

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

by NACA

November 16th, 2017 NACA Meeting

Please join us at the next meeting on November 16th at 7:00 PM at the North Austin Community Center/YMCA, 1000 W. Rundberg. It's our last meeting for the year and hope to see everyone there. We will have a potluck party after our meeting. Please bring a SNACK to share!

At the November meeting, we will discuss the upcoming NACA officer elections happening in January. If you're interested in providing more leadership and support to NACA, please attend! There will be an update on an Austin Parks Foundation grant application for local parks in our area. Also, we plan to present "Give Thanks" awards to individuals who have supported our community and NACA efforts with a reception to follow.

16 de Noviembre 2017 Reunión de NACA

Por favor, acompáñenos a la próxima reunión el 16 de Noviembre a las 7:00 PM en el North Austin Community Center/YMCA, 1000 W. Rundberg. Será nuestra última reunión de el año, esperamos verlos a todos. Tendremos botanas para degustar después de la reunión. Por favor, anímese a traer su botana favorita para compartir!

En la reunión de Noviembre, hablaremos sobre las elecciones de oficiales para el area de NACA, que se realizarán en el mes de Enero. Si esta interesado en proveer liderazgo y apoyo a nuestra area, por favor sea parte de la reunión! Se dará un avance sobre la aplicacion para obtener una subsidio que será otorgado a la Fundación de Parques de Austin y que será utilizado en diferentes parques de nuestra area. También, planeamos presentar el premio "Dar las Gracias" a individuos que han apoyado a nuestra comunidad y a los esfuerzos realizados en NACA, que seguirá con una recepción.

Upcoming Community Events

By Monica Gúzman

Restore Rundberg Holiday Potluck

Thursday, November 30 @ 6:30 pm
North Austin YMCA - 1000 W. Rundberg Ln.

Acting Chief Brian Manley - Austin Police Town Hall Q&A

Hosted by Central Texas Muslims and North Austin Muslim Community
Friday, November 17 @ 6:30 pm
North Austin Muslim Community Center - 11900 N Lamar Blvd.

NORTH AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION (NACA)

President

Randy Teich 512-426-7769

Vice President

Melinda Schiera 512-573-6620
Ashley Harris 512-934-4891

Secretary

Matt Myers 512-748-2425

Treasurer

Brian La Cour 512-837-2324

APD District Representative

Patrick Stewart - Patrick.Stewart@austintexas.gov

ANC Representative

Ellen Martin 512-923-1138

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

NEXT MEETING

Date 11/16
Time 7:00 pm
Place....N. Austin Community Center
(YMCA) on 1000 W. Rundberg

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President's Letter

By Randy Teich

The NACA neighborhood sometimes gets a bad rap from individuals from other parts of the city. I strongly disagree with these detractors and take it upon myself to offer an alternative to the “fake news” they have heard.

The NACA neighborhood is one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the city. It remains more affordable than most other areas of Austin which has contributed to it being the most ethnically diverse area in the city. This diversity is particularly noticeable at the local H-E-B and at the Austin Rec/YMCA on Rundberg.

I have always been impressed by the way NACA members have embraced this diversity. NACA meetings frequently focus on issues of importance to our neighborhood. Schools, affordability, renter's rights and local parks are arguably far more heavily used by non-NACA members. Yet our membership consistently supports the maintenance and upgrading of these neighborhood assets and ideals for the betterment of all within the neighborhood.

I am also impressed by all of our neighbors who volunteer within our community. Ellen Martin represents our interest at the Austin Neighborhoods Council. John Green sits on the COA Building & Standards Commission. Gabe Rojas served six years on the COA zoning and Platting Commission, Mark Grayson served on AISD's Facilities and Bond Planning Advisory Committee (FABPAC). My wife Ann Teich is the AISD District 3 Trustee and represents AISD on the COA Planning Commission. Ann and I represent AISD and NACA on the Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team. Dawn Johnson, Frank Lam, Caro Dubois, Gabe Rojas, Melinda Schiera, Davi Brown and I make up the NACA Contact Team. Susie Milam has been our liaison to the Walnut Creek Library. Allison Sharf coordinates our monthly neighborhood cleanup efforts. I'm sure there are others that I am missing.

