

## Record Heat Doesn't Dampen Parade Fun

At least two records were set this 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Central Austin. It was the hottest 4<sup>th</sup> on record, and the NUNA Parade was deemed the biggest and best in its 6 year history. The Parade began with Fire Engine #3 leading the procession, and the celebration included the vintage Waco Fire Department Truck, bikes, scooters, streamers, and decorations as participants made the loop around Hemphill Park.

After the Parade, Fire Engine #3 was a hit, with children waiting to climb in and pretend to lead the parade themselves. A real Teepee crowned the north side of the gathering, and in between there were 3 legged and sack races, carnival games galore, and doughnuts, bagels, watermelon and juice to fuel the fun.



The vintage Waco Firetruck leads participants around the park. -Criss Cole

The Parade drew celebrants from NUNA, greater Austin, and family members from Dallas. Terri Givens described it as "wonderful family fun". And Henry Higgins, first time attendee, summarized it with one perfect word: "Cool". As

George Dickey said, the 4<sup>th</sup> is a "celebration of the better parts of the American Community", and the fellowship experienced at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade captured the warmth available in our Neighborhood.

Thanks to many for making the parade possible! Fire Station #3 for leading the parade; Bill Bednar for arranging for their participation; Zack Simpson for the use of his water hose; Nicole Dapsit at Austin Groups

## NOTICE: Next Neighborhood Meeting

Monday, August 3, 2009, 7 P.M.  
First English Lutheran Church  
30th and Whitis Streets

### Agenda

1. Committee Reports
2. Historical District Discussion, Steve Sadowsky
3. Outdoor Music Venue Appeal
4. Annunciator Signs in NUNA
5. NUNA CANPAC representation

for the Elderly for games; Bruce and Kelley Robinson, Elizabeth Dickey, and Dennis and Elizabeth Cole for game tending; Terri Givens and Mike Scott for games, prizes, and game tending; Rachel and Andy Lomas for food and coffee; Kathryn Kotrla and Robert Morris for watermelons and Beanie Babies; Kimberly and Dan Renner for food, coffee, game tending, and major clean up support; Kimberly, Amy, Anne and Chris Coffin for food, drinks, tables, cups, game tending, and a fine vintage fire truck; Criss Cole for outstanding field reporting and photographs. A special thanks to members of the LeClair family: Jim, Annette, Jan, Danny, Gavin, Patrick, Nicky, Jasmine, Sarah, and Jessica, who share a bit of their family reunion with NUNA. Most importantly, thanks to Carole LeClair for sustaining this wonderful neighborhood event.



Kids enjoy the fun activities in the park -Criss Cole

## President's Report

Bill Bednar

Please note that our August meeting will be different than usual. In the past, we've met rather informally in Hemphill Park in connection with National Night Out. That event has now been moved to October, so the August general membership meeting will be at the First English Lutheran Church at 7:00 PM on Monday, August 3, 2009. Steve Sadovsky of the City Historical Preservation staff will make a presentation and answer questions about the formation of local historic districts, a matter of current interest in NUNA. In that connection, I would again urge a level headed approach to our issues. I've heard talk of splitting NUNA in two down Speedway and forming two neighborhood associations, as if that would resolve our differences. So far as I can see, it would merely divide us when we need most to be united. It is difficult to find volunteers willing to devote time to neighborhood concerns without having to staff yet another organization. And, would dividing NUNA keep one faction from disputing the other's business? Not likely. Moreover, it would dilute our influence downtown just when we need to be heard with one voice on important issues that affect all of us. I continue to believe that schism is a bad idea that will only escalate and harden our differences, not resolve them. Come to the August meeting, and let's keep talking.

