

NORTH UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Letter from the President

Happy October

Students are back, school is in, and windows can be opened again. Austin doesn't have the most complete set of seasons, but I welcome what we have – and enjoy the changes as they occur. The days are shorter, but I see more neighbors outside walking, raking, talking – so I'd encourage folks to join your neighbors and step outside when you get the chance.

For better or worse I noticed that my cell phone now counts the steps I take each day – so the dog has been taking me on longer, more frequent walks. I think it's good for both of us, so you'll see me out and about a lot more, too. Say hello when you get the chance.

NOTE – Black's Barbecue is opening a location near 31st/Guadalupe (in the old Boomerang's space), so you may see me walking that direction at times. **Come to our October NUNA meeting to taste some of their food!**

November Elections - meet your candidates

We have an important election for NUNA coming up on November 4. We will be moving from having multiple city council members living in our district and representing us, down to _1_ council member that lives in our district and helps us take NUNA forward.

Big thanks for Clayton Maxwell for inviting each of our district 9 candidates to submit an article for this newsletter. Give their notes a read, and then find an event to go meet the candidates and form an opinion first-hand.

Here are a couple of lists of forums where you can listen/talk/meet our candidates:

- www.austinchronicle.com/elections/candidate-forums/
- www.austintexas.gov/department/events/1733

(I'm sure there are other lists. These were just two that I found that looked to be relatively complete)

Working with your city

We pay our taxes, we expect some level of city services,

and from time to time we need to give folks at the city a little nudge to push things along. Here are some things that have happened, or are happening around NUNA. Thanks to these folks for recognizing an issue and starting to push. Neighbors get things done – the association is just here to help.

Flooding

- We had a couple of significant rain events over the last 2 months and these have caused some localized flooding in NUNA – with damage to property and multiple cars.
- Thanks to Tanya, Carol, Mary, and JR for reaching out to the city and organizing a face-to-face to talk about the flooding, the state of our drainage system, and development projects that may worsen the situation.
- These folks continue to work with the city, so look for more information in future.
- We did learn that the city depends upon us to watch out for blocked storm drains. Please keep your eyes open and report blocked/buried storm drains to 311.



Love on Helms Street

NUNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

First English Lutheran Church

Monday, October 6th, 2014 6:30 pm

AGENDA

I. Barbecue!

Black's barbecue is planning to open a location near 31st & Guadalupe, and they are bringing us some samples... Come have a snack!

- II. Call to Order Approve Minutes
- III. Guests Safety in NUNA -

Austin Police Department

I. We've had a recent attack in NUNA, so want to have a discussion and Q&A regarding our neighborhood and keeping safe.

IV. New Business:

I. **Discuss.** Quick status on development projects in NUNA – W 32nd, E 34th, ... (Steven Tomlinson)

V. Old Business

- I. Parks Sparky Park construction status and updates (Doug Plummer)
- II. Parks Hemphill Park getting something started!(Bill Bednar)
- III. **Website.** What changes we want to see, and finding someone to help us get there (Clayton Maxwell)

VI. Reports

- I. **Treasurer** Jan Moyle
- II. Quadrant Leaders' Dick Holland, Mary Ingle,JR Johnson, Rick Iverson, and Laurie Marchant

VII. Adjourn

Noise

- Bob, Carol, and Mary have lead a multi-year, multineighborhood push to get the city to better manage noise/music and its impact to neighbors (even neighbors >2 miles away)
- **RESULTS.** At their September 1 meeting, the Austin Music Commission unanimously approved a change in the way the city measures sound levels at clubs/events. This 1-year trial of the dBC system was a change we wanted to see so thank these neighbors when you run into them.
- Our neighbors also met with management from Stubbs, who were very aware of the problem and who talked about specific changes they are making and also pledged to come "listen for themselves" in our neighborhood.
- Big thanks for working effectively with the city, and for also having constructive conversations with local businesses to help effect positive change for NUNA.

Sidewalks

- If you walk around our neighborhood you've probably noticed that our sidewalks need work repair in some places, and quite a few streets just don't have any sidewalks to begin with.
- Thanks to Carol, Steve, and Scott for continuing to work with the city to help us see some sidewalk repairs and potential creation of new sidewalks.
- We haven't seen the right results yet, so stay tuned and reach out to the neighborhood if this is one you want to be involved in.

