



NORTH UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Letter from the Editor

Clayton Maxwell

Spring forward. By the time this newsletter comes out, SXSW will have come and gone, the outrageously festooned marching bands of HONK ATX will have tooted their horns through Hemphill Park, and we will have sprung forward into daylight savings, so we will be enjoying later park strolls and dog walks by now.

April, not the cruelest month in our neighborhood, will offer two good opportunities to enjoy some NUNA camaraderie: there will be a charrette in the historical Sparky Park substation to help decide plans for this handsome brick building's future (April 13) and there will be a park clean-up day-- with refreshments! —a good way to care for the green spaces that help make our neighborhood such a pleasant place to be (April 20). Please see announcements about the charrette and the park clean up by Mary Ingle and Bill Bednar, respectively, in the pages that follow.

A big thanks to Mary Ingle and Mike Hebert for fulfilling a last-minute request to get the scoop on the duplex building plans at the current vacant lot on Harris Avenue just down the street

from Lee Elementary. Although not within the NUNA boundaries, this potential dorm-like duplex could pose safety concerns for Lee families. Turn the page to learn more and get involved.

Also within this newsletter, we get the tasty low down on 'strip-mall ethnic' from seasoned food writer, Beth Goulart Monson, who takes us on an appetite-whetting tour of nearby YAYA Café and Shaved Ice. Even her picky 14-month-old wants more of the pork belly Bahn Mi, and it's the shaved ice dessert that will be bringing the family there again and again as temperatures rise.

We hear from Beverly Rase, the director of The Kirby Hall School, the stately red prep school on the hill near 29th street and part of our NUNA community. Rase, an involved Austinite who helped organize Laguna Gloria's first Fiesta and was the inaugural president of the Elisabet Ney Museum Guild, opened the doors to Kirby Hall in 1976 and has been running the school ever since. We are honored to have her fill us in on the school's history and offerings.

We also have brought in what we hope to be a regular feature—a NUNA photo of the month (see page 8), which I suppose is a misnomer given this is a BI-monthly newsletter, but who wants to be a stickler for exact nomenclature when spring is in the air? If you have photos to share, please send them to: [nun-
anews@gmail.com](mailto:nun-
anews@gmail.com).

Best wishes,
Clayton

PARK CLEANUP APRIL 20!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 9:00 AM at the Hemphill Park bench. It's our annual park clean-up day, where we give Adams-Hemphill Park a good scrubbing. Our goal will be to get up all the bottles, trash, dead wood, and junk, and trim, sweep, and beautify. Free refreshments, and lots of satisfaction! If you would like to help ahead of time, contact Bill Bednar 587-3504, wbednar@bednarlaw.com.

NEXT NUNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

First English Lutheran Church

Monday, April 1, 2013

6:30 p.m.

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AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
Approve Minutes
- II. Guests:** Austin Energy will talk about rebate program updates
- III. Reports**
CANPAC - Mary Ingle
Parks - Bill Bednar/Julie Willis (Park Usage and Futures)
Treasurer - Jan Moyle
Quadrant Leaders' Reports - Dick Holland, Mary Ingle, Rick Iverson and Laurie Marchant
Other reports: NUNA signs for neighborhood
- IV. Items for Action:**
Floor nominations and elect new slate of NUNA officers
Nominate and vote on a Parking Benefit District rep to COA
Approve funds for NUNA July 4 celebration
- V. Old Business:**
- VI. New Business:**
- VII. Adjourn**

Proposed Duplexes on Harris Avenue May Pose Safety Threat for Lee Elementary Students

By Mike Hebert and Mary Ingle

Members of the Hancock and Lee Elementary communities have organized to oppose the dorm duplex project (currently 3 large duplexes are being considered in the City of Austin's Permitting Department), a property owned by Kevin Cutsinger and Ross Cole at 718 Harris Avenue across the street from Lee Elementary School. See the Hancock Neighborhood Association Web site for a fact sheet and a report on a letter requesting a pedestrian safety study signed by presidents of the Hancock, Hyde Park, Eastwoods, and North University Neighborhood Associations as well as by the president of the Lee Elementary PTA:

<https://www.hancockna.org/www/>

This coalition of these 4 Neighborhood Associations has asked the City to defer the issuance of any building permits until a safety study has been completed. Although, at the time of press, there has been no reply to the letter, a City safety officer has arranged to meet with the Lee Elementary PTA and interested parties at 3:00 p.m. on March 19th at Lee Elementary. Although this newsletter won't arrive until after this proposed meeting, we will keep you updated through future newsletters and the listserv about what happens. All interested parties- Lee elementary parents, neighborhood association members, and concerned community participants are encouraged to attend meetings and get involved—it will send a bigger message about the seriousness of the issue to the City staff!

