

# NUNA

NORTH UNIVERSITY  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



## Letter from the Editor

**Enzo, an Italian man, claims that in order to produce the best walnut liquor, or nocino, you need to collect twenty-four fresh green walnuts at noon on June 24, the day of San Giovanni.** This quirky fact comes from the book *Cooking with Italian Grandmothers* by Jessica Theroux. The author writes, “According to Enzo, this is the precise date and time when the Calabrian summer sun has evaporated the right amount of humidity from the walnuts and intensified their flavor, making for the perfect *nocino*.”

Green walnuts, San Giovanni, nutty *nocino*, the Calabrian sun...there is something about these words that are making me deliriously happy on a sleep-deprived Thursday morning in September while trying to cobble together this newsletter. They conjure images of a world far removed from that of my desk cluttered with freelance contracts, children’s art, and the remnants of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

And yet, these two worlds are not totally removed. I’m reading about Italian *nocino* rituals because I just read an article in this very paper that you hold in your hand. In it, our talented Dish scribe **Beth Monson**, writes about Enzo while considering her own stash of pecan liquor made from nuts harvested last year right here in North University. Because she is a professional food writer and had reviewed Theroux’s book, she was able to make the connection: the lasting fruits of North University’s killer pecan crop from last fall and *nocino*-making methods in Calabria, Italy.

So aside from the gorgeous images that green walnuts on Calabrian hillsides in June conjures up, there are two important points here: 1. We have amazing people in NUNA who use their vast talents to contribute to our neighborhood in all kinds of ways, big and small, and they matter. Point 2: we may think we can live in an isolated bubble in our own houses, but we are actually connected by threads great, small and often invisible whether we like it or not.

**Point One:** **Beth Monson’s** son just started Kinder at Lee Elementary with my son. She has another younger child at home and a demanding profession. But she takes what she is good at (food writing) and uses it to throw a nice dose

of neighborhood beauty our way by writing about restaurants in our area, pecan crops, or other fun things to remind us of all the bounty that surrounds us here. Thank you, Beth! Don’t miss her stuff in these pages, guys, it’s good.

And she is not alone. Just read this newsletter (do it now!) and you will see.

## PLEASE COME PLANT A TREE!

Nov. 14th at 9am in Hemphill Park, you will have a chance to plant a tree, thanks to a big effort by Urban Forestry, TreeFolks, and our Hemphill Park NUNA Volunteer Team. We need a lot of volunteers, so please come out! Read more about it in Scott Sloan’s article in this issue. (on page 9)



*Photo of the Month: Hardworking Co.A Team Installs Sidewalks*

# NUNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*First English Lutheran Church*

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

6:30 pm

## AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order**
  - a. Approve Minutes
- II. **Presentation: Dave Junker, University of Texas Professor and Senior Fellows Honors Program Director for the College of Communications on the proposal to change the name of Robert E. Lee Elementary**
- III. **Sigma Chi “Fight Night” Fundraiser.** Fraternity Officers will tell us about their upcoming event and how they’ve worked with NUNA officers to ensure compliance with the residential noise ordinance.
- I. **New Business**
  - a. **Discuss.** Hemphill park tree planting day on November 14th- needs volunteers
  - b. **Discuss.** NUNA Newsletter. We’ll be looking for your input on how to make it more valuable and discussing whether to move the newsletter entirely online.
  - c. **Discuss.** Progress on Local Historic District application for Aldridge Place
- II. **Old Business**
  - a. **Discuss.** ‘Welcome to NUNA’ Letter and neighbors’ experience sharing it with newcomers
  - b. **Discuss.** Discussion of pedestrian improvements in NUNA, including sidewalks in Hemphill Park
  - c. **Discuss.** Sparky Park construction status and updates (Doug Plummer)
- III. **Reports:**
  - a. Treasurer – Jan Moyle
  - b. Quadrant Leaders’ – Dick Holland, Mary Ingle, Rick Iverson, and Laurie Marchant
- IV. **Adjourn**

The dedicated Sparky Park team of **Douglas Plummer, Sarah Seidel, and Mary Ingle** is persevering to

make good things happen with the old electrical building, keeping their good humor (and good looks) despite the constant setbacks with the City.

The new Hemphill park crew has set up an important tree planting day with Urban Forestry and TreeFolks scheduled for November 14th—thank you **Mark Feist, Bill Bednar, Janet Beinke, Jim Creswell, Scott Sloan, and Julie Willis** for making it happen. We know it’s not easy to set up projects like this with the City. But our tree canopy will some day, far down the line, be healthier and happier because of their efforts. And **Brandon Tucker** has generously written in to NUNA to share with us his experience of gaining historic landmark status for his home on 33rd Street, which was once the residence of a prominent physician, a federal judge, and of James C. Perkins, a professor at Huston-Tillotson University who was firmly committed to the cause of civil rights. Brandon, along with **Sarah Seidel**, also keeps our NUNA website as up to date as he possibly can—no simple task!

