



NORTH UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Nuna President's Report

By Laurence Miller

First of all I want to thank Kimberly, Dan, Pace and Thompson Renner and their many helpers who brought us the beautiful luminarios in Hemphill Park on Christmas Eve. It looked gorgeous like a Bing Crosby movie (some of you may not remember Bing Crosby movies but they were often at Christmas with snow). We had had our Christmas Eve dinner with family and it was late, perhaps too late we thought, but we decided to walk down and see if there were any lights still left. The whole park glowed, so beautiful, filling us with Christmas spirit and gratitude that our neighborhood is so very lovely. Thank you.

Our new NUNA website is up and running. If you haven't already (and only a few people have) please check out the new web site (www.nunaaustin.org). It is beautiful, in glowing Technicolor, with lots of photos, relevant information about the neighborhood, current meetings times, copies of NUNA News, and a discussion board to send and receive messages from each other.

The Home Page has some announcements and right now a couple of generic photos which we are going to change. If you have some photos from our neighborhood which you would like to see on our Home Page, please send them to Judy Willcott at nunanews@gmail.com.

The News Page has notices and announcements. The History section has a couple of articles about the neighborhood. There is also a Photo Gallery and a Useful Information section. These are just bare bones right now, much of which was downloaded from the old website and needs revision and current information.

The Discussion Forum is a place for messages. It's the only area

of the website which is password protected. To register, select a user name and password. Sign in and you will see six different types of messages you might be interested in receiving such as News and Announcements, Crime Watch or Classifieds. So select the ones you would like to receive one at a time and select notify on the right hand side of the screen. It's easy and you will be ready to participate in our neighborhood discussion group.

There have been problems registering and signing in, but those have been addressed and are working properly at this point. If you have any difficulties, email Rob Moshein (rob@austinwineguy.com) and he will help you. And once again we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to Rob and Bob Atchinson who have designed and are hosting the website for us.

If we want the web site to be interesting, engaging and current, then we need to find a volunteer to manage the site. Which brings me to the most important topic of volunteering. The neighborhood doesn't run itself. It takes loving attention and time and it doesn't happen unless a good number of people care enough to help out. I have to confess that my contributions up until the last year were pretty limited, but I do wish I had been active sooner. We are a very interesting group and it is actually fun to work on neighborhood issues (except sometimes). Unfortunately in our neighborhood there are just a few active volunteers and they labor usually filling in on what should be several separate jobs until burnout. At that point they capture a replacement and the cycle continues. There are so many jobs available, such as soliciting ads for the newsletter, working on the website, newsletter delivery, helping with events like It's My Park Day coming up in March, or attending City Council meetings as a watchdog for the neighborhood. There is bound to be something you would enjoy. Please, please consider becoming a volunteer for our neighborhood, charity after all begins at home. At the very least, pay your dues and come to meetings, and participate in this place where democracy begins.

The meeting on February 9 is going to be a good one. Lots of guests including Lucy Galbraith who lives on Laurel Lane and is a Manager at Capitol Metro. She will bring us up to date on bus and rail transportation in our neighborhood. Hope to see you there.

PLEASE NOTICE !!
NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WE ARE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, NOT TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2011
5:30 - 7:00 pm
First English Lutheran Church

NEXT NUNA MEETING

Feb 9, 2011

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Guests:

Officer Josh Metteauer, our ADP Distric Rep
Rob Moshein, NUNA Website
Chris Ledesma and Jason Fialkoff, HONK!TX
Lucy Galbraith, Capitol Metro

III. Reports

ANC - Bill Bednar
CANPAC - Robert Morris
Historic District- Grooms, Aldridge Place
Development Review- Steven Tomlinson
Membership - Kimberly Renner
Newsletter- Judy Willcott
Parks - Mark Feist & Doug Plummer
Parking - Chris Dial & Doug Plummer
Treasurer - Jan Moyle
Quadrant Leader's Reports- Dick Holland, Mike Riley,
Kimberly Renner, and Rick Iverson

IV. Items Recommended for Action

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

VII. Adjourn

redevelopment as recommended in the Council-adopted Waller Creek Master Plan. What does all of this have to do with NUNA? NUNA and the west fork of Waller Creek are directly north of these two projects. We could create a plan which connects to those two projects and give our parks a significant role in Austin's park and trail system.