On March 5, 2013 a residential reviewer in the City of Austin's Planning Department started a review of the plans. The project is on 3 lots, but it is effectively a commercial apartment complex designed to house a minimum of 18 students and to park 18 vehicles on-site along a 150 foot stretch of an alley that dead ends into Waller Creek. Part of the site and the alley is in the 100 year flood plain. The developers of this proposed project committed numerous code violations during the demolition of an older, large single family house used as a child daycare/school; however, to date, the City has not given us satisfactory answers to multiple questions which the Hancock Neighborhood committee have put to them, including multiple formal requests for disclosure of public information.

Dorm duplexes and stealth dorms are not new to Central Austin. The organizing effort by the Hancock Neighborhood has connected their Committee with other neighborhoods who

have been fighting stealth dorms for years. This collaboration has provided information, alliances, and awareness of prior efforts to curb this type of abuse within single family zoning. A "stealth dorm" can be characterized as a building where any room that serves as bedroom may not have proper ingress and egress (for safety and building standards). The "stealth dorm" phenomenon usually violates the COA occupancy "standard" of 6 unrelated adults per site; this high occupancy use of single family property results in overflow parking and trash problems posing health risks and attracting wild animals and pests. High occupancy use by unrelated adults, instead of families (which usually is comprised of a smaller number than 6 related adults!) can and does negatively impact a quality of life with noise and disturbance, not to mention the financial impact on adjacent properties, which has the potential of lowering property values by making homes less attractive for families. The point here is that many of us want our area to be viable for families. One of the reasons to pursue viability for families is because our area is blessed with a good, public school- Robert E. Lee Elementary School- for these families to send their children for an education.

A hope is that the collective efforts of all of the neighborhoods facing the blight of stealth and dorm-duplexes will finally wake up the City Council to the fact that this problem calls for emergency action. Too many lives are being devastated to defer acting any longer. If anyone needs more information, please contact 2 members of the Hancock Neighborhood Association: Mary Sanger (msanger@austin.rr.com), Angela Pack Zia (apackzia@gmail.com).

Minutes

NUNA General Membership Meeting February 4, 2013, 6:30pm

By Eileen Gill

Special Guest - Officer Griffin--APD

How to manage the homeless in Adams Park.

They try to hit it at 4am. Along with Parks Div.

Graffiti on the inside of the creekways--hard to catch graffiti artists.

How do we, NUNA residents, engage with APD to help curb homelessness in Adams---Officer Griffin handed out business cards. Park closes at 10pm-6am. NO ALCOHOL consumption at all! Call 311 if you see drinking/camping at any time.

Citations get issued---they have a court date they have to at-

2012-2013 NUNA OFFICERS

President	Michael Riley - NunaAustin@gmail.com
Vice President	Steven Tomlinson - steven@abporter.org
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SE Quadrant Representative	Dick Holland - rh02@txstate.edu
Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative	- vacant
CANPAC Representatives	Mary Ingle, Bill Bednar (Laurence Miller as alternate)
Development Review Committee (DRC)	Steven Tomlinson - steven@abporter.org
Parks Committee	Bill Bednar, Julie Willis
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Parking Permits	Eugene Sepulveda - Eugene@abporter.org
Newsletter Design	The Mod Studio - www.themodstudio.com
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Newsletter Ads	Julie Willis - Julie_willis@outlook.com
Newsletter Editorial	Clayton Maxwell - nunanews@gmail.com

tend--typically get assigned a social worker.

If you see graffiti/tags--call 311 to report it.