And if you haven’t been reading the newsletter, you have missed a real treat in the essays of **Leoda Anderson**, the long-time NUNA resident, Mexico travel adventurer, former UT Classics Department maven, line dance instructor, and clever limericks writer who will turn 100 years old in November. Her contributions to this newsletter have given it the flavor and punch we need to remind us not to get too bogged down in our day-to-day neighborhood dilemmas.

And on to Point Two: Bear with me as I turn a tad philosophical, inspired in part by the parallel visions of Enzo making *nocino* in Italy while Beth Monson makes her pecan liquor here in NUNA. Things that often seem unconnected can really be linked by invisible threads that we don’t think about or pay much attention to. For example, the fact that NUNA has maintained a lot of its neighborhood charm and historic character has much to do with work that was done by NUNA neighbors like **Rick Iverson and Mary Gay Maxwell** long before many of us moved here. Or the fact that some developers have had to be more thoughtful about their construction projects is a direct result of our VP **Steven Tomlinson’s** development committee kindly working with them to let them know how to build in compliance with NUNA standards. And as we have just seen with all of the new sidewalks going into the Hemphill park area, the city can jump in and do what they want in our neighborhoods without prior warning, so it’s a good thing we have NUNA neighbors who keep close tabs on the city and know who to call when we need info fast.

So while there may be many of us who consider ourselves lone wolves who roam independently of the people who live around us, we are all actually affected by the efforts of our neighbors all of the time. And I have found, after three years of putting together this newsletter, that this former lone wolf editor finds it pretty rewarding from time to time to run with the pack, at least in the small ways that I am able. It’s simple. Just by showing up

to an occasional meeting or say, perhaps, contributing to or distributing this newsletter (thank you **Diane West**, who not too long ago took over Route 4—sorry I forgot to put your name in the NUNA officer list), the threads that connect us feel more real and positive.

And this November 14th, you can even come plant a tree and watch it grow. And maybe then some future NUNA resident, many decades from now, while sitting beneath the shady cover that you helped cultivate, will enjoy a happy connection to your work, no matter where you may be.

Last and not least, I ask you to gently consider the unseen threads behind the name of our elementary school, a name chosen by the Daughters of the Confederacy in 1939 back when it was a whites only school. Is it possible that this name, used as an important symbol of the Confederacy and its fight to preserve slavery, might be alienating to some families who we want to welcome to our wonderful neighborhood school? Can we feel good about that? It's something to consider. And if you'd like to learn more, please come to our next neighborhood meeting, October 6th, to hear one Lee parent give his perspective.

As Enzo would say 'Grazie!'  
Clayton Maxwell  
nunanews@gmail.com

### NUNA Neighborhood Meeting Unapproved Minutes

June 2, 2015  
Unapproved Minutes  
by Lou Faiel-Dattilo

Laurence Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Laurence moved approval of the minutes. Steven Tomlinson seconds. None opposed.

Steven introduces Allen Small of Austin Energy to discuss the process whereby NUNA can take ownership of the streetlights atop the columns leading into Aldridge Place. AE's option would involve meters in the right of way with NUNA paying electric bill for the lights.

### In this Issue

A Perspective on the Lee Elementary Name Change  
The Story of a Historic Landmark on 33rd Street  
Updates on Sparky and Hemphill Parks  
Pecan Liquor Reveries in the Dish  
Poetic Essays by Leoda Anderson

And more!

## 2015 NUNA OFFICERS

**President** Laurence Miller - NunaAustin@gmail.com

**Vice President** Steven Tomlinson - steven@abporter.org

**Secretary** Lou Dattilo

**Treasurer** Jan Moyle - moylejan@gmail.com

### NW Quadrant Representative

Rick Iverson - Iver506@sbcglobal.net

### SW Quadrant Representative

Laurie Marchant -

Laurie@alexandermarchant.com

### NE Quadrant Representative

Mary Ingle - casamia22@att.net

### SE Quadrant Representative

Dick Holland - rh02@txstate.edu

### Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative

Tanya Quinn

### CANPAC Representatives

Mary Ingle, Bill Bednar

(Laurence Miller as alternate)

### Development Review Committee (DRC)

Steven Tomlinson - steven@abporter.org

### Parks Committee

Bill Bednar, Julie Willis

### Internet Server Host

Pallasart Web Design

### Parking Permits

Eugene Sepulveda - Eugene@abporter.org

### Newsletter Design

The Mod Studio - www.themodstudio.com

### Newsletter Distribution

Trish Tang, Debi Rivier-Harris, Don Carnes and Pat Campbell, Rick Iverson and Joe Sosa, Diane West, Paul Kens, Carole LeClair, Vicki Ford, Alegria Hibbits, Homer Parsegian, Michael Riley, Clayton Maxwell (with Jim and Jan Moyle as permanent subs)

### Newsletter Ads

Suzanne Pringle - suzpringle@aol.com

### Newsletter Editorial

Clayton Maxwell - nunanews@gmail.com

Neighbors asked about costs, logistics and code requirements for the lights.

