



NORTH UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Letter from our NUNA President

By Laurence Miller

In reading Clayton's Maxwell's little love note to our neighborhood in this issue of the newsletter, I am reminded once again of how supportive and protective a strong community can be. And we have a wonderful extended family here in NUNA despite our individual idiosyncrasies and differences. I guess with communities like so many things in life, you suffer the bad and concentrate on the good and pray you will survive the hard parts. If you are lucky and work at it, the good outweighs the bad by far and you have something like the community Clayton describes.

I am hoping for a good turnout for the General Membership Meeting on October 12. One of our topics will be fire prevention in the neighborhood and I want to thank Carol and Robert Journey for calling this concern to our attention. The recent devastating fires in Bastrop have made clear how very dangerous fires can be and what destruction they bring. As the drought continues to threaten our trees and Stage 2 Watering leaves our lawns threadbare, we need to pay attention. Are we doing everything we can to protect our homes and our neighborhood? We have invited a representative from our own Fire Station #3 to attend our October meeting to discuss these concerns. City officials, including the Austin Fire Department, the Austin Parks Foundation, Austin Water Quality Protection Lands and the Texas Forest Service are coordinating to issue a statement regarding fire concerns in Austin as soon as possible. Water Quality Lands staff who participated in fighting the recent Pinnacle fire have stated that the first and best defense to

fireproof your property is to follow Firewise guidelines which include tips such as clearing leaves from gutters, eaves, porches and decks and removing any dead vegetation that surrounds your home. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire and the rule of thumb is if it brown, cut it down. Firewise guidelines can be found at the following links: <http://www.firewise.org> and <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=8516>. Also you will find the Texas Forest Service recommendations listed separately in this issue.

I do hope to see you at the October Meeting.

Next NUNA General Membership Meeting

Wednesday

October 12, 2011

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

First English Lutheran Church

NEXT NUNA MEETING

First English Lutheran Church

October 12, 2011 | 5:30 - 7:00pm

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Guests:

AFD Representative from Fire Station #3

Heritage Society Representative

III. Reports:

ANC- Bill Bednar

CANPAC- Mary Ingle

Historic Districts- Grooms, Aldridge Place

Development Review- Steven Tomlinson

Membership- Kimberly Renner

Newsletter- Judy Willcott

Parks- Mark Feist & Doug Plummer

Parking- Chris Dial & Doug Plummer

Treasurer- Laurence Miller for 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

Neighborhood Notes

Historic Landmark Property Tax Incentives from Pam Bell

After an overwhelming amount of public testimony in support of the historic landmark property tax incentives, the Austin Independent School District voted to restore the incentives this year and follow the City of Austin recommendations for the program. The City of Austin also is keeping the incentives for this year, but Austin Community College has voted to remove them.

Report from Lee Elementary School from Carole LeClair

The Halloween Carnival sponsored by the Lee PTA will be held on Friday, October 28, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be carnival games with prizes, a cake walk, a haunted house, pizza, refreshments and a maze. Tickets may be purchased at the carnival.

Also Lee is collecting used ink jet and printer cartridges for recycling. Money earned from recycling these items will benefit the 6th grade leadership development fund. Please drop them off for Carole LeClair at 209 West 33rd Street on the front porch.

The best email for Scott Myers, our Website Manager, is scottmyers113@yahoo.com.

A correction to Steven Tomlinson's profile of his neighbor, Leoda Anderson.

Leoda Anderson after being fired as a reporter by one newspaper for criticizing FDR, was hired by the other newspaper in town, where she worked happily for several years before getting married and moving out of state to New Orleans. Also Leoda taught line dancing for 16 years for the Lifetime Learning Institute and for the Senior Activity Center on Lamar, not 8 years as stated in the article.

