

# YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

by NACA

## June 21st Meeting

At the June 21 NACA meeting, **Battalion Chief Robert Bredahl of the Austin Fire Department** will be one of our speakers. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg Lane.

NACA members will also hear about the **Envision Conference** from **Hannah Bell**, conference, host. More information at [www.theenvisionconference.com](http://www.theenvisionconference.com).

## Needed - NACA Members

By Eleanor Langsdorf

As Brian LaCour wrote in last month's newsletter, membership in NACA seems to be declining. NACA is a voluntary membership organization but it is hoped by the officers and current members that all who live within NACA's boundaries would find benefit in being members. Membership dues support the newsletter and fund liability insurance for volunteers working on NACA projects. Except for the person who does layout for the newsletter all people who are active in NACA are volunteers.

Right now we need readers to realize some of the activities that member volunteers provide benefits everyone who lives within NACA. Some of us are active in representing everyone at City Hall by making council members and staff aware of issues that concern our area. Others who have green thumbs help maintain the green spaces within our area. Examples include Heron Hollow, Ron Rigsby Park, gateway intersections and the walking path at Quail Creek Park. All of these projects were undertaken by volunteer members who spent many hours researching ways to improve these locations and then putting in time to make the changes happen.

A big benefit to NACA is a service provided to us by Allied Waste Services. The company gives us six bulky waste pickups that greatly supplement the two the city provides. These allow residents to more easily dispose of unwanted furniture and similar large items that *(Continued on Page 3)*

### NORTH AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION (NACA)

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**Vice President**

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Gabe Rojas..... 512-468-4455

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

### NEXT MEETING

Date ..... 06/21  
Time ..... 7:00 pm  
Place..... Little Walnut Creek Library

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## President's Musings

By Eleanor Langsdorf

I'll try to keep this short as I know you all have lots of things you might be doing in the time you spend reading this. As noted in last month's issue, NACA is facing something of a cash crisis as membership is not keeping pace with prior years. Hopefully, Brian LaCour's article reminded you to send in your dues for the year. A large membership base helps convince city officials and others that NACA does represent the needs and desires of the people who live in this part of the city.

We have all been enjoying the rains that have fallen in our area the last several weeks. But as the weather people remind us we are not out of drought yet so we need to continue to be water-wise. Follow the city watering schedule. Be alert for changes in the watering schedules and make every effort to save water in all the ways you can.

Although many plants survived the heat of the past year and are putting out new growth, some did not. If there are bushes and trees on your property that have died or suffered severe die-back, now is a good time to prune and uproot before the heat of the summer hits again and no one wants to be outside digging up plants and cutting down trees. Dead trees can be a danger when winds get high and they make it look as though residents don't care about their property.

One of the places where the plants are doing well is Heron Hollow. Take a few minutes to stop by and enjoy the plantings that are maintained by members of the Quail Creek Garden Club. Admire the trees, especially the large ones and take a few minutes to sit under them and enjoy the shade. Mulching and trimming of the trees was done with NACA funds as is the regular mowing of the area. Another place plants are showing the efforts of local volunteer gardeners (and money NACA invested in them) is at the intersection of Payton Gin and Hunter's Trace where NACA maintains two small beds.

Reminder – pick up trash and litter on a street near you. Save and smash your plastic bottles and aluminum cans for pickup by me so we can have more money for the maintenance of our little parks. Come to monthly meetings. Volunteer to attend city council meetings. Offer

to start a neighborhood watch program for your block. Deliver newsletter once a month – it can be as few as 5 or 10 residences or as many as 100 or more (there are people who do that many !). Consider becoming a more active member and serving in a leadership position. Donate to support the newsletter so it can be delivered to more residents – right now we try to hit around 3700 households but there are more than that within NACA's boundaries. To deliver to more residences we need money to print them and people to deliver them. And if you want to meet some members in an informal setting come to Kiefer's Cafe on Kramer on Friday mornings at 9 for coffee and a breakfast taco.



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

(Continued from Page 1) cannot be put out for weekly pickups by the city trash service and keep our streets from being littered with unwanted items. This service was negotiated several years ago by members when the predecessor company to Allied Waste first opened a facility nearby on Metric Boulevard.

Volunteer members worked hard to get a bond issue passed that resulted in the present construction of a badly needed community center in the middle of our area. Currently, some members are involved in helping get out the word that some of the projects proposed for the next bond election are of great value to our area.

An on-going activity is the monthly clean-up of several streets on a rotating basis. Again this is the work of dedicated members who come together on the 2nd Saturday of the month to clean a street of litter. And there are other members who regularly clean a block or two individually.

**We hope this information will inspire you to become a member . There is a membership form on the back page of the newsletter and we have included an envelope to send it in with your check for \$15. Or, you can go to the website: [www.naca-austin.org](http://www.naca-austin.org) and use Paypal. Even if you can't volunteer much time, you can help by becoming a member and attending the meetings.**

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## Utility Service Center

*By Linda Moore*

The City has a Utility Customer Service Center in our neighborhood, next to FAMSA at Research and Ohlen Rd. The facility has been open a year and operates **Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Manager Eunice Ransburg** says you can pay your city utility bill, start or stop service, transfer service or come in to ask questions about your bill, rebates, or recycling your old refrigerator. There is no fee added when you pay your utility bill there and they take cash or check, but no credit or debit cards. Eunice can be reached at **972-7881**.

