and monthly expenses to help decrease budget needs, and the 5% increase on the dues was imperative for the operational budget.

The yearly dues go towards things like maintenance of the grounds throughout our large and amazing community, utilities and services such as electric and water for the park, pool, tennis/pickleball court and basketball courts, as well as insurance, payroll for our fulltime maintenance man, and administrative fees. Other expenses include facility and amenity maintenance and upgrades (like the new park playscapes and wood chip padding), resurfaced tennis and basketball courts, new decking on pool area and pool house upgrade. We also include savings to the reserve monies of the HOA for future upgrades and repairs.

We hope this helps, and hope you have a wonderful holiday season.



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# Recipe Corner



## How to Thaw a Turkey

<https://www.epicurious.com/collection/thanksgiving-recipes-menus-strategies-tips>



Ideally, place the frozen bird into your refrigerator upon bringing it home from the grocer—hopefully several days in advance, since it can sometimes take nearly a week to thaw completely. This is a tried-and-true method; its chief drawback remains that it's also the most time-consuming. Plan on 24 hours of fridge-thawing for every four to five pounds of turkey, says ThermoWorks; thus, for a 15-pound bird you can expect to wait about three days. (See the full timetable below.) This is best if you have an auxiliary fridge in the basement, but probably a bit inconvenient otherwise.

Another tip: You'll definitely want to set the turkey on a rimmed baking sheet or in a roasting pan while it thaws to keep any running juices contained.

### How long to defrost a turkey in the refrigerator:

Thawing time is based on bird weight; again: you will know the bird is fully thawed when it reaches an internal temperature above 32°F. Per the USDA:

- 4 to 12 pounds — 1 to 3 days
- 12 to 16 pounds — 3 to 4 days
- 16 to 20 pounds — 4 to 5 days
- 20 to 24 pounds — 5 to 6 days

**The fastest way to thaw a turkey:** Submerge turkey in ice water, even a 24-pound bird can be defrosted in just 12 hours (Thermoworks says to count on about 8 hours for a 15-pounder). Either submerge turkey in sink or in a bucket. Regularly check the water's temperature to make sure it never gets about 40 degrees. Monitor the proceedings as often as every half hour, and if you see the temperature venturing in that direction, add more ice to set it straight



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## New City of San Antonio Budget Focuses on Property Tax & Keeping San Antonio Safe

On September 14th, the City of San Antonio's Mayor and City Council approved a \$3.7 billion budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 that was presented by City Manager Erik Walsh. The budget provides day-to-day services that residents have come to enjoy and rely on, from parks, libraries, police, fire to garbage collection. Thanks to direct feedback from the residents of San Antonio, the budget also focuses on long-term investments that will provide property tax relief, help keep San Antonio safe, enhance quality of life and improve customer service.

The budget is balanced over a two-year period, in accordance with the City's established financial policies. It also maintains a minimum 15 percent General Fund ending balance and keeps public safety spending below 66 percent of the General Fund.

The City's strong financial management was key to Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service reaffirming its 'AAA' general obligation bond ratings. Fitch Ratings also reaffirmed the City's 'AA+' bond rating and revised its outlook to positive from stable.

### The Adopted Budget At A Glance

- \$3.7 billion
  - 1.6 billion General Fund
  - \$1.33 billion Restricted Fund
  - \$798 million Capital Budget
- \$134 million in property tax relief

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### Property Tax Relief

Providing direct relief to the residents of San Antonio was identified as a priority in this year's budget. In June, the Mayor and City Council unanimously approved to double the City's homestead exemption to 20 percent. Today's Council action also slightly decreases the City's property tax rate.

The budget also maintains existing exemptions, including the over-65 and disabled person exemptions of \$85,000 each and the senior property tax freeze. In total, the budget delivers \$134.5 million in property tax relief to the residents of San Antonio in 2024.

### Keep San Antonio Safe

One of the top priorities of the City's residents and the City Council was keeping neighborhoods, businesses and public spaces safe. The budget adds 117 police officers, 41 Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) positions and 29 animal care services positions.

To boost community safety, 100 new police officers will enhance proactive patrols and five new officers will be assigned to the training academy to graduate more cadets. Thirty-two new firefighters and paramedics and one new EMS unit for Fire Station 40 will be added. EMS coverage to the Southside of San Antonio will also be bolstered to help shorten patient transport time after the closing of the Texas Vista Hospital.

To further the City's progress to improve mental health crisis response, the City will expand the successful San Antonio Community Outreach and Resilience Effort (SA-CORE) program to include 24-hour coverage, seven days a week beginning in the summer of 2024. The expansion adds five clinicians, nine paramedics and 12 police officers. The SA-CORE team is made up of a team of a clinician, paramedic and police officer respond to 911 mental health calls. Together, this team compassionately responds to these calls for service by securing the scene, while a clinician and paramedic address physical and mental health concerns. The team transports and/or connects the patient with services and follows up regularly with the patient.

Animal Care Services (ACS) receives its largest increase by adding 15 positions to focus on the safety of our community and the well-being of the pet population. With the additional resources, the department will be able to cut response times to its roughly 3,500 annual bite cases nearly in half. ACS will increase compliance by owners of dogs that have been deemed dangerous by conducting additional inspections, and it will respond to more critical calls, including those that involve aggressive dogs, neglect and cruelty. This budget begins year one of a three-year strategy to respond to all critical animal related calls.



## Landscape Watering

We are currently under STAGE 2 of SAWS restrictions for landscape watering. This means watering with a system can be done only once a week between the hours of 7:00 AM to 11:00AM and 7:00PM to 11:00pm on the days assigned by the last digit of your house number.



## Fall for Less Water

Your landscape is preparing for its long winter's nap. That means it doesn't absorb as much water, and soil evaporation drops significantly.

Autumn is the ideal time to stop widespread watering — especially with your irrigation system. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

- **Cut run times in half.** For a lawn in full sun, reduce the run time from 22 minutes to 11 minutes.
- **Use the seasonal adjust.** If your controller has this feature, use it to decrease all settings by 50 percent.
- **Turn it off.** If rainfall is below historic averages, you can run your system manually.

Hand watering is always the most efficient way to save water and money. Visit [GardenStyleSA.com](http://GardenStyleSA.com) for weekly watering amounts and tips to keep your yard looking great using less water.

## Special Guest

Merry Christmas the Season is here! When the holiday lights come on at 19507 Encino Creek, a special guest will be available for pictures on:

**November 24th, 25th, and 26th & December 8th, 10th, 15th, and 16th**

**from 7:00 to 9:00PM.**



## Basketball Courts

Encino Park has some amazing amenities to offer to our residents. One of the amenities is our basketball courts behind the community center. They are constantly used for an easy game of pickup, or weekly games with residents. Things to remember though, regarding the basketball courts:

The basketball courts are for residents only. Of course, our residents can invite non-resident friends to play, but there needs to be a resident with them.

The basketball courts are key access with our neighborhood issued card key. Propping the door or jamming it can break the door, which can lead to safety concerns and costs associated with repairing the locks. If the card key is not working, please contact the HOA Office at the Community Center.

The basketball hours are 8am–8pm. Yes, in the summer the daylight hours are longer, but we have the earlier end time due to close proximity of neighboring houses to the basketball courts.

## Key Card Update

Encino Park amenities (basketball courts, tennis courts, pool and outside pool restrooms) can be accessed with just one card. If you have any key card issues, please contact the HOA Office at 210-497-3022 or stop by during office hours, Monday and Friday 9-2 or Wednesday, 12-6 and we can get a new card for you. Replacement cards are \$10, the office only accepts checks or money orders, no cash or credit cards.



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