Steven introduces John Davis (who lives on 33rd Street) to discuss his proposal for a solar-powered alternative. The total cost of Davis's proposal is under \$2500. Mary Ingle moved that NUNA authorize John Davis to pursue his plan. Steven asked that we delay a vote on the alternatives due to time constraints and limited attendance at the meeting.

Laurence introduces Melissa Heald and Emlea Chanslor to discuss composting program at Austin Recovery Center. Melissa and Emlea brought brochures describing the program and shared them with those in attendance. Neighbors asked questions about what is and is not compostable and recyclable.

Laurence and Steven review streetlight discussion for latecomers. Neighbors asked questions about NUNA assuming liability for the stone columns. Mary Ingle again moved that we accept John Davis's solar proposal. Rick Iverson seconded. Neighbors voted in favor of the motion. John offered to build a prototype.

Neighbors voted to approve \$400 from NUNA funds for the July 4 celebration in Hemphill Park.

Neighbors discussed participating in City-TreeFolks Arbor Day (Sept 2015) program to plant native species in Hemphill Park.

Steven distributed a draft of a letter for neighborhood newcomers and asked for suggestions before 30 June so the letter could be approved at the July executive committee meeting.

Mary Ingle reported on conversations with City Staff about proposed development at the historic Steck House on 34th Street.

Mary reports on progress with building renovation project at Sparky Park.

Jan Moyle distributes the treasurer's report.

Quadrant Leaders: Rick Iverson reports on flooding in NUNA and the need for drainage studies.

Mary reports on flooding in Grooms Addition and watershed protection concerns.

Laurence confirms 6:30pm as future meeting time and adjourns meeting at 7:55pm.

## PAW PAUSE

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### Join the Discussion!

Listserves are a great way to become more connected with your community. **The North University Yahoo Group** is a hands-on, public communications resource, helping neighbors inform, communicate, and build a stronger community. The list is inclusive, open to anyone who lives in the North University Neighborhood and to people who have a material interest here, such as operators of a business, non-profit, or civic process. One can subscribe by sending E-mail to:

**YAHOO!**  
Groups  
Join Now!



**nuna-residents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

or by visiting the Yahoo! Groups site at:

**groups.yahoo.com/group/nuna-residents**



**@crimeatx** is a crime watch Twitter feed that promotes crime prevention and public safety awareness in our area. It was established by the Central Austin CDC in January 2012 to help inform and prepare the returning student community in the immediate aftermath of the NYE attacks and murder of Esme Barrera. To sign up or learn more, visit **twitter.com/crimeatx** and tweet with the hashtag **#NORTHUNIVERSITY**.

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### JOIN NUNA NOW

Fill in your information below and mail it to Jan Moyle, 200 W. 32nd St, Austin, Texas, 78705. Dues are a bargain at \$15 per person, \$25 per couple and \$10 per student. Make your check payable to NUNA.

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

E-mail Address:



## Fulfill Our Promise and Rename Lee

*A viewpoint from a Parent of Black Students*

*at Robert E. Lee Elementary*

*By Dave Junker*

*Editor's Note: Currently, the school board of AISD is developing a process for considering changing the names of four Austin schools named for confederate leaders, including Robert E. Lee Elementary, founded in 1939 as a school for whites only. Many parents and community members have long sought a name change to reflect the community's changing values. Support from NUNA and other neighborhood associations would help in that effort. The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association voted and passed overwhelmingly in favor of an endorsement of the name change on September 14th.*

*In this article, a parent with African-American children at the school explains why the time is right to build support for a positive change.*

*This essay was reprinted with the permission of the Pecan Press.*



I recently asked my 9-year-old daughter who Robert E. Lee was. Her answer sounded typical for a kid her age.

“He was a great leader,” she said. And after further probing, she added, “He fought in the Civil War, I think.”

All of our five children are smart, and like any concerned parent, I want them to do well in school and learn their history.

For us, however, there is an extra burden to this that makes her answer not just incomplete but unacceptable.