Storm Drains

- Around the time we saw our July flooding, Carol and Mary started also talking with the city about the sorry state of some of the storm drains in our neighborhood.
- Since July we've seen 2 drains un-buried, 1 alley re-graded, and we're about to see another alley improved.
- Take a look on your block, in your yard, and in your alley

 there may be a storm drain around you that needs some work.

Development

- Last-but-not-least...
- NUNA sees a pretty constant flow of development projects come our way. These include residential remodels, residential demolitions, zoning changes, and even larger projects.
- Big, big thanks to **Steven Tomlinson** for helping to keep an eye on these, and for continually engaging with the parties involved to help NUNA understand their intent, and for helping them understand NUNA's expectations, development considerations, and our priorities as a central neighborhood.
- Say thanks to Steven when you see him, as he always seems to bring the right parties to the table on behalf of NUNA and our neighbors. Thank you.

Meet your neighbors, before a Saturday night

It's fall, and that means you probably have new neighbors within a certain radius of your home. With any living arrangement, there may be times when you want to talk with your neighbor about something they are doing/not-doing that bothers you (e.g. – noise, trash, construction, morning aerobics, subwoofers, you-name-it, ...). As a favor, and as a good neighbor in NUNA... Try and meet that neighbor to say hello before you need to knock on their door to ask them to turn down the music.

I'm not asking anyone to do anything dangerous, confrontational, etc – I'm just asking us to try and be good neighbors to those around us, as we want our neighbors to be good to us. Thanks for your help on this one – NUNA is a great place, and it's the neighbors that keep it a great place.

I continue to love living in NUNA – the place, the location, the neighbors. We've done some good things, and I look forward to some great things. Thanks also for reading to the end of this note.

See you around the neighborhood...

-Michael Riley NunaAustin@gmail.com

Note from the Editor

I am now sitting at JPs coffee shop eavesdropping on two avuncular professors a few tables over:

"Did you know this place is closing?"

"Yes, it's so depressing."

"I know. I've been coming to this place since I was a faculty member. I don't know where I'm going to go..."

Ouch. I am not sure where I am going to go either after JPs closes next week. I've grown to love these strong double cappuccinos that help me get a lot of work done here in the company of the UT crowd and the friendly tattooed staff, despite my lapses into eavesdropping. As I sit here sipping what will likely be my final JPs coffee, I consider the constant flow of coming and going I have seen in our area since I first lived here in 1989. I guess it's that way with all neighborhoods: once you commit to staying put for the long haul, you have to prepare yourself for these goodbyes. Ah, the vicissitudes of time...

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I would wager that probably no one has been more privy to NUNA's particular vicissitudes than Leoda Anderson, who first moved to NUNA's Wheeler Street in 1965 with her four young daughters. Back then, she and her girls would play badminton in the street until a vehicle would approach, at which time they would yell, "Car!" and scatter to the sidewalks. We are very fortunate to have an article by Leoda in this issue. As we all acclimate to school being back in session, we hear from Leoda, now 98 years old,





about her school house adventures while growing up in Missouri. We are honored to join her on this little bit of time travel to a way of life that is very distant to most of us, but that she lived and remembers so vividly she can write about it here in shining details.

And, as our able leader Michael Riley says in his letter, we are very pleased to have in this issue essays from each of the District 9 candidates. Even though they are deep in the midst of their campaigns, they made time to write to us about what they love about our 'hood, and I am very grateful.

The Dish author, the Unstoppable Beth Goulart Monson, continues to bring us the latest in neighborhood food news—thank you, Beth. And also, I am pretty sure Beth has much to do with why we are getting Black's Barbeque at our next general meeting. Double thank you. Alas, her Dish this month includes a little scoop on the fate of JPs, a place many of us are very sad to see go. I raise my cappuccino glass to you, JPs!

Happy reading.

Clayton Maxwell nunanews@gmail.com

Letters from the Candidates:

A few weeks ago, I asked our City Council candidates from District 9 to please write us a letter telling us what they think is important in a neighborhood and what, specifically, they like about our neighborhood. Here is what they had to say:

FROM KATHIE TOVO:

I'm delighted to share a few words with you. North University was one of my first homes as a young Ph.D. student, and I'm still a nearby neighbor—just across Guadalupe in the Heritage neighborhood – where I now live with my husband and two young daughters.

