

WELCOME TO OUR

# Jefferson Neighborhood Association

*Happy New Year!*



HELLO, NEIGHBOR!

## Fostering Community

Welcome to the January edition of the JNA Newsletter!

As we enter 2024, a new year dawns upon our Jefferson neighborhood, bringing with it the tranquility of winter and the promise of fresh beginnings. Just as each snowflake boasts its unique design, our community is richly layered with distinct stories and customs that define this season. In this newsletter, we celebrate our shared heritage—a tapestry woven from the threads of our past, present, and future aspirations. January, a month steeped in time-honored traditions and resolutions, beckons us to explore the intricate fabric of our neighborhood's values and practices.

Let us come together to pay homage to our legacy while forging new memories that contribute to the vibrant essence of our community. Embrace the warmth, unity, and unwavering spirit that make our neighborhood truly extraordinary.

## Issue Highlights

CONNECTING OUT COMMUNITY,  
ONE PAGE AT A TIME 

- A Note from our D7 SAISD Trustee: Ed Garza
- Holiday Party
- School Shoutouts
- Neighborhood Events
- Neighborhood Concerns
- Neighbor Spotlight



*For our digital  
newsletter with  
embedded links*



# Rightsizing Updates

## A NOTE FROM YOUR SAN ANTONIO ISD DISTRICT 7 TRUSTEE: ED GARZA



Dear JNA Neighbors,

Over the past four decades the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) has realized a steady decline in enrollment; from its nearly 80,000 students during its peak, to 43,000 during the current 2023-2024 school year. Since 1998, the district has lost 15,000 students and just this year, the district has almost 1,000 students under projected enrollment. Even though enrollment has almost been cut in half, the district has retained and operated the same number (nearly 100) campuses during the decline. While the superintendent, board, campuses, and community don't want to close any schools, to ignore the 40+ year trend would not only be financially irresponsible, but also widen the disparity of funding between students attending various size schools.

The factors that have led to the decline in enrollment have varied through the decades. However, in recent years the decline in birthrates and lack of affordable family housing have added to the enrollment challenges. While bond improvements, new choice programs and district created charter schools have attracted almost 5,000 new students from outside the district, the innovative choice programs have not been enough to offset the decline.

On June 20, 2023, the San Antonio ISD Board of Trustees brought forward and approved a resolution calling for a study of school building capacity for the purpose of supporting thriving schools, classrooms, students, teachers, and school leaders. The result of the study led to recommended restructuring, or "rightsizing," school sites to better serve students. Rightsizing will involve closing school buildings, co-locating schools to the same campus, or consolidating multiple schools into one school. Recommendations from the study, will go into effect for the 2024-2025 School Year.

During the Sept. 18, 2023, board meeting there was a discussion about the preliminary recommendation package for rightsizing 19 schools in the district. The initial package outlined plans for various changes in schools, including closures, redesigns, relocations, co-locations and mergers in the upcoming years. In the Jefferson area, two elementary schools (Huppertz and Baskin) and one early childhood center (Nelson) were listed for rightsizing.

After careful consideration of comments from the public at over 4 dozen community and campus meetings, district staff reduced the total number of schools to be closed and repurposed at the start of the 2024-2025 school year to 11, with several other campuses to be modified. In the Jefferson area, Huppertz Elementary and Nelson Early Childhood Center remain part of the close/repurpose list for next school year. However, Baskin Elementary was recommended for closure in a future year, only if the receiving school, Maverick, can add additional permanent building space.

Upon returning from the winter break in January, the process of rightsizing will continue. SAISD is committed to repurposing facilities affected by rightsizing so that the buildings continue to benefit the community. None of these facilities will be sold, but rather leased to nonprofit organizations who will maintain the buildings and provided needed services to the neighborhoods.

First, the district is creating a citizen panel to guide the repurposing process so that a transparent, comprehensive, and consistent approach is implemented. A *Facility Repurposing Panel* was organized in December 2023, and the panel will begin convening in January 2024.

. This panel will:

- Collaborate with the District to issue a Request for Proposal for external entities interested in repurposing the facilities.
- Organize community engagement meetings in Spring 2024 to discuss proposals for specific campuses.
- Engage with the communities to evaluate proposals that offer continued value and services.