1) Our children are all African-American and 2) they attend a school named for Robert E. Lee, Confederate hero and figurehead of the Lost Cause.

What's more, my wife and I are white, which makes our family a living embodiment of our country's promise of freedom and equality, a promise Lee fought to deny to those, like my kids, with black skin.

Slavery is what the Civil War was about (read any of the seceding states'



*Terri Givens, Mike Scott, and their two kiddos—  
we miss having them in our neighborhood.*

declarations of causes), and it's what Robert E. Lee fought to preserve.

If Lee had prevailed in that fight, would our family even exist today? Or only as master to slave, with our kids like property to be bought and sold, kept ignorant and illiterate, with “no rights a white man is bound to respect”?

If our 3rd- and 4th-graders don't fully grasp the implications of their school name, they soon will.

Our shy and sensitive 8th-grade daughter, for example -- a proud Lee alumna and two-time winner of the AISD African American Heritage Award -- is reading “The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass” for her summer magnet-school project. To her, and us, this dehumanizing picture of slavery simply cannot be reconciled with the image of Robert E. Lee, the great leader, the hero, and the namesake of her majority-white school.

Those who named the school in Lee's honor in 1939 may have had no problem reconciling these things. But this is not 1939 and this family is not fine with this.

It has been more than 50 years since the last legal barriers to integration were removed in Austin schools. Yet this figure hovers shadowlike -- there on the façade, there on the marquee, there in the stately portrait -- as if to cast doubt on the rightness of racial progress itself and the very dignity of black lives.

### Happy 100th Birthday Leoda Anderson!

We are proud to have you in our neighborhood.

Thank you for all of your contributions to the NUNA newsletter and the vitality of our neighborhood

This school has been great for our family. We should want more black families to send their kids here. But the name does us no favors.

Changing the name would not change history, only a symbol at odds with our nation's creed and our community's values.

A new name, whatever it is, can be a renewal of that enduring promise, a promise that says it is right for my family to exist and it is right that all our children should live and learn together to reach their fullest potential.

If you support a name change for Robert E. Lee Elementary School, sign the online petition created by a group of Lee parents. <http://chn.ge/1H6LSqg>

You can also email the AISD trustees and superintendent to indicate your support: [trustees@austinisd.org](mailto:trustees@austinisd.org) and [superintendent@austinisd.org](mailto:superintendent@austinisd.org).

For more information or to get involved, join the Facebook group, Rename Robert E. Lee Elementary.

*A Note from our former neighbor and Lee Elementary parent Terri Givens, who left NUNA and her post in the Government Department at the University of Texas to be provost at Menlo College in California:*

“I was always uncomfortable sending my kids to a school with the name of a confederate general/hero on it. I lived with it, just like I lived with the statue of Jefferson Davis across from my office on the UT Campus. If UT can recognize the importance of removing a symbol of slavery, I think AISD should do the same.”

### **The NUNA Dish**

*by Beth Goulart Monson*

I'm down to two yogurt containers of pecans in the freezer. Together with my helpful husband and hard-laboring sons, I harvested a bumper crop from the old tree in our front yard last year. I took them in brown paper bags to be cracked at the Senior Center, then picked them up after a couple of days. My husband's mother (aka "mother-in-law of the year") then took them to her house, peeled them, packed them into used Greek yogurt tubs, and returned them to me. I stacked the tubs in my chest freezer. There were so many; I didn't count them, though now I wish I had. I baked them into pies and crisped them into granola and sprinkled them over yogurt. My supply of plump pecan nutmeats seemed endless.

This fall, the tree won't bear. Pecan trees bear every other year - and they'll hold their fruit in times of drought. (That's how they all get on the same schedule, regardless of when they were planted.) My tree gave shade this summer and

will give leaves to rake by winter. But no nuts. I'm going to miss them.

I was bemoaning a pecan-less fall last week when I remembered the liquor. Several years ago, I wrote a review of an unusual cookbook called "Cooking with Italian Grandmothers," by Jessica Theroux (Welcome Books, 2010). The book resulted from a fellowship Theroux received to travel to Italy and document food traditions. Her book is structured as a series of biographies of Italian women from different regions, recipes included. I highly recommend the book as an engaging read, and I've liked the recipes I've tried, too. One I've always been curious about was the one for nocino, or walnut liquor. This recipe comes from Enzo, a neighbor of Carluccia, the woman who represents the region of Calabria in Theroux's book. In introducing the recipe, Theroux writes:

“According to Carluccia's neighbor, Enzo, in order to produce the best nocino you need to collect twenty-four fresh green walnuts at high noon on June 24, the day of San Giovanni. (He insists that at this precise date and time the Calabrian summer sun has evaporated the right amount of humidity from the walnuts and intensified their flavor, making for the perfect nocino.) As kooky as this sounds, I must admit that Enzo's walnut liquor was the best that I have ever tasted.”