For those I haven't yet met, I'm Council Member Kathie Tovo, and I'm running to be your District 9 representative. During my time as a Council Member, I've consistently supported neighborhoods like NUNA, always asking whether the Council's actions will make the quality of life better or worse for the families and individuals who live and work here.

To me, NUNA exemplifies much of what's best about Austin's neighborhoods and why it's so important to stand up for them.

First, it has a wonderful mix of folks – families and singles, professionals and professors, students and seniors, people of all backgrounds and walks of life. Whether you're a lifelong resident or a college renter, NUNA has a way of making you feel at home.

NUNA's housing options are equally diverse, with majestic older homes mixing comfortably with smaller Arts & Crafts bungalows on lovely tree-shaded streets. And despite rising costs of living (believe me, I'm working on that!), the area still manages to offer some of the most affordable student housing close to campus.

The walkable commercial areas on Guadalupe and Speedway provide a strong mix of local businesses (I don't know how my own family would survive without Wheatsville, to name just one). And NUNA's location provides excellent transportation options for those who can't or don't wish to rely solely on cars.

And then the parks: NUNA's venerable Adams-Hemphill Park (or "Eeyore Park," as my daughters term it) provides wonderful green space for neighbors to play, meet and relax, with or without the family dog.

One of my favorite more recent additions is Sparky Park, an inspiring lesson in neighborhood activism as well as a reminder of the importance of parkland and open space. I was delighted to join many of you at the opening back in 2009, before my time on Council. NUNA neighbors created a groundbreaking partnership with the city and ultimately transformed this old electric substation into an enchanting pocket park. Parks and open space become even more important as our city grows; as a community member on the

Families and Children Task Force I helped lead efforts to have Austin adopt a goal of creating parks within walking distance from every resident, and as a Council Member I led successful efforts to help the Highland Neighborhood Association create a public park on a tract that has been used exclusively by sports teams for about 40 years.

Thanks to strong efforts and good planning by neighborhood volunteers, NUNA has identified areas for appropriate density, primarily along major transit corridors, and has a Neighborhood Conservation Combining District that gives these plans the force of zoning law. As the former president of the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association (also in District 9), I support neighborhood plans and will work hard to get them incorporated into the new city code during CodeNext. Too much uncontrolled density can hurt the quality of life in Central Austin neighborhoods, and we need to work together to manage growth and development.

Which brings me to my final point: the area's wonderful history of civic engagement. Whether it's an issue unique to the neighborhood or a broader topic that affects our entire city, NUNA residents are not afraid to stand up for things that matter.

NUNA exemplifies what's best about Austin neighborhoods, and why I've worked so hard to keep them - not just here, but all across our community.

When I ran in 2011, I promised to be a different kind of Council member, and I've kept that promise. My service has been about representing everyday Austinites, not the lobbyists and developers who come before us in a steady stream.

Out of our ten council districts, District 9 faces the most intense pressure from the rapid growth and change. In the years ahead, we need to guide development, not rubberstamp it. We need to make growth pay for itself instead of asking taxpayers to subsidize it. We need to protect the quality of life of the citizens who live here, and not let out-of-control development bulldoze what we love about Austin. In growing our city, we need to protect our neighborhoods, our natural environment – all that defines our unique Austin culture. We need a philosophy at City Hall that puts people first.

As your District 9 Council Member, my door will always be open to you, and I'll continue to stand up for livable, affordable neighborhoods for everyone who calls Austin home.

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:

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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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.

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FROM CHRIS RILEY:

What I like about NUNA.

One thing I've enjoyed about serving on the Austin City Council, and the Planning Commission before that, has been getting to know and appreciate almost all of Austin's neighborhoods. Before each meeting, I like to bike out to sites involved in land use decisions on our agenda – mainly to get a better understanding of the issues, but also to get a better feel for the neighborhoods involved. It's helped me realize just how diverse our neighborhoods are.

It's also helped me develop more of an appreciation for my favorite neighborhoods. For many years now, one of my top favorites has been -- you guessed it -- North University. That's partly due to my family connections here; my brother Michael, his wife Ginny, and their sons Charlie and Christopher live in a wonderful old house at 34th& Grooms. We've had a lot of memorable times in that house, and gotten to know many great neighbors.

But North University is also a favorite neighborhood because of its wonderful diversity. Small-scale apartment complexes sit across the street from single-family homes. Restaurants and other gathering places are within easy reach. The university is just a short walk away.