About Hemphill Park

By Mark Feist

There is not much good news to report on the irrigation plan for Hemphill Park, and at this late date we are still waiting for the city to approve our plan. I was told two weeks ago at my last meeting with Urban Forestry and

PARD's Development Coordinator that there is a new policy that all new projects will have to be approved by not only PARD, but all city departments that might have any overlap. They were also very reluctant to agree to allow irrigation of the established mature trees. Our mature trees are very stressed with more losses sure to come.

Our primary neighborhood goal is to save the trees we have and to replace those we have lost. PARD's focus is only on new plantings to the point that I believe they are only compensated for new plantings. The last pared down plan from PARD and Urban Forestry called for 180 new trees just in Hemphill Park. I told them that the neighborhood does not want a forest and we need to have clear visuals from one side of the park to the other. With the neighborhood bearing the financial burden of installing the irrigation I think we need to hold out for an agreement that allows irrigation of the mature trees. If the irrigation of mature trees is not agreed upon by PARD then we will need to reevaluate going forward.

After meeting with Urban Forestry concerning our trees they recommended that we mulch our mature trees which are in such desperate need. While we are waiting on irrigation approval from the city, mulching is a great way to help now. They are willing to provide all the mulch and wheel barrows if we can round up the volunteers. They estimated it would take 200+ people 4 hours to do the job. We have set Sunday, November 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as our Mulching Date.

After hearing the number of people they recommended I called the Austin Parks Foundation about help. The APF agreed to pursue volunteer help from other civic organizations and to list the Mulching Date on their website seeking volunteers.

Plan on coming out to work together in cooler weather and help our stressed trees recuperate from this brutal summer!

MULCHING DATE

Sunday, November 13, 2011

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please bring a wheel barrow if you have one!

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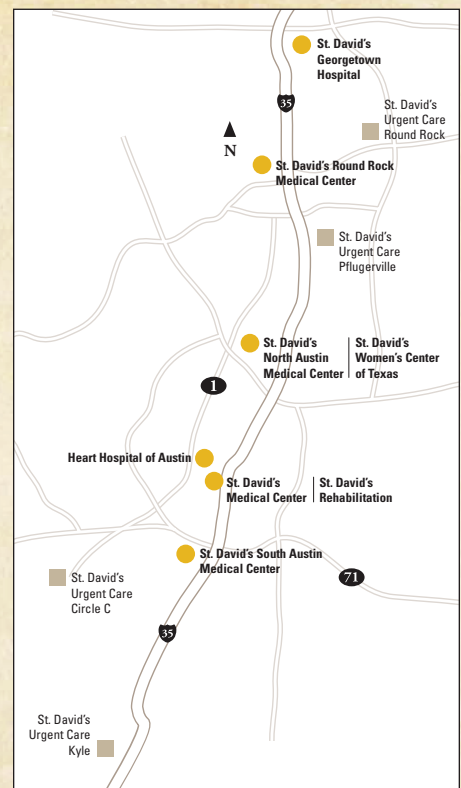
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Creating Christmas for a Helping Hands Home Family

The mission of the Helping Hands Home (HHH) for Children, 3804 Avenue B, is to heal, nurture and find foster and forever families for children. Its children have survived horrific abuse and neglect and their biological parents have had their parental rights terminated. The children “belong” to the State; their only home is on Avenue B.

The HHH little ones wish mostly to belong to a family like other children. HHH provides residential treatment, trains and supports therapeutic foster care, and leads some fortunate children to their adoptive forever families. This past year saw four happy-endings, with children as young as 4, and knowing only foster care, finding a permanent home with parents and siblings. Often, it takes the transition from residential treatment, which is as intense as that on a child psychiatric unit in a hospital, to find a connection with a special foster mom or dad, that then leads to an adoption and allows a child to finally be home again.

There are 21 foster families who nurture 63 children, many housing 2, 3, or 4 foster kids at a time along with their biological children. Last Christmas, NUNA neighbors joined with the Texas A&M College of Medicine in Round Rock to “adopt” every HHH foster child and to become a personal Santa for each little one. It took 4 packed cars to deliver the gifts, and every child had his or her touchingly simple wish list fulfilled. The little ones wanted “princess things,” “my little ponies,” a “baby doll” to carry like the foster mom. The teen-agers wanted gift cards to Target or Walmart to get a prized cd or basic things to wear.