I've had walnut liquor in the form of Nocello, which my parents bought at the liquor store and served after meals on special occasions when I was growing up. I liked it very much. Could I make one from pecans? Sometime after Christmas, I picked up a bottle of Everclear at Twin Liquors and counted out forty-eight pecan halves from a container in the freezer, then added cinnamon sticks and cloves per the instructions.

The date of harvest isn't the only ritualistic aspect of the making of Enzo's nocino. He lets it steep for 40 days, turning once in the morning and once in the evening. I sealed the mix up in canning jars and sat them on top of a cabinet where I thought I would see them, and put a note in my calendar at the 40-day mark. I turned them when I thought of it - maybe a half a dozen times all told in the roughly nine months that passed. I don't know what happened to the note in my calendar.

Come mid-September, I pulled down the jars, opened them up, and inhaled a spicy, nutty aroma. Per Enzo's instructions, I strained the liquid into bottles. It was dark brown, with a spicy, nutty flavor. (The pecans that have been soaking for months in Everclear taste quite nice - very cinnamon-y, like atomic fireball candies, hot on my tongue. I'd like to try them on vanilla ice cream.) Then I made a simple syrup, just water and sugar, let it cool, and poured it into the liquor.

Now, we wait 2 years. That's what Enzo does. And I wonder if that's for good reason. The drink we have now is fiery-harsh - it burns the nose and the tongue and all we can really taste is cinnamon. I'd hoped for strong pecan flavor. Will it mellow and become nuttier as it ages? Fortunately, given my proven ability to forget about this project, we might just find out in 2017.



NORTH UNIVERSITY  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



## Welcome to North University!

You've joined one of Austin's most vibrant and diverse neighborhoods. North University is home to faculty and students, young professionals, young and established families and people of all stripes. Many of your neighbors have lived here for decades. We're all proud of the special character of North University, its historic homes and public spaces. It's an inclusive and inspiring place — and we're glad you're here.

**On behalf of the North University Neighborhood Association, welcome to NUNA.** This note answers some frequently-asked questions and provides some practical information helpful for new neighbors. You can also check out our website: [nunaaustin.org](http://nunaaustin.org).



### NOISE

People in NUNA love a good party and great music. As a NUNA neighbor, you also have a right to a good night's sleep! The City of Austin Noise ordinance requires that your neighbors not be playing loud music after 10:30pm or before 7am. If a neighbor loses track of time, a friendly knock on their door will usually do the trick. If for some reason, they don't respond to your request, you can call 9-1-1 to report a violation. **Please ask for a case number as that may come in handy later.**

Here's an excerpt from the City Noise Ordinance in case you need it, and here is a link to the whole thing: [www.municode.com/library/tx/austin/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=TTT9PRAC\\_CH9-2NOAMSO](http://www.municode.com/library/tx/austin/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TTT9PRAC_CH9-2NOAMSO)

### Austin City Code, Title 9. Prohibited Activities, Chapter 9-2 - Noise And Amplified Sound

#### § 9-2-3 GENERAL RESTRICTIONS.

A person may not:

- (1) Make or use sound equipment in public between 10:30 p.m. and 7:00a.m;
- (5) Operate sound equipment in a vehicle audible or causing a vibration 30 feet from the equipment.

#### § 9-2-5 - RESTRICTION ON USE OF SOUND EQUIPMENT IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA.

- (A) This section applies to property zoned as residential under Section 25-2-32 (B) (Zoning Districts and Map Codes).
- (B) A person may not use sound equipment that produces sound audible beyond the property line of a residence in a residential area between 10:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.

#### § 9-2-31-OFFENSES.

- (A) A person commits an offense if the person makes or uses sound equipment in violation of a provision of this chapter.
- (B) An offense under this chapter is a Class C misdemeanor.



### DOGS!

NUNA loves dogs, and walking your dog in the 'hood and the parks is a great way to meet your neighbors (and their pets). To keep our streets and parks clean (and to avoid fines), we're all picking up after our pets. If you forget to bring a plastic bag with you on a dog walk, you can find them in the dispensers at either end of Hemphill Park and in Sparky Park. Don't be surprised if a neighbor offers you one!

Here's the ordinance, just in case:

#### § 3-3-7 DEFECACTION BY DOGS OR CATS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by a dog or cat being handled by that person on property, public or private, other than the premises of the owner or handler of such dog or cat.



### PARKING AND SAFETY

The police are pretty vigilant about enforcing parking in NUNA. To avoid a ticket, you'll want to be careful about parking in the direction of traffic.

