

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

by NACA

September 15th Meeting:

NACA members will hear two speakers at the Sept. 15 meeting: Travis County Commissioner Ron Davis and Kristi Stillwell, program coordinator for **Austin Safe Routes to School**. Commissioner Davis will discuss the role of a county commissioner and the current redistricting efforts and will be available for questions afterwards. Ms. Stillwell will present information about how children can walk and bike safely to school.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg. Commissioner Davis grew up in East Austin, where he was raised by his grandparents. Before joining the Commissioner's Court, Ron was known for keeping an ACC campus in East Austin and forcing major oil companies to move their tank farms out of East Austin neighborhoods.

Kristi Stillwell moved to Austin from her hometown in Albuquerque, NM about two years ago and became the program coordinator for Austin Safe Routes to School in March 2010. She enjoys working with SRTS schools and coalition partners to achieve the project goal of increasing the number and safety of kids walking and biking to school. She has a background in health education, contract administration and grant management and holds degrees in nutrition and public administration from the University of New Mexico.



NORTH AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION (NACA)

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**PO Box 18083
Austin, TX 78718
www.naca-austin.org**

NEXT MEETING

Date 09/15

Time 7:00 pm

Place..... Little Walnut Creek Library
835 W. Rundberg

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Important Note To NACA Members

Members of NACA are asked to make suggestions for a fund-raiser for the organization and we are especially interested in knowing if you would coordinate the event you suggest. Send your ideas to Eleanor Langsdorf (elangsdo@yahoo.com) or Ann Teich (annteich@austin.rr.com) and volunteer to help raise some money. A fund-raiser can be a fun event, so put your creative ideas to work!



President's Letter

by Eleanor Langsdorf

Good things have been happening in NACA during the last several months.

Sidewalks have been installed in two different areas. A stretch along Northgate Blvd. has a new section of walk that replaces an unpaved area

that was narrow and dangerous for the users. Now there is a wide, well-laid out walk from Rundberg back toward Colony Creek. This work was done by the city under the guidance of Mark Cole. And **children now have a safe route to school** along Plains Trail. Here not only were sidewalks installed from South Meadows all the way up to Kramer but the open culverts were enclosed and curbs installed on the east side of the street. This work was also done by the city under the guidance of Jose Guerrero.

Another walk that has been completed is the **walking path at Quail Creek Park**. Here there are both paved and granite walks that complete the circuit around the park. And the repairs to the watershed area appear to be complete with the unwanted growth and trash trees gone, so that the view across the park and creek is improved. This work was done under the guidance of the city. Part of the improvements came from a grant provided by Austin Parks Foundation. One thing I would ask users to be alert for is graffiti. Shortly after the walks were completed graffiti appeared on the walks and some of the retaining walls. It appears that the graffiti has been painted over but the temptation for taggers to deface again is there. So, **if you come across graffiti call 311 and report it**. If possible take pictures and ask to make a police report.

And, of course, the **HEB** store at Rundberg and North Lamar **is being enlarged and renovated**. If you shop there you are aware of the many changes that have taken place. The management is working hard to help customers find what they need and assure them that the store will be an attractive place to shop once the work is done.

Work is continuing on the design for the **community/recreation center** that will be built by the city and operated by the Y at the intersection of Rutland and Mearns Meadow. It is anticipated that the design will be completed and permits issued soon. It will be interesting to watch the progress of building once the ground is broken.

I know there are many **volunteers who do large and small tasks within NACA**. This newsletter wouldn't exist without the work of the volunteer editor, the contributors, the walker

coordinator, the wonderful people who fill the bags each month, the distributors who get the bags to the walkers and the walkers who get them to the readers no matter the weather. Then there are the people who pick up trash as they walk in the parks and on the streets. Others show up once a month (except July, August and December) to clean a specific street. And still others save plastic drink bottles and aluminum cans for NACA. These are collected and sold to make a little money to cover the cost of supplies for the street clean-ups and to support other beautification projects. A great big thank you to each of you. Your efforts to support the efforts of NACA are greatly appreciated.

