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January 2025

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### MORE INFORMATION

**OFFICE PHONE**  
210-497-3022

**EMAIL**  
CONTACT@ENCINOPARKHOA.COM

**ADDRESS**  
1923 ENCINO RIO  
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**SPECTRUM ASSOCIATION  
MANAGEMENT**  
210-494-0659

**OFFICE HOURS**  
MONDAY 9 AM – 2 PM  
WEDNESDAY 11 PM – 5 PM  
FRIDAY 9 AM – 2 PM

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COM.

## Message from the Board

By Nick Hamilton

Dear Encino Park Neighbors,

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on a wonderful 2024 filled with community spirit, great events, and cherished memories.

### **A Look Back at 2024**

We had an incredible year, and we're so grateful for the participation and enthusiasm of our neighbors at our events! Here are a few highlights from the last few months:

- **Music in the Park:** The soulful sounds of the Dave Deering Jazz Trio created a perfect evening of entertainment. Thank you to all who joined us for this relaxing and memorable night under the stars.
- **Annual Chili Cookoff:** A big round of applause for all the talented chefs who brought their A-game! Congratulations to the winning team, Wooferburgerton & Smith, whose chili was a crowd favorite!
- **Christmas Movie in the Park:** The cold and rainy weather hindered the movie but families still gathered for yummy hot cocoa.
- **Women's Club Visit with Santa:** The Encino Park Women's Club hosted a magical visit with Santa, bringing smiles to kids of all ages. Thank you to the club for their hard work in creating such a special event!
- **Annual Christmas Light Contest:** The neighborhood sparkled with holiday magic, and we were thrilled to see so much creativity and joy in your decorations. Stay tuned for photos of the winners on our community website!

### **Looking Ahead to 2025**

- We're excited to kick off a new year filled with opportunities to connect, celebrate, and strengthen our community.
- **Welcome our new Board Members:** Please join us in welcoming Cara Jacobsen as our new HOA Board President. Cara has been an active member of our community and is eager to bring fresh ideas and energy to the role. We also welcome new Board Members Nick Hamilton and Francis Carrillo, whose commitment to our neighborhood will help make 2025 a great year. A heartfelt thank you goes to Randy Smith for his dedicated service as President over the past term.
- **Exciting Events Ahead:** Stay tuned for announcements about upcoming events, including Music in the Park, Night in ol' Encino, pool season, 4th of July parade, the 2025 Chili Cookoff, and much more!

### **Stay Connected**

Keep an eye on your email and the community website for updates on neighborhood events, HOA news, and opportunities to get involved.

Here's to another year of building community and creating memories in Encino Park. Thank you for making our neighborhood a wonderful place to call home.



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 SECRETARY: KELSEY WOOD  
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 PARLIAMENTARIAN: ASHLEY BRYANT  
 MEMBER AT LARGE: RANDY SMITH  
 MEMBER AT LARGE: NICK HAMILTON  
 MEMBER AT LARGE: SERGIO MIELNIK  
 MEMBER AT LARGE: FRANCIS CARRILLO

**COMMITTEE & CLUB CHAIRPERSONS**

Architectural Control..... 210-497-3022  
 Block Captain - Gail Lamb/Daphne Sohocki ..... 210-901-9936  
 Crime & Safety Committee - Ashley Bryant ..... 210-497-3022  
 EP Involvement Committee - Sunny Brown ..... 210-497-3022  
 Over 50 Club - Dalia Benzick..... 210-497-3022  
 Pet Finder - Cindy Haines.....210-573-1085  
 Swim Team - John Kirschbaum..... 210-497-3022  
 Women's Club - Nancy Thomas..... 210-497-3022  
 Sew Bee It - Joan Raver ..... 210-497-3022

**TO VOLUNTEER FOR A COMMITTEE,  
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**ENCINO PARK SWIMMING POOL - 210-497-4333**

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**Non-Emergency Numbers**

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**SAPD: 210-207-7273 311: (512) 974-2000**

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My name is George Sohocki, and I have taught hundreds of senior citizens how to use technology. For about the last 10 years I have taught at North East Senior Center, Bob Ross Activity center, Commander's House activity center, the Bulverde Spring Branch activity center and many others. (Excluding the 3 years down time because of Covid-19).