Also, we have Residential Permit Parking on most of NUNA's streets. Be sure to warn your friends that they can be ticketed for parking in the residential zone without a pass. You can get a parking sticker for yourself and day passes for your friends by contacting one of NUNA's volunteer parking coordinators — Sara Pietsch, sarapietsch52@gmail.com; Cynthia Bryant, cynthiabryant@utexas.edu; or Patsy Tankerslay, ptankers@gmail.com.

The City of Austin does not permit front-yard parking in NUNA. Park in the driveway or on the street to avoid fines. More information here: [www.austintexas.gov/departments/front-yard-parking](http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/front-yard-parking)



### TRASH AND RECYCLING

Friday is trash and recycling collection day in NUNA.

Trash and yard trimmings are collected every week. Recycling is collected every other week.

You can find the current schedule of recycling collection and rules for recycling here:

[www.austintexas.gov/departments/residential-curb-side-collection-schedule](http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/residential-curb-side-collection-schedule)

Please put the recyclable items in the blue bins, not the trash cans. By keeping non-recyclable items out of the blue bins, you make Austin's recycling cost effective.

Your garbage bin, recycling bin and yard trimmings must be placed at the curb or in your alley by 6:30am on Friday. **All carts must be removed from the curb by 10pm on Friday.** If neighbors are leaving their carts out over the weekend and they're getting in the way of your street parking, a friendly reminder will usually do the trick. If a problem persists, you can call 3-1-1. Any of us who leaves carts out past Friday can get cited and fined.

The sanitation trucks can collect only what's in the bins. So your neighbors implore you not to leave plastic garbage bags on the curb. (Since the sanitation workers can't take them, they turn into

party favors for raccoons and opossums.) If you find you're generating more trash than fits in your bins, please contact the City (using the link above) and they'll get you a bigger bin.

The City schedules bulky item and brush (tree and bush trimmings) collection from time to time. You'll get a postcard letting you know when one of these collections is coming up. Your neighbors will really appreciate it if you do not leave bulky items on the curb except during the designated collection period.

**NUNA's police representative is Officer Gary Griffin.** You can reach him at (512) 974-8392.

Many neighbors volunteer with party planning, park improvements and other committees that contribute to the quality of life in our neighborhood. Your neighbors are great folks, and you'll enjoy meeting them. To stay informed, join our Yahoo Group at: [Nuna-residents@yahoo.com](mailto:Nuna-residents@yahoo.com)

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you in person. In the meantime, enjoy your new home and reach out with any questions to your neighborhood officers.

Yours,

*Laurence Miller,*

NUNA President | [nunaaustin@gmail.com](mailto:nunaaustin@gmail.com)

*Steven Tomlinson*

NUNA Vice President | [steven@abporter.org](mailto:steven@abporter.org)



### JOIN NUNA!

North University Neighborhood Association (NUNA) has a meet up every other month at the First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis. You should be receiving a newsletter with information about upcoming meetings and events.

If you're not receiving the newsletter, please contact [nunanews@gmail.com](mailto:nunanews@gmail.com).



In food news around the neighborhood this month, we've lost **Greek Original Gyros**, the food trailer that I wrote about in these pages earlier this year. According to their website, the owners have moved to Florida to open a brick-and-mortar restaurant. The Dish wishes them well.

In its place outside **Spider House**, a new food trailer has parked to serve Middle Eastern fare. It's called **Jerusalem Cafe**. Let's all check it out, shall we?

Bon Appetit, y'all.



**Editors Apology:**

A neighbor kindly brought it to my attention that I had omitted the names of some of the subjects in the caption for last issue's 'Photo of the Month'. Patricia Andersen is the woman in the hat between the aforementioned Kathie Tovo (to the left of Patricia in the polka dot dress) and Leoda Anderson (to the right). The firefighter's name is Rikki Stankevitz, which I eventually figured out after deciphering the name on her shirt. I am still omitting the name of Kathie Tovo's daughter since I don't have permission from Kathie.