The Facility Repurposing Panel will operate under the Always Learning Children's Cabinet and include members from the Superintendent's Growth and Development Committee. Its aim is to respect the schools' history, the legacy of their namesakes, and the memories of the students and families connected to these institutions.

If you wish to stay updated on the Request for Proposal process, please share your contact information with Procurement Services at [saisdcontractmgmt@saisd.net](mailto:saisdcontractmgmt@saisd.net). Thank you for your attention and ongoing support.



Sincerely,  
*Ed Garza*





## Jefferson Neighborhood Association Monthly Meetings

Come to our Jefferson Neighborhood Association meetings each month! We feature different speakers addressing community issues, resources, and concerns. It's a chance for neighbors to connect, share thoughts, and enjoy light refreshments.

Don't miss out—join us and be part of shaping our community's future!



### SAVE THE DATES

Be on the lookout! The Jefferson Neighborhood Association is thrilled to announce the release of our exclusive Fiesta medals fundraiser this spring. Join us as we celebrate the vibrancy of our community with these unique tokens of neighborhood pride.

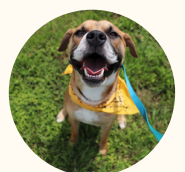
### Why Attend?

1. **Community Involvement:** Actively shape our neighborhood's direction.
2. **Stay Informed:** Receive updates on events and developments.
3. **Connect with Neighbors:** Build lasting connections.
4. **Make a Difference:** Voice concerns and advocate for improvements.
5. **Shape Our Future:** Be part of creating a brighter Jefferson neighborhood.

### Next Meeting: 1.8.24



- **YWLA Cafeteria**
  - best parking is in the West Mulberry parking lot
  - look for door greeters
- **NEW TIME: 6:30pm start**
- **Featured Presenter:**
  - ACS and reporting on 311





## JNA Holiday Party: A Festive Celebration of Community Spirit

The Board wishes to extend our warmest thanks to each and every one of you who made our recent Holiday Party at the YWLA cafeteria an absolute delight! Your presence and active participation filled the evening with joy, laughter, and a sense of togetherness that truly defines our wonderful community.

With around 75 of our amazing neighbors in attendance, the event was a true celebration of our unity and camaraderie. It was a pleasure to see familiar faces and meet new friends, creating lasting memories that we'll treasure for years to come.

The delightful aromas of the BBQ, the diverse and delicious array of sides brought by you all, and the excitement of the raffle draws, generously supported by our local representatives and contributors, added an extra layer of joy to the gathering.

[Click here to see the complete Holiday Photo Album](#)



Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Sheriff Javier Salazar, Commissioner Justin Rodriguez, Councilwoman Marina Alderete Gavito, SAAFE Officer John Garcia, and the talented Carolina Rogers leading Woodlawn Academy's choir. Their presence elevated the festivities and made the evening even more special.

A special mention to Councilwoman Marina Alderete Gavito and her team for adorning the venue with festive decoration, and to Floral Elegance for the stunning centerpieces that brought a touch of elegance to our celebration.

## Filled with Gratitude

Special thanks to Representative Trey Martinez Fischer, Commissioner Justin Rodriguez, Elia Reyna, and Councilwoman Marina Alderete Gavito for their gift card donations, adding excitement to the raffle.

Finally, it is with YOUR support as our neighbors that made our Holiday Party unforgettable, showcasing the strong bonds within our Jefferson community. Let's keep nurturing these connections as we step into the new year, making our community an exceptional place to call home. Thank you for being an integral part of our neighborhood's brilliance!





## Celebrating Athletic Triumphs at Jefferson High School!

The Jefferson High School wrestling team concluded their season on December 9 at the Fight on the Frio meet at Uvalde Highschool with remarkable achievements.

Our talented wrestlers showcased their dedication, securing 1 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze, and 4 fourth-place finishes. Congratulations to our amazing team for their outstanding performance and hard-earned accomplishments!



In basketball action on December 15, our Mighty Mustangs took on the Burbank Bulldogs, emerging victorious with a convincing 59-44 win at ACC! This IB vs IB showdown displayed the exceptional skills and teamwork of our Mustangs, marking another fantastic achievement for our school.

Kudos to both our wrestling and basketball teams for their impressive victories! Let's continue to support and celebrate the talent and commitment of our Jefferson High School athletes. Go Mustangs!