An opportunity to get to know some neighbors is the Austin recognition of **National Night Out**. In Austin this will take place on **October 4 from 7 to 9 in the evening** Turn on your lights and get out to meet your neighbors.



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*If you have News or Event Information
please contact Linda Moore*

Volunteers Needed

by Eleanor Langsdorf

Many of you are aware that members of NACA worked hard to improve a small piece of land known as **Heron Hollow** at the intersection of North Lamar and Payton Gin. This spot was once a neglected corner that was overgrown and littered. Now it is a well maintained oasis in a sea of streets and buildings. There are benches for resting, trash cans so that people have a place to deposit bottles and cans, a Chimney Swift tower so that chimney swifts have a place to nest, small garden plots and trees that provide color and shade for visitors. But now there is a need for some more people to come forward to support Heron Hollow. Volunteers are needed to help with the watering of the trees and plants so that they are not lost to the heat and drought we have been suffering through. Willing hands are needed to maintain the beds and to occasionally empty the trash cans.

If you can do this or would like more information, contact **Eleanor at 873-0480**. This is not a big commitment and can be shared by several people. So if you are looking for a way to help improve our community this may be the right one.



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History Of The Paper Bag

by Gina Almon

While the Austin City Council considers banning plastic bags, we should consider where we would be without paper bags. We use paper bags for many things: for lunches, bringing home groceries, taking out the trash, holding things and keeping us organized.



Before there were paper bags, people would bring a container to hold the items they bought at the market. If the customer did not have a container, the storekeeper would twist some paper together to hold the purchase, called a cornucopia, and some shops made the holders ahead of time and glued them together.

By the 1860's, the first machines for making paper bags were invented. S.E. Petee is remembered for making the best of these machines. However, all of the machines were slightly different and each one made different bags. In 1869, the Union Company of Pennsylvania made a machine for paper bags. By 1875, the Union Company was making so many bags they changed the company name to Union Bag & Paper Company. In their first year as a bag company, they made 606 million bags, a huge number for that time. At about the same time, Margaret Knight worked in a paper bag factory. She had invented a new part for the paper bag-making machine that would automatically fold and glue the bags. At first, no one took her seriously because she was a woman and they didn't think she could know about machines. However, her part was installed on the machine and she is now considered the mother of the grocery bag. The part she invented is still used today. Margaret Knight went on to start the Eastern Paper Company in 1870 and to patent 26 other inventions.

BOB'S BARBER SHOP

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Austin, Texas 78753



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Upcoming Dates To Remember

September 11

Street cleanup – Rutland from Lamar to Parkfield, meet at HEB, NW corner at 8:30 am

September 15

NACA meeting at Little Walnut Creek Library, 7 – 8:45 pm

October 4

National Night Out 7 – 9 pm

October 8

Street cleanup – Payton Gin from Lamar to Ohlen, meet at Lanier H.S. at 8:30 am

October 11

Region 2 Commanders' Forum 7 pm at Parmer Woods 12429 Scofield Farms Dr. (at Parmer Lane east of Metric Blvd.)

October 20

NACA meeting at Little Walnut Creek Library 7 - 8:45 pm

October 22

Hazardous waste collection at the clock tower lot on Stonebridge near the intersection of Rutland and Parkfield 10 am to 2 pm.

November 17

NACA meeting

Ongoing dates to remember

Little Walnut Creek Library is open Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 9 pm, closed Friday, open Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 2 to 6 pm.



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Austin Police Department Alert Network

by Eleanor Langsdorf

APD has a program called the **Alert Network** that allows the police department to instantly update citizens about crime, emergencies and other important information.

Alerts are delivered by e-mail and can be sent by text message to cell phones. There are four types of alerts: Citizen, Business, Case and Watch Group. Citizen alerts inform registered users about public safety concerns in a given area. They contain information about a variety of topics such as crime trends, missing persons, advice on personal safety and ways to safeguard property. They can provide descriptions of suspects.