Best,  
Clayton

**You are Going to 'Dig' (literally) the New Trees we are Planting in Hemphill/Adam's park!**

*By Scott Sloan*

When my son Harry was baptized, his godparents gave him a Live Oak that we planted in our front yard on Laurel Lane. We call it 'Harry's tree' and enjoy watching it grow. Soon, you too will have an opportunity to plant 'your' or 'your family's' tree, as on November 14th at 9:00 am NUNA is partnering with the City of Austin and Tree Folks for a major tree planting day at Hemphill and Adam's park. Here are the facts:

- November 14, 2015, 9:00 am – noonish
- The Urban Forestry Program from the City of Austin's Parks & Recreation Department has developed a planting plan and will be providing >50 trees plus all the tools for us to plant.
- TreeFolks will provide signage and volunteer signup on their website: <http://www.treefolks.org>. They will also provide some snacks and volunteer coordination on that day.
- The trees will be mostly 5 gallon, native species (oaks, pecans, etc.)
  - o Note: 5-gallon seedlings may look small when we plant them, but within 3-4 years they generally reach the same size as a 25-gallon tree, and will have a much stronger root system!
- We (i.e. you and your family) will dig the holes for the trees, plant and mulch them.
- All trees will be watered by Urban Forestry using reclaimed water. Trucks will come by 2 times per month in winter and once a week in summer for the next 3 years.
- The City of Austin has 90-95% success ratio for this planting/watering system!

We are fortunate to live in a leafy old Austin neighborhood, but our urban canopy needs refreshing. So, we are privileged to have the opportunity to work with the City of Austin and Tree Folks to keep shade in our parks! We need more than 50 volunteers to dig, plant and mulch. This is a great opportunity to leave your mark on our neighborhood, and watch your work grow, so we can maintain NUNA's distinctive green space that we know and love.

**A Historic Landmark on 33rd Street**

*By Brandon and Abby Tucker*

We moved to North University in 2013, which was also the year we were engaged to be married. Between buying a new home and an upcoming wedding, we had plenty on our plate.

But ever since we had our first glimpse of the house when it came on the market, we wondered about its story. So many questions: why is the door off-center? Which door are visitors supposed to come to? What are those green things on top of the roof?



*Historic Landmark on 33rd Street*

Is that an incinerator?

And as we moved in, walking around the neighborhood, observing the numerous Texas Landmark plaques on houses, we would sometimes think about uncovering the history of our place.

This year, we decided to dive in, do the research, and see if we could find enough to warrant an application to make our home a historic landmark. It turns our house needed to meet several criteria in order to qualify: it had to be at least 50 years old, retain a high degree of integrity, have architectural significance, and have associations with persons who contributed to the history of Austin.

It must be said that we wouldn't have proceeded with the research to begin with if it weren't for the conversations with our neighbors over the past year. Many of you have offered us little nuggets about our home, whether noting architectural features or telling us about past residents who lived there.

By the way, it sounds like half our neighborhood has at some point lived in this house. Do we need to change the locks?

After spending several weekends at the Austin History Center combing through old newspaper articles, we began to peel apart the onion so to speak. The house, now known as the Harrell-Perkins house, was built in 1929 and was designed by a local architect Edwin Kreisle (1888-1971), who also designed such notable Austin buildings as the downtown firehouse on 5th street (also historically landmarked) and the Scarborough Building, as well as other residences of varying architectural style (in fact, the Tudor down the street from us was also designed by Kreisle).

Ed and Alma Harrell were the first owners of the property and also ran the Capital Printing Company, one of the most prominent printing companies in Austin at the time (and the oldest still in business in Austin today). Edwin died just three years later, and Alma assumed ownership and operations of the company for many years, which was a rarity at that time, especially in this industry.

Later, professor James C. Perkins and his family lived here. He was a professor at Huston-Tillotson University, a historically black institution. A Caucasian male himself, he valued teaching there immensely and remained firmly committed to the cause of civil rights.

We also learned a prominent physicist and a federal judge lived here over the years.

Early this year, we compiled our application, which you can find online if you are interested. The City of Austin Landmark and Planning commissions approved it this summer with relative ease.

The real uncertainty came once the case went to city council, which is the final step in the process. We were the first historic case to be heard since the city went to the new 10-1 council, and it was evident in the work session earlier in the week that many council members were pretty uncertain of what our city's landmark program entailed.

After about 50 nerve-racking minutes of discussion on the house, our case was passed, nine council members voting in favor and two abstaining. Between wide-ranging questions from council (many of whom were simply not familiar with the program), our district's council member Kathie Tovo was excellent in steering the conversation to stay on topic. Council member Leslie Pool (District 7) was also extremely supportive and knowledgeable of the program.

Ultimately, Ellen Troxclair (D-8), the council member who originally pulled our case for discussion, seemed convinced this was a case that deserved passing on the merits of the current requirements and voted in favor.

Our takeaway from the council's discussion of our case is that the new council has many questions about the historic zoning process (a later historic zoning case, the Lightsey House, planned for demolition, was highly scrutinized and ultimately voted down).

We would encourage anyone living in North University with an appreciation for history, for preservation, and for the enduring timelessness of our streets we've all come to love, to let it be known to someone, whether it be a council member, a committee, a media outlet, a neighbor, a friend, that you value preservation as just a little part of what makes Austin such an incredible place to be.