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## Sparky Park/Park Art Receive National Recognition

The Public Art Network, the national Affiliate of Americans for the Arts, recognized Sparky Park among the nation's top 40 public art projects in 2008 as part of their annual "Year in Review." The work was selected from a pool of hundreds of public artworks submitted for review. **The Grotto Wall at Sparky Park** by Bethold Haas was commissioned through Austin's Art in Public Places (AIPP) Program. The AIPP Program collaborated with NUNA to create permanent public art at the site of a former Austin Energy substation (3701 Grooms Street) that was recently decommissioned and designated for use as a public park. Named by residents for the electrical sparks that sometimes came from the substation, "Sparky" was converted to a Park by the City's Parks and Recreation Department. However, several remaining communication towers in the corner in the Park, surrounded by a curvilinear cinderblock wall, became the focal point for the public art project. **Grotto Wall at Sparky Park** is a masonry "artwall" that transforms the existing cinderblock into a

sculptural landscape of trees and curiosities. Stone from a Hill Country ranch is laid in horizontal layers, alluding to open landscape. Whimsical “trees” of petrified wood and stone resonate with the natural trees in the park. Berthold worked closely with the neighborhood throughout the project. Residents’ contributions are playfully embedded in the wall, sometimes revealed in the seashell canopies of trees as if they were fruit. Arches extend from the wall and rest on columns to define passageways for discovery. The columns are crowned by reflective gazing balls and sections of the old substation’s energy towers. Berthold’s mélange of materials shape a whimsical totem to the history of the Park and the Neighborhood that made it happen.

Sparky Park is the first pocket park to be created through a public/private partnership in Austin and a collaborative effort of many stakeholders including



NUNA, the Parks and Recreation department, Austin Energy and supported in part by the Austin Parks Foundation, T-Mobile and Sprint. City of Austin officials who coordinated the project emphasized that “Mary Ingle was the driving force behind the project and an immense support to Berthold Haas and Art in Public Places. She lent her ‘spark’ to the project and was a pleasure to work with.” [Source: City of Austin press release]

## 2009-2010 NUNA OFFICERS

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## Meet Our Austin Police Department District Representatives

Newsletter editors had a Question and Answer sessions with our APD District Representations, Officer Troy Schouest and Officer Darrel Grayson, so NUNA residents could get to know them. Meet them in person at our Neighborhood Night Out October 6 in Sparky Park. They’re inspiring Officers.

1) Please introduce yourselves to the Newsletter readers. Troy: I am SPO Schouest; Troy #5207 I

go by Troy it is so much easier to pronounce than Schouest (ShaWest) so please just call me Troy. I have been with APD for 6 years now, before coming to APD I was a chef for 20 years and ran my own Restaurant/Coffee Consulting enterprise in New Orleans Louisiana, San Francisco, California and Austin Texas: To answer the next obvious question “No, I do not cook anymore, but do at times miss it. Yes, I am still obsessive about Coffee.”

I became a District Representative so I could interact with the community in joint crime prevention efforts. I became a Peace Officer to protect the civil liberties of all of the diverse citizenry of our amazing community. For me “Civil rights, liberties and the Constitution of the United States of America are very much worth defending, as crime is a violation of another’s rights to liberty and property I became a Peace Officer to protect those rights for everyone. I became a District Rep as here I can be proactive in crime prevention and in helping others become more aware and proactive in their own crime prevention.

I am from Cut Off which is in Lafourche Parish Louisiana, a true Cajun from the true bayou. I am a music and movie fanatic with a panache and passion for audio and video systems. I design home theater rooms and systems in my spare time and when I am lucky I get to play with the really high end stuff. I have am an avid reader and I enjoy a good debate about the two taboo subjects - politics and religion.

DARRELL: I am SPO Grayson, Darrell #4600 I’ve been with APD for 8 years and was a Police Officer for 4.5 years in my home town of Bartlesville, Oklahoma ( just north of Tulsa). I became a District Representative so I could interact with the community I serve and learn more about what they need and what I can do to help. I became a police officer because I care and want to help make a difference. I like to lift weights, bike and swim in my spare time

and you might even see me at some live music venues in the Downtown area.

*2) Explain how APD District Representatives are supposed to interact with Austin Neighborhoods (i.e., what’s your job)?*

The District Representative Program is the liaison between the Austin Police Department and the citizens of Austin. As District Representatives we work with the community in pro-active crime prevention. We organize neighborhood watch programs for neighborhoods. We do Crime Prevention Surveys on property and businesses. We educate the public on safety in a wide range of topics.

