

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

by NACA

February 17 Meeting

Sharon Henry, a Community Preparedness Program Specialist for the City of Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, will be the main speaker at the NACA meeting on February 17 at 7 p.m. at Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg. Sharon received her training through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute and was a newspaper journalist prior to joining the city. She covered stories such as the September 11th attack on the Twin Towers and California wildfires for the Orange County Register in Southern California.

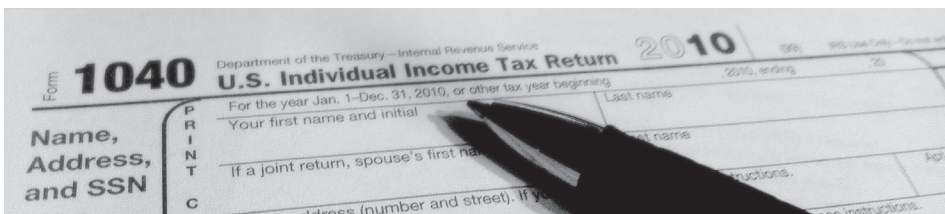
There will also be a short presentation from Texas Gas Service conservation program and a business meeting.

Plan to attend and find out what types of weather and home-related emergencies and disasters are most likely to encounter and how to best protect your family.

Free Tax Preparation Service Servicio Gratuito de Impuestos

Community Tax Centers, a part of Foundation Communities, once again is offering free tax preparation service to low income residents. If you or someone you know has an income of less than \$25,000 for a single person or of less than \$50,000 for a family of up to 4 people you can have your tax returns completed without paying a fee. ITIN document preparation is also available. There is a preparation site at the Goodwill Community Center on Norwood Park Drive (near IH-35 and Highway 183). To learn what documents to bring and when the center is open call 2-1-1.

Servicio gratuito de impuestos para los asalariados de bajos ingresos. ITIN servicio tambien esta disponible. Para obtener mas informacion, llame al 2-1-1.



NORTH AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION (NACA)

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ANC Representative

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NACN Representative

Peggy Mays.....512-835-2621

PO Box 180803
Austin, TX 78718
www.naca-austin.org

NEXT MEETING

Date 02/17
Time 7:00 pm
Place Little Walnut Creek Library
.....835 W. Rundberg

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President's Letter

By Eleanor Langsdorf

By the time this newsletter reaches you winter will be half way over. Hopefully, the weather will be moderating and Austin will be done with the cold temperatures of January.

Some trees will be starting to leaf out and others, especially live oaks, will be dropping their leaves. Gardeners will have been studying catalogs in hopes of finding just the right plant to add to a vacant spot in the yard. Cedar trees will have finished pollinating but other plants and grasses will be spreading their seeds into the air. Allergy sufferers will be looking for relief and hoping that sneezes and scratchy eyes will soon go away.

Now is the time for residents to look at their property and determine whether it is up to "snuff". Does the fence need some work—is it leaning or missing boards? Maybe trees need to be trimmed so they are at least 8 feet over sidewalks and 14 feet over roadways. Soon grass will need

mowing so that it is less than 12 inches tall. All those leaves falling off the oak trees will need to be raked up and put in paper bags or reusable containers. Remember—the city won't pick up leaves and yard waste put in plastic bags. Now is also the time to decide whether to replace water-hog plants with some that are drought and heat tolerant. Unless rainfall is more than it has been in the past few years Austin is likely to have water restrictions again this year. Or maybe this will be year to get rain barrels to put under downspouts and collect rainwater to be used to water plants outside and in.

I would like to remind those of you who are registered to vote to become informed about the issues that will come up as AISD prepares for school board elections. And urge those who are not registered to get registered now and vote in the next election. We need to impress upon elected officials that we have issues and want to be heard.

Finally, if you can please come out and join UT student volunteers on Saturday, February 26 as they work to help clean-up the NACA area, especially around Rundberg.