## May & June SAISD Graduation Locations

Please save the date: Thursday, June 6, at 7 PM, as Jefferson's graduating seniors will be celebrated at the Freeman Coliseum.

This decision ensures a more comfortable and weather-proof experience for both our graduates and their families.

We encourage all neighbors and parents to mark this date on your calendars and prepare to join us in honoring the achievements of our incredible graduating seniors. Click [here](#) for the full schedule of events.





## Feed the Fam

To kick off the holiday season, the Jefferson Bodega hosted an incredible #FeedTheFam event that brought our community together for an evening of warmth and togetherness. From 6-8 PM, neighbors gathered to enjoy a delicious free dinner provided by amazing local contributors: The Asian Peach, Deco Pizzeria, and Sari Sari San Antonio.

It was heartwarming to witness the community come together, breaking bread and fostering connections while embodying the spirit of caring and kindness.

Stay updated on what neighborhood events are popping up next by driving by the Jefferson Village Friday afternoons and on the weekend.

## Neighborhood Events



**15th Annual HISTORIC HOMEOWNER FAIR**  
 Sat, Jan 27, 2024 | 10am - 2pm  
 Henry B. González Convention Center

The Exhibit Hall will feature local businesses including design services, construction professionals, and purveyors of goods such as tile, metal fixtures, paint, and salvaged materials.

There will also be sessions on popular topics and a panel discussion where local renovators will share key lessons learned during their projects.

Click [here](#) to register and to find information on sponsoring and volunteering.



## COFFEE WITH THE COUNCILWOMAN

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27  
9:00 AM  
DISTRICT 7 FIELD OFFICE  
4414 CENTERVIEW DR, SUITE 160**

JOIN US FOR THE RE-OPENING OF OUR DISTRICT 7 FIELD OFFICE!



## WeRYoga

Donation based  
Community Yoga

Jefferson Community Church  
inside Jackson Hall  
758 Donaldson Ave  
SA 78201

**FLOW YOGA  
MONDAYS & THURSDAYS  
AT 6:00PM**

**CHAIR YOGA  
TUESDAYS AT 9:00AM  
THURSDAYS AT 10:00AM**

**RETURNING IN OCTOBER  
RESTORATIVE YOGA  
MONTHLY- 2ND TUESDAY  
AT 6:00PM**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

[paulaorozco1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulaorozco1@sbcglobal.net)

San Antonio Animal Care Services  
PRESENTS  
**KINDNESS Unleashed**  
10 COUNCIL DISTRICTS, 1 PAWSITIVE GOAL  
**PET FOOD DRIVE**  
December 14 - January 12

Help us reach our goal of collecting 5,000lbs of pet food!

**SAN ANTONIO ANIMAL CARE SERVICES**  
DONATION DROP OFF: ACS, 4710 TX-151, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78227.

If you have an exciting event happening in our local community that you'd like to showcase, we encourage you to email us with the details: [neighbors@jefferson-sa.com](mailto:neighbors@jefferson-sa.com)

# Neighborhood Concern

## ADDRESSING ACS & COMMUNITY SAFETY

In a recent article published by Melissa Fletcher Stoeltje in the San Antonio Report, the escalating concerns surrounding loose and aggressive dogs within our local community were thoughtfully examined. Stoeltje's piece highlighted the challenges faced by dog owners, particularly in areas where high-poverty conditions coincide with increased incidents involving roaming dogs.

The article revealed a significant 70% rise in severe dog bite incidents from 2018 to 2022, emphasizing key insights from Shannon Sims, head of Animal Care Services (ACS):

- An estimated 30,000 loose dogs predominantly belong to owners rather than being strays.
- Approximately 75% of these dogs remain unaltered due to limited spaying and neutering access.
- Financial constraints and misconceptions about pet ownership hinder owners from utilizing available sterilization programs.
- Uncontrolled mating behaviors among roaming dogs often lead to aggression, exacerbated by misguided beliefs about dog ownership.

In response, District 7's Councilwoman, Marina Alderete Gavito, initiated crucial measures to tackle these concerns head-on. Building on ACS's efforts, she expanded qualifying zip codes for the free spay & neuter program to include 78201, 78228, 78229, and 78238.