The dedicated and loving staff at HHH are delighted their kids are not forgotten and that we want to give them a happy holiday again this year. During a visit with Kristi Duck, the Director of Child Placement Agency, and Lindsey Dickson, Development Assistant, they spoke of their foster families, and how the foster parents and siblings provide the warmth for the HHH child-survivors to grow. For these families, getting basic needs met can be a stretch. Think how many towels or sheets are needed with 4 or 5 teen-age girls in a foster home. Not to mention the groceries! Or consider

how remarkable a movie pass might be for a whole family, or a visit to Gattiland or Dave and Busters.

So this year, we NUNA neighbors can choose to become Santa to a foster child, and/or enrich the whole family system that raises the child. You can shop for an individual child or pick up a gift card for a worthy foster family, allowing a family to afford a simple outing for fun, or creating a gift basket full of treats that the family can’t otherwise afford. If you have any interest in giving to support a happy ending for these little ones, just send an e-mail to kjkotrla@gmail.com. The Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine Round Rock will again provide administrative support to connect giving adults to HHH foster children and the families.

The Grooms Addition Historic Distric

By Mary Ingle

In August, a couple of members of the Grooms Addition Historic District Committee met with Alyson McGee, the new Deputy Preservation Officer at the City. (If you haven’t met Alyson yet, she is a treat!) The meeting was primarily to see if Alyson had any questions about all of our work to date on our Local Historic District. We previously had presented a copy of all of our digital documents which include

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surveys, photos, topographical maps, and pictorial design-guidelines of all the properties in the Grooms Addition. In this meeting we learned that the Heritage Society has been hard at work drafting a template for design standards. This template will be very useful to neighborhoods for drafting, planning, and implementing design standards for local historic districts. This template will be moving forward in the formal City process; it will be presented to the Historic Landmark Commission on September 26.

The Grooms Addition is this oldest subdivision of NUNA. The boundaries include Speedway east to Duval Street and 30th Street to 38th Street. The properties that are being catalogued for our potential Local Historic District (LDH) include not only single family houses, but also some of the charming, older multifamily-apartment buildings in the Grooms Addition. As a committee, we must decide whether we should start with a smaller district of a couple block faces or tackle a larger, whole swath of the Grooms subdivision in our Local Historic District proposal. One of the guiding principles for LDH determination here would be looking at the periods of significance in architecture and determining how to combine and integrate the commonalities. At the moment, several of us are leaning towards a smaller scope project even though all properties have been catalogued.

There are still many exciting opportunities for historic exploration of the properties within the Grooms Addition. We will be required to submit a detailed survey/history of 25% of the contributing properties in our application. This is the fun part in that most people are interested in the history of their home and the details concerning who lived there, etc. The Grooms Addition Committee can actually help with suggestions; we have some very skilled researchers in our group who are always interested in a good story and who are valuable resources in this historical “detective” work. We can start with small amounts of this in depth history/research required for a district to make sure that we are not wasting our time and efforts.

Our committee has made arrangements to meet with Alyson McGee at the City at least once a month so that we are sure that our work is going in the right direction. There is also a great opportunity for real life, student participation in this community process with the University of Texas



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preservation class which Michael Holleran is teaching. The trick here will be figuring out where and what the students will be able to do. Immediately, the Grooms Addition committee has a small amount of survey data to enter digitally and determine the contributing and non-contributing status of a property. Later, we will have to do a signature drive for property owners and hold public meetings to discuss the district and the design guidelines; the students may be able to help with these tasks. Additionally, more work on our design guidelines is requested. Our design guidelines are based on photos which need accompanying text, as well as more public input. Our committee is also looking for more volunteers who might have some interest or time to help with this cause. We would also like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to participate on our local historic district committee to contact Mary Ingle, 320-8449.

