



NORTH UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Letter from our NUNA President

By Laurence Miller

Kudos to Kim Coffin and her many volunteers for a terrific July 4th celebration here at Hemphill Park ! In spite of the heat we had a great neighborhood turnout. The parade led by Engine No. 3 from our own fire house on 30th Street consisted of people, strollers, cars, bikes, tricycles, and scooters all stylishly decked out in red, white and blue.

The water slide and the bouncy house were big attractions. Anita and Werner Pyke generously let us use their water for the waterslide. There were contests with trophies. Leo Bowman won first place in the watermelon eating contest and Andrew Scott won the Sack Race. The Pinata brought by Steven Tomlinson and Eugene Sepulveda was very popular. Kimberly Renner was a master face painter, and we had apple bobbing from Chris Coffin, an easel with paints from Carol LeClair set up, and a Mystery Game from Terri Givens and Mike Scott.

Chris Coffin brought enough watermelons for the crowd as well as for the contest. He also helped with set up and clean

up as well as bringing tables and drink dispensers.

Circe Strum, Kimberly Renner and Michael Riley brought doughnuts. Jim-Jim Snow Cones were around selling their cones and Kim Coffin provided lemonade and punch. Mark Feist and Roger and Christie Binkley brought water much appreciated in the heat.

We want to thank our fire fighters for their help and the First English Lutheran Church for allowing us to use their bathrooms and their parking lot.

The celebration was well documented by Rusty Jackson and Adriana Bravo. Check out Rusty's photos at <http://tinyurl.com/3wdbwn7> and Adriana's at <http://tinyurl.com/3nf7h7h>. It is clear from these photos that the day was a big success.

We do thank you Kim and all of the volunteers for such a wonderful day. Everyone had a great time.



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NEXT NUNA MEETING

First English Lutheran Church

August 10, 2011 | 5:30 - 7:00pm

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of June 2011 General Membership Meeting Minutes

III. Guests:

Teri Green from the Texas Gas Service Conservation
Michael Holleran, Jenni Minner and Josh Conrad
from the Austin Historical Survey Project
Moses Rodriguez, Code Enforcement Officer from
the City of Austin

IV. Reports:

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

V. Items Recommended for Action

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

NUNA Approval of Proposal to Resolve NCCD
Violation at 400 E. 33rd Street.
Report from the Nominating Committee

VIII. Adjourn

Neighborhood Notes

New Manager at www.nunaaustin.org

Scott Myers has volunteered to manage our website for us. Scott grew up in Austin so he knows our neighborhood well and he is presently living on 32nd Street while pursuing a B. S. degree in Health Care Sciences. Scott Myers can be reached at evrchging02@yahoo.com.

About our Parks

Mark Feist, our Parks Chairman, reports that there are three city approved irrigation companies preparing bids for getting irrigation installed in Hemphill Park. After the bids are in, we will be able to write a plan including costs and proceed to take the next steps.

About the First English Lutheran Church

Almost all of our neighborhood meetings are held in at the First English Lutheran Church and they open their doors to us on numerous occasions like the fourth of July. This is such a generous contribution to our neighborhood. Here are some interesting facts about FELC which they have sent us.

- Our congregation is celebrating our 75th Anniversary this year
- We really do have potluck dinners and pancake suppers
- Our sanctuary was built in 1939
- We're named "First English Lutheran Church" because we were the first Lutheran church in Austin to hold services in English
- We're a member of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)
- FELC is believed to be the first church in Austin (and maybe in all of Texas!) to install air conditioning
- We provide space for NUNA meetings
- We sponsor Cub Scout Pack 28 and Boy Scout Troop 1936
- We offer a gluten-free option for Communion
- Our new Transept Chapel offers an intimate space for contemplation and companionship
- We are home to the excellent FELC Child Development Center

- If you live in the neighborhood, this is probably your polling place
- A lot of us listen to A Prairie Home Companion on NPR
- We're traditional, but we're also on Facebook and Twitter

Lee Elementary School Notes

Classes begin on August 22.