Not every neighborhood offers that level of diversity; in fact, very few do. I grew up in Tarrytown, and loved playing football in the front yard, or riding my bike to friends' houses or to the pool. But the neighborhood didn't feature a great variety of housing types or other uses -- and in some respects it offers less today, now that the Holiday House and other gathering places are gone.

For the last 24 years I've been living downtown in the Old Austin Neighborhood, on San Antonio Street. This neighborhood was originally residential, and it was filled with families until about 75 years ago. But the families are almost all gone now, and most of the old homes are now used for office space.

North University, in contrast, has managed to maintain a nice balance of families and students, and a mix of single-family homes and apartments, with other uses located conveniently nearby. Kids can walk or bike to Lee Elementary, or to Adams-Hemphill, Eastwoods, or Sparky Park. Families tend to stay a long time, and to know who lives where.

That degree of continuity is especially impressive given all the pressures affecting the central city for the past few decades. Austin's population has been booming, and the University has been evolving too, but the North University neighborhood has maintained its character and appeal throughout. The diversity of building types and uses in North University has likely contributed to the neighborhood's resilience. Preferences and economic cycles may shift, but no one shift hits all markets in the same way. With multiple different housing types, the neighborhood has been able to meet all kinds of needs and still retain its stability.

Now we're seeing new housing emerging all over the central city, from East Riverside to West 5th, from the Triangle to Mueller. In some cases the pressure to provide more housing has been disruptive; but in many other cases, the availability of more housing has helped us absorb the city's growth in ways that have actually added to our quality of life. Today in Downtown, Mueller, and many other areas, there are countless new places nearby to shop, eat, or work. Many of those have emerged only because of the significant growth we've continued to see.

Growth always involves some strain. There are serious issues to deal with, from parking and traffic to noise and trash. But when growth is accommodated in the right places, there are real upsides as well. You don't have to live at the Triangle, or even right next to it, to enjoy having Mandola's or the Flying Saucer nearby.

More importantly, there's a real value to welcoming all sorts of people to the central city. The energy and creativity of those who live here – including the newcomers – is a large part of what's made neighborhoods like North University so successful for so many years. And we don't get that kind of energy and creativity from trying to push people away; we get it by finding good ways to welcome them.

I'm hopeful that we'll keep making more housing options available all over the city, as called for by our comprehensive plan. As we do that, we'll be able to draw on the experiences of well-established neighborhoods like North University. This neighborhood is truly a wonderful place, and it has charted a path showing the whole city how sustainable, mobile, connected, creative, and innovative Austin can be.

FROM ERIN MCGANN:

What I love about my neighborhood and why I appreciate NUNA in particular:

Let me start with why I appreciate NUNA. The people who attend the NUNA meetings are lovely. When I came to your meeting in May, you were obviously very concerned about your neighborhood's affordability. You voiced concerns that the young families in the area were being put in the position of having to move (or not consider the neighborhood at all) and you found this distressing. I was touched by your compassion and this made me want to work harder for the residents of Austin. You also care about preserving the aspects of your neighborhood that

make it so special. You obviously care about your neighbors and your neighborhood, and I will strive to represent you as best I can.

While I don't live in North University, I have lived in the Bouldin neighborhood in South Austin for the last 12 years. I share your concern about maintaining those aspects that attracted us to our neighborhoods in the first place. It has been an extraordinary experience for me to stay in one place for so long, since prior to living in Austin, I moved frequently for most of my life. While Bouldin has a different character and has seen a more dramatic change in the make up and types of houses, it shares a lot of the same concerns as North University, and the rest of Austin, for that matter.

I have seen a lot of changes in my own neighborhood - houses being torn down or moved, older residents forced to relocate due to the increased tax burden - and I expect to see more as Austin grows. Like Bouldin, the aspects that make the North University neighborhood so attractive to its citizens need to be maintained, while also recognizing that Austin is one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, which makes change inevitable.

One of the things I enjoy most about my own neighborhood is the pocket parks: small plots of land that may have a jungle gym, or as in the case of Ricky Guerrero Park, a water splash pad for kids to play in. My husband and I have had four dogs over the years and we have always been able to walk them to these parks, and until recently, to one of the greatest dogs parks created at Auditorium Shores. We are also both runners and love to run throughout the city. This includes running through the North University neighborhood, and I love the old growth trees and close-knit nature of the neighborhood.