More Information about DRs

By Eleanor Langsdorf

After the January issue was written in early December, a change occurred in the roster of APD district representatives. The NACA area will be served by Officer Frank Wilson (correct as of January 10, 2011) who can be reached at 974-5598 or frank.wilson@ci.austin.tx.us. The support sergeant is Cara Boyd and her number is 974-6806 and her email address is cara.boyd@ci.austin.tx.us. The general number for all district representatives is 974-5598 and Gwen McLellan is still the administrative assistant.



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If you have News or Event Information please contact Linda Moore

Do You Know?

By Eleanor Langsdorf

Some information you might not know

(in no particular order):

- fences should be kept in good repair and should not be more than 6 feet tall unless the fence is between a residence and a commercial property or is around a hazard (such as a pool) and a city permit has been obtained for an 8 foot fence.

- trees should be kept trimmed to 8 feet from the ground over sidewalks and 14 feet from the ground over roadways.

- sidewalks should be clear of shrubbery and other vegetation.

- grass and weeds should not be more than 12 inches tall.

- all structures at an address must be kept in good repair.

- buildings (houses, apartment complexes, commercial buildings, etc.) should have street numbers large enough to be visible from the street.

- landlords are required to maintain rentals to the minimum standards set by the Uniform Housing Code and the Dangerous Building Code.

- garbage carts and recycling bins should be put for collection by 6:30 AM on the scheduled collection day but not before 8 PM the evening before. They should be brought in by 10 PM of the collection day.

- vehicles should be parked in the garage, on the driveway or on the street. They should not be parked on the front or side yard. If parked in the rear yard, they must be behind a fence. Commercial vehicles over one ton may not be stored on residential property. There are additional requirements for boats, antique and recreational vehicles and vehicles under repair. Call 311 for more information.

- parked vehicles should not block sidewalks.

- junk, garbage, rubbish, brush, filth, carrion or other unsightly, objectionable, or unwholesome matter may not be stored on property. Also no material may be stored on a vacant lot.

- home businesses are highly regulated. If you want to run

one, check with the city on requirements, legal issues and needed permits. Call 311 for more information.

- no more than two (2) garage or yard sales may be held at one address within one year. Holding more than two means a business is being run and a permit is required.

- swimming pools should be enclosed by an approved fence and should be maintained to prevent the water from becoming stagnant.

- signs may not be placed in the right of way or on street sign poles. Signs for such things as garage sales, lost animals, meetings, "for sale" and similar may be put on private property for a reasonable length of time. Signs placed on private property in non-residential areas require permits.



Historic home in the neighborhood at 1600 Payton Gin Road is now the Settlement Home.



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MONEY MATTERS:

2010 Year in Review

by Brian R. La Cour

Despite a faltering economy, NACA remains financially stable. We started the year with \$13,482.16 and ended with \$10,739.23, with the net drop attributed largely to neighborhood beautification efforts. (See accompanying figure for details.) A significant portion of our current balance (\$8,723.63, to be exact) is so-called “beautification money,” which is a separate fund provided for by Republic Services, Inc. through a partnership with NACA and earmarked specifically for neighborhood beautification efforts. Thus, the amount of “carryover” available for general use is actually only \$2,015.60. Last year, that amount was \$3,033.19, so we have declined slightly in both the general fund and in beautification funds.

Over the course of the past year, we were provided \$1,929.71 in new beautification funds (compared to \$2,082.06 in 2009), adding to the previous year’s carryover of \$10,448.97. Of this, \$3,375.26 was spent on neighborhood beautification efforts, resulting in a final carryover balance of \$8,723.63. Most of this money (about \$3,000) was used for the beautification of Ron Rigsby Park, an effort led by Ellen Martin and Caro DuBois, as part of a \$7,500 grant from the Austin Parks Foundation. The remainder was used for continued maintenance of the Heron Hollow green space at Payton Gin and North Lamar. Another roughly \$2,000 in new BFI funds is expected this year, resulting in some \$11,000 to be available for neighborhood beautification in 2011. Of this, \$5,000 has already been pledged to provide matching funds for a \$31,900 grant secured by Barry Woltag and Martha Dempsey from the Austin Parks Foundation to build a multipurpose trail in Quail Creek Park.