We are starting a new technology class, exclusively for senior Citizens & residents of Encino Park, in the Community Center. Classes are going to start in January. Please call me or leave a message at 210-391-2515 to sign up. I will call you back and let you know when the classes will be schedule to start.

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## HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION FEES

### RAISED FOR 2026

Each Fall, the HOA Board meets to review budgets. This includes deciding if we need to raise our annual HOA dues too. We discuss financial trends, possible enhancement projects in the neighborhood, must have repairs to our community spaces etc. The past four years have been hard because we have seen astronomical raises in cost of living. This isn't just with grocery bills but also includes the utility bills for the community center and pool and our vendors who keep the neighborhood beautiful and safe. It's not a decision we take lightly because the annual raise in the dues affects us too. We have retirees and single salary homeowners on the board and everyone has had to tighten belts to make ends meet. But we do need to look at the bigger picture and how we want our community to develop and thrive with all of the newer communities surrounding us. On the bright side, even though we have had to raise the figure each year for several years now, we are still the lowest HOA in the northside and we have one of the most coveted neighborhood pool and community facility areas. We do not strive to ever reach their HOA fees either and hope to remain the lowest for years to come. We also understand that the reasoning behind raising the dues may not seem like it affects all homeowners. My mother doesn't use any of the facilities anymore – and she has been here in Encino Park since 1986. But she knows that the dues help the neighborhood to be fairly safe for her to walk every morning and the integrity of the homes and neighbors are constantly above bar.

We also will never hide any financial decision from the neighborhood. Monthly, Spectrum posts all of our financial statements on the neighborhood website. If you need guidance on how to find the website or the financials, please reach out to our manager, Noelle, at [contact@encinoparkhoa.com](mailto:contact@encinoparkhoa.com) and she can walk you through step by step.

We appreciate the feedback from all homeowners regarding the raise in annual dues each year. Please always share your concerns with our manager, Noelle, and she will pass along your information to the Board so we can continue to be better advocates for all residents.

## MINI ADVENTURES TO BREAK THE ROUTINE



Sometimes, a little adventure is all we need to shake up our routine and bring fresh energy into our lives. Here are a few quick and quirky ideas to help you find excitement in the everyday:

**Take a Different Route:** Even if it's just a trip to the grocery store, go a new way. You might discover a cute café, a scenic view, or a hidden park you didn't know existed.

**Have a "Tourist Day in Your Town:** Visit the local spots that tourists love but locals often overlook. Whether it's a museum, a historical landmark, or a quirky shop, seeing your area with new eyes can be surprisingly fun.

**Try a New Cuisine:** Challenge yourself to make or order something you've never tried before. Exploring new flavors can be an adventure in itself and might even inspire future cooking experiments.

**Switch Up Your Workspace:** If you're working from home or an office, try moving to a new spot—like a cozy coffee shop, a park, or even a different room. A simple change of scenery can boost creativity and focus.

**Create a Personal Scavenger Hunt:** Pick a theme, like "something yellow" or "items that remind you of childhood," and set out to find them around your neighborhood or city. It's a lighthearted way to reconnect with your surroundings and notice the small things.

Breaking the routine doesn't require a big vacation—sometimes, all it takes is a few small changes to add a bit of adventure to your everyday life.

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Time for a home safety  
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**S. smoke alarms:** They should be installed on every level of the home, inside every bedroom, and outside each sleeping area. Test all smoke detectors at least once a month.

**C. clear the path of escape:** Hoarding puts first responders in harm's way, increases the risk of fire, and impedes the search and rescue of people and pets.

**A. action plan:** Create a fire escape plan, and practice with all the members of your home. Also, make sure every room has two ways to escape, and create a family emergency communications plan.