Additionally, the Councilwoman launched an online dangerous dog map for our district, enabling residents to stay informed about dangerous dogs in their neighborhoods. Plans are underway to enhance this resource further. Access the [map here](#).

Efforts to advocate for a State law change empowering ACS to spay/neuter dogs upon retrieval are ongoing, emphasizing long-term collaboration with State-wide officials. The Councilwoman also emphasized the urgency of addressing loose and dangerous dogs as a vital public safety concern, ensuring monthly engagements with ACS for effective service delivery in District 7.

Stoeltje's article resonated deeply, emphasizing responsible pet ownership and community involvement. The Councilwoman echoes this sentiment, calling for collective action to create a safer environment. Residents are encouraged to contribute suggestions and ideas for collective efforts.

Together, District 7 aims to build a safer community through responsible pet ownership and proactive initiatives. For inquiries or insights, reach out to the Councilwoman's office at (210) 207-0870 or email at [district7@sanantonio.gov](mailto:district7@sanantonio.gov).



Find out more

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
Animal Care Services

[LEARN MORE](#)



[Meet ACS Adoptables](#)



[Spay/Neuter Services](#)



[Free Vaccination /  
Microchipping Services](#)



ACS has partnered with the 311 Customer Service Department to address all animal-related call-for-service requests within the City limits.

There are multiple ways to make an animal-related report:

- Call [3-1-1](tel:3-1-1) or [210-207-6000](tel:210-207-6000)
- [Report online](#)
- Use the [311 mobile app](#)





# Neighbor Spotlight



## ELIA REYNA: A LIFE WOVEN INTO JEFFERSON'S TAPESTRY

In the heart of our beloved Jefferson neighborhood, a tale of resilience, education, and unwavering community spirit unfolds through the life of a treasured resident, Elia Reyna. Born on June 25, 1942, her life story is intricately woven into the very fabric of our community, painting a vivid portrait of Jefferson's evolution through the ages.

Elia's early childhood years on Zarzamora and West Martin Street spanned an era when our Jefferson neighborhood was both untamed brush and pastures. Her parents, Evelia M. Reyna and Gilbert F. Reyna, envisioning a haven for their future family, gravitated towards Jefferson despite its distance from the West side. Her father's tenure as a custodian at Jefferson HS since 1932 laid the foundations for their connection to our community, while her mother's altruism shone through her volunteer work at the House of Neighborly Services and Red Cross.

"Moving to what was then the North Side was quite the adventure," chuckles Elia, reminiscing about the family's leap from a modest three-room dwelling to what she felt like was a "North side mansion" across from Woodlawn Academy. Purchased for \$6,500 with a \$50 down payment, this house became the cornerstone of the Reyna family's life in Jefferson, evolving from humble beginnings into a beacon of their legacy.

Elia's mother, Evelia, a force of initiative, approached Woodlawn Academy's principal with aspirations of starting the Girl Scout program, while her father, echoing her passion for community engagement, sought to establish Little League baseball at Horace Mann Middle School which is now Young Women's Leadership Academy. Elia recalls, "oh, those were the days! My friends practically sprinted to our house for those Girl Scout meetings, fearing they'd miss out on homemade flour tortillas with butter from my mother." She also delightfully shares how they didn't have any furniture at first so it was an added delight to the girls to be able to sit criss-cross applesauce on the floor.

Elia's mother, a trailblazer in her own right, became San Antonio's first crossing guard, stationed dutifully in the heart of the community at Woodlawn Academy, ensuring the safety of children as they traversed the streets. This act of service not only safeguarded the neighborhood's youth but also epitomized the Reyna family's unwavering commitment to nurturing a secure and closely-knit environment. Their new home soon became a center for fostering unity and camaraderie among neighbors, laying the foundation for a legacy that continues to thrive in our cherished neighborhood to this day.

Transitioning into secondary school, Elia's formative years at Jefferson High School nurtured aspirations for higher education, driven by her mother's unwavering support and the school's emphasis on college preparedness. "If I could turn back time," muses Elia, reminiscing about the golden era at Jefferson, where her sister commanded the Cadet Corps and her brothers serenaded with clarinets and violins.



