

Rain Harvesting Presentation

Our featured speakers for the neighborhood meeting on April 3 at 7 pm will be Karen Stewart, a Water Conservation Specialist, Sr. and Jessica Woods, Water Conservation Specialist at the Austin Water Utility. Karen is a graduate of Texas Tech with a BS in Horticulture, and Jessica graduated from Texas State with an MS in geography and environmental studies. They will discuss the City's water conservation programs with a focus on rain water. Both Jessica and Karen are licensed irrigators and manage a variety of water conservation programs from commercial toilets to rain barrels. In addition, they will explain the City's rainwater harvesting rebate programs.

Announcement of Events

It seems that the month of April inspires the urge for Spring cleaning and neighborhood participation! There will be a couple of events for neighbors to scour the out-of-doors in the 'hood and beyond. On Saturday morning, April 8, **Clean Sweep** offers participants the opportunity to work and then have fun in the city. **It's My Park! Day** takes place on April 22 in Hemphill park; volunteers are wanted! On Saturday, April 15, NUNA will host another **Lunch in the Park** at noon. Neighbors throughout NUNA are invited to meet at the bench in Hemphill Park with a brown bag lunch. Also, **Keep Austin Beautiful** is accepting grant proposals from neighborhoods with a deadline of April 7. More information below:

Make It Your Park on It's My Park! Day Citywide Earth Day celebration offers a chance to volunteer for parks



It's My Park! Day, scheduled for Saturday, April 22, is an annual community service day focused on improvements to Austin's parks. Over 1,200 volunteers will meet at parks throughout the city to paint, weed and plant, clear trails, repair plays capes, and have fun getting dirty.

Check out the list of projects at www.austinparks.org. As a registered volunteer, you will receive a tee-shirt, and have a chance to make a difference to a park near you!

NUNA neighbor, Mark Feist has gone the extra mile to organize "It's my Park! Day" in **Hemphill and Adams Parks** with the Austin Parks Foundation. The general focus will be on removal of silt from the curbs and from the storm sewers in the park and any trash in the creek beds. Mark requests that volunteers from the neighborhood bring a shovel. There will also be a need for an extra wheel barrow, if anyone has one. The date will be Saturday, April 22, time to be announced later on our web site: www.NUNA-AUSTIN.ORG. Please contact Mark Feist for more information at mfeist@austin.rr.com or call 419-1314.

NUNA Meeting

Monday, April 3, 2006, 7 p.m.
First English Lutheran Church
3001 Whitis

Agenda

- Program: Rain Harvesting by Karen Stewart and Jessica Woods
- Election of Officers
- Ratification of NUNA Bylaws
- NPT Update
- Resolution for Extending Open Container Ordinance
- CANPAC Update

NUNA General Membership Bylaws Update

At the next neighborhood meeting, we will be ratifying our reviewed bylaws for the general membership of NUNA. NUNA's new bylaws may be reviewed online at www.nuna-austin.org, or a hard copy will be available upon request from Scott Barnes at scobar@hotmail.com or call 454-7325. Please take time to look over these new bylaws before the neighborhood meeting on April 3.

Proposed Slate of NUNA Officers for 2006-2007

President: Bill Bednar

Vice President: Mary Gay Maxwell

Past President: Mary Ingle

Secretary: Scott Barnes

Treasurer: Scott Morris

Northwest Quadrant Representative: Darien McWhirter

Northeast Quadrant Representative: Ryan Beard

Southwest Quadrant Representative: Jan Moyle

Southeast Quadrant Representative: Jason Davis

An Event- *Lunch in the Park*- A Focus on Hemphill Park

by Mary Ingle

Saturday, March 11, was a perfect day for a picnic in the park. Many NUNA neighbors gathered at "the" bench in Hemphill Park to eat a brown bag lunch and to voice their concerns for what looks like a very tired green space. Formerly graceful Hemphill Park, one of our neighborhood's jewels, has been dedicated parkland since 1928; it has also been neglected for years, for whatever reasons, which include a lack of City funding. Neighbors voiced their concerns and exchanged ideas for revitalizing this park and Adams Park. Some of the concerns focused on poor tree maintenance, flooding potential, landscaping deficiencies, erosion around the creek bed, and structural weaknesses of the historic bridges. Also expressed was a safety concern about the transients who congregate and "live" in the creek bed. NUNA needs to solve a mystery about an alleged endowment for Hemphill and Adams Parks; further research at the Austin History Center might reveal some clues.



