

# YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

by NACA

## Burglary Unit Topic in November

Lt. Jessica Robledo and Sgt. Mary Hesalroad, APD veterans with more than 20 years each, will speak to NACA members at the **November 17** meeting about the recently organized Burglary Unit. The meeting is at 7 p.m. at Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg.

Lt. Robledo heads up the **Centralized Property Crimes Division**, which includes many other units, including the centralized Burglary Unit. Sgt. Hesalroad supervises detectives in the **Burglary Unit** and they are now housed together to investigate specialized information and analysts are trying to connect the dots to see if there is a pattern on the break-ins.

The unit has two teams of detectives and two sergeants who investigate burglary of residences and burglary of businesses. Lt. Robledo and Sgt. Hesalroad will share statistics on how effective the unit has been since it was established.

They will also share some tips on how to assist the investigators: take pictures of your items and record serial numbers before the burglary takes place.

## Sidney Lanier High School: Celebrating 50 Years on Nov. 12th

By Nancy Lehmann-Carssow

**Saturday, November 12**

- The day kicks off with a 3k fun run starting at 8am! For details and to register for the run visit: <http://vikingcharge.eventbrite.com/>
- At 11 a.m., Viking Ghost Town Raid Motorcycle Ride. From 12- 5pm we will have vendors set up in the courtyard selling food, commemorative items, a photo booth and other fun activities for the whole family! You will also have the opportunity to visit with your former teachers, administrators, staff and classmates in the gym, bid on items at the Silent Auction and enjoy local student talent during that time.
- At 1:00 pm we plan to open the 1986 time capsule! (Continued on page 3)



## NORTH AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION (NACA)

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Eleanor Langsdorf.....512-873-0480

### Vice President

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PO Box 180803  
Austin, TX 78718  
[www.naca-austin.org](http://www.naca-austin.org)

## NEXT MEETING

Date.....11/17

Time ..... 7:00 pm

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

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## President's Letter

By Eleanor Langsdorf

Well, it is getting to be fall, sort of, here in Austin. We have had some rain but not enough to end the drought. And weather forecasters are saying we might have the current weather pattern

for a year or more longer. So we need to continue our efforts to reduce water use as much as possible. Of course, this means that trees and shrubs are dying and lawns are dead. On the plus side, there is less noise and pollution from lawn mowers and weed whackers. On the negative side, there are many people who have had little work this year because few landscapers are being hired.

Some good things are happening in NACA. The ground has been broken for the recreation center to be built on Rundberg. Projected completion date is November, 2012. At Quail Creek Park work has been completed on the creek so that drainage is improved for when the rain comes. The walking path is complete and being well-used. And the park should get a new sign to replace the existing damaged one soon.

A new trash receptacle has been installed near the tennis courts at Wooldridge. And NACA is providing trash cans for the playing fields at Wooldridge through the beautification fund.

Sometime soon the crossing signal near the library will be replaced with a more visible one, similar to one on Rutland near the railroad tracks. The goal is to improve safe crossing for pedestrians. Sidewalks near Wooldridge have been improved with the construction of curb cuts at many intersections. These also improve safety for walkers and bikers. And citizens are helping keep many of the streets clean by picking up litter and reporting unsafe conditions to 311 as they see them.

H-E-B is continuing the renovation of the local store. Small strip centers are getting new tenants. Malibu Apartments are being renovated and improved and the name has changed to The Palms.

But not so good things are happening also. Someone has been breaking windows in vehicles parked on the street. At least 50 were broken in one night in an area near Lanier High School in early October. Since then more have been broken in other neighborhoods throughout NACA. If this should happen to you, please report it to the police and also directly


to **Officer Wilson, 974-8135**. If you have some idea of the person responsible please share that with the police.

People are still parking their vehicles on front and side lawns. This is against ordinance in NACA and carries escalating fines for each time a vehicle is ticketed. The parking makes the area look trashy and is damaging to the ground. It impacts the soil and leaking vehicles put toxic substances into the ground and, ultimately, into the ground water.

Since we don't meet or publish in December, I need to remind you to pay your dues now so you can vote in January for officers. Or nominate yourself or someone else by December 10 so the slate can be published in January. New voices and ideas are always needed so that NACA can continue to be an active, effective and productive voice in the quest for city services for the residents of this great part of the city of Austin.

