

The Shade Tree



MPUM Neighbors Turn Out for October 8 Meeting

The weather was beautiful and the people came, with many enjoying the pleasant walk to the school. There was no official head count, but the data shown in the right column seem to suggest more than one hundred and twenty attended.

Several topics and suggestions were brought up from the floor expressing personal hopes for our association's future. You will find some of the more important and more urgent subjects covered in articles within this issue.

Our association president, **Bill Haughton**, explained that our discontinued Expanded Neighborhood Patrol program (ENP) could be restarted if there was enough desire among our neighbors. A show of hands indicated that a large majority of those present wanted to see the program adequately financed and put back in place. Read more about ENP on page 3.

The call went out for people to volunteer for a variety of large jobs and small tasks to benefit our neighbors and our beautiful neighborhood. And the volunteers were there, adding their names to volunteer-list sheets and gathering for quick introductory conversations with others sharing the same interests and commitment.

The successful and productive meeting was a welcome indicator of the health of our wonderfully vibrant neighborhood.

Some Data from the Meeting:

- 110** Sign-ins on the sign-in sheets
- 27** Sign-ins with two names listed for a single email address
- 1** Attendee known not to have signed in
- 52** New email addresses added to the MPUM neighborhood email list
- 493** Email addresses currently in the neighborhood email list





Merriman Park  University Manor
The Shade Tree

The Shade Tree is a publication of the Merriman Park/University Manor Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 821733, Dallas, TX 75382.

Submissions of articles, letters, tidbits, recipes and suggestions are invited and appreciated. Email us — newsletter@mpum.com.

Questions and comments about Membership and Dues — info@mpum.com.

Questions and comments about our Pet Services — pets@mpum.com.

Questions and comments about our Yard of the Month Awards — yotm@mpum.com.

Questions and comments about our Landscaped Entrances — beautification@mpum.com.

Questions and comments about our Volunteers In Patrol program — vip@mpum.com.

Questions and comments about MPUM's Expanded Neighborhood Patrol — enp@mpum.com.

- Please note that this email address is likely to be changed in the near future.
- MPUM's ENP program is independent of MPUM Neighborhood Association, but it is an important part of our beautiful neighborhood.

Questions and comments about MPUM Parents Group — parents@mpum.com.

- MPUM Parents Group, for parents of young children, is independent of MPUM Neighborhood Association, but it is an important part of our beautiful neighborhood.

Please address all other questions and comments to info@mpum.com.



A Letter from the President

Hello, MPUM Neighbors,

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on what has been going on over the last few weeks regarding our neighborhood. On October 8th approximately 120 people attended the neighborhood meeting at Hotchkiss to learn the history of the n'hood, where we are today and our needs and goals for the future. It was a great meeting and several people indicated their interest in getting involved in the various roles that make the Association run smoothly. We still have plenty of opportunities for volunteers to make a difference you so you can email Info@mpum.com and someone will get back with you to discuss your areas of interest and how they can compliment the many needs we have.

During the meeting there was a show of hands for interest in bringing back the ENP (Expanded Neighborhood Patrol) program and the response was overwhelmingly in favor. Plans are underway to offer that for 2025 where a uniformed DPD officer will patrol our streets several hours per week. Watch for additional information in the near future on that including the cost per household for this very worthwhile cause.

Communication will also be sent out regarding the annual voluntary dues for 2025. These dues are important to the neighborhood as they fund all expenses throughout the year including landscape maintenance and utilities at the entrances, seasonal plantings, website, PO box, and events to name a few.

MPUM is a great place to call home, and we are looking for help and participation to keep it a vibrant community in a great location.

Thank you,

Bill Haughton
President, MPUM Neighborhood Association

Your Best Value in Home Security



Stop Burglers Before They Reach Your Home

One of the most important topics that was discussed at the October 8 meeting was the need to reinstate our Expanded Neighborhood Patrol program (ENP). A show of hands among the attendees of the meeting was overwhelmingly in favor of raising enough revenue to fund the project.

