



NORTH UNIVERSITY  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



## President's Note

*By Brandon Tucker, NUNA President*

**A**t our April General Membership meeting we elected a new executive committee and that means it's time for me to step down as NUNA president for now. I was asked to do it just over two years ago and time has flown by.

Just thinking back at some of the things that has happened at the neighborhood since then:

- Our meetings moved to Sparky Park after its grand reopening.
- Solar lights were added to the columns.
- The city designated Aldridge Place a Local Historic District.
- There were city elections and of course, CodeNext...
- We've had numerous successful It's My Park Days!
- We've had some wonderful guests at our membership meetings (and we finally got new meeting signs!)

### In This NUNA Newsletter

- A note from NUNA President Brandon Tucker
- Austin Hosts Dell Match Play
- How to Book Sparky Park
- NUNA Home to Be Featured on 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Preservation Austin Homes Tour
- Five Awesome and Free Places to Take Kids In Austin
- Shipe Pool Update
- Scene and Heard

### Slate of NUNA Officers 2019 - 2020

**Co Presidents**

Barbara Davis & Lynn Marshall

**Co Vice Presidents**

Mike Marcom & Steven Tomlinson

**Secretary**

Brandon Tucker

**Treasurer**

Jan Moyle

**Quadrant Leaders:**

**NE:** Mary Ingle

**SE:** Richard Holland

**NW:** Randy Thompson

**SW:** Jim Creswell

There is of course always more to improve upon or get done. Graffiti in the neighborhood seems like it's as bad as ever and there is always a new nuisance creeping up somewhere around town and into someone's backyard.

If I've learned anything during my time helping out where I can for the neighborhood, it's that progress can be very slow (and sometimes excruciating!) even when there are issues that you want to achieve with the city or neighbors or businesses that you believe will be a proverbial slam dunk. I've watched passionate neighbors spend long hours working on the smallest details. (I hope I'm not causing flashbacks for any of you!)

During election season (which feels like it's 24/7 and year-round these days) we tend to hear about talk of a "political revolution." I sometimes wonder if "revolution" is a misnomer for simply not wanting to put in the work that civic progress requires. There have been folks in the trenches for decades with what can appear to be little to show for it. There is no easy way to achieve consensus and everyone is working with a limited amount of bandwidth in their lives.

I have a deep appreciation for those willing to put in the work on these neighborhood and city matters. It's not always glamorous but it is much appreciated and I'm fortunate I've been able to learn so much.

If you're interested in learning more about the neighborhood or just want to meet some neighbors and listen be sure to come to our next neighborhood meeting. We'll see you there!

## Join NUNA Now!

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and mail it to:

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## Austin Hosts Dell Match Play

*By Brandon Tucker*

Interested in golf? Here's where to start!

Springtime is a great time for golf. Austin recently hosted the PGA Tour's Dell Match Play and I'm sure many of you caught the Masters on TV recently as well.

Austin is a great golf town with an excellent history, not to mention a ton of brainpower in the sport. And did you know that Harvey Penick, one of the most legendary teachers and authors in the game lived in our neighborhood when Hancock Golf Course was the original Austin Country Club? The country club moved to what is now Riverside Golf Course in the 1950s and then again to Westlake in the 1980s.

There is a lot to love about golf. It's a great way to get in your steps. Walk nine holes and you'll come pretty close to 10,000 steps right there. The municipal courses also allow dogs on a leash, so they get a workout too!

Golf can be an intimidating sport, but this is a pretty excellent town for beginners to try their hand at the game. I would start at a putting green at one of the municipal courses like Hancock or Lions. It's free and pressure-free for all ages. I take my daughter and she has a blast – at least until she discovers the bucket of sand by the tee box.

TopGolf, which opened a few years ago in the Domain, is another great way to take some swings in a relaxed environment. I tell people it has a bowling atmosphere. It's not cheap and it's often busy, but it's quite a scene. If you want a smaller crowd go during the day midweek.

There are many short courses in town you should try next. Jimmy Clay-Roy Kizer on the South Side has a great driving range and four-hole short course where you can practice all day for just a few bucks. Downtown, Butler Park Pitch 'n Putt has a great vibe with holes up to about 100 yards. You can BYOB and play in a group as large or small as you like!

Once you've done that, head to Hancock, a nine-hole course that is relatively short but longer than a par-3 course. It's been in pretty good shape this spring, and it's rare to play a golf course that dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. My favorite hole is the elevated par-3 5<sup>th</sup> that plays over Waller Creek.