Meet Your Neighbor: Leoda Anderson

By Steven Tomlinson

Not long after she bought her Wheeler Street bungalow in 1965 (for a price she politely declines to disclose), Leoda Anderson walked up the street to visit with her new neighbor John Silber who had recently been appointed Dean of Liberal Arts at UT. Leoda was working as a planning aide to one of the City of Austin's Chief Engineers and had a sense that working at the University would be a more rewarding way to support her four daughters. "I asked him if he had any openings, and he sent me to William Arrowsmith in Classics, and I was the department's administrative assistant for 20 years. That was back when you had to retire at 70."

Leoda Aline Anderson was born in New Hanover, Illinois (near St. Louis), in a house built by her grandfather, who also made the bricks. She graduated from high school during the depression and got her first job as the secretary at a combined elementary and high school. "My commercial subjects (typing and shorthand) teacher suggested me as an assistant to the principal and I got the job through the National Youth Administration, so I was really working for LBJ (the NYA's newly appointed director)." She also worked as a small-town newspaper reporter where she "got fired for criticizing FDR."

Leoda came to Austin in 1959 and worked for the City's Planning Department until joining the University. She walked to work everyday. "Classics was like one big happy family, back when the University was more intimate. We were the first department on campus to get a computer. It was this huge hulking thing that took up a lot of space on the ground floor, and we had to keep it cold. It could

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scan the Aeneid in six seconds.” Leoda was on a first-name basis with HP founder David Packard who had installed the machine, and she knew how to track him down anywhere in the country whenever his creation needed troubleshooting.

“I left about the time the professors started getting their own personal computers and becoming islands unto themselves.” Before that, Leoda and the staff had been the center of the department’s social network. “Everything gravitated to my office. We kept everything on track — publications, graduation, exams. One time I sent out a memo to all the straggling professors with a crossword puzzle: The clues spelled out the message ‘Please get in your annual reports.’”

She remembers William Arrowsmith calling her from home dictating his exam questions over the phone. She transcribed her shorthand and had everything typed up and mimeographed and ready to hand him as he walked into the office and headed for class. She also remembers being the first administrator on campus to hire men and African-Americans to work as secretaries.

Leoda has lived on Wheeler Street longer than any of its other current residents and knows all its history since the 60s. “Dr. Hardy lived on the corner, the Silber’s were at the other end of the street, the Arlett’s (grandparents of current Wheeler Street resident Steve Sivley) lived in your house...” She loves the neighborhood: “It’s small-town community with all the modern conveniences.” If there’s a better way to describe NUNA, it’s not obvious.

Her house had bare shiplap walls when she bought it. She made lots of little improvements along the way — roof, foundation, sheetrock — as she could afford them. Today her home and garden show the signs of loving care. And in her stride and smile you see the vitality that comes from doing what you love.

Since retiring from UT, Leoda has inspired hundreds of people through her work with the Lifetime Learning Institute. “Lifetime Learning is a wonderful adult education program that used to exist in every state. I took line dancing from Ida Mae Little until one day I returned from visiting my daughter in California to an urgent phone message. They said, ‘Ida Mae can’t teach the class this fall, but she says that you can.’ And that’s how it started. I taught line dancing for them for eight years and retired just two days after my 95th birthday.

Nowadays, Leoda stays fit with a self-designed program of upper body exercises and three line dances a day. “My motto?” She says with a twinkle: “Keep moving!”



Leoda Anderson

JOIN NUNA NOW

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Community Medical Centers

By *Kathryn Kotrla*

A health concern is terrifying. Hospitals can be big, impersonal, foreign places that smell funny. Few want to go to one or be in one. However, health concerns are unavoidable, for us and our loved ones. NUNA residents are lucky to have access to world-class health care, even if we're not fully aware of the resources in our own back yards.

NUNA is minutes away from so many hospitals that it's easy to get confused about our choices. We are pretty much smack dab in the middle of flagship hospitals for the two main hospital systems in Austin: Seton's and St. David's. The Heart Hospital is almost on the edge of NUNA.

The Seton hospital system includes Seton Medical Center and University Medical Center-Brackenridge, along with Dell Children's Medical Center, Seton Shoal Creek and Central Texas Rehabilitation Hospital. The Seton System extends from Seton Medical Center Williamson to Seton Medical Center Hayes, with outposts at Seton Northwest, Seton Southwest, and Seton Highland Lakes Hospital.