Our rep is Gary.griffin@austintex.gov or 512-974-8392

Election of slate of officers, following bylaws:

Regan Gammon--read the new officers.

Scott Myers--web site managers/ wants to be Austin N'hoods Council Rep

Newsletter distribution: update by Clayton.

Trish Tang is taking over main distribution. Homer is still on his post. Debbie Rivier- Harris is taking on a route. So is Clayton Maxwell.

Trying to get letters distributed earlier so that people have time to read them before the general meeting.

Parking:

6 additional blocks for RPP all on the East side of Speedway. This street is considered for RPP parking for 2 weeks.

Tell people to remove their old parking stickers & install new ones by the DUE DATE..

Could we do an article about the Listserve--for newcomers, about parking, noise, trash?

There is already a short blurb in the newsletter about how to sign up for the yahoo listerv--Scott Morris made one for us and we will keep it in the newsletter so people can try to get connected.

Get signage about general meetings made--email Clayton/ Michael Riley about pricing--try to get them donated. Try to get advertisement trade for the signage. We need to determine where they will be placed. Laurence said he could work on determining the spots-- major points of egress and ingress.

Sparky Park--Architect chosen--Tom Hatch . Charette coming up.

It's My Park Day--we need to nominate a project via listserve

Ongoing Business: Trudy's permits cleared with the city, so their parking lots should look better soon.

New Business: City of Austin glass recycling area--glass mulch. Integrated into the Park Folks. Share with Bill Bednar.

Sprinkler system---there is an existing Sprinkler system in the park but the CoA will not get back to us re: the locations. CoA has designated irrigation contractors. CoA is choosing not to allow irrigation on an ongoing .

New Biz---City of Austin wants to discuss putting in their parking meters on NON RESIDENTIAL Streets--where the n'hood would share in the profits. Near Trudy's/Spiderhouse, 31st/San Jacinto/Scottish Right, Whitis. You will NEVER have a paid parking spot in front of a residence. Could cause the parking to move further into our neighborhood as people try to avoid paying the meters.

Join the Discussion!

Listserves are a great way to become more connected with your community. **The North University Yahoo Group** is a hands-on, public communications resource, helping neighbors inform, communicate, and build a stronger community. The list is inclusive, open to anyone who lives in the North University Neighborhood and to people who have a material interest here, such as operators of a business, non-profit, or civic process. One can subscribe by sending E-mail to: **nuna-residents-subscribe@yahogroups.com** or by visiting the Yahoo! Groups site at: **groups.yahoo.com/group/nuna-residents**



@crimeatx is a crime watch Twitter feed that promotes crime prevention and public safety awareness in our area. It was established by the Central Austin CDC in January 2012 to help inform and prepare the returning student community in the immediate aftermath of the NYE attacks and murder of Esme Barrera. To sign up or learn more, visit **twitter.com/crimeatx** and tweet with the hashtag **#NORTHUNIVERSITY**.

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Does someone want to bug the city about sidewalks on 34th? Scott Myers. Updating the stale website content--pictures, other content. Would like more photos from the neighborhood--photos of the play at Sparky Park, for example.

Any aspirations for summer events? Sparky Park party? N'hood night out in October in Sparky Park? July 4th at Hemp-hill Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Gill
NUNA Secretary

NOTE FROM THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

Austin Water will begin replacing aging waterlines in our area around the first of May. Jill M. Mayfield, the Public Affairs Coordinator for Austin Water Utility, will host a "meet the contractor meeting" for mid-April, probably the 18th, and will be inviting those residents that live on affected streets. For more info, contact: jill.mayfield@austintexas.gov

April 18th at First English at 6:30 p.m.

The Next Step for Sparky Park

Phase II: A Planning Charrette:

April 13, Saturday at 9 a.m.

By Mary Ingle

Mark you calendars for Saturday, April 13 at 9 AM for an architectural planning charrette of the renovation of the substation building at Sparky Park--meeting to be held at the substation on Grooms Street. The substation building already has City Historic Landmark status, so the planning charrette will need to adhere to landmark design standards concerning the front facade (facing Groom Street) of the building. We are honored to have Tom Hatch, a talented, local architect, for this project from the pool of rotating architects for City projects. Involved in numerous large scale, as well as, small projects, Mr. Hatch's experience (and sparkling personality!) will illustrate his architectural flexibility. All residents are welcome to participate in this F-U-N event. See you Saturday, April 13, 9:00- 11:00 AM. If you have any questions, please call me: 320-8449.