You can also check out the Harvey Penick Golf Campus on the east side, which has three practice holes along with a driving range and nine

regulation-length holes. They also offer Footgolf.

Once you're ready for 18 holes, head to Lions Golf course in Old West Austin or go to Morris Williams. (Frankly, if you're not a golfer, you should still go to Lions and take a look around the property. It is a gorgeous piece of parkland that feels stuck in time.)

Need help getting started? The city offers clinics and lessons at many of their locations and Hancock has junior golf programs in the summer. I would personally recommend finding a group clinic as it's cheaper and more relaxed than a one-on-one session. Grey Rock Golf Club (which the city bought a few years ago) has co-ed, senior and Get Golf Ready programs.

I hope to see you on the links!  
(Be sure to yell "Fore!")



# How to Book Sparky Park

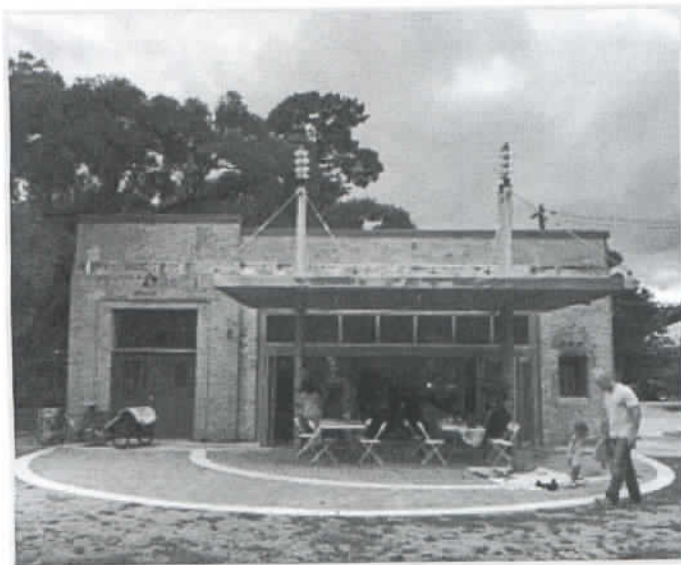
By Brandon Tucker

Did you know you can book Sparky Park for your own small gatherings? It's a lovely pocket park with limited but efficient space. We had a baby shower there one afternoon and it worked nicely. There is a fee of \$20/hr to book through the city. To do so, visit this link:

[austintexas.gov/page/special-events-policies-procedures#facility](http://austintexas.gov/page/special-events-policies-procedures#facility)

Here are a few initial guidelines:

- You must reserve the space 14 days in advance.
- No alcohol or amplified sound.
- No grilling or BBQ.
- There is one bathroom. Hot and cold water is available and the room is air conditioned.



Caption: Sparky Park is the perfect gathering space for meetings.

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## **NUNA Home to Be Featured on 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Preservation Austin Homes Tour— April 27<sup>th</sup>**

*By Eileen Gill*

When you walk our neighborhood's streets, you'll notice that North University is lucky to be home to many of Austin's great intact Craftsman homes. 32<sup>nd</sup> & 33<sup>rd</sup> Streets and Wheeler Street have some of the most beautiful Craftsman homes in town, while other streets east of Speedway feature more modest, but still lovely versions of this classic American style.

The "Craftsman" style that emerged from The Arts and Crafts movement was an international trend in the decorative and fine arts that began in Britain and flourished in Europe and America between about 1880 and 1920.

Currently there is an exhibit at the Harry Ransom Center entitled *The Rise of Everyday Design: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Britain and America*—which runs through July 14<sup>th</sup>. It explores this movement in art, architecture and other ephemera with over 200 pieces on display. HRC is always free to the public.

In conjunction with this exhibit, *Preservation Austin's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Homes Tour: The Art of the Craftsman Style*, celebrates seven stunning Craftsman style homes in Austin's central neighborhoods—including one of the "Twin Sisters" at 3118 Wheeler Street in Aldridge Place. These home's histories give a glimpse of Craftsman style living in the early twentieth century.

Creative updates and additions show their seamless adaptation to modern life today. Harry Ransom Center members receive discount pricing. This year's tour takes place April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10AM–4PM. Tickets are available now at [preservationaustin.org](http://preservationaustin.org). Become a member and get discounted tickets.