*3) When should a NUNA resident call an APD patrol car, and when should we call you?*

The District Representatives should be called for long term problem solving and preventive measures taken against crime. DRs deal with big picture issues that affect the community as a whole. A person should call a DR when there is a community issue or problem.

Call 9-1-1 when there is an immediate threat to life, persons, property that is happening in real time i.e. the crime is occurring at the moment the call is being made.

Call 3-1-1 if it is an individual incident that has occurred and there is no immediate threat to life, persons, or property i.e. the car was broken into last night time unknown and the individual finds it the next morning or after noon.

*4) How can NUNA make your jobs easier and our neighborhood safer?*

By taking a positive pro-active stance against crime with the attitude that “We’re not going to take it anymore!” this can be



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done by the community as a whole coming together and taking back their streets. We as DRs are here to work with you in doing just that: To work together and take back our community one home, street, neighborhood and community at a time.

**Neighborhood Planning Team Report**  
 NPT Recommends Denial of New Outdoor Music Venue

On June 16th the North University Neighborhood Planning Team (NPT) received notification from the city that Little Woodrow's had applied for an outdoor music venue permit. The notice also stated that a June 30th administrative deadline was set to approve or deny the permit. Located at 2610 Guadalupe, the property is outside the North University Neighborhood Planning Area, but impacts properties housing hundreds of NUNA residents. On June 17th, the NPT voted unanimously to recommend the denial of this permit and subsequently issued a letter to the city stating specific concerns. Despite our concerns, a permit was granted on July 14th. The NPT voted on July 15th to appeal this decision and to recommend NUNA and CANPAC file appeals on this case. The reasons cited in the recommendation and decision to appeal are many. Chiefly, the outdoor music would be located amidst properties with very dense multi-family residential use. The noise generated will impact these residents' properties and deny them quiet enjoyment of their homes, threaten the implementation of our neighborhood plan, and lower property values in the immediate and extended area. An outdoor music venue permit would place this property in direct conflict with the goals of the Central Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan. This Plan seeks to develop and foster existing mixed use on commercial corridors such as Guadalupe St. in a way which is pedestrian oriented, neighborhood friendly, neighborhood scaled, and serves neighborhood

needs. Outdoor music use at this location would endanger current residential uses and diminish the prospects of realizing those density goals in the future. The NPT will keep the neighborhood apprised of the progress of this issue and hope that we can resolve this soon.

**Wheatsville Crosswalk Changes Sought**

For almost a year, an unlighted crosswalk has been in place at the 3100 block of Guadalupe connecting the Heritage and North University neighborhoods. This is a terrific feature, but many drivers are not heeding state law to stop for pedestrians once they enter the crosswalk. After monitoring numerous safety complaints in crossing Guadalupe, the North University Neighborhood Planning Team (NPT) recommended at their June 17th meeting that a switch-activated embedded lighted crosswalk or other traffic control device should be installed at this location. In the months to come The NPT will be reaching out to the Heritage neighborhood and other stakeholders for their input on this issue. Since the city's decision to install any feature partially depends on how many citizen complaints have been registered, we encourage all residents who have had difficulty crossing Guadalupe in this area to call 311 and file a report.

**NPT Recommends NCCD Change to Restrict Annunciator Signs**

Annunciator signs have entered the North University

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lexicon in a most unfortunate situation this spring. One morning, just a few hundred feet to the west of Kirby Hall School, an adult bookstore installed an LED-based electronic, changeable copy sign on a tall pole. Steven Tomlinson, a member of the North University Neighborhood Planning Team (NPT), led the enforcement effort. Steven worked with Heritage and Shoal Crest neighborhoods and code enforcement to have the sign removed. The removal was ordered not because the sign was annunciator-type; they are currently legal citywide. It was because it was installed on a pole, which the University Neighborhood Overlay prohibits. If you missed it, you may be familiar with a very prominent example of an annunciator sign for a shoe store on the 5500 Block of Burnet Road. The emergence of these signs leaves us with the prospect of seeing them in our neighborhood in the future. An NPT resolution passed on July 17th recommends that the NCCD be amended to prohibit annunciator signs in the North University Neighborhood Planning Area. The NPT has identified language in the Land Development Code that can be modified to create an NCCD amendment to restrict annunciator signs. The resolution also recommends that abutting neighborhoods take similar steps to preserve the character of the area's commercial landscape.