St. David's encompasses six hospitals: St. David's Georgetown, St. David's Round Rock, North Austin Medical Center, St. David's Medical Center (SDMC--our neighbor at 32nd St. and Red River), the Heart Hospital of Austin (our neighbor at 38th and Lamar) and South Austin Medical Center. Within these facilities are the Center for Joint Replacement, the NeuroTexas Institute, the Texas Cardiac Arrhythmia Institute, The Breast Center, and the Women's Center of Texas.

The St. David's (SD) hospital system has adopted the objective of becoming "our community medical center." To that end, the SD system has been open to visiting with NUNA about their existing SD services, their plans for Austin, and their vision of health care. Despite the fact that St. David's is a sprawling, robust health care system that benchmarks itself with national norms, their goal is to be the "home town provider" to our neighborhood, and in the other neighborhoods associated with their hospitals, according to Mark Clayton, Senior Vice President of St. David Systems.

What does this mean for us lay-people? St. David's describes a philosophy focused on enhancing the patient's experience. They strive to package the best of medical care into a warm, welcoming care environment. Within SDMC, so close to home, we have four areas of notable excellence only blocks away. How reassuring to have outstanding care provided with a personal touch!

As Mr. Clayton explained, four areas of national excellence at SDMC are: 1) Women's services that span SDMC's delightful Mammo mixers for annual mammography screening (trust me on the "delightful".....I experienced the Mammo mixer while researching this article!) to high risk obstetrical care to a neonatal nursery. 2) The Texas Heart Arrhythmia Institute, 3) Neuroscience, and 4) the Rehab Hospital.

In future NUNA Newsletters, we will describe these areas of excellence a bit more, as St. David's has opened its doors to NUNA to learn about them and their plans to benefit our community. A manifestation of the SD community/patient focus is their support in training the next generation of physicians. St. David's was instrumental in establishing the first Austin area medical school, due to their vision, and to the vision of their physicians, who want to grow the next generation of physicians to take care of us and our families in a humanistic and holistic way.

Health issues happen; we don't like them. But receiving care while being cared about is a great option for us at SDMC.

Austin Historical Survey Wiki Updates: Wiki-fying Continues in East Austin Neighborhoods this Fall

By Jenni Minner

North University neighborhood volunteers continue to test the Austin Historical Survey Wiki (AHS Wiki) beta website that is under development for the City of Austin. When complete, the AHS Wiki will be used city-wide by citizens who want to share information about Austin's historical buildings and landscapes. At the August 10 neighborhood association meeting, members of the UT-Austin project team will provide a tour of the AHS Wiki and share survey



Hyde Park neighbors will be pleased to learn that this house at 3820 Avenue F has a new owner, David Conner, former President of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and chair of the 2011 Hyde Park Homes Tour.



David is already using his talent and skills to do needed repairs to the house, which was built in 1934 by Peter Mansbendel for his daughter Valerie. Few changes are planned because David respects the integrity of the house, but he is busily bringing new vitality to the historic interior and exterior to make it shine.

A neighbor asked David why he didn't pay someone to paint the house, and he said "because this is the way I bond with my house. This way I know every inch of the house and what it needs." I wish every old house could have an owner who loves it the way David does this one and that every buyer could be as happy with their new home as David is with his!



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data that has been collected in the neighborhood.

The Austin Historical Survey Wiki was featured in the Austin Post. Reporter Jackie Stone wrote on the topic “So, why is this an awesome thing for Austin?” Stone notes that the wiki will “provide a way for the public to learn about current historic landmarks, but also to upload their own information about potential historic landmarks and other places they think deserve to be remembered.” She writes that it uniquely combines official information with the input of citizens to produce a living database of historical places. The article is available at: www.austinpost.org/content/coming-soon-wiki-austin-history.

Last spring, the UT-Austin project team met with residents of Aldridge Place and Buddington who are interested in conducting historical surveys for local historic district applications. At the meeting, participants logged in to try the beta tool. Many thanks to those who participated! The project team has been using feedback from this and other testing efforts in North University to improve usability and work out the kinks in the beta.

The project team has received word that the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training awarded UT a

\$25,000 grant to optimize the wiki survey tool for smart phones. This will give users the ability to go paperless if they wish. In addition, survey information can be checked and corrected while walking the streets or in the archives doing research.

At the end of August, the UT project team will begin another phase of the project, funded through a federal Preserve American grant. The project team will begin adding information about historic resources in East Austin to the wiki. Citizens and community organizations in East Austin will be invited to participate in identifying and documenting historic resources. Programming and testing of the site will continue.