So how can we do this? The parks belong to all of us. We must determine what we want them to look like. Imagine a beautiful green lawn, structured pathways, a sprinkler system, path lighting, benches, trash cans, water fountains, and playscapes; these are just some of the possibilities.

We cannot begin to do this without lots of help and neighborhood participation. Not only do we need everyone to share their ideas, but funding grants require neighborhood participation. First we must design a plan and reach neighborhood consensus on the plan. Then we will be able to apply for grants and pursue funding. With funding in place we can choose a landscape architect who could turn our vision into a Master Plan.

Please join me in forming a Park Committee and exploring this opportunity. If you are interested in sitting on the Park Committee, please contact me by email at mwfeist@gmail.com. Once a committee is formed, meetings will be scheduled for the general membership.

Neighborhood Notes

About Neighborhood Parking

2011 Parking enforcement begins on February 1, 2011. You can download the renewal form and your membership form at the NUNA web site <http://nunaustin.org>. In 2010 NUNA collected \$3200 from our residents in Area 1 for Residential Permit Parking. This is the first year of renewing permits through e-mail or from the NUNA web site and this process is going quite well. If your e-mail changes or you are new to the neighborhood, please contact Chris Dial at chrisdial202@gmail.com with your current information and she will contact you with parking information.

Hemphill and Adams Parks

by Mark Feist

We are so lucky to have Hemphill and Adams Parks right in the middle of our neighborhood. As Austin continues to grow, it is rare to find such a vast open space in the city center. Yet both of these parks are suffering from many years of neglect. Our trees are dying and the grass is thin and bare in parts. We are at a crossroads. We can continue on our present path of letting nature take its course, or we can get together and determine what the parks need to survive and grow into a beautiful, vibrant, green haven.

We need to act to now. We have an opportunity to create a Master Plan for our parks in conjunction with both the City and the University's separate plans to develop the Waller Creek corridor. The University of Texas has plans to develop Waller Creek as one of the central corridors for pedestrian traffic that would connect to the City's new corridor on the south end of campus. The city, as most of you already know, is in the process of digging the Waller Creek tunnel to control flood waters along the creek. Once the tunnel is installed and the threat of flooding is reduced, the area will offer an improved environment for



New Austin Police Department District Representative
Officer Josh Metteauer, our new Austin Police Department District Representative, is planning to attend our general membership meeting on February 9. He will tell us about what he is doing in our neighborhood and answer questions.

It's My Park Day

On March 5, from 9 am to noon the Austin Parks Foundation sponsors a citywide volunteer event to improve Austin's parks. We will celebrate this event with a park clean up day in Hemphill and Adams Parks. So mark your calendars and plan to get your hands dirty improving our parks, it promises to be fun.

About the 2011 Livestrong Marathon

About 20,000 runners and 20,000 spectators will take to the streets of Austin early on Sunday, February 20. They will come from all 50 states and 23 foreign countries. The race benefits 26 local charities and last year raised over \$900,000. In our neighborhood, the runners will run on Duval between 51st Street and San Jacinto and San Jacinto between Duval and MLK. Southbound lanes on Duval and San Jacinto will be closed from 6 am until the runners have passed by. Northbound lanes will remain open. It's a great event to watch and more information is available at www.youraustinmarathon.com.

About the Tire-slasher in Hyde Park

Despite a fifteenth year history of tire slashers in Hyde Park, no one has ever been caught or convicted. There is one person who is strongly suspected of the crimes, but so far he has not been caught. The slasher is currently vandalizing tires at a rate of 40 cars per month, and damaging at least two tires per car. Eighty tires a month is a lot of tires! The slasher has begun to cross neighborhood boundary lines over into our neighborhood around Duval and 37th Street.

Hyde Park has appointed a new Crime and Safety co-chair, Heather Freeman, charged with the development of a plan of action which will result in the apprehension of this tire puncturing culprit. The plan includes urging neighbors who are hit to call 911 promptly and request that APD send a crime-scene unit to collect fingerprints. They also plan to install several surveillance cameras at high risk locations. High-risk locations are determined by how often vandalism occurs there, and how many cars are vandalized per incident. The association will hire a security consultant to give advice on camera placement, and possibly other tactics to catch the slasher.