In 1990, Elia and her mother Evelia embarked on a new chapter, joining the JNA to bolster the scholarship program. Her mother's leadership from 1990 to 2003 was a testament to her dedication. The scholarship program, now named in her mother's honor, as the 'Evelia Molina Reyna Scholarship', continues to be a cornerstone of the JNA. Students are eligible if they attend Jefferson High School (or live within our JNA boundaries), have an acceptance to any college or university, and maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Reflecting on the neighborhood's transformation, Elia fondly remembers about Jefferson's enduring customs - the vibrant picnics at Woodlawn Lake, piñata parties, and swimming at Woodlawn Pool, cherished activities in an era where vacations were often unattainable. The community once walked everywhere or took buses to downtown Fiesta celebrations or indulged in Broadway's Kiddieland and Playland. Amidst the nostalgic reflections, Elia fondly recalls the exuberance of childhood memories at the Woodlawn Pool. "Learning to swim at the Woodlawn Swimming Pool was something," she reminisces. "We were like little fish, splashing around and having the time of our lives."

Elia's steadfastness in preserving Jefferson's heritage mirrors her mother's commitment to our community. Their family home, a testament to time, stands as a beacon of tradition and unity. As Elia looks out at her yard, filled with memories of raising her family in the same house she grew up in, and her son's nearby home next door, she stands as a guardian of laughter, tradition, and the vibrant spirit that defines our Jefferson neighborhood.

Whether one resides in our neighborhood for a month or over seven decades, the imprint left is invaluable. Each individual, woven into Jefferson's story, contributes to its colorful tapestry. As we reflect on Elia's impactful journey, it prompts us to consider our own legacy within this vibrant community. What mark shall we leave behind? How do we aspire to be remembered?





# Join the JNA



## YOUR KEY TO A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Are you looking for an opportunity to become an active participant in the growth and vitality of our neighborhood? Joining the Jefferson Neighborhood Association (JNA) as a member is your gateway to making a meaningful impact.

As a JNA member, you gain a voice in the decisions that shape our community's future. Whether you're passionate about local events, neighborhood beautification, or advocating for positive change, your membership ensures your ideas are heard and your initiatives supported.

But membership is more than just a seat at the table; it's an invitation to connect. You'll have the chance to build lasting friendships with fellow residents who share your enthusiasm for making our Jefferson NA the best place it can be.

Stay in the know with exclusive access to neighborhood updates, events, and initiatives. Your involvement as a JNA member isn't just about being informed; it's about actively contributing to our vibrant community.

Ready to take the plunge and become a JNA member? Your commitment to our neighborhood's growth and unity is invaluable. Join us today, and let's work together to create a neighborhood we're all proud to call home!



## Become a Member!

### MEMBERSHIP

The JNA Membership year is September 1 – August 31.

Individual Membership – \$10 per year

Family Membership – \$15 per year

You must be a paid member for at least 3 months to be eligible to vote in annual elections in August.

[JOIN NOW](#)



email: [neighbors@jefferson-sa.com](mailto:neighbors@jefferson-sa.com)

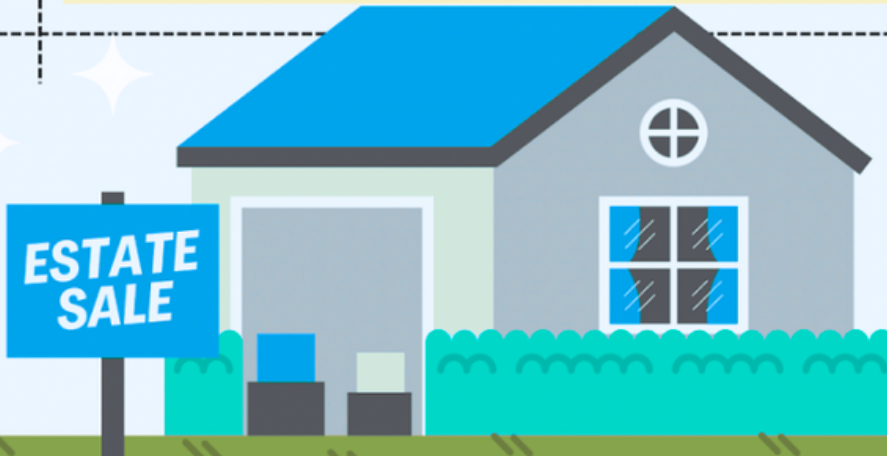
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210-887-4331

CWKEGL@AOL.COM

**NEW LOCATION COMING 12/1 -  
1818 FREDERICKSBURG RD., 78201**

# Support our JNA Business Members

## THE HEART OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Our neighborhood's vitality wouldn't be the same without the support and presence of our local businesses. In this section, we proudly introduce you to the businesses that are an integral part of our community, making our JNA the thriving place it is today. Learn more about these wonderful establishments and the contributions they make to our neighborhood.