### Letter to the Newsletter Editor

Submit Letters to the Editor to: [kjkotrla@gmail.com](mailto:kjkotrla@gmail.com)

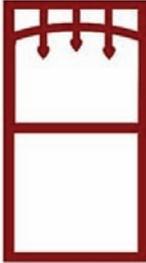
#### The Downside of "NO"

Have you ever wondered why the frontage on Guadalupe from 45th to 29th is heavily saturated with automobile-oriented businesses - with large parking areas in front? Have you ever wondered why the few buildings that do go close to the sidewalk are run-down and unattractive to pedestrians?

We've all travelled - we know what a good walking

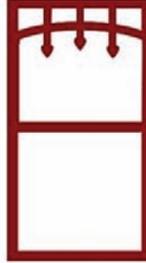
**Save the Date!**  
**NUNA Celebrates**  
**National Neighborhood Night Out**  
**In Sparky Park**  
**October 6th 6:30 PM**

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environment is, right? Buildings that are close to the street that provide some shade, with parking somewhere else. This is a dense area with lots of people living nearby and lots of people travelling through - shouldn't a nice pedestrian-oriented business corridor be thriving here?

The standard, suburban-oriented zoning code in place requires a hefty amount of car parking for every business on this strip. This is often presented to our neighborhood as a bulwark that protects us from people parking on our streets. But what do such parking restrictions do to the ability of landlords or business-owners to create an attractive environment on Guadalupe?

While Guadalupe 31 shows that a VMU project can present a better pedestrian facade by hiding parking behind and under a structure, is such a solution tenable for smaller tracts or less wealthy property owners? Unlikely - which is why, for the most part, they either provide their own surface parking or are forced into categories of use which don't generate much business. The economics dictates that if they have to provide large amounts of parking in a constricted urban environment, business uses that have a lot of in/out parking will win out - like convenience stores or gas stations or auto services.

A streetscape of parking lots in front of strip centers and frequent curb cuts with driveways leads to a pedestrian experience that is punishing rather than

inviting. Since every potential customer is also, obviously, a pedestrian, this streetscape effectively creates a self-fulfilling prophecy: Most customers arrive via car - so therefore our neighborhood thinks we need to fight any development that doesn't provide enough parking for most customers to arrive via car in the future.

Even when that results in a landscape of strip centers, auto-repair-shops, oil-change-shops, convenience stores, gas stations, drive-through-liquor-stores, vacant storefronts, all 'connected' via pathetic heat-blasted shade-free broken sidewalks, we still think we need to say "no".

And then we wonder why the customers to these businesses also say "no". - Mike Dahmus

## Welcome New Neighbors!

For over 100 years the North University Neighborhood has been a thriving, densely populated community with people from all walks of life. Every person contributes to our unique Central Austin community. Since so many of us live in such a small geographic area, we need to be mindful of each other's space and cooperate to enjoy this great urban community. Here are some important tips:

- For lease or maintenance issues that can't be resolved between a landlord and tenant, the Austin Tenants Council can help: <http://www.housing-rights.org/>.
- LATE NIGHT NOISE: Austin Police Department encourages residents to call 911 to report unreasonable noise between the hours of 10:30 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. Violations are a Class C Misdemeanor.
- PARTIES: A permit may be required for gatherings or parties attended by more than 50 people. See <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/pace/> for more details.
- TRASH DAY is Friday. Blue bins are for recyclables only and are collected every other Friday. Containers must be off the street by 10:00 P.M. the day of collection.
- BULK TRASH collection days are held twice a year at the end of the fall and spring semester. They collect bulk trash only on the street side of the property and not the alley. Watch your mail for specific details.
- PARKING: If you are in a Residential Parking Permit Area 1 contact Chris Dial at 472-0173 to find out how to obtain permits. Front yard parking is not permitted in the North University

Neighborhood.