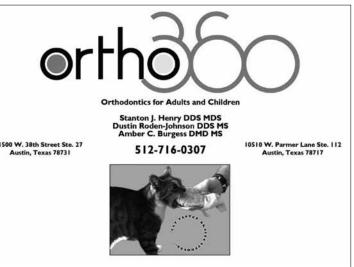
What I look for in a neighborhood is walkability, parks and local businesses. I want to be able to know my neighbors and have a quiet place to live. I lived in a small town in northern New Mexico for a short time and after living there, I added to my criteria that I must live in an area that offers pizza delivery! I love Austin neighborhoods and want to see them both maintain their core, but allow for new members to be a part of what makes our city and our neighborhoods so special.

The Dish

by Beth Goulart Monson

It's PSL season again. In the way Hallmark gets the credit for creating "greeting card holidays," **Starbucks** has given us the seasonal, wildly popular pumpkin spice latte (\$4.28,





pe^{-dect}Kathie Tovo

A Progressive Leader on City Council District 9

- Leading on property tax reform—to make corporations pay their fair share.
- Believes we should manage growth, not rubber-stamp it.
- Was a leader in the successful fight to keep Becker Elementary and other Central Austin schools open.
- ✓ Voted to require developers to provide parking for new projects instead of pushing parking into surrounding neighborhoods.
- Opposed public subsidies for luxury hotel and FI racetrack.
- Led successful efforts to create senior meals programs, affordable housing, and more public parks.

Learn more at kathieforaustin.com

Pol adv. paid for by the Kathie Tovo Campaign, P.O. Box 300655, Austin, TX 78703, Joseph Pinnelli, Treasurer. This campaign has not agreed to comply with the contribution and expenditure limits of the Austin Fair Campaign Chapter. 12 oz). The coffee giant first introduced its famous fall drink in 2003, and it has sold hundreds of millions of them around the world since then. The drink disappears each winter, then returns the next fall with marketing fanfare that reached an unprecedented pitch this year. When I opened up my Sunday New York Times and found a full-page ad for the drink, I got to wondering: What are my pumpkin spice options in the North University neighborhood?

Of course, we have a **Starbucks** at the corner of 38th and Guadalupe. The chain that invented the drink doesn't seem to have trademarked the name; you can order pumpkin spice lattes at other coffee shops all over town. It's hard to beat the convenient hours and speed of service at Starbucks, but it's nice to support our local shops, too.

Starbucks blends the usual milk and espresso with proprietary syrup to create its concoction. While ingredient details are debated, a spokesperson from Starbucks did confirm to USA Today that the syrup features flavors from the spices normally associated with pumpkin piecinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and cloves. (There's no actual pumpkin, or flavor thereof, in the drink.) The syrup has imitators. Every coffee shop I've visited lately has a syrup it can use to make its own pumpkin spice latte. But take variation in the syrup composition and mix it with natural variations in coffee beans and roasts, and the character of each shop's pumpkin spice latte differs.

The original - the one from **Starbucks** - is very sweet, even if you ask your barista to hold the customary whipped cream. Starbucks is known for dark-roasted coffee. That darkness goes well with such sweetness, keeping it just shy of cloying. The PSL I ordered across Guadalupe at **La Tazza Fresca** (\$4.98) was less sweet and pleasantly spicy. The one from **JP's Java** (\$4.45), down on San Jacinto, was also less sweet. I especially enjoyed its soft foam, decorated with a fancy fern leaf shape, and the bright, acidic flavor of **JP's** custom-blended coffee. Spider House and Beware **Coffee**, our other neighborhood spots, weren't open when I visited them.

Sadly, by the time you read this JP's Java will likely have closed. Though details are scarce and unofficial, rumor has it that JP's is changing hands, and the new owner plans to turn the space into a gas station.

Alas, all change is not ill. **Tom's Tabooley**, now fully vegetarian, has started serving breakfast. Everything on the eclectic morning menu costs \$5.00 and is served from 8:00 until around 11. Choices include a wrap filled with egg, falafel, and tzatziki to a Thai noodle "nest" topped by a fried egg to a Belgian-style waffle with the usual toppings.



JPs Barista—We Will Miss You

At press time, we're still waiting for **Black's** to open in the old **Boomerang's** space just off Guadalupe.