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Vietnamese Cuisine Comes to NUNA at YaYa Café and Shaved Ice

by Beth Monson

Some of my favorite restaurants around Austin are what I like to call “strip-mall ethnic.” Take Swad, the Indian place upwards of Rundberg on North Lamar. Or Sunflower, the Vietnamese restaurant across from a SuperTarget on the 183 access road. Then there’s Ramen Tatsu-ya, Sunflower’s neighbor and purveyor of “Japanese soul-food.” I haven’t been there yet, but it’s getting loads of buzz among foodies – including a recent nod from Bon Appetit magazine. These places are all cheap, family-friendly, and authentic. Might YaYa Café, the Vietnamese eatery that opened in the mini mall on the southwest corner of 38th and Guadalupe, fit the category, too? Could we really be so lucky?

Yes, NUNA residents. We are really that lucky.

I went to check out YaYa with my family one Saturday. We started with the Vietnamese coffee (\$3.75), which entertained us while we waited on our food. It arrived in a clear glass and stainless steel percolator. The glass on the bottom allowed us to watch as the hot coffee dripped down into a waiting pool of condensed milk. We peeked under the lid on top to see when all of the coffee had seeped through, then stirred the coffee into the milk and poured it over ice. I might still be reeling from the one-two punch

of sugar and caffeine, but it was totally worth it.

As for food, we ordered several dishes with the intent of sharing, but we all ended up getting rather proprietary about our plates. For me: the “sizzling crepe,” Banh Xeo, with the tofu and bean sprout option (\$8.50). Vietnamese crepes are like a history lesson on a plate – it’s where that country’s French colonial period meets its native flavors and ingredients. The “crepe,” in this case, is different from the thin pancake you’ll find under the Eiffel Tower. It’s eggier, and divinely crispy. It’s also huge. This one must have been a foot in diameter, and it came wrapped around a filling of tofu strips, bean sprouts, and scallions, with lettuce and carrots and a bowl of flavorful dipping sauce on the side.

My husband, Kris, went trendy with the Banh Mi. History rears its head again in this sandwich, now showing up on menus all over town. Correctly rendered, it stuffs flavors of Asia inside a classic French baguette. The version Kris chose (\$6.25) packed pork belly, Chinese-style “BBQ pork,” and French pâté into a baguette that was among the best we’ve had in Texas. (Sadly, I couldn’t pin the store’s owner down on his source, except that it’s a bakery somewhere in Austin.) Kris loved it. His only complaint was that he had to share – our 14-month-old son, George, who normally rejects solid food beyond Cheerios and teething biscuits, could not get enough. For his part, George’s only complaint came

when Kris presented him with the breadly end of the sandwich. Pork belly please, Dad.

For Henry, our three-year-old, we chose noodles. Actually, we asked owner Sinh Hoang what else we really needed to try, and that’s what he recommended. We just assigned them to Henry, who has yet to meet a noodle he doesn’t love. Officially, his dish was called Rice Vermicelli Noodle Bowl, or Bun, and we picked the lemongrass chicken option (\$8.25). As if designed for a toddler, this dish came out with the noodles, chicken, cucumber strips, and carrots all heaped in distinct piles in one big bowl. Another small bowl on the side contained dipping sauce. Henry went straight for the carrots, which had been cut into alluringly curly ribbons that he could chew up into his mouth, what fun. By meal’s end, he had tasted everything in his bowl and wanted to make sure we took the leftovers home.

YaYa Café still has a couple of kinks to work out. Don’t trust the sign on the door about the hours, for starters. On Saturday, service now starts at noon – not 11, as the sign says. When we visited, there were no French fries on the premises, either. I’m not sure how authentic it is to serve French fries with Banh Mi, but as far as I’m concerned, pommes frites are the new black, so I was a little disappointed.