[BECOME A JNA BUSINESS MEMBER](#)



### About Face Estate Sale Service

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No Estate too Large or too Small!  
Over 40 Years of Experience

**Charles Keyton | 1- (210) 887-4331 |  
cwkegl@aol.com**

**1818 Fredericksburg Road SA , TX 78201**



### Salon Diva Beauty Salon



Tuesdays-Saturdays 8AM-6PM

**Hilda De Hoyos | 1- (210) 541-6888 |  
salondivasa@gmail.com  
1910 West Grammercy Pl SA, TX 78201**

#### USE ME

(your business storefront / product photos could go here)

#### USE ME

(your business storefront / product photos could go here)

#### USE ME

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Jefferson Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 28552  
San Antonio, TX 78228

[jefferson-sa.com](http://jefferson-sa.com)  
[facebook.com/groups/jeffersonneighbors](https://facebook.com/groups/jeffersonneighbors)

**President: Ted Guerra**  
tedguerra12@gmail.com

**Vice President: Jason Vasquez**  
jasonv824@gmail.com

**Secretary & Newsletter: Madeline Chandler**

**Treasurer: Desiree Martinez**

**Board Members:**

Lynn Waghalter  
Jacob Valenzuela  
Gloria Valenzuela  
Stanley Waghalter  
Alan Garcia

\*Toni Cadena Honorary Board Member

**Past President: Elia Reyna**

**Advertising and Business Membership: Jason Vasquez**  
jasonv824@gmail.com

**Membership: neighbors@jefferson-sa.com**

**City of San Antonio**

Mayor Ron Nirenberg  
Website: <https://www.sanantonio.gov/>  
Office: 210-207-7107

**Bexar County Commissioner - Precinct 2**

Commissioner Justin Rodriguez  
Website: <https://www.bexar.org/3144/Precinct-2-Commissioner-Justin-Rodriguez>  
Office: (210) 335-2612  
[precinct2commissioner@bexar.org](mailto:precinct2commissioner@bexar.org)

**San Antonio City Council - District 7**

Councilwoman Marina Alderete Gavito  
Constituent Liaison: Frank Ramirez  
Website: <https://www.sanantonio.gov/council/d7>  
Office: 210-207-0870  
[district7@sanantonio.gov](mailto:district7@sanantonio.gov)

**San Antonio City Council - District 1**

Councilwoman Sukh Kaur  
Constituent Liaison: Nadia De La Garza  
Website: <https://www.sanantonio.gov/council/d1>  
Office: 210-207-0900  
[council.district1@sanantonio.gov](mailto:council.district1@sanantonio.gov)

**San Antonio Police Department - SAFFE Officer**

SAFFE Officer John Garcia #1447  
Office: 210-207-0810  
Cell: 210-218-6546  
[john.garcia3@sanantonio.gov](mailto:john.garcia3@sanantonio.gov)

**SAPD**

SAPD Non-Emergency: 210-207-SAPD (7273)  
SAPD West Substation: 210-207-7420

**SAISD**

SAISD Police: 210-271-3124

**Office of Historic Preservation**

Office: 210-207-0035

**Animal Control: Dial 311 or 210-207-4738**

**Code Compliance: Dial 311 or 210-207-6000**

**Graffiti Abatement Program: 311 or 210-207-2833**

## THIS IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER!

We welcome your contributions! This newsletter isn't just a publication—it's yours, a reflection of our vibrant community's stories, interests, and aspirations. We invite you to be an active participant in shaping its content. Have an interesting neighborhood story, event, or idea to share? We'd love to feature it. Your submissions bring life to these pages, making them a true representation of our neighborhood's spirit.

Please submit items of neighborhood interest to [neighbors@jefferson-sa.com](mailto:neighbors@jefferson-sa.com) by the 25th of each month. Articles should be sent as a word or google doc and photos as .jpg files.