Texas Forest Service Quick and Easy Solutions to Start Being Prepared for a Wild Fire

1. Cut your grass and weeds, rake leaves and pine needles and remove yard debris and branches.
2. Relocate the woodpile and left over building material at least 30' from house.
3. Have your address and access well marked.
4. Prune dead limbs 6 to 8 feet from the ground around the house.
5. Store all gas, oil and other chemicals away from the house.
6. Keep the roof and gutters free from leaves and needles.
7. Enclose the spaces under porches, foundations and over hangs and roof/attic vent openings with 1/8" metal screening.
8. Have garden hoses connected on all sides of your house.
9. Place tools such as ladders, shovels, rakes and hoes for easy access to fire fighters.
10. Check your driveway for access for emergency vehicles (height and width).



Cromack Estate
4016 Duval Street

Celeste and Bert Cromack were leaders in the Hyde Park neighborhood for many years. Before she went to work for the City, Celeste served as president of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association. They were always seen on the annual homes tours, usually dressed in vintage costumes and always serving as gracious docents. Their passing is a loss for the neighborhood and their many friends here.

Now the Cromack home is available for sale. A sturdy 1928 vintage bungalow, it is a Hyde Park classic that retains its original character and craftsman-style details. The electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems were updated about 15 years ago, when a new metal roof was also installed, but the house needs additional work.

According to the tax records, the house has 1844sf of heated and cooled space. The living room is spacious and has a wood-burning fireplace. The dining room is also large and the kitchen has a breakfast nook and walk-in pantry. There are two bedrooms and a bath downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs.

The 60 x 135 foot lot has a very convenient rear entry from the alley at the end of 41st Street and is shaded by large trees. As of this publication deadline, the price has not been set.



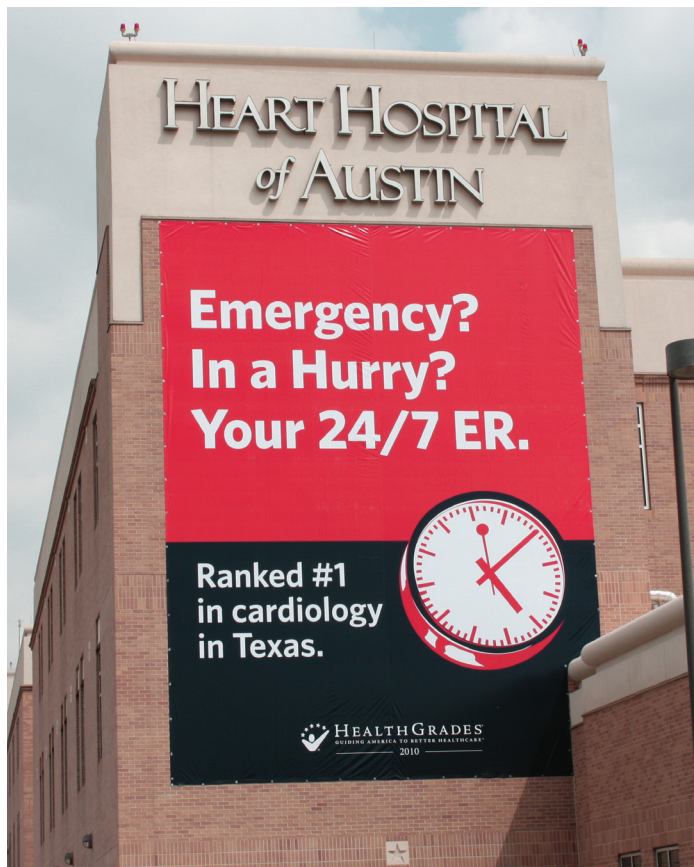
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Time is Muscle Part Two in the St. David's Series

“Time is Muscle” is the quote from the administration of the Heart Hospital of Austin. It refers to the importance of time in treating a patient with a heart attack. Since a patient begins losing heart muscle immediately after a heart attack, every minute counts to save precious heart muscle. So time is muscle at the Heart Hospital.

