



THE NORTH UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
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CITY PROPOSES IMPROVEMENTS IN SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS

NEW PROGRAM COULD BE TESTED IN NUNA

Although the future of solid waste--garbage--throughout the nation may be one of impending crisis, the City is taking steps to that may avert many problems here in Austin. At present the City's Environmental and Conservation Services Department is proposing to institute a variety of measures that will increase environmental protection as well as improve customer service. This plan may be several years away from being put into effect citywide, but will get underway in several pilot neighborhoods in just a few months.

The centerpiece of the program involves the distribution of variously sized container-carts strictly for household garbage to each customer. This is then combined with a variable rate structure based on the size of cart you use and you essentially pay in relation to the amount of trash you generate. For those times when your trash exceeds the capacity of the container, additional bags can be put out for pick up so long as they have 'pay as you go' tags or stickers that will be available through the City. Because the storage of garbage is more secure in the proposed container-carts, household garbage would only be picked up once per week--it only has to be wheeled out to the curb once too. But there will still be two pick ups per week. The other pick up will handle only yard wastes to be taken for composting and not to take up valuable space in the landfill. Overall, these various changes should combine to produce significant savings for the City,

Additional elements of the program include steps to make better use of the landfill, improve operations, and protect the environment. At the landfill, a brush shredder and a tire shredder will be employed to reduce the great volume taken up by these items. Collection of household hazards wastes on a routine basis will be

Next
Neighborhood Meeting

Monday, February 4th
Starts at 7:00 p.m.

First English Lutheran Church
Whitis at 30th Street

added and these will no longer end up in the landfill where they have a chance to cause further problems. The addition of transfer stations to reduce transportation costs and the expansion of the existing recycling citywide is also included in the overall program.

Back in January, officials from the Environmental and Conservation Services Department met with the Steering Committee to introduce this program. The City is currently seeking neighborhoods to participate in a pilot project to test the new system. For various reasons, the North University Neighborhood was chose as a candidate, but the decision to proceed depends on whether there is interest in the neighborhood to participate. The matter is scheduled to be discussed at the February Neighborhood Meeting, and if sufficient interest is evident, then that messge will be carried back to the City for consideration. For more information contact any neighborhood association officer.

City Council Passes Development Streamlining Proposal in Original Form

The January 10th City Council Meeting marked the end of a year long public debate that resulted in a major reversal of ordinances that provided public input in the site plan review process. As has been presented previously, these measures eliminate the right of adjacent property owners and other groups to appeal site plans, redefines development guidelines, and allows the City Staff to grant variances independently. In the final debate, Charles Urdy secured a provision to retain notification of site plan submissions to adjacent property owners, but the critical appeal provision was abolished. Only Smoot Carl-Mitchell and Max Nofzigeer opposed the streamlining proposition as a whole in the final vote. Now when site plans are submitted within the existing zoning and building codes the die is pretty much cast for approval except when major variances are requested. Additionally, the final action also represents the rejection of an alternative proposal on the problems in this process favored by neighborhood groups.

At least for now, the playing field is greatly tilted against adjacent property owners and neighborhood groups from challenging future building projects, much less having input or getting cooperation. Perhaps the only alternative that does exist is to begin forging new strategies to deal with development issues. One could potentially look back to the City Council to redress the issue, but probably not anytime soon. Fundamentally, the ability to work within the system--within ordinances and various departments and commissions--has been largely eliminated, and most future efforts will have to be made outside this system.

Wheatsville Gears Up To Celebrate 15th Anniversary

Wheatsville Food Co-op, 3101 Guadalupe, will celebrate fifteen years of operation on Saturday, March 16, with a multitude of activities and City proclamation of "Wheatsville Food Co-op Day". Founded in 1976, Wheatsville, as they proudly say, is "the only grocery store owned by its customers" and today counts 4000 households in its membership. The celebration also marks many recent improvements to the store, continuing record sales, as well as a tradition of support and involvement in the community.

The birthday party will get started at 11:00 a.m. under the awning in front of the store and will last into the afternoon. A big birthday cake and live music will top the activities, and the event will even be taped for airing on ACTV. In addition, a membership meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. at The Upstairs Store (behind Threadgills).

Neighborhood residents are welcome to join in on the activities. Feel free to contact Jim Ellinger (478-2667) for further information.

