

## President's Report October 2006

by Bill Bednar

In August and September NUNA continued its opposition to the planned Duval fraternity and the 34th Street duplex project. As an extra measure on the fraternity front, we have initiated an amendment to the NCCD ordinance that would prohibit clubs, lodges, and fraternal organizations as a permitted civic use in the NCCD. This is just to make sure that some nonresidential fraternity structure, such as an office or party house, cannot be put on the Duval properties. This will also help us eliminate rented "party houses" elsewhere in the NCCD. Final adoption by the city council is expected in November. On 34th Street, the duplex variance has been finally denied, and the NPT is continuing to monitor other potential development on the site. Meanwhile, we need volunteers to help with other NUNA initiatives.

Your response to our invitation to help with Hemphill Park and other projects has been very gratifying. On August 27, Mary Gay Maxwell, Mary Ingle, Rick Iverson, and I hosted a short gathering for some of our old and new members who expressed an interest in becoming more active on behalf of NUNA. I'm pleased to report that Mark Feist has agreed to chair a Hemphill Park Committee that will become active in promoting maintenance and enhancement of the park. Thanks to Mark and other volunteers for getting involved!

We continue to work on Peace and Quiet. I have forwarded to the Executive Committee for review a standard lease clause used by the Texas Apartment Association to help control disruptive behavior by tenants. It says:

**PROHIBITED CONDUCT:** You and your occupants or guests may not engage in the following activities: criminal conduct; behaving in a loud or obnoxious manner; disturbing or threatening the rights, comfort, health, safety or convenience of others in or near the Property; disrupting the Owner's business operations; manufacturing, delivering, or possessing a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia; engaging in or threatening violence; possessing a weapon prohibited by state law; discharging a firearm on the Property; displaying or possessing a gun, knife or other weapon in a way that may alarm others; storing anything in closets having gas appliances; tampering with utilities or

### Next Neighborhood Meeting

Monday, October 2, 2006

7 pm

First English Lutheran Church at  
30th and Whitis Streets

### Agenda:

#### Reports:

President - B Bednar

Treasurer - C Hibbetts

Hemphill Park - M Feist

Sparky Park - B Bednar

telecommunications; bringing hazardous materials onto the Property; using windows for entry or exit; heating the Property with a gas-operated cooking stove or oven, or injuring the Owner's reputation by making bad faith allegations against the Owner to others.

We have provided this clause to at least one duplex owner who plans to put it in her lease, and after we review and work on it to address some of the specific problems we have encountered in the NCCD, we plan to encourage all landlords to adopt it.

We are to the point of doing some serious negotiating with the Parks and Recreation Department to preserve our funding and implement our design objectives for Sparky Park. This is a work in progress—more info at Monday's membership meeting.

Thanks again to all of you who continue to work to make NUNA a great place to live. See you at the membership meeting this Monday! Please contact me if you wish to volunteer at 476-1135 or my cell 587-3504.



### A Special Thanks To A Great Neighbor

Our neighborhood association would like to extend a very special thank you to Bob Atchinson who most graciously offered to let us use his server for our NUNA website, www.nuna-austin.org. What a wonderful gift to the neighborhood Bob has provided!

We thank you, Bob.

## Loyal Neighbors Wanted

by Mary Gay Maxwell

In late August, a small group of neighbors gathered at the home of Bill Bednar, the NUNA President, to talk about the future of our neighborhood. It was a very fruitful conversation, and a number of suggestions came out of that meeting. A number of people expressed interest in:

- Hemphill Park - improvement and maintenance;
- Peace and quiet - good neighborhood quality of life;
- Traffic calming - slowing through traffic on the main streets;
- Guaranteeing that the new neighborhood plan be followed and enforced by becoming more familiar with the plan;
- Providing watchful eyes on new development and redevelopment within our boundaries: 27th & San Jacinto - 38th Streets from south to north, and Guadalupe - Duval Streets from west to east;
- "Sparky Park" on Grooms - site of old electric substation.