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 Curtis Big-Un Janie



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 Randy Teich, and Ellen Martin.

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

(Continued from page 1) We will also be placing items to be resealed in the capsule until the year 2036 at 5:00. We will also recognize this year's inductees into the Lanier Hall of Honor: Ms. Gayla King and Mr. Wayne Skrhak.

- At 6:00 pm there will be a barbecued chicken, pork ribs and Elgin sausage and delicious sides from Austin's locally owned Hoover's Cooking.
- The evening concludes with The Fabulous Chevelle's and music to dance down memory lane until 10:30! Please go to website above to purchase dinner/dance tickets!

### Important Information:

Besides marking your calendar for the "big day," we are asking you to update your information and accomplishments since you graduated on our web site at: [www.laniervikings.org](http://www.laniervikings.org) We will put all future updates and registration forms on the site.

Secondly, as we renovate the north courtyard, we will be paving it with personalized bricks you may purchase for only \$25 or \$50. You can order directly at: [www.cutinstone.biz/display.asp?DepartmentID=1970](http://www.cutinstone.biz/display.asp?DepartmentID=1970)

Lastly, we have a scholarship fund for our students and if you would like to donate \$250 or more, you may select the name for your scholarship. You may also donate to our 50th Anniversary Fund that will help us defray costs of mailings and other preparations. Contributions to either fund are tax deductible. Contact [nlehmann@austinisd.org](mailto:nlehmann@austinisd.org) for more information.

## Holiday Sale to Benefit NACA

A holiday sale will be a fund-raiser for NACA on Saturday, Nov. 26 from 8:30 to 1:30 at 9605 Mountain Quail. Linda Moore is coordinating the event at her house and welcomes donations of holiday items, including tree ornaments, lights, wrapping paper, nativity scenes, clothing or shoes with a holiday theme.

Please bring items by Nov. 21 and call 577-1015 before coming to make sure someone is home.

The event will include miniature trees, lights, candles, holiday jewelry and lots of other costume jewelry, linens, and serving dishes. In addition, a king size hand-made quilt will be raffled off and tickets are 3 for \$5 and will be available starting Nov. 1 from **Linda Moore, 577-1015**, or **Eleanor Langsdorf, 873-0480**. All funds from the raffle and the

holiday sale will be donated to NACA.

**The drawing for the quilt will be held during the holiday sale on Nov. 26th.**



## Classic Car Show

Classic car owners and enthusiasts are invited to attend a show at State Inspector of Texas, 9433 Parkfield (near Rutland) on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 3-7 p.m. Glenn Reinke, owner, says the neighborhood is welcome to stop by and see the classic cars and enjoy barbecue and music in his parking lot.

As for classic car owners, there is no registration required, so bring your vehicles over for the show. Dave Turner, a NACA resident, is planning to bring his 1953 Chevy half ton pickup (see photo) to the show and others with classic cars are invited to be there, too. The car show is not limited to NACA residents, so invite your friends.



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Glenn D. Reinke  
Owner / Operator

# Ground-Breaking for North Austin Community Recreation Center

By Linda Moore

A long-awaited ground-breaking ceremony was held for the North Austin Community Recreation Center at 1000 W. Rundberg Lane on Oct. 13, a project that got funded with \$8.9 million in the 2006 City Bond election.

Speakers at the ground-breaking ceremony included Gloria Pennington, member of the Arts Commission; Kelly Latz, chair of the Metropolitan Board of Directors, YMCA; Linda Moore, former president of NACA; Bill Dunn of J.E. Dunn Construction; Lynn Osgood, member of the Arts in Public Places Panel; and Sara Hensley, director of the City Parks and Recreation Dept.

The Community Recreation Center construction should get underway in early November and is scheduled for completion in November 2012. It sits on 6.9 acres of land bounded by Rundberg, Mearns Meadow, and Rutland (behind H-E-B) and will be a Green Building with many energy conservation features.