**N. neighbors:** Reach out. Identify neighbors you feel may be vulnerable to fire dangers, then safely and kindly do your best to connect. Also, remember to help check your vulnerable family members living spaces frequently.

For more information and detailed instructions on safety plans and community resources including safety checks and smoke detectors visit:  
[www.FireSafeSA.com](http://www.FireSafeSA.com)

Have questions?  
Email [FireSafeSA@sanantonio.gov](mailto:FireSafeSA@sanantonio.gov)

## YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED...

In December, our Maintenance Team decorated the Community Center and our main entrance for the holidays. Over the years, we have had the endcaps of every sections also decorated with wreathes and garland and bows. Unfortunately, as the times change, those items were stolen several times throughout the holiday season.

In 2023, the Women's Club, who were very involved with decorating for the holidays until this past December, decided that they weren't going to continue replacing the wreaths on the endcaps – as it was futile. So please understand that our HOA did not forget the endcaps or the décor for them.

We're hoping for this 2025 holiday season, we can find some kind of alternative that will be less accessible for theft. If you all have any ideas, please contact the office at [contact@encinoparkhoa.com](mailto:contact@encinoparkhoa.com) or 210-497-3022.



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# EP TEEN DIRECTORY



Name	Age	Contact	Services
Wyatt Belz	17	210-309-5570	Power washing, brush hauling (2/23)
Faith Bush	14	210-323-6708	Pet sitting, house sitting (12/23)
Grace Bush	18	210-323-6708	Babysitting, house sitting (12/23)
Joseph Bush	16	210-323-6708	Lawn mowing, dog walking (6/23)
Isabella French	17	210-508-2337	Babysitting, pet sitting, and home organization (6/24)
Javier Garido	17	210-997-0771	Lawn mowing, pet sitting, car wash, weed eating (3/23)
Logan Haring	14	210-243-5135	Power Washing, brush hauling, car wash (3/24)
Erin Heilbrun	16	210-801-5288	Babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking, house sitting (2/23)
Ryan Kruger	16	210-787-0015	Lawn maintenance, power washing, dog sitting (2/24)
Taylor Long	15	210-279-0269	Lawn Mowing & Odd Jobs (4/27)
Blake Micklitz	13	210-410-2990	Babysitting, pet sitting, house sitting, lawn mowing, power washing (6/24)
Maggie Micklitz	18	210-410-2990	Babysitting, pet sitting, house sitting (8/23)
Clayton Micklitz	16	210-410-2990	Babysitting, pet sitting, house sitting, lawn mowing, power washing (8/23)
Caleb Schoellhorn	14	210-996-9163	Lawn maintenance (10/23)
Ethan Walkingstick	17	210-649-0307	Piano tuning (3/26)

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 [Info@neighborhoodnews.com](mailto:Info@neighborhoodnews.com). Please put "Encino Park Resident" in the subject line.

## Troop 360

**Meets at the Encino Park Community Center** every Tuesday at 7pm. For more information, visit <https://troop360.net/> or stop by one of our meetings! Contact Brian Craft at [troop360scoutmaster@gmail.com](mailto:troop360scoutmaster@gmail.com) Matthew Metzinger at [mattmetzinger@hotmail.com](mailto:mattmetzinger@hotmail.com)



## WE'RE GLAD YOU ASKED!

**Question:** In each newsletter, I hear about the events sponsored by EPIC. What is the EPIC group and who is behind this active group?

**Answer:** Here is some background on Encino Park Involvement Committee (EPIC). Sunny and Gordy Brown have lived in Encino Park since 1996. During that time, Sunny was an elementary school teacher and Gordy worked for AT&T in the marketing department. They each have served on the board of directors for the homeowners association while raising their three children.

