

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

by NACA

February 16th Meeting

The Feb. 16 NACA meeting will include a presentation from **Alejandro Savransky** of the Clean Water Fund about how residents can conserve water. Planners from the **City's Planning and Development Review Department** will give members an update on Imagine Austin, the city's comprehensive development plan.

Nancy Lehmann-Carsow, who has worked at Lanier for 40 years, will be recognized for her achievements at the school and as a member of NACA for many years. She retired in late January.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg Lane.

Money Matters: 2011 Year in Review

by *Brian R. La Cour*

Despite a faltering world economy, NACA remains financially stable. We started the year with \$10,739.23 and ended with \$15,931.36. (See accompanying figure for details.) A significant portion of our current balance (\$14,357.25, to be exact) comprises the so-called "beautification fund," which is a separate fund provided 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 only \$1,574.11. Last year, that amount was \$2,015.60, so we have declined slightly in the general fund while increasing significantly in beautification funds. This increase is attributed largely to grants totaling \$5,500 from the YMCA and The Park at Quail Creek for a beautification project in Quail Creek Park, together with an outstanding obligation to the Austin Parks Foundation, in the amount of \$10,000, for this same project. Thus, our unobligated beautification funds are actually only \$4,357.25.

Over the course of the past year, we were provided \$7,544.37 in new beautification funds (including the aforementioned \$5,500 grant), adding to the previous year's carryover of \$8,723.63. Of this, \$1,910.75 was spent on neighborhood beautification efforts, resulting in the final carryover balance of \$14,357.25.

Another roughly \$2,000 in new beautification funds is *(Continued on Page 3)*

NORTH AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION (NACA)

President

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

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

NEXT MEETING

Date.....02/16

Time.....7:00 pm

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

IN THIS ISSUE

February 16th Meeting.....	1
Money Matters: 2011 Year In Review	1
President's Musings.....	2
Reminder Dues.....	2
Sección en Español	4
Traffic Calming Projects	4
Construction YMCA NACRC	6
Shopping Carts.....	6
Citizen Observer Network	7
Help Wanted.....	7
Walkers Needed	8

SECCION
EN ESPAÑOL

Consiga Artículos en Español en la Página 4



President's Musings

By Eleanor Langsdorf

As I drive the streets in NACA, I notice that many people are sprucing up yards, cutting grass, raking leaves, and trimming shrubs and trees. This is great as it makes homes on the market more attractive to potential buyers. Just remember to put any discarded yard waste in paper bags or reusable containers. City workers will not pick up grass, leaves and such in plastic bags.

Recently there have been random break-ins and instances of petty vandalism of vehicles. It is important to be vigilant and to be aware of the people who live on your street or in your building. Continue the practice of locking doors and windows, using security lights at night, putting tools, toys and equipment away and closing garage doors. Make sure shrubs and bushes do not block views of your windows. Overgrown bushes in front of windows give someone who wants to break in a place to hide. If you see people who appear to be "casing" your property or your street, don't hesitate to call APD. Also don't invite someone into your home who appears at your door either uninvited or unknown to you. Finally talk with Officer Frank Wilson about having a safety inspection done.

One on-going issue is poorly maintained fences. Privacy fences are an attractive addition to a landscape when the boards are upright and in good shape. But when they get worn, are leaning, or have missing pieces they give the impression that the resident has not taken a good look at the fence in a long time. I know fences can be expensive but it is not difficult to take a hammer and some nails to loose boards and put them back in place. So take the time during the winter months when the temperature isn't 100 degrees to look at your fence and make some repairs. If you have a lot of fence talk to your neighbors about the possibility of sharing the cost of repair or replacement.