We discussed developing a new Yahoo page to keep interested neighbors informed of any occurrences, events, need for representation at City Council meetings and other items that require participation from the neighborhood. At times there is a need for the neighborhood at large to participate on a periodic basis, and, many times, there is a need for neighbors, who have the time and interest, to participate on a regular basis. Austin is growing at such a pace and in our area that things will come up on a moment's notice, and when that happens, representation of our neighborhood is needed.

There will be more gatherings in the near future for anyone who is interested in being more involved in protecting our neighborhood and its quality of life. If you are an interested neighbor and have even a little bit of time to spare, we need you!

Please notify the NUNA Executive Committee members if you are interested in attending an event such as this. The Executive Committee and the contact information is listed elsewhere in the newsletter. We want to hear from you.

NUNA

## 2006-2007 NUNA OFFICERS

President	Bill Bednar wcbednar@bednarlaw.com	478-0077
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NE Quadrant Representative	position open	
SE Quadrant Representative	Jason Davis jdavis@cs.utexas.edu	
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## DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES!

Dues! Dues! Dues! Dues! This haunting refrain was a favorite of Faye Carpenter, our former neighborhood treasurer whom we miss and fondly remember. Dues are due at the beginning of each year; however, if you have missed the deadline, it's not too late! We are accepting membership dues from all individuals in the neighborhood, even if you are unable to come to the meetings or volunteer to help the neighborhood. Dues are used to pay for the publishing of the newsletter and other expenses the organization might incur. Join today with a check for \$10 per individual, \$20 per family. Make your checks payable to NUNA and send them to Charles Hibbetts, treasurer for NUNA, 110 W 33rd Street, Austin, Texas 78705

This is a good way to support your 'hood, and we need your support!

## Sparky Park Update

by Mary Ingle

What is really happening with Sparky Park? At this point Sparky Park is just an idea on paper, waiting and waiting to be implemented. What is holding up the progress of building this small, modest pocket park? It seems that Austin Energy is the major culprit here. Because of the failure to draft current contracts for the two cell phone companies who will occupy one single pole (closest to Grooms Street) along with their equipment configuration consolidated around this pole, Austin Energy has slowed and halted the progress of establishing this park. Even though frustration abounds between this City entity and the telecommunications companies, Sprint and T-Mobile, Austin Energy has promised to have these contracts drafted by the end of the week (that was last week and the week before!). Hope springs eternal here that all will be resolved soon so that the park may begin to come to life before the Fall planting season is over!

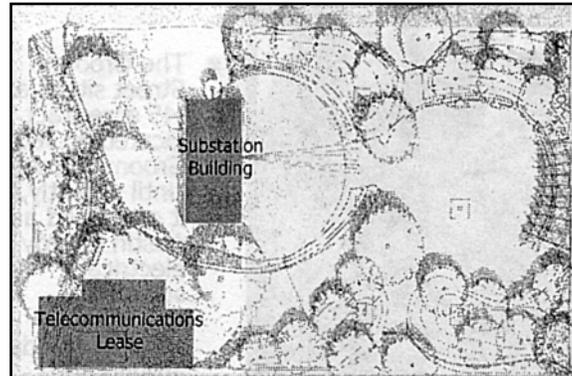
In the meantime, the cell phone companies have been working on a structural plan for a decorative "art wall" to encase their unsightly equipment on the park grounds. The underpinnings of the wall will be made of cinder blocks; whereas, the outer edges facing the park will be either stucco or sandstone, or some other attractive surface designed and implemented by the architects of the park, Simon Atkinson and Robin Abrams along with a local European sculptor and artist of renowned, Berthold Haas. Berthold Haas came to our NUNA June meeting to explain his ideas for the wall to include found objects from neighborhood children of all ages (this would include adults, too!). The exact design for the "art wall" depends, of course, on how much money is left over from the Park's Department for it's construction.