NACA is fully responsible for financing the printing of its newsletter. Advertising alone does not support this cost, so we rely upon NACA members, through dues and donations, to make up the difference. In 2010, we spent \$7,791.93 on printing and distributing the newsletter but brought in only \$4,457 in advertising revenue. Through your generosity and good sense, we raised \$1,813.28 in donations (compared to \$2,592.25 in donations in 2009). The newsletter is the lifeblood of this neighborhood, and your support has shown how important it, and this community, really is to you.

The other major expense is liability insurance, which is required for the protection of NACA officers and those engaged in volunteer services for NACA. The cost in 2010 was \$2,210.91, which is slightly less than what we paid in 2009. This, and other, miscellaneous expenses are covered by membership dues. Total membership for 2010 was 156 (down from 180 in 2009), with total revenue from dues, not including donations, at \$2,419.26.

For the 2011 budget, I’ve tried to maintain a set of realistic but cautiously optimistic predictions. Although I have projected roughly static growth in membership dues, I have assumed donation levels comparable to what we saw in 2010 and sufficient to cover the newsletter deficit. For neighborhood beautification outside of Heron Hollow, I have budgeted \$5,000 to cover the Quail Creek Park project. According to this budget, at the end of 2011 roughly \$1,000 would remain in the general fund and about \$5,200 would remain in the beautification fund for carryover to 2012.

In summary, the financial health of NACA remains quite good, and general funds are stable. Increased spending on neighborhood beautification will likely show a net decrease in funds by the end of the year. The newsletter deficit remains an issue, but if we can maintain the donation levels we saw in 2009 and 2010 (on average, \$10 per member), a long term solution may indeed have been found. Thank you all, once again, for your very generous and continued support of our dear, quirky little neighborhood.

See next page for 2011 Proposed Budget

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Proposed Budget for 2011

	2010 Budget	2010 Actual	2011 Budget
Starting Balance	\$13,482.16	\$13,482.16	\$10,739.23
INCOME			
Membership	\$2,500.00	\$2,419.26	\$2,500.00
BFI host fee	\$2,000.00	\$1,929.71	\$2,000.00
Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garage Sales	\$350.00	\$543.01	\$500.00
Donations	\$2,500.00	\$1,813.28	\$2,000.00
Ads	\$4,500.00	\$4,457.00	\$4,500.00
Other	\$0.00	\$445.06	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,850.00	\$11,607.32	\$11,500.00
EXPENSES			
Newsletter	\$6,500.00	\$7,791.93	\$7,500.00
Insurance	\$2,400.00	\$2,210.91	\$2,200.00
ANC Membership	\$35.00	\$70.00	\$35.00
Donations	\$500.00	\$258.93	\$500.00
Heron Hollow	\$500.00	\$362.76	\$500.00
Nbhd Beautification	\$5,000.00	\$3,200.00	\$5,000.00
P.O. Box	\$86.00	\$92.00	\$100.00
Office Supplies	\$100.00	\$102.92	\$100.00
Other	\$0.00	\$260.80	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,121.00	\$14,350.25	\$15,935.00
NET CASH FLOW	-\$3,271.00	-\$2,742.93	-\$4,435.00
Ending Balance	\$10,211.16	\$10,739.23	\$6,304.23



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HEB to Undergo \$6.9 Million Renovation

By Linda Moore

The HEB on North Lamar in the NACA neighborhood will undergo a \$6.9 million expansion/renovation starting in June. It should be completed by December 2011.

Manager David Seeker said the produce department will expand by about 4,000 s.f. and there will be a corn tortilla factory in the store, making fresh tortillas and corn chips. The North Lamar store will provide corn tortillas and chips to all the HEB locations in Austin.