The facility opened in May 2011 in response to a customer survey, which showed an interest in having a location in north and south Austin. Currently, there is one north and one in east Austin but none in south Austin.

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## SECCION EN ESPAÑOL

### Reunión NACA el 21 de Junio

En la reunión de el 21 de Junio, **El Jefe de Escuadrón de Bomberos de la Ciudad de Austin, Robert Bredahl**, será uno de nuestros invitados y quién dará una charla. La reunión será en la biblioteca Little Walnut Creek localizada en 835W. Rundberg Lane.

Los miembros de la Asociación civil de el Norte de Austin (NACA) también tendrán la oportunidad de escuchar la charla que ofrecerá **Hannah Bell de la organización Envision Conference**. Para mas información visite su página de internet: [www.theenvisionconference.com](http://www.theenvisionconference.com)

### Necesitamos - Nuevos Miembros Para la Asociación Civil de el Norte de Austin (NACA)

*Por Eleanor Langsdorf*

Como comentaba anteriormente Brian LaCour, al parecer la cantidad de miembros que regularmente forma parte de la asociación parece estar disminuyendo. NACA es una organización de miembros voluntarios; y tanto los oficiales como los miembros activos quienes viven dentro de los límites de la Asociación, saben cuales son los beneficios al ser miembros de la asociación. El pago anual que se dá al formar parte de la asociación, ayuda con todos los pagos relacionados con este boletín de noticias y con el pago de el seguro a terceros para voluntarios que trabajen en proyectos relacionados con la asociación. Excepto por la persona que se encarga de el diseño de el Boletín, todos los miembros activos de la asociación son voluntarios.

Queremos que los lectores sepan cuales son todas las actividades que los miembros realizan en contribución a la comunidad de el Norte de Austin. Algunos miembros representan la comunidad de forma constante en la Alcaldía, compartimos con los miembros y empleados de la Alcaldía cuales son los problemas de la comunidad de el Norte de Austin. Otros miembros ayudan a mantener las areas verdes. Por ejemplo Heron Hollow, El Parque Ron Rigsby, la intersección y el camino de el Parque Quail Creek. Todos estos proyectos hán sido tomados por miembros voluntarios quienes pasan muchas horas buscando maneras de mejorar estas areas y luego dedicando su tiempo en mejorarlas.

Un grán beneficio ofrecido a la asociación de el Norte de Austin es dado por el servicio Allied Waste. La compañía nos da seis recolecciones anuales de objetos grandes

en vez de las 2 recolecciones que proveen a el resto de la ciudad. Esto permite que los residentes boten todos los muebles y cualquier objeto grande que no puede ser puesto en el bote de basura regular, manteniendo nuestras calles libres de objetos no deseados. Este servicio fué negociado unos años atrás por miembros cuando la compañía anterior a Waste Alliance abrió una sucursal en el Boulevard Metric.

Miembros voluntarios trabajarón duro para conseguir pasar un permiso para la construcción de el centro comunitario que necesitaba la comunidad. Actualmente algunos miembros están involucrados en ayudar a aprobar otros proyectos necesarios en la comunidad.

Mensualmente voluntarios limpian varias calles. Igualmente este es el trabajo de miembros quienes se unen el segundo Sabado de el més para limpiar la basura en las calles. Y hay otros miembros quienes limpian un par de calles de forma regular.

Esperamos que esta información los inspire a ser miembros de la asociación. Hay una planilla localizada en la ultima página de este boletín y hemos incluido un sobre para que manden su colaboración de \$15 para ayudar y formar parte de la asociación. También tenemos una página web donde puede pagar: [www.naca-austin.org](http://www.naca-austin.org) y use Paypal para pagar por la membresía. Si no puede colaborar con su tiempo en actividades, puede ayudar al ser miembro y atendiendo las reuniones mensuales.



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## HELPING YOU LIVE BETTER

The YMCA of Austin is here to help active older adults live better and enjoy life more.

Whether you're looking to remain fit and active, recover from an injury, relieve arthritis pain, or you just want to connect and have fun with your peers, Y programs are a perfect place to start.

The benefit of YMCA of Austin membership for Active Older Adults includes:

- Year-Round Swimming
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## Congregate Meal Program

By Eleanor Langsdorf

Citizens over the age of 60 are eligible to participate in a congregate meal program sponsored by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) in cooperation with Meals on Wheels and More. Diners are asked to make a donation of \$1 to \$3 per meal but no contribution is required. Meals are served at Gus Garcia Recreation Center, 1201 East Rundberg, 339-0016 as well as five other locations around Austin. Social and recreational activities and benefits such as nutrition education, health and welfare counseling and information and referral services are also offered. For more information about the meal program call 512-476-6325.