As always thank you for your support of the association. If you are not a member look for the membership form in a newsletter and join. Or go to our web-site for information. Continue to save aluminum cans and water bottles for recycling by NACA. Money raised is used to help cover the cost of small beautification projects. Call me at **873-0480** and I'll collect them. Don't drink soda or bottled water? Volunteer for another activity – monthly street clean-up on Rundberg, Rutland, Payton Gin, Fairfield and Jamestown (one street a month, no clean-ups in July, August and December), individual litter collection, maintenance help at Heron Hollow (corner of Payton Gin and Lamar), newsletter walker

or City Hall observer. Finally please attend the monthly meetings, meet neighbors and get information. If you have ideas for programs, contact Ann Teich with your suggestions.

Reminder Dues

By Eleanor Langsdorf

It is February and past the date when annual dues should be paid. So if you meant to pay your dues in December or January but forgot, please take a few minutes to cut out the form on the back of the newsletter, fill it in, attach your check and mail to the treasurer at P. O. Box 180803 Austin, TX 78718. Or bring your money to the next meeting and turn it in to the treasurer or any of the other officers. As noted elsewhere your dues help with the various expenses that NACA has. Thanks for taking care of this chore.




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

Money Matters (Continued from page 1) expected this year. Considering the outstanding \$10,000 obligation, this means about \$6,000 should be available for neighborhood beautification in 2012.

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 2011, we spent \$7,253.44 on layout, printing, and distribution of the newsletter but brought in only \$3,930 in advertising revenue. Through your generosity and good sense, we raised \$2,222.02 in donations (compared to \$1,813.28 in donations in 2010). The remaining \$1,101.42 was paid for through our Christmas garage sale, which brought in \$477.55, and through membership dues. (This is the main reason for the drop in general funds.) 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 2011 was \$2,229.80, which is slightly more than what we paid in 2009. This, and other, miscellaneous expenses are covered by membership dues. Total membership for 2011 was 143 (down from 156 in 2010), with total revenue from dues, not including donations, at \$2,433.34.

For the 2012 budget, I have once more tried to maintain a set of realistic but cautiously optimistic predictions. Although I have projected roughly static growth in membership dues and donation, comparable to what we saw in 2010, but dropped the amount of anticipated advertising revenue by \$500. Thus, total projected income for the general fund is \$9,000, while total projected expenses are \$9,500. The difference will have to be made up by further eroding our carryover money. For neighborhood beautification outside of Heron Hollow, I have budgeted \$13,000 to cover Heron Hollow, the Quail Creek Park project obligation, and other beautification efforts. According to this budget, at the end of 2012 roughly \$1,000 would remain in the general fund and about \$6,000 would remain in the beautification fund for carryover to 2013.

	2011 Budget	2011 Actual	2012 Budget
Starting Balance	10,739.23	10,739.23	15,931.36
INCOME			
Membership	\$2,500	\$2,433.34	\$2,500
Donations	\$2,000	\$2,222.02	\$2,000
Ads	\$4,500	\$3,930	\$4,000
Garage Sales	\$500	\$477.55	\$500
Republic Service host fee	\$2,000	\$1,862.49	\$2,000
Grants	\$0	\$5,500	\$0
Other	\$0	\$741.67	\$0
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,500	\$ 17,167.07	\$11,000
EXPENSES			
Newsletter	\$7,500	\$7,253.44	\$7,200
Insurance	\$2,200	\$2,229.80	\$2,200
Donations	\$500	\$0	\$0
Heron Hollow	\$500	\$840.96	\$1,000
Nbhd Beautification	\$5,000	\$1,069.79	\$12,000
Other	\$100	\$580.95	\$100
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,800	\$ 11,974.94	\$22,500
NET CASH FLOW	-\$4,300	\$ 5,192.13	-\$11,500
ENDING BALANCE	\$6,439.23	\$ 15,931.36	\$4,431.36



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SECCION EN ESPAÑOL

Reunión de NACA el 19 de Enero

El 16 de Febrero la reunión de NACA incluirá una presentación de **Alejandro Savransky** de la Fundación de Aguas Limpias, acerca de como los residentes pueden conservar agua. También estarán presente planificadores de el **Departamento de Estudio de Plan y Desarrollo de la Ciudad** y quienes darán a los miembros un avance de los proyectos que está desarrollando la organización Imagine Austin para el desarrollo comprensivo de la ciudad .