But at least we're seeing signs of fall after a long Texas summer. We recently had the first good baking weather we've seen in months, and I took full advantage of it, turning canned pumpkin into scones and laying in snack-time granola bars, banana mini-muffins, and almond-butter cookies for the week to come.

Pecan tree limbs are hanging heavy with a bumper crop all around the neighborhood. I hope to see the nuts start to fall soon in our own yard. I'll take them to the Senior Activity Center (2874 Shoal Crest Ave) for cracking when they do, then pick the shells off and save the prettiest halves for the Thanksgiving pie.

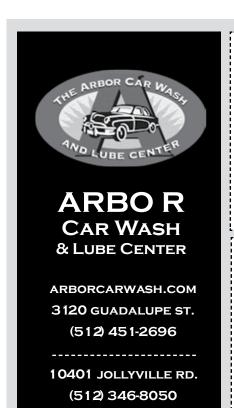
When our next gusts of fall blow in, I'll even mix up some pumpkin spice syrup of my own. Recipes abound online. Last year, my personal barista (and husband) laced my morning latte with the stuff every morning, all fall. Our kitchen is undeniably local, and our syrup will even contain real pumpkin.

Bon appetit, y'all.

Lee Elementary 75th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, October 2 | 5:30-7:30

Lee Elementary will mark its 75th anniversary with a community-wide celebration on Thursday, Oct. 2 from 5:30-7:30 pm. This event is open to current, former, and future Lee students and their families, current and former teachers and staff and neighbors/community members.



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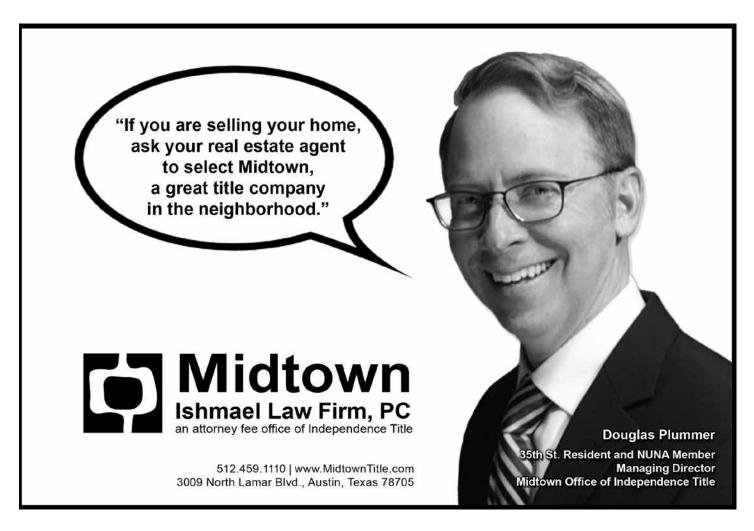
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October 18 & 19
Tickets & Info www.austinnari.org
Find CG&S www.CGSDB.com









All are welcome to enjoy a free mini-concert outside on the Lee playground at 6:15 by Lee parents and Texas music icons Hayes Carll and Bruce Robison.



The school will be open so that visitors can tour the original 1939 building and auditorium, revisit old classrooms and enjoy themed bulletin boards created by students in each grade to honor the seven decades of

Lee. Old class photos will be displayed in the hallway next to the decade in which they were taken.

The event is free and open to the public, and visitors wishing to get involved and support Lee can make a donation to the PTA, bring canned food items for the Capital Area Food Bank, sign up to help teachers with their "wish lists" or purchase 75th anniversary t-shirts.

The PTA will provide water and soft drinks, and food trucks will be on site for those wishing to purchase food. Visitors can enjoy a Lee-themed anniversary cake by Lee parent Paloma Efron of Coco Paloma Desserts and French macarons in Lee's school colors by Lee parent Tracey Cole of Cookie Peace.

The Oct. 2 community event is part of a week-long school-wide celebration.

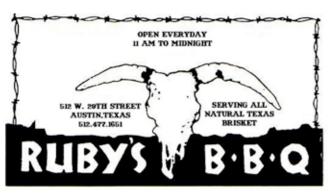
About Lee Elementary

Robert E. Lee was built in 1939 among large, old Live Oak trees on Waller Creek, three blocks north of the University of Texas campus. The first students attended Lee in September of 1939. It was the first AISD school fueled by natural gas instead of coal. During the 1940's the school became overcrowded as the community grew. In 1952, the adjacent "White House" was purchased by AISD to be utilized as a permanent building for Lee students; it is now used for sixth grade (Lee is one of the only AISD elementary schools still offering sixth grade).