ENP is a program offered to communities and operated by the Dallas Police Department (DPD). For many years prior to the beginning of any program similar to ENP, police officers have been allowed to make extra money for themselves by hiring out to private entities as security officers during their off-duty hours. The difference with ENP is that the off-duty officers can now come to our neighborhood fully armed and completely equipped with a patrol car, a DPD computer, and immediate ability to call for backup or other support. And of course, they remain fully empowered to make arrests as needed.

In the simplest terms, this can give us more police protection than DPD can now provide us with their limited numbers of on-duty officers.

Since rather expensive DPD equipment is used in the program, DPD must do the management. And we communities must not only pay the officer's income but also pay for the use of the vehicle with all its electronic equipment.

Research and calculations are now underway to determine what might be the best variations of the program for us to consider. When a few good cost-to-benefit ratio options are established, the options will be presented to the whole neighborhood for voting.

In the past, we had treated ENP almost as a program managed by our association, but now we have been advised to keep it separate, for its police-managed structure is actually outside our normal means of managing our other projects. This means that there will be a separate bank account for the ENP funds and a separate website for recruiting members and collecting dues.

Our association will continue to support and promote the ENP program, but our association officers will not be directly involved with ENP money or management. The ENP officers will not be answering to our neighborhood association officers, beyond providing periodic reports.

For now, please consider how much more safe from random crime we will all feel when ENP returns to our streets and alleys. Full details and costs will be announced soon, with a target of early next year for being in full ENP operation.

A call for Block Captains to serve the neighborhood

An idea we are reviving in response to the great discussions at our October meeting, is organizing a system of Block Captains throughout our neighborhood. These helpful people will pass information and assistance both ways, to and from our association and our neighbors.

A Block Captain's responsibilities will include:

- Getting to know the block neighbors and maintaining a list of names, and emergency contact information.
- Remaining alert to the needs of neighbors who may be hampered by disabilities or other challenges.
- Distributing crime alerts and suspicious activity reports to block neighbors.
- Distributing newsletters and flyers about urgent and special issues.
- Helping to recruit VIP patrol members.
- Greeting new neighbors and announcing them to our Welcoming Committee.

Block Captains can inspire neighbors to become engaged with the neighborhood and volunteer to help or lead a program for our neighborhood. And they can alert the newsletter editor about special achievements or an interesting neighbor to be featured in the newsletter.

If you think you can serve as a block captain, please send an email message expressing your interest to:

info@mpum.com



MPUM Neighborhood Survey

By Dione Rowell

Your neighborhood association needs to hear directly from you.

Want a traffic light at Town North and NW Hwy?

Want updated street lights on your block?

What makes our MPUM neighborhood a great place to live?

We want to know what to focus on in 2025 to make it even better, so watch for a survey coming to you next month. The survey will help sharpen our focus for our neighborhood. The survey will also help us shape the offices and committees needed to implement and maintain the improvements and address the concerns uncovered by the survey.

Please make sure we have an updated email address of every adult in your household. We truly want to hear from you for moving forward and focusing on what our MPUM neighbors want for their neighborhood.



Got Stories?

Your neighbors would love your contributions of articles, columns, and information that The Shade Tree could publish for their benefit and enjoyment.

You can submit completely written articles or just some notes that our editor can use. You can simply suggest good topics and ideas for regular columns, or your valuable contribution could be as small as a short letter to the editor. Please send your suggestions and submissions to the editor, **Gordon Cathey**, at newsletter@mpum.com.



A note from the editor:

*The article below appeared in our newsletter's March, 2012 issue. It was just one of a regular series of history stories told by **Ms. Rose Blatch**, a historian who was unofficially but almost universally considered our neighborhood historian. For the enjoyment and benefit of new comers to MPUM, we will be repeating in our future issues many of Rose's stories of our neighborhood's earlier years.*

Enjoy!

A Little History

By MPUM Historian, Rose Blatch

In the 1960s, the Dallas School District was building a school a month, and one of those was the L. L. Hotchkiss Elementary School in the heart of our neighborhood. The name chosen honors **Loys Leon "Hotch" Hotchkiss**, a veteran executive of the Circle Ten Council, Boys Scouts of American, who had died on March 11, 1960. Hotch and his wife, **Martha**, lived at 7149 Wild Valley. L. L. Hotchkiss Elementary opened September 1962.