Nancy Lehmann-Carsow, quien ha trabajado en la escuela Lanier por 40 años, será reconocida por sus logros en la escuela y por ser miembro de La Asociación Civil de el Norte de Austin (NACA) por varios años. Nancy se jubiló a finales de el mes de Enero.

La Reunión será a las 7:00 pm en la biblioteca Little Walnut Creek, localizada en 835 W. Rundberg.

Comienza la Construcción de el nuevo YMCA NACRC de la ciudad de Austin

Si ultimamente a manejado por la calle W. Rundberg Lane, seguro se ha dado cuenta de la gran cantidad de actividades que están ocurriendo en el lugar donde el nuevo edificio de vanguardia de la ciudad de Austin/ YMCA Centro de Recreación para la Comunidad de el Norte de Austin será construido.

La contratista general JE Dunn Construction comenzó el trabajo de tierra durante los días festivos de Diciembre, limpiando la locación y añadiendo relleno en donde el edificio será construido. AJ Bloomquist, gerente de Proyecto para JE Dunn, dice, "La actividad de construcción incrementará mucho más durante las próximas semanas cuando la fundación de el centro empiece a agarrar forma y comience el trabajo de utilidades bajo tierra"

Cualquier vecino que quiera saber sobre el progreso de el proyecto, podrá notar los siguientes cambios a ocurrir:

- **Finales de Enero** – Los pilares que sostienen la estructura serán taladrados y rellenos.
- **Febrero** – Varios proyectos bajo tierra tomarán lugar y los bloques de concreto seran rellenos
- **Marzo/Abril** – Los páneces de las paredes de concreto y paredes decorativas serán puestas en lugar.

Este complejo "Verde" estará diseñado para cumplir con los requerimientos de el Nivel Plata de LEED (Liderasgo en

Energía y Diseño de Ambiente). El edificio será de 2 pisos e incluirá 37,000 piés cuadrados de gimnasio, cuartos para reuniones y cuartos para actividades. Los arquitectos de Studio 8 una compañía basada en Austin, diseñarán el interior de la instalación. Benz Resource Group otra firma local será el gerente de programa para este proyecto. La construcción esta programada para ser terminada a finales de otoño de el 2012.

Este proyecto representa muchos años de planificación y esfuerzo de grupo, por parte de la organización Civil de el Norte de Austin (NACA), YMCA de Austin, y muchas otras organizaciones locales, agencias y compañías.

Traffic Calming Projects

By *Eleanor Langsdorf*

Over a year ago some of the streets in one section of NACA received traffic calming measures – Mearns Meadow, Mountain Quail, Quail Valley, Oak Hollow, Macmora, Cripple Creek, South Meadows, Plains and perhaps one or two others. As part of that project what are called planted medians will be added to some of the streets.

According to George Jackson, P. E., the project manager of the Department of Public Works for the city of Austin these median islands will be placed at the following locations: three on Mearns Meadow (near Boyer Blvd, Quail Blvd and Rutland), one each on South Meadows near Newmont Rd, Newmont near South Meadows, Prairie Trail near South Meadows, Plains Trail near Prairie Trail. The last median island may not be installed as the width of the streets has been reduced with the installation of sidewalks on Plains Trail.

Plans are nearing completion as various permits are acquired and coordination with public and private utilities is completed. Efforts are being made to coordinate the work with city street and bridge maintenance schedules. The current schedule calls for plans to be completed by the end of February, construction to start in early May and to wrap up by the end of July.

If you would like more information, call Eleanor at 873-0480 and she can send the emails from Mr. Jackson.

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Construction is underway on the new City of Austin/YMCA NACRC

If you've recently driven along West Rundberg Lane, you've likely noticed a flurry of activity at the site for the new state-of-the-art City of Austin/YMCA North Austin Community Recreation Center.

General Contractor JE Dunn Construction began earthwork around the holidays, clearing the site and building up the pad on which the building will sit. AJ Bloomquist, Project Manager for JE Dunn, says, "Construction activities will ramp up further during the upcoming weeks with the foundation of the facility starting to take shape and underground utility work commencing."