34th Street Reconstruction Coming Up

The City of Austin Public Works Department is planning

2010-2011 NUNA OFFICERS

President Laurence Miller- nunaaustin@gmail.com

Vice President Steve Tomlinson- steven@abporter.org

Secretary Cindy Keever- cpkeever@aol.com

Treasurer Jan Moyle- jmoyle@austin.rr.com

NW Quadrant Representative

Rick Iverson- Iver506@sbcglobal.net

SW Quadrant Representative

Kimberly & Dan Renner- krenner@austin.rr.com

NE Quadrant Representative

Mike Riley- micriley@microsoft.com

SE Quadrant Representative

Dick Holland/Cynthia Bryant
rh02@txstate.edu

Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative

Bill Bednar- wbednar@bednarlaw.com

Development Review Committee (DRC)

Steve Tomlinson- steve@abporter.org

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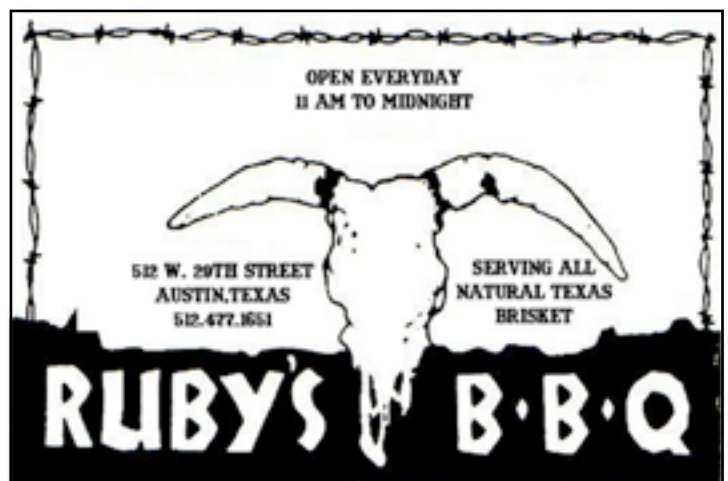
Parking Permits

Chris Dial- chrisdial202@gmail.com

Newsletter Design: The MOD Studio- www.themodstudio.com

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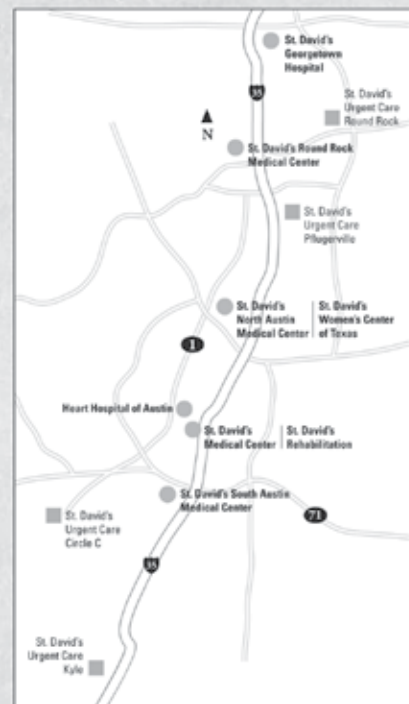
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street reconstruction and utility improvements for 34th Street from West Avenue to Shoal Creek. Construction is scheduled to begin in late spring 2011 and will last approximately 12 months. During construction one can expect traffic delays, lane closures, detours, noise, heavy equipment in the area and construction dust. A portion of Shoal Creek Trail will be closed and a detour provided during construction. Utility improvements along the portion of 34th Street which crosses Lamar will be made via tunnel under Lamar and Lamar will not be closed during this project. Contact the Project Manager, Rohini Kumaraage at Rohini.Kumaraage@ci.austin.tx.us for more information.

About Garage Apartments

by Steve Tomlinson

Garage apartments contribute a lot to the character of NUNA. They're part of the original architectural design of many of our historic homes, they contribute to diversity, and they allow NUNA homeowners to capitalize on their prime location as landlords. As NUNA faces pressure to increase density, we want to make it as easy as possible for property owners to build structures, like garage apartments, that fit the scale and fabric of our neighborhood. We also want to encourage gracefully adding space to existing historic houses rather than demolishing them, simply to build something bigger. Again, garage apartments can be an economical alternative.