Sometimes we talk about the people who have lived in this house and their contributions to the city, like Harrell and Perkins, and think about what we too can do to contribute back to our community.

In our speech to council, we spoke of the pride we felt being a part of our neighborhood. We are happy and eager to share anything we can with other residents considering the historic landmark application.

We'll see you around the neighborhood!

## Sparky Park News!

By Douglas Plummer



*Cleaning the Building Before Construction*

The renovation of Sparky Park's building is finally about to start. Last month the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) selected a contractor, Warden Construction. Warden has now pulled all of the necessary building permits and has held a pre-construction meeting with the City inspector who approved the construction plans prepared by Warden and h+uo architects. Kristina Olivent with h+uo stated "We are excited about the construction kick-off. This has turned out to be a great project and we can't wait to see the building completed and in use by the neighborhood."

The Project Manager for PARC, Kevin Johnson, stated that the big item to complete before work commences is the fabrication of the steel elements. "Given how much construction is going on in Austin, it is no surprise that there is a bit of a back log in getting the structural steel made for us. Currently, forming and pouring of the footers should take place around mid to late October, with the placement of the steel beams happening in early November." Johnson added "Aside from any unforeseen weather delays, we are anticipating a completion date around the beginning of February."

Sparky Park co-chairs Mary Ingle and Douglas Plummer are currently working with the city to help draft usage guidelines for Pocket Parks and will be meeting with members of PARC to review an early draft guideline.

Sparky Park committee member, Sarah Seidel has been monitoring the stressed trees on the park and asked PARC to investigate what was going on. PARC employees found out that a relay in the watering system was burnt out and made repairs so that the trees could get watered during this tough dry summer we have been experiencing. If you note that any of the plantings look stressed, please take a moment to call 311 and report it so that we don't lose any more trees.

Neighbors interested in seeing a rendering of the final design can take a look here:

<https://austintexas.gov/department/sparky-park-building-rehabilitation>

## Verse and Worse

By Leoda Anderson

We remember a little poem in one of our early Readers, say

about 1922. In it the words "papa" and "mamma" were accented on the last syllable. It went like this:

Ten o'clock, the postman's knock  
Three letters for papa  
One for you and one for me  
And two for dear mamma.

Quaint, yes? Let's update it to the 21st century:

Ten o'clock on our dad's Apple watch  
He's on his smart phone to Cuba.  
Mom's blogging for fashions from China,  
Teaches yoga and plays the tuba.

We kids walk the dog, play video games,  
Our psychiatrist's name is Amos.  
We text Facebook on the Internet  
And hope some day to be famous

## Following Twitter

by Leoda Anderson

Have you noticed the broad vocabulary of the songbirds that have returned to our neighborhood with the arrival of Spring?

There's one that hangs around seafood restaurants and sings: "Ce-VICH-e, ce-VICH-e, ce-VICH-e!"

One was told about Machu Picchu in South America by a migratory bird-friend, but he remembers only the last part: "PE-chu, PE-chu, PE-chu!"

One sings fondly of trees: "CE-dar, CE-dar, CE-dar, MesQUITE!"

There's one that surveys world conditions and says it gives her the: "Heebie-jeebies, heebie-jeebies, heebiejeebies-JEEB!" Must be a female; worries more.

This one overheard dry-wine devotees grumbling about the wine being served at a gathering: "Too-SWEET, too-SWEET, too-SWEET!"

The genial Cardinal has dropped in on some golf courses, so repeats: "Birdie-birdie-birdie-birdie!"

Good thing he doesn't repeat EVERYthing he hears on the golf course.

Then there's the tireless wordless wonder, the mourning dove or turtledove, the last bird-sound we hear at night and the first to greet us in the morning with variations on its slow soothing "Coo-OO-coo-coo-coo."



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## 4113 AVENUE C

First time on the market in 40 years! 1924 Hyde Park bungalow located in heart of historic district. 2 BR, 1.5 BA, lot size 50'x120'. Ready for renovation.

Listed at \$399,000



## 310 EAST 35TH STREET

Custom built in 2011. Craftsman home with high-end contemporary interior. Main house with 3 BR, 3 BA, 3 LIV plus separate 1 BR, 1 BA garage apartment.

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## 4808 AVENUE F

1932 Hyde Park bungalow on oversized corner lot with gardens and pergola. 2 BR, 1.5 BA with updated kitchen, wood floors, infrared dry sauna, built-ins. Bonus sunroom.

Listed at \$525,000

The Central Austin real estate market remains strong! Contact your neighborhood expert for a complimentary market analysis and customized marketing plan for your property.

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