This assembled group offered many possible solutions and suggestions for improvements to the combined parks of Adams-Hemphill. If funding were made available or major fundraising proved worthwhile, NUNA neighbors would like to implement xeri-scape plantings which would include a heartier, drought-resistant grass. Even though xeri-scape plants use less water, they still need some amounts of water; this topic sparked discussion about activating the old sprinkler system which still exists in the park. To alleviate fears of flooding and erosion, there was a desire by the neighborhood to have a dialogue with the appropriate City Departments which deal with certain aspects of the park: Watershed Protection, PARD, and Street and Bridge. Since many families with small children live near the park, a suggestion for updating the playscape at Adams Park would be a priority (to be used while the children are still young!) as well as a crosswalk (perhaps solar activated) between the 2 parks. A long term goal would be to create a working committee of neighbors to continue this park work. As it turns out, our neighborhood plan lists a couple of goals and objectives regarding the historic structures (the bridges), safety, and appropriate lighting of the path in this park. We will have another "lunch in the park" on Saturday, April 15, at noon to continue our discussion and to organize for **It's my Park! Day** on April 22. Hope to see you at both events! 

Keep Austin Beautiful Grants Aim to Keep Neighborhoods Beautiful

Apply now for KAB's April 7th grant deadline. Don't miss this opportunity to initiate a neighborhood beautification project that your group has been envisioning. Grants support neighborhoods in their efforts to beautify and improve the community and take ownership of public spaces. For project ideas, grant details visit www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org or contact KAB at 512-391-0619 or monica@keepaustinbeautiful.org. We look forward to hearing about your community grant projects that keep Austin beautiful.

Approved Neighborhood Meeting Schedule for 2006

Our General Membership Meetings will be held at the First English Lutheran Church, whereas, the Steering Committee meetings will be held at the AGE building on Cedar Street, unless indicated otherwise. The following neighborhood meeting schedule* for the remainder of 2006 was approved on February 6:

- Monday, April 3 - General Membership Meeting
- Monday, May 1 - Steering Committee Meeting
- Monday, June 5 - General Membership Meeting
- Monday July 3 - Steering Committee Meeting
- Monday, August 1 - National Night Out General Membership Meeting in Hemphill Park
- Monday, September 11 - Steering Committee Meeting (skips Labor Day)
- Monday October 2 - General Membership Meeting
- Monday, November 6 - Steering Committee Meeting
- Monday, December 4 - General Membership Meeting

* This schedule may be subject to change, with advance notification, in the event of a conflict with neighborhood business.



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CANPAC Group Alive and Active!

by Mary Gay Maxwell

The group of seven neighborhoods that worked so diligently to get the Central Austin Combined Neighborhoods Plan passed by the Austin City Council almost two years ago is **still working hard for our neighborhoods**. CANPAC still meets on a regular basis, twice a month, and, if you have an interest in attending the meetings, please contact me, Mary Gay Maxwell, and I will tell you the times and days we meet. You can contact me by e-mail at: marygay@io.com. Our goals are to make sure that the plan is followed by the City of Austin staff and by developers, investors and homeowners in our plan area. In addition, we want to ensure that an adequate infrastructure of City services is in place to accommodate the planned increase in density that is occurring now.

On Tuesday, March 21, we met with the City Manager, Toby Futrell, and many staff members who work with our area of the city. Included were Code Enforcement and Solid Waste Services staff members and the City Attorney assigned to Code Enforcement, an Assistant Chief and Officers of APD, and an Assistant Chief of the Fire Department, and members of the City Manager's staff, including Assistant City Manager Laura Huffman. It was a stellar group! The purpose of the meeting was for the City staff to make a report to us regarding a number of the concerns we have in our area that were expressed by our group in a previous meeting with the City Manager. It was a very thorough report, and it covered several topics: **Code enforcement issues**: occupancy, fraternities and the new permits required to have gatherings of 50 or more people, trash pickup issues related to student housing; **APD issues**: crime statistics for our area, current and specific types of crime occurring in the area, DWI and public intoxication including Open Container rules, noise violations and APD response time, and consistency of service across our neighborhoods; **Coordination with UT**: discussion of an upcoming meeting the City Manager will have with the University Administration, discussion of a plan for disseminating more information to incoming students about our neighborhoods that can assist them in being better neighbors to us who are permanent residents, and plans for better coordination between APD and the UT Police Dept.