Currently our NCCD (the set of rules adopted by NUNA in 2005 to govern development in our area) restricts "two-family use" (read "garage apartments") to lots that are at least 7000 square feet and are at least 50 feet wide. This latter condition rules out most of Grooms Addition (NUNA east of Speedway) where the typical lot width is 48 feet. As a result of this restriction, Douglas Plummer had to get a variance from the Board of Adjustment before he could relocate the historic cottage at 408 E. 33rd Street to his lot on 35th Street. To make it easier for our property owners to build garage apartments, NUNA's Executive Committee has proposed the following amendment to the NCCD:

Two-family residential use is permitted on any lot with more than 7000 square feet that is at least 48 feet wide.

Note that this amendment loosens current restrictions to allow garage apartments only. Duplexes will still require 50 foot lots. It is our hope that this amendment will encourage more garage apartments and discourage demolitions.

This amendment doesn't offer alternatives for smaller lots, however, and developers who buy these lots frequently find the only way to "make them pay" is to demolish the cottages currently sitting on them and build houses that can

accommodate more tenants. It is the Executive Committee's hope that if we allowed garage apartments on these smaller lots, developers would see them as a way to add renters without destroying the existing cottages and building oversized structures. To that end, the Executive Committee has proposed the following, separate amendment to the NCCD:

Two-family residential use is permitted on lots smaller than 7000 square feet if the site plan can meet the FAR requirement of 0.4 as well as impervious cover and other requirements of the land use code and NCCD.

FAR is the "floor-to-area ratio" that governs the relative size of the structure to the lot. Once again, the amendment extends the current NCCD rules only to permit garage apartments on these smaller lots.

The Executive Committee will bring these amendments before the General Membership at our meeting on February 9. If the General Membership votes in favor of these amendments, the EC will take them to City Staff to begin the process of getting them incorporated in our NCCD.

The EC sees these amendments as an opportunity to both allow developers more freedom and preserve the character of our neighborhood. It's great when you can accomplish both!

NUNA Noise Re-Visited

by Mary Gay Maxwell

Judy Willcott and Laurence Miller requested that I write yet another article about noise issues in our neighborhood. I guess I'm the "noise guru," not a great distinction, but somebody's gotta do it! Seriously, this has been an ongoing issue for the 'hood for a number of years, and it is not an easy one to solve. At times it has been very discouraging. Some of us worked behind the scenes with APD and Assistant City

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Managers in a number of ways for several years with only minimal success. Now, the City of Austin has done something that has some promise by naming a Music Program Manager, Don Pitts, who is working on the downtown music scene to build a better atmosphere and more cooperation between the music community and surrounding neighbors. Recently, he and David Murray, an associate of Don Pitts, found the offending club that was rattling our windows in NUNA in the late fall, and they made them shut off the loud sound equipment. Since they took that action, it has been quieter. There might be progress because, at last, the City has staff assigned to deal directly with the loud club music.

The other area that has been problematic is the sporadic occurrence of noisy parties that begin around midnight and continue until 3:00 AM. Those parties are usually held at "super duplexes" or at single family dwellings housing a large number of students, anywhere from six to fourteen residents in dwellings that should only house three or four people. Their parties can be quite large, loud and unpleasant for the neighbors to experience. These situations are difficult to deal with, and the help of APD is really needed. However, because late hours are times when APD officers are needed to deal with life threatening emergencies, our neighborhood often cannot get the support needed to deal with loud, unruly parties.

So, what can we do to bring peace and quiet to our neighborhood? The easy part is reporting loud club noise, thanks to the presence of the Music Program Manager, Don Pitts. The following things can be helpful:

• Call 311 and report it. There has been conflicting information here. At times, APD has told us to call 911, but lately 311 has become more useful. The operators at 311 are receptive to our concerns, and sometimes 911 operators are not. Noise complaints are non-emergency items, but they get posted on the APD vehicle computers along with the emergency calls. Response time of officers depends on the number of emergency calls they receive. It is important to call and report the problem in order to document the complaint.

• Call the Noise Tip line: 974-1000. It probably will not be picked up until the next morning, but it is handled by Don Pitts or his staff.