## Senior Transportation Program

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) operates a senior transportation program for citizens 60 years or older. Its purpose is to provide transportation services that promote independence for persons over 60.

The service operates Monday through Friday from 8 am – 5 pm. Reservations may be made 30 days in advance. Drivers will collect personal information the first time a person uses the service. The service is door to door and help is provided when needed.

Various types of services are offered. Rides are provided to and from the congregate meal programs on regular routes. This is free although a \$1 donation is appreciated. Rides can be reserved for anywhere in the city including stores, banks, hair salons, and medical appointments (non-emergency). For these a fee of \$3 each way is charged. All rides must start by 4 pm as the work day of drivers ends at 5 pm.

Group travel options are available. Senior Transportation will take groups of 7 or more to places in Austin and 10 or more for out of town trips. Average fee for such trips is \$2 per person for every 10 miles.

For more information about the Senior Transportation Program or to make reservations call 512-974-1464.

Another program that offers ride and small maintenance services for seniors is Faith in Action North Central Care-givers, a volunteer program that does not charge for its services. For more information call 453-2273 Monday –

Friday, 9 am to noon.

Also Meals and Wheels and More has a ride and small home repair service for clients who receive meals through the program.

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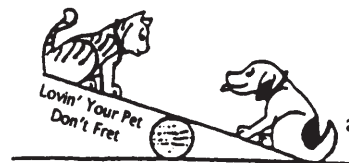
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# Walkers Needed

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).

**AREA 1:** No walkers needed

**AREA 2:** Hunters Trace(40/Payton Gin - Rndbrg), Rundberg Ln(12/W. of Parkfld), Rutland Dr.(60/W. of Parkfld), Tronewood(5), Briardale Dr. (26)

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

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

**AREA 4B:** Lambert Cir.(31), Golden Meadow + Little Pebble(48/N. of Mearns Meadow)

**AREA 5:** Barnhill(29) + 1442-1469 S. Meadows(18), Bird Creek(66) + Fieldwood(78), Meadgreen Dr.(E. of Parkfld) + Meadgreen Ct. + Humington Dr.(40), N. Meadows(153), Quail Blvd.(6)



*Newsletter Walkers distribution area in need.*

# NACA Visits Council Members

*By Linda Moore*

In the last several months, Vice President Ann Teich has lead two groups to visit Council Members Bill Spelman and Mike Martinez to express concern for neighborhood issues and to strengthen city ties to North Austin.

The group which visited CM Mike Martinez in May included Ann Teich, Rosie Gusman, and Nancy Lehmann-Carsow and they asked him to support community policing and the two officers per 1,000 population. CM Martinez said he supported both.

During the visit, the group also asked CM Martinez to support the transportation/mobility improvements for North Lamar/Burnet Rd. that are proposed for the 2012 Bond Package; he affirmed his support for those projects as well. In addition, the group asked him to support the amount proposed for affordable housing in the 2012 Bond Package and he agreed to support affordable housing funding in the bond package.

NACA members mentioned the need for speedy resolution for code violations in the NACA area and the importance of getting landlords/property owners to correct code violations on their properties (*Continued on Page 8*)



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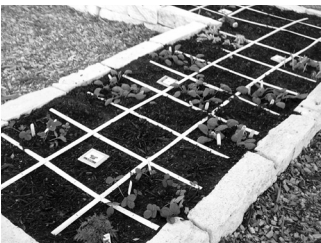
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# Support NACA

Included in this issue of the newsletter is an envelope already addressed to NACA. As noted in last month's issue and elsewhere in this issue, the number of paying members has dropped from that of previous years. The envelope is a way of reminding you to send in your dues or to join for the first time. It is also a way to encourage you to make a small donation to help cover the cost of the newsletter that comes to your door ten times a year. All donations are accepted with much gratitude.



*Students and volunteers work on raised bed gardens at Wooldridge Elementary School.*

(Continued from Page 7) in a timely fashion. NACA has been working with city staff for two years on a rental registration program and municipal court devoted to resolving code violations. CM Martinez said he would look into this.

In March, a delegation from NACA visited Council Member Bill Spelman, asking him to support the community policing practices of APD. The group included Ann Teich, Angela Baker, Nancy Lehmann-Carsow, John Greene, and Rosie Gusman. The group praised the work of Officer Frank Wilson, district rep for NACA, and mentioned various projects he is undertaking-- outreach to managers of Northgate apartment complexes to curb crime, working with NACA to encourage landlords to keep their properties clean and safe, and helping residents resolve problems with their neighbors. He also works with other officers in the North Creek/Georgian Acres neighborhood to curb crime.

The NACA group asked CM Spelman to support the current ratio of two officers per 1,000 population and to avoid going below that level in the 2013 budget. He said he supports both community policing and the ratio of officers per residents.

## 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
- Help Maintain Heron Hollow
- Attend City Council/Planning Commission Meetings
- Help with Code Enforcement
- Be a Beautification Volunteer

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