Over the years several renovations and additions have been completed for the Lee campus. The gym and cafeteria were added in 1952. In December of 1986 three new kindergarten classrooms were completed. The library, computer lab and two classrooms were completed in August of 1988. New play equipment was installed in 1999 and a third playscape was added in 2001. The elevator and major electrical renovations were completed during the fall of 2006. An outdoor classroom was added in 2012. The fact that Lee is bounded by Waller Creek means that expansion into







portable buildings has not been an option, so the school size has remained small.

Some of the programs that Lee is proud to provide include a Fine Arts focus that involves a variety of drama, music and dance performances in the auditorium for all Lee students. Lee is the only elementary school with an auditorium that will house all the students at one time. Every student becomes a performer twice each year during programs that extend the curriculum.

Inherit Austin's Somewhere in Time

Dinner at the Elisabet Ney, Nov. 16

Inherit Austin, a membership group within Preservation Austin, will host its fifth annual "Somewhere in Time" fundraising dinner at Formosa, the home and studio of sculptor Elisabet Ney, 304 East 44th Street. The event will take place at 5 pm on Sunday, Nov. 16. Enjoy drinks and dinner under the stars and tour the historic property, purchased in 1892 by Ney. At the turn of the 19th century, Formosa became a salon, or a gathering place for influential Texans drawn to "Miss Ney" and to the stimulating discussions of politics, art and philosophy that took place there. Following Ney's death in 1907, her friends preserved the studio and its contents as the Elisabet Ney Museum. Since 1941, Formosa has been a property of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Tickets are \$100 per guest. Purchase tickets and sponsorships (with generous benefits) at preservationaustin.org

Gone are the Days

By Leoda Anderson

Researchers and investigative reporters are discovering huge holes in the education of today's children and young people. Random questioning reveals that a shocking number of them don't know the name of the first president of the United States, the name of the current Vice President, the three branches of government, what country we fought in the Revolutionary War and why. Current events do no better.

When college students were asked what they knew about Benghazi, a typical answer was, "Ben who? No, sorry, never heard of him. "



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We went back in memory to a time in the 1920s and a place where education was dispensed and absorbed in a small-town, one-room schoolhouse. In our time 30-40 children were taught by one teacher, 8 grades, all subjects. In the time of our mother and her six siblings, enrollment was 50-60. We have a photograph to prove it. Neatly dressed boys and girls, all at attention, the schoolmaster a tall, austere, no-nonsense-looking sort of fellow.

Discipline was not a problem. Kids were taught to behave at home, and any unruly rude kid would have been looked upon as a freak by the others. Minor misdeeds, like passing notes or "talking out loud" were punished by the offender being ordered to "stand on the floor." That meant standing at the front of the room facing the whole school body for about twenty minutes; a textbook in hand, to read or study, was allowed. As a deterrent, being made uncomfortable worked.

Backgrounds of the children were varied: farmers, business, trades like carpentry and mechanics, clergy, and occasional drop-ins for a season or so. Tie-cutters, who made wooden ties for the railroads, were usually mountain folk, from the Ozarks.

When we started grade school almost a hundred years ago, the day started at 9 a.m. with the ringing of the school-bell in the little tower atop the building. In Winter the teacher had to be there early, to get the furnace in the basement going and the steam radiators humming. Later, after we'd played in the snow, the air would be filled with the smell of our woolen mittens and gloves drying on those radiators.

With Teacher at the piano, we started the day by singing songs in the yellow Golden Book of favorite songs---folk songs, patriotic songs, classics, even some "church songs." Imagine that. "Political correctness" was not in the lexicon of that day. The only "correctness" that came to our attention was the importance of civil behavior and the factual accuracy of our answers in class and in homework.

Our singing-time hit a sour note when a mouse died deep inside the piano; we noticed the odor. Too deep inside the piano's works to find and retrieve it, Teacher in desperation doused the piano's innards with scented talcum powder. Ai, not a good idea. Odor turned to stench and lasted for weeks.

Cursive handwriting is on the wane, whereas we had a textbook on penmanship, complete with drills: a red book, The Palmer Method of Penmanship.