• E-mail Don Pitts and his staff at: sound@ci.austin.tx.us. Give as many details as you can, when the music started and what time you called it in, and where you think it came from.

• E-mail Officer Cory Ehrler, APD, in charge of downtown noise investigation with the same information sent to Don Pitts and his staff. Ehrler's e-mail address is: cory.ehrler@ci.austin.tx.us.

This is a rather tedious process, but it can begin to change the situation in the long term because now City staff is working on the issue for the first time. NUNA is not alone in dealing with this issue. Many central city neighborhoods are having difficulties of a similar nature.

The other noise issue that is more difficult to deal with is loud late-night parties. Unlike the music scene issues, there are no clear paths for dealing with this problem. Things to try are:

• Call 311 to report loud, disruptive parties. Call before midnight. A quick response is more likely at that hour. It is imperative that the exact address be provided to the operator in order to ensure that APD can locate the offending parties. One way to get a quicker response is to indicate your willingness to speak with an officer.

• There are two other steps to take:

1) Make a visit to the offending house and talk to the residents AFTER everyone has recovered from the party! If the residents are fairly mature, they will apologize and agree to change the way they have parties, such as bringing people inside at midnight, turning the music down, going out to clubs to make noise, etc. If the residents are not cooperative, then:

2) Contact the owner of the property or the manager of the apartment complex and report the difficulties you have had with the tenants. The results depend on the kind of people the owners are, but it is worth a try.

Unfortunately, there is no permanent "fix" for this; it will recur when the new school year begins, and these steps will have to be taken again. The only permanent way to solve these issues is for neighbors to buy the offending properties, and either change their use or manage the properties very carefully.

Hopefully, these ideas and actions can be helpful in working with the issue. If NUNA wants to get more organized to address the issue, there are more things that could be tried: 1) Start a phone tree to call each other and to enlist other neighbors in calling 311 or 911; 2) Get a team of neighbors to drive around at night to find precise locations of noise in order to better report the problem; and 3) Form a committee type group to work directly with Don Pitts and with owners of offending properties. Other things could be tried if neighbors come together to address the problem.

Letter to NUNA

from HONK!TX

We are members of the organizing committee for HONK!TX, a free, non-profit, volunteer-run, festival of community street bands. We want to tell you about HONK!TX, a festival that we are bringing to Austin and to Adams park, on March 11-13, 2011. We hope you will attend this first ever HONK!TX and we want to address your concerns as neighborhood residents, who will be directly affected by the festival.

Based on similar festivals in Boston and Seattle, HONK!TX is a grassroots, non-profit celebration of music, engagement, and public space, made possible by the financial and in-kind support of local residents and businesses. The bands are acoustic and mobile, borrowing repertoire and inspiration from a diverse set of folk music traditions; New Orleans second line brass bands, European Klezmer, Balkan and Romani music, as well as the passion and spirit of Mardi Gras and Carnival. They play without amplification and without built stages.

HONK!TX proposes to be held in Adams park on Saturday, March 12, from 11am to twilight. We chose Adams Park because it is a beautiful public space in the heart of Central Austin surrounded by a vibrant and historic neighborhood. It's a natural space for public gathering and celebration, within an established residential neighborhood and iconic business community.

We contacted NUNA about the festival at the beginning of November, and have been in discussions with city staff, the NUNA parks group, and recently attended the NUNA executive committee meeting on January 18. We have support from

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Valerie Mansbendel Home Available



Last year's Hyde Park Homes Tour featured the home of Swiss Woodcarver Peter Mansbendel, on the corner of Avenue F and 39th Street. That same craftsmanship is evident in this house, built in 1934 for Valerie Mansbendel and her husband William T. Williams, Jr., as a wedding present from her father Peter Mansbendel and his wife Clotilde Shipe Mansbendel, who lived next door, and the bride's grandparents, Adele and Monroe Shipe, who lived a block away at Avenue G and 39th Street. Shipe had developed Hyde Park in 1891 as the first planned development in Austin and he named this particular area "Shadow Lawn," as marked by still-present concrete benches.

The interior of the home is enhanced by Peter Mansbendel's design and carvings. Perhaps the most unique feature of the home is the carved stone portraits of Valerie and Bill built into the facade of the home.