Business alerts are designed to serve specific types of business. Enrolled businesses receive information about crimes specific to the business. Case alerts let the police automatically share information about open cases with all registered Citizen Observer users.

Watch Group alerts permit police to send specific neighborhoods alerts about crimes that are happening in their immediate area.

The Alert Network provides two-way communication between police and citizens. Police can update citizens on situations that require their attention. As citizens learn about fugitives, missing persons and unsolved cases they can provide tips directly to the police. To sign up to receive Citizen, Business and Neighborhood alerts do the following:

1. Go to www.citizenobserver.com/registration.jsp
2. Fill out the form. And to make the program more effective, ask others to join.

CitizenObserver is a secure website and protects your privacy. More information can be found in the privacy policy.

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The Most Entertaining (And Cheapest Experience In Town)

by Susie Milam

I know lots of people who claim never to have ridden the bus in Austin. I've been riding it downtown once a week for years, but this spring I started riding it more frequently as a challenge to see how long I could make a tank of gas last. Some days the other riders are annoying, but frequently there are memorable experiences. Here are some of my favorites.

► I was engrossed in my book and hardly noticed when a man sat down next to me. After a bit, he asked, "Do you own a cat?" I looked down at my black shirt and guessed he asked because I had some cat hair showing. We started telling dog and cat stories, and he claimed his dogs can tell when it's Saturday. He says every other day of the week they hang out with him in the kitchen while he fixes breakfast . . . except on Saturday when they go sit in front of the TV waiting for him to turn on cartoons.

► There was a young woman, possibly a UT student, sitting near me. Her clothing was not particularly noteworthy: flip-flops, spaghetti-strap top, short jeans skirt. As the bus rounded a corner, someone's loosely-capped bottle of chocolate milk came flying, bouncing, spilling all over the bus. Some of it got on the girl's feet and skirt. She had a total meltdown and started screaming "Stupid, f---ing homeless people! I'M ON MY WAY TO A JOB INTERVIEW!!!!" (One has to wonder exactly what kind of job she was interviewing for!)

► Smart phones have made the bus a bit quieter, so instead of loud one-sided conversations, more people are likely to just be texting with their thumbs. But there's still the occasional Drama Queen who wants the world to hear about her latest romantic breakup, or the recent Control Freak who was demanding directory assistance find him a whole list of official phone numbers, including the "Police complaint hotline number." (Yeah, like they've got one of those.)

► Once a loud-mouthed teenage girl was spraying profanity on everyone within earshot. The driver (a no-nonsense woman) warned her twice to tone down the language and the volume, or she would be removed from the bus. So when the girl didn't quiet down, the driver stopped and went back to personally escort her off the bus. Everyone cheered the driver.

► Last winter I sat near a man who had a walker, said he was homeless, and was going down to the ARCH to pick up his disability check. Since I was reading a book, he asked me

about it, and then we had a lively conversation about books. He's quite a reader of both fiction and non-fiction, and especially likes John Grisham novels.

► Recently, a whole flock of students and staff from the Texas School for the Deaf got on; two were in wheel chairs. It was interesting to watch the staff help the kids pay their fares, direct them to empty seats, and then watch sign-language conversations among them.


► On the same trip, a man behind me was having a very lively conversation . . . with himself, not a word of which was understandable to me. A lady got on and sat next to him. She was totally comfortable with him and told him she didn't mind if he talked to himself, but then she started talking



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French to him. He didn't seem to pay any attention to her, but continued his monologue, which was liberally laced with great peals of laughter. (Maybe he was practicing his stand-up comedy routine.)

Where else can you get that much fun for \$2?

July Commanders' Forum

by Eleanor Langsdorf

On July 12 Region 2 police commanders and officers held the quarterly meeting with citizens to provide information on crime statistics and answer questions. Officers also provided some hints on ways to keep our homes more secure and prevent burglaries.