We had a blue textbook on Grammar. We diagrammed sentences, which is both fun and the best method of understanding the construction of sentences, the how and why of speaking and writing correct English. Though the







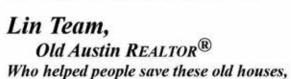












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rules of football are uniform and prevail from city to city, state to state, the rules of Grammar seem to be tossed aside like an old shoe, and laziness succumbs to custom and usage.

The stories in our Readers had a purpose beyond that of enlarging our vocabulary and parochial experience, a moral point—not preachy, but neither too subtle for young minds to grasp the lessons for life for the individual: making the right choices, doing the right thing, being honest, being kind, being helpful.

We studied Orthography, a word you will find nowhere but in the dictionary. We dissected words, examined and defined their parts, like Biology students dissect frogs.

On Friday afternoons, we had Arithmetic Speed tests, which we all dreaded. With cards in one hand and a watch in the other, Teacher would shoot problems at us: "12 times 4, divided by 6." Not difficult, but with seconds ticking, it took a fast mind and steady nerves.

Spelling was not incidental; it was a course, and as we progressed through the grades the lists and words grew longer. Good spellers competed in the County Spelling Contest; the winner went to the State Spelling Contest at the State capital.

We studied Civics, the organization of Government and how it worked—or was supposed to work.

We memorized poetry. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Greenleaf Whittier, Ralph Waldo Emerson. The old names leap to mind like old friends.

All papers in EVERY subject were marked and graded for spelling, grammar and punctuation.

There was little time, if any, left for the arts and music, true.

Those were left to the inclination and culture of the home and the community.

We had an hour for lunch and play at noon and two recess periods of about 20 minutes each, one in the morning at10:30 and another in the afternoon at 2:30. We played hard and competitively, and, beyond skinned knees on our cinder-surface playground, we can remember no injuries.

The few "town children" went home for lunch. The majority ate from lunchboxes. We remember one family of four who mostly ate cold boiled sweet potatoes-and were the picture of health. Only one boy rode a bike to school. Most walked miles in every kind of weather, which could get below zero.

The County Superintendent of Schools would visit occasionally, unannounced, to see how things were going, as also did the County Nurse, who checked to see that we all had our smallpox vaccination and the like.

On bad weather days we played indoors: blackboard games, floor games like jacks, horseshoes (rubber) and marbles. The door on the floor to the basement was sunken just enough to be the "hole" for our marbles games. (For a time, from playing marbles, our right thumbnail had an indentation that held a marble without rolling off). Sometimes Teacher would join us in these games and had as much fun as we did.

At Christmas-time Teacher coached us in plays, music, recitations, even a jump-rope act, for the Christmas Program for the community. The School Board members would erect a raised stage for us and would be the "Santa Claus" who gave each one of us a bag containing an apple, orange, and candy.

Our school day ended at 4 p.m. for all grades. One rainy day near 4 o'clock, when everyone was getting ready to leave, Teacher called out to the youngest of the tie-cutter troop, "Don't forget to put on your rubbers, Joshua!" Joshua was nowhere in sight. Then his head bobbed up from near the floor, and, in a weary tone of voice, he said, "That's what I been ah-aimin' to do!" A dear memory.

We were called "pupils" through the 8 grades and became "students" when we entered high school the following year—but not before we had taken two comprehensive exams at the County Seat to establish our eligibility for high school, one during our 7th year and another in our 8th and last year in grade school. Passing grade, 75.

This schoolhouse that started in 1887 had a reputation for being the best built in the County. It had a long, long run, but with the coming of the school bus, it was finally discontinued in 1958. A relative of ours and his wife bought it at auction and have converted it into a sturdy comfortable home.

To people 60 years and older the foregoing account may have a familiar ring to it, deja vu. But to those younger, it may seem unreal, like a long-forgotten fairy tale.

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4812 ROWENA AVENUE

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108 WEST 32ND STREET

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500 EAST 41ST STREET

Classic 1927 Hyde Park bungalow located in the heart of Hyde Park. 2 BR, 1 BA, 1 LIV, 1 DIN. Original architectural detailing throughout. Fenced yard with alley access.

Listed at \$435,000



4314 AVENUE G

1925 bungalow located near Shipe Park. Cozy 1 BR, 1 BA with efficient use of space, vaulted ceiling, built-in bookcases, screened back porch. All appliances convey.

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4311 AVENUE G

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