"This home holds within it a history of much fun and many happy memories, and the special feeling of knowing it was unique. Family next door and friends who came for short visits, and others for long ones, made it a very special place to grow up," Said Mansbendel granddaughter Valerie Williams Brown.

The house is for sale for the first time outside the family. It has three bedrooms, two baths, formal living and dining rooms and a family room. For information, contact

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local businesses, including generous support from Wheatsville Food Co-op and the Guadalupe IBIZ District. We also have commitments from Spiderhouse, Waterloo Cycles, and Four Sons Cleaners to use their parking lots as performance spaces.

After speaking with the NUNA Executive Committee, we understand the primary concerns regarding a festival of this scope in the neighborhood. First, we understand the concerns regarding parking. We are actively promoting the use of public transportation and bikes, and our parking plan includes volunteers who will walk the neighborhood to facilitate parking and traffic flow. We plan to identify nearby parking lots that attendees can use.

Second, we are committed to leaving the park and neighborhood even cleaner than we found it. There will be numerous volunteers for trash collection and recycling, combing the park and surrounding area for litter during the festival and after.

We are open to any comments and questions from residents. We plan to attend the NUNA meeting on February 9th to tell you more about HONK!TX and to address your concerns. In the meantime, please contact us with any questions or visit our website, www.honktx.org for more information about the festival.

Sincerely,

Chris Ledesma, christoball@gmail.com, 210-687-5986

Jason Fialkoff, jason.fialkoff@gmail.com, 512-627-9150

website: www.honktx.org

City Help Is Requested With Local Historic District In The Grooms Addition

By Mary Ingle

The Grooms Addition Historic District Committee has decided to use the Hyde Park historic district process as a model for caution until major changes in the City processes have been made. Last month, our neighbor, Hyde Park, achieved local Historic District status but not without much conflict and discord. To Hyde Park's credit, many flaws were discovered in the City process; these discoveries will make the path for other local historic districts easier (hopefully!). After meeting last week, the Grooms Addition committee decided to stop their historic work until more help is available from the City. We drafted a letter to City Council Member Laura Morrison requesting help with the process. Since 90% of our work has been completed and scanned into the WIKI Data base which the University of Texas is spearheading, it does not seem unreasonable to inquire about help with the City process. The Preservation Office is supposed to be hiring another staff person responsible for Historic Districts; when this will happen, no one seems to know. As in the winter season when some plants go dormant, the Grooms Addition Historic District Committee will rest until the appropriate help is available at the City level.

We did, however, in the course of our historic surveying, stumble upon a treasure in the streetscape on Duval. It appears on plat maps from the City that there was an older street called Front Street near the intersection on Duval and 32nd Streets. This was truly a strange placement of a street and could be called the Thelma and Louise Run (named after that hilarious movie from a few years back) since it is only a block long to a precipitous fall in grade to the street behind, Benlva Street. Front Street was never used for obvious reasons, but it still exists on the plat maps given out by the City. Most folks don't even know of the existence of Benlva Street, so we planned a field trip with the Parks Department Director and Assistant Directors along with neighbors: Douglas Plummer, Rick Iverson, Mark Feist, Mary Ingle and Laurence Miller. To quote Mark Feist, "I have never been to this spot before, it is cool! It looks very European back here!" The street will be vacated by the Transportation Department. The Neighborhood has made a request to PARD to vacate this space in order to create an open space for contemplation, a mini pocket park. This will be discussed at our next neighborhood meeting on February 9.

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Neighborhood Crime Report

For December 25, 2010 to January 25, 2011

The Austin Police Department lists crimes by neighborhood on their Crime Search Website (www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/crimeinformation).

Auto Theft	1
Burglary of a Residence	2
Burglary of a Vehicle	11
Criminal Mischief	3
Criminal Trespass	1
Custody Arrest Traffic Warr	1
DWI	1
Disturbance Other	1
Family Disturbance	1
Forgery and Passing	1
Graffiti	1
Harassment	1
Leaving the Scene Crash/Accident	1
Lost Property	1
Poss Marijuana	1
Robbery by Threat	1
Theft	4
Theft from an Auto	1
Theft of Bicycle	3
Warr Arrest Non Traffic	1

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Schedule For Nuna Meetings February – August 2011

Please note that the spring and summer meetings of Executive Committee and the General Membership have shifted from Tuesday to Wednesday.