Neighbors wanting to keep track of the progress of the project can look for the following to occur:

- **Late January** – Piers to support the structure of the building will be drilled and poured
- **February** - Lots of underground work will take place and concrete slabs will be poured
- **March/April** – Concrete tilt wall panels and decorative concrete walls will be lifted into place

This "green" facility is designed to meet the requirements of the Silver Level of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The building will be 2-stories and include 37,000 square feet of fitness, meeting, and activity space. Austin-based Studio 8 Architects designed the facility. Benz Resource Group, another local firm, is the Program Manager for the project. Construction is scheduled to be complete by late fall 2012.

This project represents many years of planning and a team effort on the part of NACA, the City of Austin, the YMCA of Austin, and many other local organizations, agencies and companies.



Shopping Carts

By Ann Teich

Have you noticed the abandoned shopping carts lying along streets in the neighborhood?

They make the area look untidy, as much as the trash does, which is picked up once a month by our Keep Austin Beautiful volunteers.

Neighborhood businesses can't seem to keep up with the carts, so NACA needs one or two volunteers with pickup trucks to help load up the carts once a month and deliver them back to the business owners. If you can help with this project, contact Ann Teich at annteich@austin.rr.com or 797-7724.



Linda Moore
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Citizen Observer Network

By Linda Moore

APD has created an internet link with citizens called The Alert Network that provides two-way communication between APD and the public. The Alert Network allows you to receive updates about crimes, emergencies and other important information.

All alerts are sent by e-mail and are also available as a text message on your cell phone. Citizen alerts inform all registered users of public safety concerns in your area. The alerts contain information about crime trends, descriptions of suspects, missing persons and advice on personal safety plus how to safeguard property.

Business alerts are targeted to specific types of businesses, so each business receives information about crimes that are pertinent to that type of business. Case alerts allow APD to automatically disseminate information about open cases to all registered citizen observer users.

Watch group alerts allow APD to send targeted alerts to specific neighborhoods with information about crimes that are happening in that area.

To sign up, go to www.citizenobserver.com/registration.jsp and fill out the form. Citizen observer is a secure website and protects your privacy.

Help Wanted

By Eleanor Langsdorf

NACA is in need of a few people to take on some sorely needed tasks. As you will learn in the article about the finances and budget of the association there has been a drop in the number of people who are paying dues. Dues help to pay for the newsletter, required insurance, postage, and small miscellaneous expenses.

So the board is looking for a member or two who would be willing to follow up with former members and urge them to renew. It would be great if the volunteer could come up with a way to get more residents to become members.

Another need is for a person who would search for small grants to cover part or all the cost of the newsletter (lay-out and printing). If the cost of preparing the newsletter could be reduced, the cash flow could be improved.

If you have skills in either of these areas that you are willing to share with NACA, please contact me at 873-0480. You would have the gratitude of the board and have a chance to work with some great people.

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AREA 1: no walker needed

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

AREA 3: Grouse Meadow + 1201-1205 Rutland (48), 1103-1127 Rundberg + 9302 Collinfield (28), Kirschner Pl + Tina Ct (22), Conrad St (11)

AREA 4A: no walker needed

AREA 4B: Lambert Cir (31), Golden Meadow + Little Pebble (48/N of Mearns Meadow), Kramer Ln (4/W of Prkfld)

AREA 5: Barnhill + 1442-1469 S Meadows (40), Bird Creek (66), Fieldwood (78), N Meadows Dr (153), Quail Blvd (6)



Newsletter Walkers distribution areas.

NACA MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Enclosed are my dues for 2012
\$15 for Regular Membership, \$25 for Silver Membership,
or \$50 for Gold Membership*

- Help Deliver Newsletter
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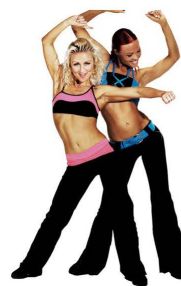
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