I recovered, though, thanks in part to the dessert promised

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by the second part of YaYa Café's name – "Vietnamese Cuisine & Shaved Ice." In fact, it's the shaved ice that makes me so sure we will be spending a lot of time at YaYa Café, especially come summer. This dessert combines snow-cone style shaved ice and condensed milk with ice cream and fresh fruit. You pick your ice cream flavor (Henry picked vanilla), fruit (berries), and size (small; \$6.95). Our dish was like a sculpture in a broad art-glass bowl with four spoons. It was cool and refreshing – and will seem even more so after we've walked to our neighborhood strip-mall ethnic restaurant on a hundred-degree August afternoon.

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Photo of the Month



Two NUNA residents, Rimil and Carlisle, take beloved neighborhood pugs, Mela and Monster, for a walk down Laurel Lane. Big thanks to neighbor Jane who kindly lets the girls play with the dogs whenever they hanker for canine companionship—which is often. Rimil and Carlisle are co-founders of the Animals Rock! Club (only three members so far). Rimil, who has been living in Austin while her mother is here on sabbatical, will be returning to Delhi in the summer. We will really miss her.



Kirby Hall School and a Bit of Neighborhood History

It's already time to sign the kids up for camps—an essential parenting survival strategy for another hot summer in Austin. On the suggestion of a far-better researched mom than I, I just mailed off registration to Kirby Hall School for a beginner writer's course for my seven-year-old. Not only am I happy that Carlisle will probably come up with some humdinger writing projects, I also look forward to walking her through Hemphill Park to camp in the morning—a sweet way to start the day.

In the interests of learning a little more about the it, we asked the headmistress of Kirby Hall to write us a brief history of this respected private school that is part of our NUNA landscape.

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This is what she had to say:

Kirby Hall School began September 7, 1976 in a historic building that was built in 1924 by the Methodist Board of Missions and named for Helen Marr Kirby, the first dean of women at The University of Texas, following the wishes of her brother who was the major donor for the building. Girls going to The University of Texas occupied the dormitory until 1971, at which point the trustees felt that owing \$16,000 was untenable and decided to close three weeks before the 1971 fall semester started. They left the building as if going home for the evening. Every record, lamp and sofa was in place and some are still where they were found. The dormitory housemother's desk in the inner office is still in use. Realtor David Barrow bought the building three years after it was vacated and used it for a headquarters for the Environmental Agency, an organization he founded to improve the use of land in Austin. When the school began, classes were held on the second floor. The Environmental Agency was on the first floor and some business offices were on third floor. The Environmental Agency moved to an office on Mesa Drive in 1977 and the officeholders upstairs found their offices less attractive when the faculty decided to install bells, though two occupants stayed for a number

of years claiming to be Kirby Hall School's God-Parents. They said "the ones above know all".

The school started with 64 students, 6th through 10th grades, and expanded to 12th Grade and Pre-Kindergarten. Kirby Hall considers itself NUNA's neighborhood school and has had a number of neighborhood students in its classes. Being just four blocks from The University, classes visit museum openings and attend concerts and public lectures. Older students go to University classes, take University testing to place out of courses, and get both University and Kirby Hall credits. With those credits and Advanced Placement credits, some students have entered the University with as many as 54 college credits, a welcome saving of tuition funds.

The goal of Kirby Hall is to support and encourage students, to hold to high academic standards and make young years pleasant and fun. The excellent teachers have small classes and individualize their teaching. Former students and parents express appreciation for the years at Kirby Hall and the successful college experiences and careers that follow.

Kirby Hall students and faculty enjoy Austin and Texas sight-seeing, as well as trips abroad. Lately they have seen Ballet Austin

at Zac Scott Theater, gone on an overnight trip to Fredericksburg and the Nimitz Museum, visited the Austin Zoo, Enchanted Rock, Pollyanna Theater and Von's Grass and Landscape to bring home pumpkins. They look forward to sixteen June through July summer camps led by faculty members: Jenifer Wiese's Writing Camps, Jared Dailey's Science and Math Camps, Suzi Duke's Art Camps, Joe Rumrich's Sports Camps, Joshua Klaus's Rock and Roll Camps, Drama and Crafts Camps by Michelle Escuder and Terry Parks and Beginners and Advanced Cooking by Jenifer Wiese.




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