The Park's Department has been handed over the deed for the property of the former North Austin Substation on Grooms by Austin Energy. Along with that deed was the understanding that the seed money, four years of up-front rent totaling about \$200,000, generously made available by the two cell phone companies, would be given over to PARD for establishing the park. This has been a source of contention between the neighborhood, the Park's

Department and to a certain extent, Austin Energy. Originally, the neighborhood thought that it should be possible to place this money in the custody of the Austin Park's Foundation, a nonprofit organization, not affiliated with PARD; it is not so. As it turns out city monies may only be transferred to other city funds, according to AE and PARD. The only monetary satisfaction at this point is that since their is no contract yet

between the cell phone companies, money has not be put in the dark, bottomless pit coffers at PARD.

Last week, the Park's Department provided a rather general "itemized budget" for the construction of Sparky Park. It is most mysterious. PARD has budgeted practically every last penny of this seed money for the construction of the park's backyard which consists of free trees from AE, 4 berms constructed from free dirt from Zilker Park, granite gravel paths and native grasses (some landscaping of native plants with an irrigation system). A question needs to be asked: how can so much free stuff cost so much when PARD is in charge of the construction? Many meetings have been held on this subject with PARD, AE, and with certain City Council members. Hope springs eternal here that a solution about how to spend the seed money for the park will be rectified.



### HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Animal Control	472-7387
Austin Police Dept. Rep.	974-4490 or 974-5340
City of Austin, main switchboard	499-2000
Dead Animal Collection	499-2111
Dumping (Creek/Storm Drain Concerns)	499-2550
Electric Trouble Reports	322-9100
Garbage/Recycling Collection	499-2111
Graffiti Hotline	974-1028
Pothole Complaints	440-8444
Street Light Repairs	505-7617
Street Sign (Trouble)	457-4850
To complain about noise	911
Zoning Changes/Review	499-6370
Zoning Violations	974-6576



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## Police Protection And Information For Nuna Residents

by Mary Ingle

Since some of us in various parts of NUNA have experienced some types of crime such as property destruction and burglary of cars and homes, or some of us have experienced (on a regular basis) loud parties and disturbances during the evening, I would like to include some practical tips about how to deal with these incidents.

To prevent burglary of vehicles, it is best to put your valuables- money, CDs, computers, etc.- out of plain sight or remove them entirely from your vehicle. It is a good idea to park your car in a well-lighted place, or better yet would be to park it off the street in a driveway or in a garage.

If you are experiencing noise in the form of a loud party, amplified music, etc., the best thing to do is to call 9-1-1 to report the incident. If the operator asks if you want to speak to an officer, you must say yes for them to take the call seriously. It is also best to ask for a case number for your call, too.

APD recommends that if there is a problem or an offense "in progress," to call 9-1-1. If the problem or offense has already occurred and the arrival of an officer is not of the essence, then it is recommended to call 3-1-1. 3-1-1 was designed to take some of the work load off of the 9-1-1 emergency type calls, but sometimes becomes overloaded. Unfortunately, 3-1-1 is also an informational number for other types of questions and problems with an automated menu. APD strongly recommends If you feel that 3-1-1 is not satisfactory to get the results you need, then by all means dial 9-1-1. Another problem can be with the

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responses of the operators at each number; if the operator at 3-1-1 or 9-1-1 gives you a hard time, it is advised to be firm with them and make them serve you with your request for an officer.

Austin has been divided up into several districts or sectors by the Austin Police Department (APD). NUNA is located in the Baker sector and is in the Central West District. NUNA is fortunate to have a responsive District Representative named Ricardo Vargas, 974-4490 or 974-5340. His email address is [ricardo.vargas@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:ricardo.vargas@ci.austin.tx.us)

Please contact Officer Vargas by phone or email if you have particular concerns or problems on your street.



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