The center is a joint project between the City Parks & Recreation Department and the YMCA. It will incorporate a gymnasium, yoga and aerobics rooms, a computer lab, a community lounge which is open for use by the public and a community garden. The City of Austin Art in Public Places Program will commission an artist to design and implement a community garden of about 10,000 sq. ft. NACA member Randy Teich has served on the Project Design Committee.

To make the day even more special, Mayor Lee Leffingwell issued a proclamation, making Oct. 13 North Austin Civic Association Day. See the website: [www.naca-austin.org](http://www.naca-austin.org) for the full text of the proclamation.



From Left to Right: Randy Teich, Evelyn Monnich, Nancy Lehmann-Carsow, Martha Dempsey, Sherry Pyle, Linda Moore, Susie Milam, Eleanor Langsdorf, Jo Sue Allen, and Fran Milligan



Original task force members who lobbied for the Community Center to be on the 2006 Bond Election: (l to r) Nancy Lehmann-Carsow, Judge Cliff Brown, Martha Dempsey and Linda Moore.

## NACA Park

By Brian Almon

### Heron Hollow

Caro Dubois struggled to keep the trees at Heron Hollow alive. She purchased 5-gallon plastic containers to haul water to the area when the creek became too dry to supply pump water. She did this on a regular basis to save the trees. The garden did not survive the early part of the summer and no attempt was made to install new plants in late summer and early fall. Hopefully, next spring will bring more rain for a 2012 garden. With the creek running dry, the turtles and small fish have disappeared and the herons were not sighted. This year we did not see any chimney swifts occupying the tower constructed by the Boy Scouts – maybe next year. A new Heron Hollow sign was installed to replace the older one which had deteriorated (see photo). The old pecan trees made nuts but they dropped to the ground before becoming mature.

Many thanks to Chester Martin, Ellen Martin, and Caro Dubois for their faithful service to the neighborhood





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# Drought impact on the landscape

By Ellen Martin

The heat and drought this summer have significantly impacted on trees, shrubs, and landscape plants across central Texas. Many native plants, adapted to heat and low moisture, are doing well despite the extreme drought which is expected to last through next year. Other plants were not able to survive the once-a-week watering restriction during this record summer heat. Some plants have brown leaves, broken branches, and still others may appear dead but still have green under the bark and could still recover. According to Texas AgriLife Extension Service horticulturists, this is an opportunity for people to rethink landscaping plans and possibly choose plant materials that are more drought-tolerant and require less maintenance if replacing plants becomes necessary.

The plants that fare best during drought are mid-maturity plants with well-established root systems. When a plant is stressed from heat and drought, the first response is to reduce water loss (transpiration) by closing tiny pores in the leaves called stomates. If the leaves lose more moisture than it can draw from the root system, the plant will appear wilted. The root systems of a tree or shrub have tiny feeder roots with root "hairs" that are responsible for the bulk of water uptake. Located in the upper 15 to 18 inches of soil, feeder roots are the first part of the root system affected by dry soil conditions. If the soil is too dry, the root cells can die and the water absorbing capacity of the plant is severely reduced. Newly planted trees without a strong network of feeder roots and older trees with extensive root networks are most vulnerable to drought.

Drought-stressed plants are more vulnerable to pests and diseases. Supplemental watering in the late night / early morning hours does not change the normal wet period on plant surfaces because this is the time when dew usually forms. Watering that extends the wet period into the mid-morning or begins the wet period early in the evening can change the pest/host dynamics of the plant and contribute to pest problems. Drip irrigation systems are an effective way to deliver water directly to the roots where it does the most good. A thick layer of mulch prevents water loss through evaporation.

If your lawn has browned off, regrowth is possible depending on the type of grass you have. Some grasses have crowns and others have "growing points." If you continue to irrigate the lawn through the cooler fall weather, there

is a good chance that the lawn will bounce back in the spring. Many turf grasses including St. Augustine, Bermuda grass, buffalo grass, and Zoysia are resilient and capable of surviving drought conditions. It takes several weeks of fall irrigation to determine whether the grass will recover or weeds will take over. The Texas AgriLife Extension has a useful publication: "Keep Your Lawn Alive During Drought," (B-6126). If your lawn does not survive then "Turf Grass Selection for Texas," (L-5519) provides useful advice on grass selection and care. Also the AgriLife Extension has a new website: <http://agrilife.org/drought/>

