



Co-President's Note

By Babs Davis, NUNA Co-President

Here we are on the cusp of the holiday season 2021, still struggling with Covid-19. That issue will not disappear soon. We are being called on continually to be responsible to both our own health and the health of others in our community. That issue continues to be a struggle for communities across the U.S., so we are not alone in NUNA in seeking to understand the best health information available for keeping both ourselves and our community well.

We are also grappling within NUNA with several issues that impact the quality of life of our larger community as well as within NUNA. Within the boundaries of our neighborhood, we are working with engineers with the Watershed Protection Department team at the City of Austin (COA) to give neighborhood input on the 33rd Street Bridge Restoration Project. The goal of that COA project is to alleviate consistently occurring flooding from the Hemphill Park creek bed in periods of heavy rain. Neighbors met this past week for a Zoom Q & A with the COA design team for the bridge project. That meeting was productive. It resulted in a good update on where the team is in the design process. We will have another meeting in Spring, 2022, as they get further along on their design process. Some information from that meeting is in this issue of the

In This NUNA Newsletter

NUNA's Outreach to Two Afghan Families
33rd Street Bridge Project
Southwest Quadrant News
Roger Binkley Memorial Bench Dedication
Dogs of NUNA
Our New Afghan Neighbors

NUNA News, including COA contact information if you have questions. A new NUNA Infrastructure Committee has been formed (Pam Bell, chair) to respond to diverse aspects of infrastructure revitalization and change that will impact our community exemplified by the bridge restoration project within our boundaries.

A second ongoing infrastructure project initiated before the pandemic is Project Connect. Project Connect refers to a mass transit system that is in the planning stages at the COA and CapMetro. This project is much larger in scope than the bridge refurbishment and affects both our community and other areas of Austin. It potentially has positive outcomes related to reducing automobile traffic. The project will provide reliable transportation for many citizens residing in Austin, including students, and persons without car transportation. It also could be an asset for the many visitors who come to experience our beautiful city. However, Project Connect also carries a risk of negatively impacting our lovely central-

city neighborhoods, as transit planning will include a heavy increase in the density of functions on our streets (i.e. buses, cars, bikes pedestrians along with the mass transit vehicles). There will be an impact on traffic flow on contiguous city streets, and structurally demolishing commercial and residential hallmarks of our community that contribute to the beauty and vitality of our city. Again, our NUNA Infrastructure Committee will be working to contribute to the dialogue with COA planners. In addition, the Austin Neighborhood Council - Central Sector group as well as other Central Austin neighborhood associations affected will be providing needed input to the COA on this very large infrastructure project. I will post any ongoing updates on the Google Group list. Contact me if you wish to be added to that list (babs@mail.utexas.edu).

In summary, we have a lot going on in the 'hood' and a lot of committed community members taking an interest in preserving our community. Our NUNA community needs to work toward supporting managed growth that respects both the vitality of our city and the history of our neighborhood that makes it what it is today! Stay tuned!

NUNA's Outreach to Two Afghan Families

By Pamela Bell

On October 20, two Afghan refugee families moved into NUNA. Julie Willis saw them while she was walking her dog, and posted a "How can we help?" message on the NextDoor app. I saw it and the next day went over to meet the families. So many children (there are 17!) came running up to me! No one speaks English. I learned that one of the fathers, Hahibullah, and his son, Bilal were literate in their language (Pashto), so we awkwardly began communicating using Google Translate. When the fathers took me on a tour of their apartments, I saw that they only had

twin mattresses encased in plastic for furniture. The rooms were pretty empty. Refugee Services of Texas (RST) had also provided them with some groceries,

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA
DEC 6, 2021 6:30PM

Welcome

Nomination Committee volunteers/
2022-23 NUNA Officers

33rd Street Bridge Report/Meeting
with COA

Project Connect

Residential Parking Permits

By-Laws Committee

Afghan Refugees Report

Treasurer Report/
Membership Registration

Secretary Minutes/Vote

Quadrant Leaders reports

Adjourn

and some cooking utensils.

Getting all those children in school became my first mission. I contacted the AISD Office of Refugees and Immigrants, and Salimah Shamsuddin was very helpful. However, she indicated that the children couldn't be enrolled without a referral from RST. The waiting-for-school period began. Meanwhile, Julie Willis had discussed the families with her boys, and Luke and Cole started a clothing drive at their school for the families (read more about the effort elsewhere

in this newsletter). Laurel Weiss, a doctoral student who lives below the families, was doing her best to meet their needs. A support system was developing!