If you have wondered about the Heart Hospital on your way to Central Market, you're not alone. Fortunately, the Heart Hospital welcomed the NUNA Newsletter in for an in-depth discussion and tour of the facility. The Heart Hospital of Austin became part of the St. David's system in 2010. It was originally established through the shared vision of local cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons. It is an extremely patient focused facility. For admitted patients, there are no restrictions to visiting hours; visiting hours are 24/7. Since being carted through a hospital for tests is tedious at best, the Heart Hospital strives to bring its radiology services to the patient's bedside. Even the



architecture of units is designed with patient care in mind. In both the intensive cardiac care unit and patient care unit, nursing pods are positioned no more than 15 steps from a patient's bed.

Such attention to quality has been recognized through awards from agencies that compare health care between different hospitals. In 2009, a study funded by Medicare (CMS) named the Heart Hospital as the #1 hospital in America to treat a heart attack. Really! The best in the nation... right on our doorstep! For six consecutive years, the Heart Hospital has ranked as the leading cardiac program in Texas.

The Heart Hospital extends its quality to other settings too. It is home to as many as 35 clinical research trials conducted by Austin Heart, making it one of the largest non-academic cardiovascular research centers in the country. The cutting edge research encompasses everything from equipment, to stem cell replacement for damaged cardiac muscle, to treatment protocols that advance all aspects of cardiac care. Such research efforts are continuing, bringing truly phenomenal advances in less invasive treatment for heart conditions.

What about folks having a non-cardiac urgent medical condition? Walking through the Emergency Room/Department (ED) at 9:41 a.m., there were no patients on the board; the ED was empty. The doctors belong to the medicine group that staffs many of the area's EDs. This means that the Heart Hospital offers a full service ED (with the exception of severe trauma or labor and delivery for women having babies) with no or little wait. The average wait time from walking in the door to receiving treatment is often less than 15 minutes in the Heart Hospital ED.

The Heart Hospital also offers an Executive Wellness Center to keep patients as healthy as possible. Walking into the Executive Wellness (EW) Center is akin to walking into a spa. Only 3 or 4 patients are seen in a day. Corporations from across the country contract with the Heart Hospital to keep their top executives fit. You do not have to be a corporate executive to come through the program - private pay patients can benefit from the comprehensive evaluation and treatment program, too. A day there starts with lab work in private rooms, a brunch, diagnostic tests brought to the patients, a lavish lunch, individual consultations with

a dietician, and then the physician's evaluation to piece together a total health plan. As with any luxurious spa, the patient's day ends with a full body massage.

The North University Neighborhood is lucky to have one of the best cardiac facilities in the country at its doorstep. Although we hope to never need the services, world-class care for ourselves and our loved ones is literally just around the corner.

Minutes

NUNA General Membership Meeting

August 10, 2011

NUNA Vice President Steven Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Present were Jerry Buttrey, Rick Iverson, Douglas Gibbins, Pam Bell, Kimberly Renner, Robert Morris, Kathryn Kotrla, Joan Burnham, Carol Journey, and Mary Ingle.

Robert Morris moved acceptance of the June General Membership Meeting Minutes, Kathryn Kotrla seconded.

Visitors Michael Holleran, Jenni Minner and Josh Conrad made a presentation on the work of the Austin Historical Survey Project. If we have volunteers in the fall, we can help continue the work of this project. Neighbors expressed interest in forming a work group to discuss how to add to the database.

Mary Ingle reported on issues that CANPAC is following: Upzoning off Red River and Dreyfuss Antiques on MLK.

Joan Burnham suggested that now is the time to get Historic Districts back on the table. Joan is willing to take a leadership role, needs help and wants the Executive Committee to find a colleague to work with her. Carol Journey suggested that those interested need to meet again with Alyson McGee, the new Deputy Preservation Officer at the city, as there might be some changes regarding historic districts.