I want to highlight one of my pet peeves. We have a lot of illegal yard signs along the roads in our neighborhood. Any sign within 8 feet of the curb is illegally placed. The major offenders advertise they want to buy homes or offer jobs. I got a smile earlier this week as I saw Susie Milam walking down the street with several of these signs under her arm... obviously she doesn't like them either and regularly collects them and takes them home and properly places them in her recycle bin.

NXNA Garden Tour 2018

By Caro Dubois

The NXNA (Love North Austin) Garden and Artist Tour

will be Saturday, May 12, 2018. This is a wonderful tour of various kinds of gardens with local artists displaying their pieces. If you would like to help the team that pulls this all together, or want to exhibit your garden or your art, or you would like to nominate someone - please contact me. It takes work to recruit gardens and artists, coordinate the information and map(s) for the booklet, and develop the social media and press releases. So if you would like to get involved - please contact me or visit our Facebook page or <http://www.lovenorthaustin.com/>

Austin Neighborhoods Council – Report from the September 27th meeting

By Ellen Martin

The main topic of interest at the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC) meeting continues to be CodeNEXT. The second draft of the code was released on September 15th with some important changes after thousands of people weighed in on the first draft. The code still focuses on five main areas: mobility, community, environment, housing and permitting, and includes an updated land development code and zoning map.

What's gone are the controversial “transect” zones. “Transect” is the term used to describe a zone that is intended to be largely shaped by the form of buildings rather than zones defined by the types of property uses allowed, or “non-transect” zones. This approach created confusion and the CodeNEXT team combined all the codes into a “single spectrum of zones.”

The revised code addresses some concerns related to impervious cover and issues with flooding. The city also reported that some changes streamline the permitting process which would help expedite smaller projects such as 3-9 unit developments. However, the new code is still quite lengthy, more than twice as long as other similar sized cities, which according to the presenters is evidence of unnecessarily complex administrative procedures, from

NACA NEWSLETTER STAFF

Eleanor Langsdorf/Editor 512-873-0480

Nathalie Cappione/Layout cappione@msn.com

Triaz Digital.....www.triazdigital.com

Contributing Staff: Ashley Harris, Ann Teich, Randy Teich, Caro Dubois, Ellen Martin, Susie Milam

If you have News or Event Information contact Eleanor Langsdorf

permitting to zoning hearings.

The cost of the consulting contract with Opticos design is now projected to exceed \$8 million. The firm was hired by a previous City Council in 2013 for \$2 million. The original intent of the code re-write was to implement the recommendations of the 2012 Imagine Austin comprehensive plan but it is not clear that the city staff drafting the code have considered the neighborhood plans.

One presenter was a former City of Austin planning director and is the current vice chair of the Zoning and Platting commission. After retiring from the city, he worked with Opticos in various cities in the US with positive results. He stated it was likely that Opticos is doing their best with a challenging client. The third and final draft will be released in late November after they receive the second round of input which was scheduled around the city in October.

Susan Engelking gave a short presentation on TinyTransit™ as an innovative solution to Austin's traffic woes. This strategy involves the use of neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs) and the incorporation of LEAN (low emissions alternative network) lanes that would be developed in conjunction with existing traffic corridors. The NEVs, which looked like golf cart-type buses with dedicated lanes, have the potential to lower the cost of transportation and reduce the impact of transportation on the environment. More information is available on their website, TinyTransit.com

Finally, a change to the ANC bylaws to clarify succession of officers when someone resigns passed unanimously. A slate of candidates for 2017-2018 officers was presented and nominations for officers were taken from the floor. Election of officers will be held at the October 25th meeting. ANC meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Austin Energy Building at 721 Barton Springs Road.