# Five Awesome and Free Places to Take Kids In Austin

*By Brandon Tucker*

Now that our first-born is nearly three years old, we're starting to get a handle on where to take them. The Thinkery is of course the go-to place in town, and recently the Austin Bouldering Project has also become a toddler favorite. But if you don't feel like spending that kind of money to go, and don't feel like watching your toddler cheat death on a playscape for a few hours, there are plenty of places to go that are free and fun for everyone.

## **The New Central Public Library**

If you haven't been to the new central public library yet, you are missing out! It is a marvelous place to visit even if you don't even open a book.



There's a whole floor and room for kids with toys, interactive games and books to read. Before or after, stroll over across the new bridge on Shoal Creek to the Power Plant redevelopment which has a fun grassy area next to Trader Joe's, a few other dining options, and an ice cream shop.

## **The Bus!**

We love taking the bus, and the stop at 31<sup>st</sup> & Guadalupe or 34<sup>th</sup> & Guadalupe is very convenient for NUNA residents. Penny seems to enjoy feeling like a big kid not sitting in a car seat. It's a great way to sit and talk and be present with your child as opposed to them yelling at you from the car seat while you're driving.

## **Fareground**

We'll take the bus or ride our bike downtown to Fareground at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Congress. It's a really fun gathering space. Not only is there delicious food to eat inside and beer and cocktails for knackered adults, but the sunken outdoor courtyard is tucked away from street traffic and kids love to run around under the mist towers or roll down the artificially turfed hill. Shady trees also come in handy around this time of year.

## **Home Slice North Loop**

We all know kids love pizza, but the Home Slice on North Loop also has a neat play area: a series of turfed mounds and tunnels kids can run around on. There is also a chalk board. It's also right next to the bar! (And if you want to take the bus, just take the 7 route north on Duval).

## **Splash Pads and Pools!**

By the time this newsletter is published, we'll be just a few weeks away from the splash pads at Eastwoods

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## NORTH UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The location for the meeting is:

Sparky Park  
Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30pm

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Guests: TBA
- III. Topics
- IV. Reports:
  - ANC Mary Ingle
  - CANPAC
  - DRC Steven Tomlinson
  - Parks Douglas Plummer
  - News letter Abby Tucker
  - Treasurer Jan Moyle
  - Quadrant Leaders Reports
- VI. Items for Action: None
- VIII. Adjourn

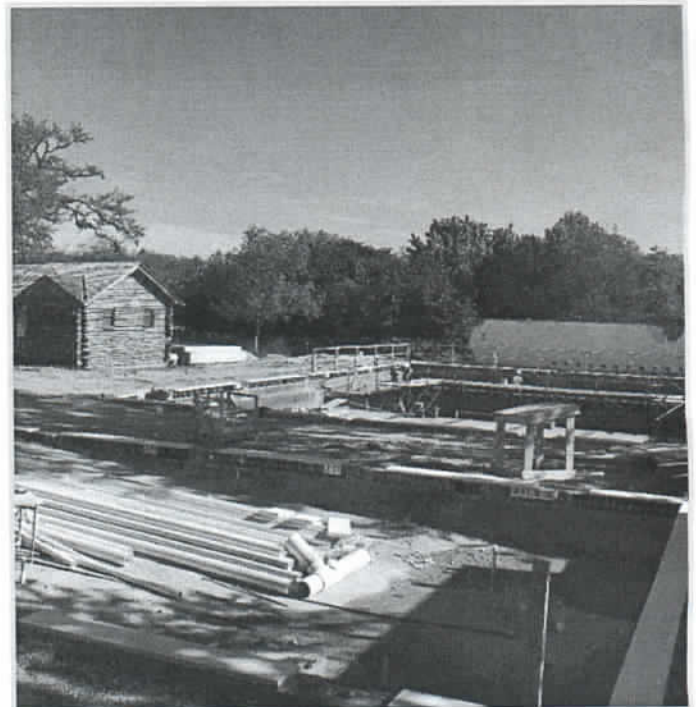
Park and Bailey Park from opening (mid-May). Then the free city pools open in mid-June. Can't wait? We don't blame you. Deep Eddy is open year round and has a kid-friendly shallow end.

Where do you like to take kids in town? Tell us all about it by emailing [nunanews@gmail.com](mailto:nunanews@gmail.com).

## Shipe Pool Update

We've already had some 90-degree days and summer is right around the corner. Fortunately, it also appears that our closest neighborhood pool is making a comeback as well! Check out the progress the contractors are making at Shipe Pool!