Development Review Committee

6:00 – 7:30 pm

First English Lutheran Church

Monday, February 7

Wednesday, March 2

Monday, April 4

Wednesday, May 4

Wednesday, June 1

Wednesday, July 6

Wednesday, August 3

Executive Committee

5:30 -7:00 pm

502 West 33rd Street

Wednesday, March 9

Wednesday, May 11

Wednesday, July 13

General Membership Meeting

5:30 – 7:00 pm

First English Lutheran Church

Wednesday, February 9

Wednesday, April 13

Wednesday June 8

Wednesday, August 10

A Report From Lee Elementary School

from Carole LeClair

The Robert E Lee Elementary Annual Fundraiser (aka Lee Live) is just around the corner, on March 5th. For our silent auction to be a success, we need to reach out to our extended community to bring in some fantastic donations. Businesses, restaurants, and service providers are much more willing to donate to a cause they can feel connected to, such as our children.

Listed below are some suggestions of what we are looking for....

1. Do you or someone you know have a vacation house/ beach condo that could possibly be offered for a few days or up to a week as an auction item?
2. Do you have more frequent flyer miles than you could ever use? Want to donate a plane ticket?
3. Are you an artist or know someone who is, who might be willing to paint or draw a piece for the auction?
4. Are you a woodworker? Interested in offering up a custom mailbox at the auction?
5. Do you bake or cook? Perhaps you might like to offer to make a custom cake for a child's birthday?
6. Are you connected to the performance community? Is there a production you could get tickets for to auction at Lee Live?
7. Speaking of tickets, do you have season tickets to local sporting events that you might want to offer one game's tickets to?
8. Do you have longstanding relationships with service providers (hair stylists, maid services, pest control, massage, chiropractic care, aestheticians, etc) that you could ask about a donation?
9. Do you own a restaurant, retail store, or small business that might be able to offer a gift certificate?

Thank you in advance for your grassroots efforts to help make Lee Live's Silent Auction an amazing set of goods and services we all might like to bid on! If you would like to donate something or have someone for me to contact about a donation, you can either email me directly (caleclair@gmail.com) or feel free to pick up a donation commitment form on the round table at school, fill it out, and drop it in the orange Lee Live Suggestion Box. We will need to have auction items in hand by Monday, February 28th at the latest.

Christmas at HHH

by Kathryn Kotrla

The Lobby of the Helping Hands Home for Children had only a lonely Christmas tree early the morning of December 13, 2010. And then, thanks to the generosity of some great NUNA neighbors, and the faculty and staff of the Texas A&M Health Science Center-Round Rock, four present-packed cars arrived. Christmas for all 36 of the HHH children in foster care! The HHH staff offered a full tour, including thanks from the HHH Executive Director, Ted Keyser. By the end of the tour, hearing the stories of the kids to whom the presents went, all 9 gift bearing "Santas" had tears in their eyes. Big thanks to the amazing NUNA neighbors who contributed so generously: Carole LeClair and family, Michael Riley and family, Annie Harding, Trish Tang, Terry McGinty, Alexis Chandler, Madeleine Maxwell, Carol Butler, and Karen Morris and Jeremy Benedik.

Thank You Note to NUNA

Dec. 31, 2010

Dear NUNA Neighbors,

With your donation of toys and games for the foster children, you are helping to ensure a brighter day for these most vulnerable members of our society. How we care for these children, protecting their future is one of the most important decisions we face, and we thank you for your support.

Because of your giving spirit, Helping Hand Home is able to continue to help children overcome the effects of severe abuse and neglect and to do so in a safe therapeutic environment. We are very appreciative of your charitable contribution and your dedication to improving the lives of those in our community who need it most.

It is due to individuals like you that Helping Hand Home is able to continue its mission, as it has since its inception over 117 years ago. We look forward to a continued partnership with you.

Again, thank you for making our mission a reality!