## Ron Rigsby Park

The impact of the drought has been very noticeable at Ron Rigsby Park at 1110 Little Elm Park Drive. The ground was so dry that 4-5 inch cracks in the earth appeared throughout the park. The drip irrigation system installed last summer was effective in delivering water directly to the trees and shrubs, except in some places where the cracks allowed water to flow away from tree roots. This was most noticeable on the newest Redbud tree planted during It's My Park Day this past March. Compost was used to fill the cracks around the root ball to improve water adsorption and prevent water run-off. Although the Redbud leaves are still curled and leathery, we expect this young tree to survive with continued supplemental hand watering. The cracks also caused some of the other trees to lean so they were staked. The recent rain soaked into the clay soil causing expansion that closed all but the largest cracks throughout the park. With the irrigation system, the most drought tolerant plants (Desert Willow, Anacacho Orchid, Rosemary) are healthy and thriving and the wildflowers (mostly orange cosmos) bloomed all summer. Thanks to the Eagle Scout project, park visitors are enjoying the tables and benches on a daily basis. We will have a park spruce-up the weekend after Thanksgiving to clean up the flower beds, and plant wildflower seeds. Check the NACA website for project details or email [ellenemartin@gmail.com](mailto:ellenemartin@gmail.com) to volunteer.



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# Joint Clean-Up Effort near Hoop Zone

By Linda Moore

In late September, there was a joint clean up behind Hoop Zone between APD, Code Compliance and Easter Seals. NACA's district rep, Officer Frank Wilson, reported that the area was infested with transients and that they were creating potential fire and biohazards with their activities.

All of the trash, some of the debris and overgrown brush has been cleared out. The photos included with this article show trash that was removed from the water drainage area near the 800 block of Rutland and 9602 Park Village Drive (the Park at Quail Creek condominiums).



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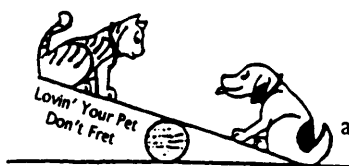
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# Walkers Needed In Your Area

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](mailto:mtokumaru@inyourhands.org).

A new Distributor is needed for **Area 4B**. A Distributor is responsible for insuring that the Walkers of their area get their newsletters in a timely manner. **The boundaries for Area 4B are:** Kramer (north), Parkfield (east), Mearns Meadow (south), and Metric (west). Currently, the 4B Distributor delivers 15 bags to 4B Walkers and it takes about a ½ hour. Please contact Sherry Pyle, email: [sdpyle@austin.rr.com](mailto:sdpyle@austin.rr.com). for a map & an address list of current walkers.

## NACA AREAS:

**AREA 1:** no walker needed **AREA 2:** Briardale (26), Hunters Trace (40/Payton Gin-Rndbrg), Rundberg Ln. (12/W of Parkfield), Rutland Dr. (61/W of Parkfield), Tronewood (5) **AREA 3** Grouse Meadow + 1201-1205 Rutland (58) 1103-1127 Rundberg + 9302 Collinfield (28) **AREA 4A** – no walker needed **AREA 4B** Lambert Cir. (31), Pine Knoll Dr. (55) **AREA 5** Barnhill + 1442-1469 S. Meadows (40), Bird Creek (66), Fieldwood (78), N Meadows Dr. (146), Quail Blvd. (6)



*Newsletter Walkers distribution area in need.*

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### Holiday Traditions!

**Santa's Arrival** – Saturday, November 19, 10:00am  
 Welcome Santa to his holiday home with a multi-cultural parade. Wear traditional holiday dress to celebrate!

**Holiday Marketplace** – November 25 – 26, December 17 – 18, 22 – 24, 12pm – 6pm Daily  
 Find the perfect holiday gifts handmade by local Austin artisans.

**Santa Photos** – November 19 – December 24  
 Bring the kids for visits and photos with Santa for a special holiday memory.

**Storytime with Santa** – Wednesdays, November 30 & December 7, 10am  
 Listen to wonderful holiday stories and every child receives a free holiday bell.

**Pet Photo Night** – Tuesday, December 6, 6pm – 9pm  
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