Open Enrollment for Obamacare

By Eleanor Langsdorf

Enrollment for Obamacare (Affordable Care Act) for 2018 opens November 1, 2017 and ends December 15, 2017. Anyone who does not have health insurance through an employer, Medicare, Medicaid, military and similar programs should come to one of two Foundation Communities sites to get more information and to apply for Obamacare and the help that might be available to pay premiums. The north office is at 5900 Airport Blvd, (512-496-3786) and the south is at 2600 West Stassney Lane (512-610-7386). Both offices are open right now for help and information but call first for hours and appointments. Once open enrollment starts the offices will be open most days. Hours will be posted on the Foundation Communities website (go to foundcom.org and find the link for health care). There is no cost to use Foundation Communities services and everyone is welcome to use the services.

Little Walnut Creek Branch Library to Get Face Lift

By Susie Milam

The library, at 835 W. Rundberg, is going to get a new front entrance, not so much to make it more attractive as to make it more compliant with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements. The closing was scheduled for mid-summer, but, hey, this is Austin (think: MoPac Expressway, big new central library . . .). There is no date certain for the closing at this time.

The hope is that while the library is closed anyway, the atrociously filthy carpeting will be replaced with some kind of floor covering that is easier to keep clean.

The closing, of course, will be a major inconvenience for regular library users. The nearest library to the NACA neighborhood is North Village Branch, 2505 Steck Ave., 78757, just west of Burnet Rd. The next nearest is St. John Branch, 7500 Blessing Ave., 78752. Start thinking about what you will do to manage your library needs when the closing finally happens. Materials can be reserved for pickup at any branch that is convenient to your travel plans. For other library locations, visit library.austintexas.gov. For CapMetro transportation options, visit capmetro.org.

All Your Schools News!

By Ann Teich

Upcoming Events at Burnet Middle School

Nov. 15th Burnet Beautification from 4-6. Students and staff will work on landscape. Donations are welcome. Contact Ann Teich (annteich@austin.rr.com) if you are interested in making a donation.

Dec. 2nd Community Walk (staff will walk the neighborhoods where students live to talk with families and leave information about Burnet)

Dec. 6th Beginning Band Winter Concert @ 6:30 in Gym

Dec. 14th Advanced Band Winter Concert @ 6:30 in Gym

Dec. 16th Resource Fair 10 am.-12:00 p.m.

Burnet Green Agriculture Careers Class

Burnet Middle School students have the opportunity to study agricultural science as one of their electives. Under the leadership of teacher Hector Hernandez, students learn about the history of agriculture, vegetable crop production, plant classification and taxonomy, animal husbandry and entomology. They raise bantam chicks in a walk-through chicken coop, care for two pygmy goats and are planning to raise rabbits. Students have planted and tend vegetable and

herb gardens, a monarch butterfly garden, and a National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat Garden. They study in a solar classroom. Mr. Hernandez sponsors an after-school gardening program called Green Teens, supported by Keep Austin Beautiful.

Cook Elementary News

On September 18, eighty-eight Cook Elementary second graders received one free bike each from the Can'd Aid Foundation (www.candaid.org), a nonprofit formed in 2013 to support "do goodery efforts." Volunteers spent the Sunday before building the bikes, and the next day they were delivered to Cook students, along with helmets. Can'd Aid has a program called Treads and Trails designed to get people and children outside and living active and healthy lifestyles. It also emphasizes the importance of safety while riding.

Wooldridge and Cities Connecting Children to Nature

Wooldridge staff, Austin Parks and Recreation staff and other local non profits such as the Austin Parks Foundation are in the beginning planning stage for a partnership that will improve the natural environment around Wooldridge and adjacent parkland. The intent is to provide an area around the school where children can experience nature and learn how to protect it. Their families and the residents around the school will also benefit from the project. Initial ideas include developing the dry creek bed that runs along Parkfield into a riparian zone, building water cistern systems, creating nature trails, planting pollinator gardens and trees, creating outdoor classrooms, and adding nature play features. If you are interested in being on the planning committee, please contact Karen Knight, Program Coordinator for PARD Cities Connecting Children to Nature, karen.knight@austintexas.gov, 512-568-1158.



NACA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed are my dues for calendar year 20__

Regular Membership (\$15)

Silver Membership (\$25)

Gold Membership (\$50 or more)

I would like to volunteer for NACA.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Pay online at naca-austin.org
or mail this form & check to:

NACA Treasurer
PO BOX 180803
Austin TX 78718-0803