- The deli will have seating for 48 people and a grill will be added.
- The store will get all new equipment, shelving and cases and the bakery equipment will allow the store to make bread and cakes from scratch, instead of using frozen items from another location.
- The employees will expand from about 240 to 300 when the renovations are completed. The mezzanine level with offices will remain similar, except that the employee break room will be expanded.
- David said the frozen foods will be relocated to the right side of the store and the business office will also move to a new location. A 20-ft. service meat case will be added. The restrooms will be remodeled and expanded and the outside will be painted.
- The store has the third highest transactions per week (38,000) in Austin and an estimated 100,000 people per week visit the store. The changes are expected to increase sales about 10% in 2012.
- David Seeker has been manager of the store for 8 years and previously managed the Albertson's store at 183 and Ohlen Road, which is no longer there.

Parking at Kramer Station

By Eleanor Langsdorf

Perhaps you wish you could take Metrorail downtown or out to Leander or Lakeline but don't want to walk or take a bus to the Kramer Station. You will be glad to know there is now a parking option. As of January 16, commuters may park on Brockton Drive from Kramer Lane to the curve on Brockton Dr.

Or perhaps you know someone who works at National Instruments, IBM, The Domain or J. J. Pickle Research Center and would like to take the train but wonders how to get from the station to a work site. Well, now there is a connector bus, number 466, that starts at the station and makes a loop to these locations. The bus leaves a few minutes after the train arrives at the station. So people who live farther north or south could ride the train in and then take the bus the rest of the distance to work. Hopefully, this would save a rider some money and provide an opportunity to read, rest or do some work while avoiding the stress of driving on Highway 183, IH 35 or Mo-Pac.



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A Substitute Teacher's Experience in AISD

By Doris Williams

Ed. Note: Doris Williams is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel who began substitute teaching in AISD in 2006-7. She teaches at LBJ, Eastside Memorial, Reagan, Atkins, McCallum, Anderson, Lanier and Travis.

I am writing to share my experiences as a substitute teacher in AISD. My goal as a substitute teacher is to provide an environment for students to learn, grow, and graduate. I used to substitute in the middle schools, but the students' behavior was so unproductive and disruptive that I choose not to work in middle schools any more. I see this same behavior intensify as students transition to high school in many cases.

I have observed that many substitute teachers experience chaos in the classroom. Students say that "subs aren't expected to instruct." According to them, subs just sit and read the newspaper in the classroom. Perhaps we are responsible for some of the problems by not earning and demanding respect in the classroom.

In my opinion, if I am unable to maintain order in a classroom, it is not due to inability, but because (in most instances) students know there are no incentives for good behavior or meaningful consequences for bad behavior.

It may be that educators and administrators whose responsibility it is to make a difference may not care about the students, fear retaliation, are afraid to "whistle blow" or say anything about the disciplinary problems for fear of putting their own jobs at risk. They may realize that there are no adequate consequences for bad behavior or measurable incentives for good students. Some just want a paycheck or may be frustrated or incompetent.

I realize there are those who will disagree with me and it is possible I could suffer negative consequences for being outspoken, but substitute teaching is not my only qualification. Nevertheless, these are my experiences and I understand they are not unique to AISD. There are many good students, educators and administrators in AISD trying to make a difference under some difficult circumstances. I am sharing my experiences because I care and hope we will find answers and solutions so that our children will have a brighter future.