- PETS: Pet waste should be picked up while walking your animal as a matter of courtesy and the law. Violations carry an \$86 fine.
- To report graffiti, code violations, or problems with city-owned infrastructure like potholes or missing signs call 311 or see [http://coa311web.ci.austin.tx.us/web\\_intake/Controller](http://coa311web.ci.austin.tx.us/web_intake/Controller).
- Owners who are planning to add on, build new, or change the use of their property are encouraged to meet with the North University Neighborhood Planning Team prior to permitting. Contact Scott Morris at 371-7961 to schedule a site visit or meeting with the NPT.
- JOIN IN: The neighborhood has a low-traffic discussion list on Yahoo! Groups. To subscribe, send an e-mail to [nuna-residents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nuna-residents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).
- NUNA welcomes renters and owners alike. Support your neighborhood association by becoming a member! Membership is \$10 per person. Make checks payable to NUNA c/o Jan Moyle, 200 West 32nd Street Austin, Texas 78705.

Thanks to Jeremy Benedik for his newsletter formatting.



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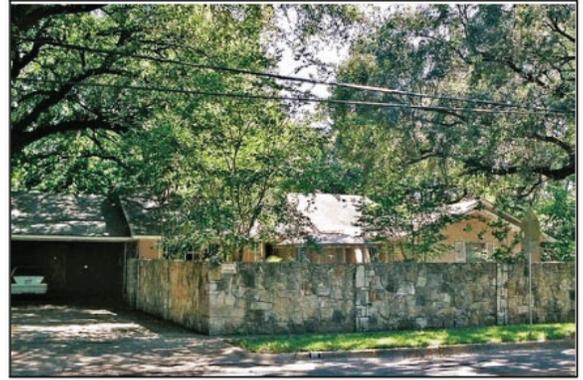
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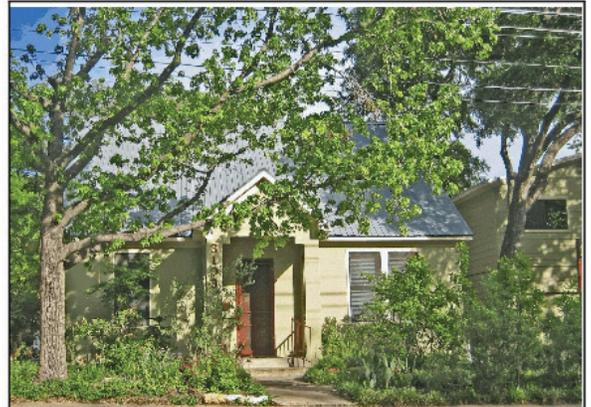
**703 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street** This updated 1940 cottage has room to entertain – indoors and out -- spacious living, formal dining and family room plus study/office. Three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, detached garage and storage, large shady back yard. Six blocks to UT, 2 to St. David's, 2 to Lee Elementary, 2 to Eastwoods Park. **\$419,500**



**801 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street** This 1959 ranch-style house on Waller Creek has been translated into a tropical garden with pool, spa and greenhouses. It has two bedrooms, three baths, two living rooms, a formal dining room, breakfast area, utility room, huge rear sunroom, 2496 sf of living space on the main level and a full basement. **\$539,000**



**826 Harris Avenue** Charm, character and convenience - all in this updated, energy efficient 1939 traditional home with formal living and dining, large kitchen & breakfast room, 1 bedrm & bath downstairs; 3 beds, playroom and bath up; 2-car gar. 8 blocks to UT, 1 to Lee Elementary **\$591,862**



**3103 Harris Park Ave** This 1930 Cottage, a short walk from UT, has 4 bedrooms and 2 baths plus a 2 car garage with a 500 sf upstairs apartment. Redone in and out with decorator colors. It has a town-house-size lot, but Eastwoods Park is only steps away. **Reduced to \$449,000.**



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