Interested in trying out the beta? E-mail minnerj@mail.utexas.edu or call 512-906-5752 to help test it out.

Do you benefit from the Historic Landmark program?

By Pam Bell

We have many historic properties NUNA! Mine is the Fruth House, on 3500 Speedway, built in 1927. No one had lived in it since the mid-1970's. While NUNA was developing its

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neighborhood plan (NCCD) in 2003, the original owner's granddaughter and her husband requested a demolition permit to build a brick duplex for rental. Instead, NUNA initiated historic designation for the house through the NCCD. I purchased it in 2006, began extensive renovations, and began participating in the Historic Landmark Program in 2007.

Why buy an old house? I'm committed to retaining and restoring historic structures connected with Austin's past, and to planning for my future. For now, the tax incentive helps offset (and rationalize) extra costs to renovate and maintain the historic property. For the future, it helps manage rising property taxes when I retire: When I'm an old lady, I'll have the bus stop two houses away, and the AGE adult day care around the corner.

What does it mean to own a landmark home? The owner enters into a legal agreement to maintain the property's historic exterior in exchange for a "discount" on a percentage of the property's value. Annually the owner must provide a notarized agreement to the Landmark Commission, the property is inspected, and the owner is notified that the property maintains its historic status. If the owner decides to discontinue participation, the owner must pay back the previous 3 years of tax abatement.

Any exterior change, even a repair, requires prior approval by the Historic Landmark Commission. In my case it means custom work: siding must be milled to match (\$50 a board!), windows can be repaired but not replaced with energy-efficient ones, even the plans for construction of a new garage had to be approved by the Historic Commission! Believe me, it would have cost far less to demolish the house and build a brick duplex, like the previous owners planned.

Everyone benefits from landmark homes. Since landmarks must be maintained, their property values increase, as well as that of neighbors. Their presence stabilizes and protects the character of the neighborhood. In fact, historic status triggers a Certificate of Appropriateness, the most rigorous standard, to prevent transformation into egregious structures (see the poster child at 3410 Speedway, built in 1918). And most importantly, as windows to the past, they remind us of those who once lived in them and helped to shape Austin into what it is today. Once they are demolished, they are gone forever. Remember the Alamo?

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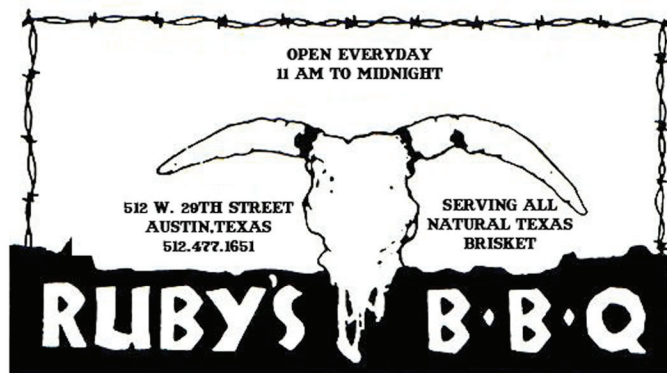
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Last year several taxing entities in the Travis County Appraisal District summarily opted out of the historic tax abatement, without notice, creating a hardship on many owners. This year is turning out to be a repeat, there's even been a lawsuit filed to stop the program. Consequently, some landmark owners are considering opting out. They feel that the program is just not worth the headaches, especially when there is no tax incentive.

The Heritage Society has been working with City staff on a proposal, but a group of landmark owners wanted to have more input and so formed a coalition called Saving Austin. They want to ensure that landmark owners will not have the rug pulled out from under them in terms of changes to tax incentives. While most owners have kept their end of the bargain, a few took advantage of the system and generated negative publicity for the program. With the pressure of the lawsuit the City and AISD leaders may decide to punish all for the actions of a few. Removing the tax incentive places our historic properties at risk, as many homeowners will decide to opt out of the program.

Do you treasure the contribution that historic properties make to the City and our neighborhood? On July 28 the City Council will reconsider the program-come join us and make your voices heard. Visit the SavingAustin.org website or Facebook page (<http://facebook.com/saveaustinorg>) for more information and to donate to support the valiant efforts of those who have been working diligently to make saving Austin's history everyone's issue.

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