Now that they are both retired, they saw an opportunity to help revitalize our neighborhood by getting involved and coordinating the EPIC events. From play dates in the park for the little ones, to the middle and high school pool parties, to the pool parties for everyone, to music in the park, these events are targeted at different age groups but all have the common purpose to bring neighbors together for fellowship, friendship and community. Several neighbors have joined in to offer their support. Currently, many of the events have a committee lead person to organize specific events so that the coordination doesn't fall on one or two people. Others volunteer as they can.

What is EPIC's message to the Encino Park residents? Find something that you're interested in, and jump in! Get involved by volunteering or attending one of the EPIC events. The activities have a broad appeal to groups of all ages, and what better way to meet and develop lifetime friendships with your neighbors?

If you would like to learn more about EPIC, come to one of their monthly meetings that are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the community center, follow them on Facebook, send an email to [epinvolvementcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:epinvolvementcommittee@gmail.com) or call or text Gordy at 210-416-7710.

Thank you, Sunny & Gordy, and everyone involved with EPIC, for making our neighborhood a great place to live! You're making a difference in our community!

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# OVER 50 CLUB

By Dalia Benzick

The Over 50 group is excited about this upcoming year. We lost beloved friends, but new neighbors have joined us and for that, we rejoice. We continue to challenge our brains and grow new cells via activities that include mental, social, and physical engagement. The games we play are designed for problem-solving, reasoning, concentration skills and having fun. When we share our time it gives us a sense of belonging and a connection to the EP community, therefore, we are happier.

We invite you to join us the first and third Tuesdays of each month 11:30 am to 2:00 pm in the community center. From our group, may 2025 bring you health and happiness.

For more information, call the office at 210-497-3022.



## OUT TO LUNCH

After the busy holiday season, we are going to relax this month and dine at IHOP, where there is something for everyone, no matter the time of day. We will go to the newest location in our area, at 17242 Autry Pond Road. This is near the Bulverde Road/1604 HEB. We will go on Monday the 27th at 11:30. Call Janet at 210-481-9956 by Friday the 24th if you plan to attend.

Our December Luncheon at Beverly Anderson's was wonderful. Beverly is the "Hostess with the Mostest"! Thirteen of us thoroughly enjoyed Beverly's hospitality, delicious food, and beautifully decorated house. It was a great time of visiting with each other, as well as family and other friends of Beverly's. Thank you, Beverly!



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# ENCINO PARK WOMEN'S CLUB

By Donna Morton

2025!! Our first meeting in our new year will be Monday, January 13th at 7:00 pm at the Community Building, We will have a light supper, and very appropriately have a program that aligns with the theme of New Beginnings! The program is still "Under Construction", it will prove to be full of new ideas and strategies! Please make it a priority for yourself to come! Let's get the year on the right track!

We had an amazing Holiday Party in December! Incredible Holiday dishes were enjoyed by all. The Charity Auction & the auctioneers (Nancy Thomas and Elice Palmer) provided a very successful and entertaining event! All in attendance voted to choose between two charities in order to select the one to receive the monies

raised during the evening. A non-profit located in Spring Branch/Bulverde, The Share Center will receive money to continue with their efforts to provide free pregnancy information and support to individuals throughout the pregnancy. The Center also helps with sexual health related issues with professional medical care. The goal of the auction is to support a charity that supports women and/or children.

The Pictures with Santa met with a chilly, rainy Saturday. Inside a wonderful Santa (Kenny Spear) was there to warmly greet the children and their parents. After getting their picture with Santa, there were cookies to decorate, crafts to make and special Christmas stories read by Encino Park resident Nathan Holiner.

## 2024-2025 Women's Club Meeting Calendar

January 13.....General Meeting: 7 pm  
February 10.... General Meeting: Galentines Dinner 6:30 pm  
March 17 .....General Meeting: 7 pm  
April 13.....Easter Egg Stuffing in CC: 2pm - 5pm  
April 14.....General Meeting: 7 pm

April 18.....Easter Egg Hunt: 10 am  
May 12 .....General Meeting Banquet: 6:30 pm

### 2024 Special Event Dates:

- Saturday, April 18, 10 am Easter Egg Hunt



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