Happy Birthday Wheatsville!

all Year

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Who?...Me?...Pollute?

INTRODUCTION

Editor's note: The following article was provided to the neighborhood association as a part of a public information initiative by the Texas Water Commission in their efforts to reduce nonpoint source water pollution. Take a look at this introduction to the series. If you'd like to see more of them, let us here at the newsletter know.

Nonpoint Source Water Pollution--it's a term you will hear much more about in the coming months. This type of water pollution is not one of those good guys versus bad guys issues, but what does it mean and what does it have to do with you?

Simply put, it describes all of the pollution that water picks up as it flows across the surface of land. We all know how clean and fresh everything looks and smells after a rainfall. It's like Mother Nature has given our environment a shower and cleaned it up. But what happens to all that 'stuff' that has washed off our lawns, streets, construction sites, and agricultural and industrial areas? It runs off into drainage ditches and streams where it eventually finds its way into the rivers, lakes, and aquifers from which all Texans draw their drinking water. All of that 'stuff' becomes nonpoint source water pollution!

Have you ever said to yourself, "Sure, I believe in cleaning up the environment, but I'm only one person: What can I do?" Reducing nonpoint source water pollution is one of the best ways that you, personally, can do something about protecting and preserving the environment that sustains our life. Your personal actions at home and at work can have a real impact on the quality of water with which you and your family cook, drink, and wash. You can make a difference!

The key to much of the water pollution in Texas is how all chemicals are used by society--by you, your family, friends, and neighbors. Think about the gasoline and oil you use in your car, boat, and lawnmower, the herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers, you use on your lawn, and the cleansers and solvents you use outside at home and work. The residues from these chemicals move down toward our water supplies each time it rains. In addition, litter, yard clippings animal droppings, and soil from yards, streets, construction sites, and farms contribute to the problem. Your environmental housekeeping habits and those of your neighbors make a big difference in many of the pollutants that end up in Texas waterways.

What can you do about preventing this type of pollution. All it takes is for you to think about your personal activities and how you manage the property you own. Household cleansers, pesticides, poisons, paint, motor fuel, and lubricants--just about anything which comes in a can or bottle is a potential water pollutant. Use these products carefully! Look for alternatives that keep our water clean, like taking used motor oil to a local service station for recycling, instead of pouring it down the storm drain. Talk to your neighbor about using your excess pesticides, paint and paint thinner, rather than throwing in the trash or pouring it out just anywhere. When possible, buy and use only those products that contain little or no toxic chemicals. Always read and follow the label directions, especially when using fertilizers, weed killer, insecticides, or anything that is flammable. That old idea 'if one pound is good, two pounds must be great' does not apply when using most chemical products. The extra 'dose' often ends up as a nonpoint source of pollution and can be a potential 'overdose' to our environment.



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 Secretary Will Bozeman 478-1750
 Treasurer Stella Nilsen 459-5821
 Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative
 June Hawley 452-6248

CALENDAR

Neighborhood Meeting February 4
 Steering Committee Meeting March 4
 Neighborhood Meeting and
 Election of Officers April 1
 Austin Clean Sweep and
 Spring Neighborhood Clean Up April 13
 Steering Committee Meeting May 6
 Neighborhood Meeting June 4
 Steering Committee Meeting July 8
 Neighborhood Meeting August 5
 Steering Committee Meeting September 9

QUADRANT LEADERS

Northwest
 Rick Iverson
 451-1011

Northeast
 John Lacy and
 Marianne Mulrey
 478-2838

Southwest
 Dean Towner
 474-1825

Southeast

The NUNA NEWS is published by the North University Neighborhood Association and is distributed to all residents in the area bounded by Guadalupe St., 38th St., Duval St., and 29th St. It is published bimonthly--February, April, June, August, October, and December. All inquiries should be directed to: The NUNA NEWS, 3115 Helms St. #307, Austin, 78705.

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NUNA MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

NAME _____

(Couples please include both)

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

--Enclose \$3.00 per person for 1990 annual dues.

--Please make checks payable to the North University Neighborhood Association.

--Drop off your payment and this form at the next Neighborhood Meeting or mail to:

Stella Nilsen, NUNA Treasurer, 207 W. 35th St., Austin, Texas 78705.