The meeting was very productive, and future meetings with our CANPAC group are being planned. This is part of a process that will be ongoing in order to develop an infrastructure that can support this area of town while it transitions to a compact and dense urban area in an orderly fashion. There was much appreciation and a note of optimism in the group as we completed a very informative meeting! 



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Open Container Ordinance: Extension of the Open Container Area

by Scott Morris

The North University neighborhood has an opportunity to consider an extension of what is referred to as the “open container area.” This issue has really become a unique convergence of events, people, and interests just over the last 90 days.

Members of the Austin Police Department had been telling representatives of Central Austin Neighborhoods Planning Advisory Committee (CANPAC) that the police would like more enforcement tools to assist with nuisance properties and belligerency of some of the vagrant population. In December, CANPAC, the Austin Police Department, and the City Manager Toby Futrell began exploring the extension of this ordinance into the CANPAC neighborhoods. About the same time merchants on Guadalupe, who reported frequent incidents of customer harassment by the vagrant population, sought help from the Austin Independent Business Alliance. AIBA is the group that organizes the Third Thursday events on Guadalupe. Due to some good communication and information sharing, the groups learned of each other's efforts. Representatives from APD, NUNA, Shoalcrest and Hyde Park Neighborhood Associations met with AIBA on March 9 to explore working together for an extension into the residential areas north and west of campus. On March 21, in a meeting with APD, CANPAC representatives and the City Manager pledged to set up a working group for the purpose of studying the boundaries for the ordinance and ultimately presenting it to the City Council.

There are six areas in the city currently designated as open container areas. The closest designated area is right off NUNA's southwest border and begins at 29th and Guadalupe, runs south down the west side of the drag to MLK Blvd.; it includes 2-3 blocks immediately west of the Drag. Each

designated area is controlled by an amalgam of two ordinances: one that prohibits the consumption of alcohol in the public street, sidewalk, or park, and one that prohibits the possession or control of an open glass container. The ordinances do not seek to control any activity on private property. The ordinances exclude activity like sidewalk cafes and consumption of beverages related to events like street festivals and athletic events. You may view the current ordinances at nuna-austin.org.

A resolution of support for the extension of the “open container area” will be discussed and is posted for action at the April 3rd NUNA General Membership Meeting. 

North University Neighborhood Planning Team Adopts Bylaws

by Scott Morris

The North University Neighborhood Planning Team was formed as the follow-up group to the neighborhood planning process. This committee is in charge of land use matters for NUNA, and it has been meeting for about 14 months. Since a number of processes and procedures have been implemented informally over the last few months, there was a need to formalize the procedures. These procedures were recently documented so that the committee's work could continue to be consistently and fairly applied in future land use cases.

Here are some highlights:

- The purposes outlined in the bylaws are to implement and serve as an educational resource for the NUNA NCCD (Neighborhood Conservation Combining District) and Central Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan (CACNP), and to review and make recommendations concerning land use.
- Any area resident with a paid NUNA membership is eligible and encouraged to become an NPT Member.
- Members of the NPT share a commitment of doing business in the open, and the Bylaws reflect this. Before any land use recommendation is initiated, NUNA members and leadership will receive e-mail announcements of the agenda item, and owners and residents within 300' of a subject property will receive notice.
- A robust conflict of interest section maintains integrity of the process.
- Three officers, the chair, vice chair, and secretary, serve one-year terms.

The North University Neighborhood Planning Team meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the AGE Building located at 3710 Cedar St. Meetings are open and public, and all are welcome to attend. Membership is open to all area residents with a paid NUNA membership and with an interest in the subject of land use. If you would like to join, please contact Scott Morris at smorris@nuna-austin.org or 371-7961. The North University Neighborhood Planning Team Bylaws, the NUNA NCCD, and a link to a city-maintained web site for the Central Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan can be found on NUNA's web site: nuna-austin.org. 



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