The Development Review Committee reported that the 400 E 33rd Duplex case is before the Board of Adjustment and is postponed until September. The Committee is still negotiating with the owner concerning violations of the NCCD.

The Helms and 34th Street property owners subdividing have agreed to work with NUNA to subdivide the property in the lowest impact fashion. The Board of Adjustments has told us to reflect carefully lest we set a dangerous precedent with respect to substandard lots with bonus FAR.

Trudy's is still working on their parking lot.

Thanks to good work by Bill Bednar and NUNA's DRC, we're about to sign NUNA into the 38th/Lamar pocket park deal.

The Garage apartment amendment has now passed City Council and is part of NCCD.

Pam Bell suggested neighbors take part in historic designation hearing at AISD.

Jerry Buttrey raised concerns about the property at 400 W. 33rd. Those assembled decided to put this item on the agenda for the September 7 Development Review Committee meeting.

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Kathryn Kotrla spoke about the Helping Hand Children's Home Christmas Angel Tree as an opportunity for neighbors to do some satisfying volunteer work. She invited those interested to e-mail her.

Kathryn Kotrla moved we adjourn the meeting. Jerry Buttrey seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

A Good Place to Call Home

by Clayton Maxwell

Twenty years ago, as a junior at UT, I had the wild good fortune to live on Laurel Lane. When I was an English major fully in love with my Norton Anthology, Neil Young, and passing the Ben and Jerry's amid a circle of friends (not a euphemism), I rented the bottom floor of Jean and Ronald Williams' home at 118 Laurel Lane with my two best friends. Now, on the first cool fall days of every year, I have a vivid recollection of biking beneath Laurel Lane's canopy of oaks early one crisp September morning, a copy of the Scarlet Letter in my backpack; I was peddling off to the Red River Texas French Bread to spend the first hours of the day reading. For me, this was it, the best home an aspiring college girl could imagine.

For nothing was more appealing at the time than immersing myself in the romance of life as a liberal arts major: Shakespeare, journal writing, corduroy bell-bottoms, coffee at Quack's on the drag and Les Amis. I am, after all, from a suburban neighborhood in Victoria, Texas, a place that seemed to my twenty-year-old mind like a cultural wasteland in contrast to the vast possibilities of life in Austin. Laurel Lane in particular was a feast of intellectual promise. Hemphill Park was the perfect setting for reading poetry out loud to each other. We lived next door to LBJ professor Jamie Galbraith, who we knew was a big wheel in the world of economics—just having him or his family wave to us gave us an intellectual contact high. And up the street lived a grad student named Horatio (how Shakespearian!) who seemed like just the kind of handsome erudite man that I hoped to discuss King Lear with—although he was actually studying too much to hang out with us. But lucky we were, we thought, to live amid such intellect.

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These were heady days for us on Laurel Lane. One night, we invited over our professor of English Romanticism, a kind woman with a bowl haircut. She brought a bottle of pink wine so we could pretend it was the laudanum that Shelley and Byron drank in the 1800s. It was one of those poetry-soaked, oh-so-literary evenings I'd never have had back in the suburbs.

We were decent renters, I think. For three girls with long hair, we never clogged the bathroom drain. No crazy keg parties. The wildest thing we did was an all-girl body painting evening. I guess from some people's viewpoint, this would have been a pretty wild night, but all the smudged paint did come off the walls (Did you notice, Jean?), and the candle wax part of the evening just burnt (lightly) the one heiress from Houston, whose name I shall not mention.

Laurel Lane was the ideal place to live out our collegiate visions of ourselves—as much as we could, we soaked up the promise of those fresh morning walks together up the hill to class (or maybe to the Crown and Anchor.) But, of course, our college idyll ended. We moved away, traveled, went to grad school, got married, had kids, grew up.