Sincerely,

Julie Freeman

Director of Development

Helping Hand Home for Children

The Iverson House

by Judy Willcott

The oldest house in our neighborhood is owned by Rick and Nancy Iverson at 506 West 34th Street. The house is barely visible from 34th street where all you see is the covered parking,

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But just on the other side of the parking hidden from public view and all the noise of urban traffic is a beautiful courtyard, densely green, with magnificent magnolia trees, huge old live oaks and stately cypress trees. The main house, a large two-story limestone structure sits on the westside of the courtyard with three smaller cottages on the south and east. A very tall stone wall encloses the garden on the north side. On the southeastern edge there is a windmill presently covered with Christmas lights, which is the last vestige of the original 40 acres of the Buddington Farm. Albert G. Buddington came to Texas in the 1850's from New York with his wife, his wife's sister and her husband in an ox-drawn covered wagon. After a short stay in Gonzales, they came to Austin and found a place at a popular camping site on the west Waller Creek tributary, a cold springs with a running creek. Buddington bought 10 acres of the property from Martin Moore's widow, the holder of the land grant, then 10 more in 1865 and twenty in 1868, 40 acres in all for a total of \$1700. The house, consisting of two large rooms, one up and one down, was built in 1860.

The Buddington's had seven children and on two occasions Buddington leased the property and "moved into town" so his children could attend school because the wagons would become mired to the hubs in yellow clay in rainy weather. Buddington was able to add rooms to the original house and built a circle drive and porte-cochere on the old Waco highway with the main entrance facing west. A large fruit orchard was planted and the creek was dammed up to form a pond. Travelers were taken in early on and the homestead became a stagecoach inn. Gypsies were allowed to camp on land west of



the homestead in an area which became known as Gypsy Grove. Although Buddington remained neutral during the Civil War, Robert E. Lee was a guest in the house on several occasions. Buddington, a man of many trades, was the first butcher in Austin, had fruit orchards and grew strawberries and in 1893, had a “gents furnishing goods, hats” store at 723 Congress Avenue. A good portion of the forty acres was sold by Mr. Buddington who subdivided the property and sold lots. By the time of his death in 1895, the homestead had shrunk to its present size, which his widow sold in 1900.

In 1921 Dr. Harry Yandell Benedict bought the property. He was the first University of Texas graduate to become President of the University, an office he held from 1927 to his death in 1937. His graduate degree from Harvard was in Mathematical Astronomy and he was instrumental in the creation of the McDonald Observatory.

Dr. Benedict loved the house and the gardens, writing about them affectionately in the *Alcade*. There is an inscription on the landing of the west entrance which was put there by Dr. Benedict, *Parva sed apta mihi* – “small but suiting me.” He called the creek, Crazy Creek, supposedly because it originated at the “lunatic asylum” at 45th Street.

The house became known as the Benedict House. Dr. Benedict, a gardener, took great care of the gardens, adding rock walls and planting trees. The Benedicts entertained often and were famous for their garden parties and grand occasions.

At Dr. Benedict’s death in 1937, Delia Edwards from Laredo bought the property and she employed a well known architect, Arthur Fehr, to make additions to the main house and build a

cottage at 502 West 34. The limestone cottage, the first private residence built by Fehr, has casement windows, Mexican tile floors and a Peter Mansbendel fireplace mantel. Fehr also designed the First English Lutheran Church and the Chapel at the Episcopal Seminary in our neighborhood.

In 1944 Wilhelmine Sheffield, a prominent Austin realtor and appraiser, facilitated the sale of the part of the property facing Guadalupe to Eddy Joseph for commercial development. Unable to talk Mr. Joseph into purchasing the entire property, Mrs. Sheffield bought the rest of the property herself in 1946. She continued to make improvements in the property, building a wall on the west side separating her property from Mr. Joseph’s commercial development and then a very high wall on the north side of the property creating the courtyard. In 1950 she built another limestone cottage at 500 West 34th with casement windows and Mexican tile floors. She also built the small stone cottage at 504 W. 34th. Mrs. Sheffield owned a good bit of property in our neighborhood including 502 and 500 West 33rd Street, which she leased along with the cottages in her compound. Every year she gave a New Years’ Day party and it was at one of those parties that two of her tenants, Rick and Nancy Iverson, met. After their marriage in 1975, they bought the property from Mrs. Sheffield but allowed her a life estate in the original 1860 house where she lived until 1989.