For the quarter ending June 30 the following were reported: 10 rapes, 84 robberies, 124 aggravated assaults, 522 burglaries of residence, 1367 thefts, 834 burglaries of vehicles and 133 auto thefts. These statistics are for all of Region 2. Region 2 covers 87 square miles. Most of its boundaries are the same as though of the city. Only the southern boundary is in the city and runs along Anderson Lane and then along a generally south west line down to the river. A map can be found by going to the city website and typing in district representatives as a search term. NACA is only a small portion of the entire region. The police reported that crimes in all categories are down from 2010. They also stated that there is a goal to have an officer respond to every crime report in Region 2.

As can be seen from the above numbers, burglaries and thefts make up the largest numbers of reported crimes. Since burglary of residence and burglary of vehicle are usually crimes of opportunity officers advised that citizens take steps to reduce chances of being a victim. To reduce property crime they advise that citizens look at the perimeter of their homes – if there is a fence check that it is secure. Make sure bushes do not provide a place for someone to hide. Then look at the exterior of the house and make sure doors and windows lock securely. Install deadbolts and replace screws on exterior locks with 3 inch ones. Use motion sensor lights or leave an exterior light on at night. Put bikes, etc., away. Close the garage door. Finally, for the interior make sure it looks occupied. Use timers to turn on lights when away. Take pictures of valuables. Write down the serial numbers on electronic equipment. For safety have someone else keep copies of the photos and numbers. Don't store them only on your computer in case it gets stolen. Some of these same ideas can be used by apartment dwell-

ers. As always for autos, follow the three rules: hide all valuables in the trunk and do this before arriving at your destination; lock the vehicle, and take the key.

Another way citizens can help reduce the chance of being a victim is by getting to know neighbors. Be aware of which vehicles belong in the driveways of nearby houses. Neighborhood watch programs suggest the 5 rule – the neighbors on either side and the three across the street. Share phone numbers so that when something odd happens calls can be made to determine whether there is a need to call police.

Finally, attend the next commanders' forum so that you can meet the officers who are often our first contact with APD. The final one for 2011 is October 11 at 7 pm at Parmer Woods, 12429 Scofield Farm Road in the dining room.

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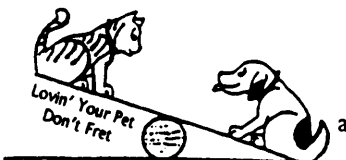
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Walkers Needed In Your Area

Walkers are needed to deliver the NACA newsletter, if you can help on any part of a street listed below, please contact **Mary Tokumaru** email: mtokumaru@inyourhands.org. Thank you to all our volunteers who are keeping our community informed.

AREA 1: Alden Dr. (24), Brookfield (54), New Hampshire (19), Sequoia (6)

AREA 2: Hunters Trace (40/Payton Gin-Rndbrg), W Rundberg Ln (12/W of Parkfield), Rutland Dr. (60/W of Parkfield), Tronewood (5)

AREA 3: Grouse Meadow + 1201-1205 Rutland(58), Little Elm Park (15), 909-1207 W Rundberg Ln (68)

AREA 4A: 10305-10410 Golden Meadow Dr. (26)

AREA 4B: 10501-10612 Golden Meadow + 10503-10600 Little Pebble (48), Lambert Cir. (31), Lanshire Dr. (84), Topperwein Dr. (78), Pine Knoll Dr. (55)

AREA 5: Barnhill + 1442-1469 S. Meadows (40), Bird Creek(66) + Fieldwood(78) = (144), N Meadows Dr. (146) Quail Blvd. (6)



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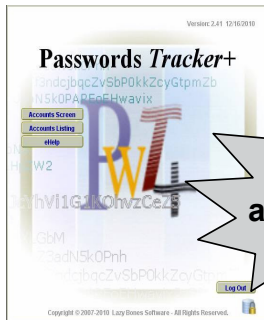
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