Seventeen years later, I came back to Laurel Lane, but this

time as a very pregnant 39-year-old with my husband, Scott, and three-year-old daughter, Carlisle. I now live just up the street from my college home, in a house that sits at the crest of the very hill I walked up so many times in the early 90s; the hill that once spoke to me of literature and getting to class on time and let's get a pint. Now, when I amble up that hill, I am with two little kids who are looking for leaves or learning to ride their bikes. I walked up and down that hill one October day two years ago, a pristine perfect bright fall day, laboring through the giddy early contractions of my son Harry's way into the world. And now I often run up and down it with my ipod on, trying to squeeze in a workout between my job and picking up my five year old from Lee Elementary. Oh, and of course, there are the constant back and forths between our house and the Marchants, who live down the street, and whose daughter, Ava, has become a favorite playmate of my daughter. We count on them—it's priceless to have neighbors with whom we can share the exhausting routine of parenting young kids.

So, twenty years later, I still can't believe my good fortune. Laurel Lane seems more magical. I don't have much time for Shakespeare and early morning reading at TFB, but I do

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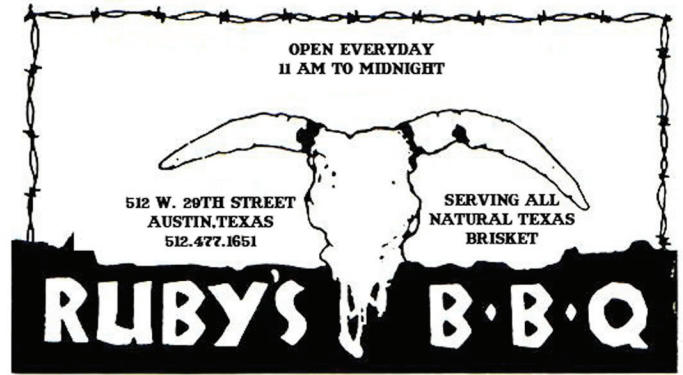


have time for looking for pecans in the park and walking to Wheatsville with my kids.

And how lucky am I to live, now as a tired mom eager for friendly faces, in a neighborhood where people value the simple joys of community, even if it's just a hello in the park. I am grateful for the many small gestures and routines of my neighbors. Before we even moved into the neighborhood--our house still under renovation--the Renners invited us to the annual Christmas party at their home. We were astonished not only by their friendliness, but by how very fun the party was—could this cool cast of characters really be our new neighbors? And later, our first month in our new house, when I was an enormous pregnant woman, Kim and Dan stopped by, gave me their phone numbers in case anything should pop up (or out—Scott was traveling a lot and my due date was approaching) and invited me to tag along to a neighborhood back-to-school party. I remember walking home that night feeling that we actually belonged here. And when the baby was finally born, Carole LeClair came to visit, bringing us one of her handmade onesies.

And now, after a mere two years back on this street, I always know when it's five pm because I'll see Rob Mosheim come walking down the street with his two dogs. And I know I can count on Mary Gay, who lives next door, to be tending her yard and watching out for loud renters in the back, and I know I can count on Jane (our other next door neighbor) to be the kind soul that takes in refugees and drops off Easter treats for my children. I am frequently stunned by the openness and generosity of my neighbors, something that really let's you know you made the right choice of where to live.

When I was nineteen and living on Laurel, the street was about possibility and learning and fun, things that you sometimes think you may be done with by the time you are forty and have two kids and a big mortgage and a house and yard to keep up (with mixed results). But actually, that magic is all still there—just different. Now, walking down my street in the early evening, catching that pink glow of the sunset over the hills to the west, I feel very lucky that whatever happened in those intervening years, it brought me back to Laurel Lane. It's a good place to call home.



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Schedule of NUNA Meetings September, 2011 - February, 2012

All Wednesdays

Development Review Committee

First English Lutheran Church 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

October 5

November 2

December 7

January 11

February 1

Executive Committee

502 West 33rd Street 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

November 9

January 18

General Membership Meeting

First English Lutheran Church 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

October 12

December 14

February 8