The most recent report is that construction is on schedule and may be ready by early summer. Fingers crossed! You can sign up for Shipe Pool updates on the city's website.



Progress is being made at Shipe Pool!

# Scene and Heard

## Contribute to the NUNA Newsletter!

We know this neighborhood is full of interesting people and stories. We'd love to hear from you. We'll take restaurant reviews, talk about your local projects, any weird hobbies you have, things you love about the neighborhood -- frankly just about anything!

We'll also take your pictures! Do send us any cool shots from events around town or in the neighborhood.

Are you interested in contributing? Want story ideas? Email us at [nunanews@gmail.com](mailto:nunanews@gmail.com).

## Another Successful It's My Park Day in the Books!

Thanks to everyone who came out on the first Saturday of March at Hemphill Park for It's My Park Day, sponsored by the Austin Parks Foundation! We had a great crowd as usual and were able to knock out all the mulching that morning. The trees are ready for summertime! Thanks to local retailers Trudy's, Starbucks and Wheatsville Co-Op for supplying the fuel. We'll see you in the fall!

## Goodbye to Local Restaurant

Wild Wood Café on 31<sup>st</sup> Street and Guadalupe closed abruptly. The gluten-free shop had delicious breakfast and even good food for those of us *flourivores*.



The demolished back portion of the former Ruby's BBQ



Scooter sighting in Adams Park. Not the right place to park your scooter, folks.





The editor recently had a chance to take a helicopter ride over Austin and get this neat perspective of the Capitol complex.



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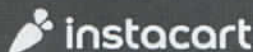
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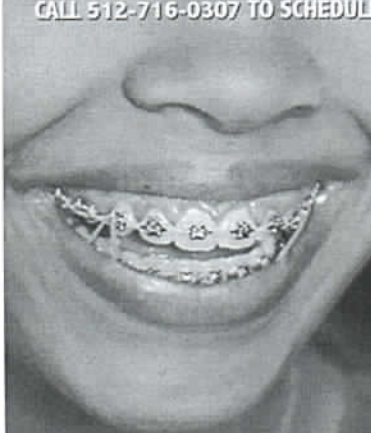
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**The holidays are quickly approaching which means two things-Aunt Edna's fruit cake and holiday traveling. Don't hop on the highway without a proper check-up and leave your family stranded on the side of the road halfway to Wisconsin!**


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# HYDE PARK & NORTH UNIVERSITY HOMES GALLERY



## 4211 AVENUE F

Spacious 1923 Victorian house plus garage apartment on oversized lot, 75' x 125'. House has 4 BR, 3 BA, 2 LIV, screened porch. Apartment is 1 BR, 1 BA. Bonus workshop.  
Listed at \$1,150,000



## 4301 AVENUE D

One of Hyde Park's original grand residences. 1914 Craftsman style home on over-sized corner lot in heart of historic district. 4 BR, 3 BA, 3 LIV. Wrap-around porches.  
Listed at \$1,185,000



## 4506 AVENUE C

1910 Folk Victorian with many recent updates— foundation, roof, plumbing, wiring. 2 BR, 1 BA plus detached 1 BR/ 1BA casita/guest house.  
Listed at \$459,000



## 4302 AVENUE G

Charming 1920s multi-family investment property located in prime location near Shipe Park. Three separate units, on-site parking, many recent updates.  
Listed at \$750,000



## 2311 SHOAL CREEK BLVD.

Former home of Gov. Ann Richards. 1949 Mid-century modern architecture near Caswell Tennis Courts. 3,000 SF 3 BR, 2 BA, open floor plan, beautiful yard, .384 acre lot.  
Listed at \$989,000



## 4809 AVENUE H

Two adorable homes on one lot. Main house is 3 BR, 2 BA, with new kitchen & baths. One-story guest house has 1 BR, 1 BA. Ideal for rental or extended family.  
Listed at \$649,000



## 4009 AVENUE D

Classic 1925 Hyde Park bungalow in heart of historic district. 2 BR, 1 BA, updated kitchen and hall bath, utility porch. Wood floors throughout. One-car garage.  
Listed at \$529,000



## 4202 AVENUE C

Cute 1920s Hyde Park bungalow featuring 2 BR, 1 BA plus separate 1 BR, 1 BA garage apartment. Both have hardwood floors and many recent updates.  
Listed at \$529,500

Hyde Park & North University homes continue to be in high demand and are selling quickly! Call your neighborhood expert today for a complimentary market analysis and customized marketing plan for your property.

## Suzanne Pringle

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