Prior to the opening of L. L. Hotchkiss, the neighborhood children were car-pooled to Dan D. Rogers School on Abrams Road. The community embraced the new school in various ways. The University Manor Garden Club and the Merriman Park Women's Club each planted a live oak tree on the Hotchkiss Elementary School grounds. Tulip & daffodil bulb sales by L. L. Hotchkiss Preschool PTA were held as fund raisers.



L.L. Hotchkiss Elementary, opened in 1962, as it appears today.

Miss Eloise Santerre was a beloved early day teacher and librarian at Hotchkiss. Her father, **George H. Santerre**, was a descendant of a member of the French colony, La Reunion. He is the author of "The White Cliffs of Dallas," and "Dallas' First One Hundred Years." Miss Santerre lived on Freemont Street with an aunt until just a few years ago.

The DISD proposal to relocate Hotchkiss Montessori School to the former Dealey campus at 6501 Royal Lane in 1991 caused a big stir in the neighborhood. Town hall meetings filled the auditorium at Hotchkiss. The Dallas school board appealed a federal judge's order to keep the program at 6929 Town North. The Board won the appeal.

The school continues to have a place in the hearts of the Merriman Park/University Manor residents.



Get Ready for the Annual Hotchkiss Fun Run!

By Drew Allen

Join your neighbors for the 2nd annual Hotchkiss Turkey Trot Fun Run on Saturday, November 23 from 9-11 am! This festive, family-friendly event is the perfect way to kick off the Thanksgiving season together as a community.

Event Details:

Where: Starting at LL Hotchkiss Elementary and ending at White Rock Fellowship on Town North Drive.

Distance: A fun, 1.3-mile route, with small prizes for winners. It can definitely be done as a walk or a run - your choice!

Extras: Stick around after the run for breakfast, games, and a fundraiser raffle with exciting prizes!

To join, simply purchase a Turkey Trot T-shirt by scanning the QR code to the right or typing this direct link: <https://whiterock.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2553151>

Registration now closes on November 6th, so sign up today! Adult registration is \$25, and kids are \$15, with 100% of proceeds benefiting Hotchkiss.

Put on your best Turkey Day attire if you're feeling festive, and let's make this a great event for our community and the families of Hotchkiss.



Use this code to register.

Beautification is accomplished, not gifted to us!

Through the years that our association seemed to many to be dormant, there was a loving heart still beating. When our neighbors drove home and turned out of the line of impatient vehicles of the Northwest Hwy traffic, they were welcomed home by natural beauty at our neighborhood's entrance. "How nice of the City to plant those flowering plants and crepe myrtles for us!"

But you know what? Dallas didn't do that. Your neighbors did that. And they picked up the litter we all so despise. And they watered the grass and kept the lights burning every night. And they took down and trashed all the illegal signs stuck up anywhere near MPUM.

If we were to allow it, MPUM would be trashed, defaced by graffiti or worse, hidden under tall weeds, or showing its bare, dry and cracked dirt.

Have you noticed all the new neighbors who chose MPUM as a nice place to raise their families? Well, that story could be different. Those young families could have selected some other place, leaving empty, unsold, and deteriorating homes sitting here.

If you want to experience how beauty is attained and nurtured, contact **Dottie Giesler** at beautification@mpum.com.





Watching Changes in Local Real Estate

By Glenn Hunter

Because we're all affected by commercial as well as residential real estate trends in our neighborhood, **Lisa Knudson** and I have volunteered to start investigating and reporting on current activity in those realms for MPUM. Lisa will focus on what's happening residentially with the help of Realtor **Amy Koh**, who lives on Walling Lane. And I'll look into things on the commercial side, ideally by talking with brokers, developers and interested buyers who can let us know what new businesses might be coming.

We'll aim to provide a comprehensive overview by the first of the year.

Speaking of commercial property—and thanks mainly to Lisa's sleuthing—we already know the .21-acre parcel at the corner of Larmanda St. and Abrams Rd., next to the Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist, has been on the market since December of 2023. It's zoned for one (duplex) dwelling unit and listed for \$650K. Meantime, parts of the shopping center at the SE corner of Abrams and Skillman St. have been for sale since July for \$6.75M. Those properties total 5.75 acres and include the Harbor Freight Tools, discount liquor, barber shop and dry cleaner spaces (but not the Habitat shop or the standalone laundromat).