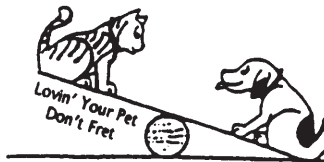
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GARDEN NEWS

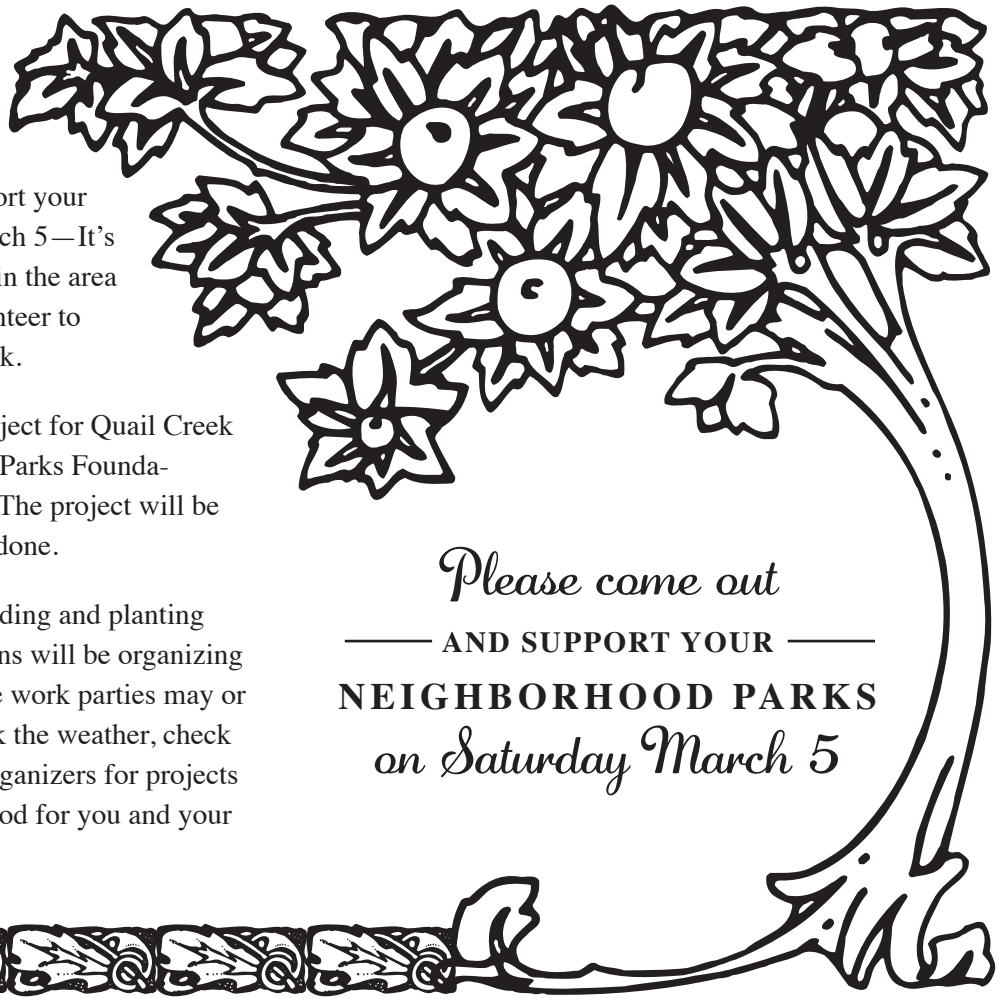
It's My Park Day!

By Caro Dubois

Neighbors, please come out and support your neighborhood parks on Saturday, March 5—It's My Park Day. We have several parks in the area and many across the city. Please volunteer to help with projects in your favorite park.

Barry Woltag will be organizing a project for Quail Creek Park. You can volunteer at the Austin Parks Foundation website at <http://austinparks.org>. The project will be described there and what needs to be done.

Ellen Martin will be organizing a weeding and planting party for Ron Rigsby Park. The Almons will be organizing a work party for Heron Hollow. These work parties may or may not happen on March 5. So check the weather, check your calendar and check with these organizers for projects in your favorite park. Gardening is good for you and your neighborhood.



Please come out
— AND SUPPORT YOUR —
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
on Saturday March 5



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Help maintain Heron Hollow | Planning Commission Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Code Enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a Beautification volunteer |

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