Your Annual Association Dues Are Only \$25.00 per Year!

The MPUM Neighborhood Association is a totally volunteer association, established by us, the residents of this beautiful neighborhood, for the purpose of serving our shared interests as neighbors.

The association asks you to personally help by volunteering your time in working for your neighbors in many different ways. Here, in this electronic publication, written and edited by your neighbors who volunteer their services, you can read of some of the events and committees that you could volunteer for. And you are free to suggest your own way of serving, with techniques we have not yet thought of.

Your association also asks you to voluntarily contribute a very small amount of money—only \$25.00 each year—to help pay for things like our website, maintenance of our neighborhood entrances, social events, our outdoor announcement signs, supplies for our Volunteers In Patrol to help keep us all more secure, electricity, water bills and plumbing for our neighborhood entrances, plants for the annual beds at our entrances, our custom neighborhood identity signs attached to our street-name signs, and several small things like the commercial-grade amber light bulbs in the lanterns at our entrances along Northwest Hwy. The city of Dallas does not spend a penny beyond their Sanitation collections to make MPUM a pretty place to live — your dues do that.

If you have any question about whether or not you have already paid in this fiscal year, we will be glad to look it up for you. Just send an email request to info@mpum.com.

Your check, made payable to MPUM, should be mailed to **MPUM, P.O. Box 820803, Dallas, TX 75382-0803**. Be sure to include your name and address with your payment. More details can be found at www.mpum.com.



We Accept the Responsibility for Our Safety!

We know that our police officers try to keep us safe, but they don't have eyes to watch everything that goes on in our neighborhood. So we have our own Dallas-Police-Department-trained staff of volunteer citizen patrollers, Volunteers In Patrol (VIP).

Armed only with cell phones and endowed with no enforcement authority, VIPs are trained in the best methods of observing and reporting to the police. The work that the VIPs do for MPUM is neither heroic nor difficult. It requires only some special training and the willingness to give of one's time to the community. The only reward is one's personal satisfaction.

We are always in need of more VIPs. There are twenty-four hours in every day and miles of streets and alleys in MPUM. But even if someone can patrol for only a couple of hours a week, that is time when we are all safer.

So here's the bottom line to your security: You should take part, just as your neighbors do. You should contribute your own few hours to our VIP program. This powerful crime prevention program is neither expensive nor difficult. More members in VIP means more patrol hours, and more patrol hours mean more security for everyone.

For more information about VIP send an email request to vip@mpum.com.



Your Neighbors Need You!

Here is a **very short** list of positions that need you. Please select one or two and volunteer to fill the jobs.

Elected officers for our upcoming year:
(You may nominate yourself)

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Some of our committees of "worker bees":

Beautification
Code Compliance
Volunteers In Patrol
Block Captains
Welcoming New Neighbors
Events Planning and Management
Communications
Photography
Pets, Lost and Found, and Advocacy
Liason with our City Council Member
Liason with Nearby Neighborhoods
Advertising and Sponsorship Sales

What are **your** talents and capabilities that we have not even thought of yet?

Please remember that some tasks are very small but still valuable. If you have only a little time to contribute, then do that — contribute a little time doing something to benefit your neighbors.

For all of your volunteering questions, please send email to info@mpum.com.



Here is a nice bonus gift to you

Your neighbor **Glenn Hunter**, who is taking up the challenge of keeping you informed about changes in the commercial real estate in our area, has reminded us of an article he wrote for D magazine eight years ago. It tells all D magazine readers why Glenn loves living in Merriman Park/University Manor.

We think you will enjoy reading it so much that you will pass it on to your friends and family members.

The article is available on the D magazine website, where we found the link to the article's illustration photo to be broken. But all of Glenn's writing is still there for you to enjoy.

Use your smart phone to scan this QR code:



<https://www.dmagazine.com/neighborhood-guides/2016/06/why-i-live-in-merriman-park-university-memor/>