I took the wives and Bilal shopping to the international market on north Lamar. A customer there spoke Pashto, and was able to tell the women to fill their baskets with what they needed. (They had asked me to put food items in their carts!) Neighbors began contributing HEB and Target cards, Jan and Jim Moyle and Diane Whitmer and Zach Simpson donated IKEA shelving and organizers, and NUNA neighbors and those on NextDoor started contacting me with furniture and supplies to donate. Mark Feist the Moving Man drove his truck to pick up and deliver items. Wonder Woman, Safina Mahmood, saw Laurel's post on NextDoor, and also began collecting clothing and items for the families. She and her husband Shiraz speak Urdu (which is close to Pashto?), and she knew exactly what they needed for cooking and clothing as well. The women all sew, so she got them sewing machines and supplies. She is in contact with other refugee families as well; the leftover clothing from the Willis boys' clothing drive was donated to others. On one of my emails, I accidentally used a friend's address, and Julie Currey from Houston put the word out to her network of friends! So many generous people have stepped up to help these families in need.

Some background: We do not know the families' stories; some day we will have an interpreter to learn more. They had 1 hour to evacuate, and left everything and everyone behind. Both of the fathers served in the Afghan forces that supported the US Army's efforts. They were on a base in Washington, DC before their arrival in Austin. RST is overwhelmed with several families, and so far, the families still have no caseworker. There is a backlog in the Social Security administration; until they have Social Security numbers, they cannot work or receive benefits like Medicaid. If you want to help, Target and HEB gift

cards are really helpful, as well as cash to help pay for Nadia's medication. Safina was able to get Nadia an appointment at People's Community Clinic, where she also could apply for Medicaid to help with medical expenses (that is still not finalized). I've been taking her to her doctor appointments.

Here is a little about the families:

1. The Saide family: Hahibullah and his wife Fawzia have 8 children. The oldest son, Bilal, is almost 15 and is literate in Pashto, and was very happy when he enrolled in AISD's International H. The youngest is Bibi Sana, sixteen months old.
2. The Mohammedi family: Fazlullah and his wife Nadia, have nine children ranging in age from 6 to 18: 4 sons and 5 beautiful daughters, plus Nadia is 8 months pregnant. The eldest daughter, Nagina, is 18 and too old for AISD, so we need to find her a class to help her learn English. All of the other children are in school at Lee Elementary or the International HS.

All in all, the families are settling into a routine, and we are spending less time with them. They are very appreciative of all of our efforts, and like to reciprocate with an invitation to "chai"—tea. I urge you to accept any such invitation, you will see how generous and loving the families are, no words are necessary. We are truly lucky to have them in our midst.

Thank you to:

- Safina and Shiraz Mahmood (so much!)
- People's Community Clinic, Judy Sanders
- Austin Maternal and Fetal Health, Dr.
- Laurel Weiss (endless items and help)
- Mary Jane Grooms (rugs!)
- Doug Plummer: IEA bookcases)

All Saints Church: Kelly Barnhill Homecooked Fridays (HEB cards) and Amanda Schmidt, Daughters of the King (HEB cards and medication costs)

Jan and Jim Moyle, and Diane Whitmer and Zach Simpson (IKEA shopping trip)

Babs and John Davis (food and etc.)

Kristi Binkley (Coffee table)

Mike and Alice Marcom (TV, toys, jewelry supplies, ABC blocks, rugs, lamp, etc.)

Caroline Swann (HEB cards)

Janet Adams and Randy Thompson (HEB gift cards)

Diane Presti (art supplies)

Julie and Dave Currey (bassinet, backpacks and school supplies, dishes)

Amy Mintz (IKEA bookshelf)

Meryl Brodsky (rugs, dresser)

Emily Moulton (plastic drawers, closet organizers, coffee table)

Angela Coleman (rug, dresser with mirror, iPad, etagere)

There are more wonderful neighbors, I apologize that I didn't write down all of the donations. And if you still wish to help out, please contact me!

33rd Street Bridge Project

By Pamela Bell

On November 15, NUNA members met via Zoom with project members from City of Austin Watershed Protection division to review plans for increasing the outflow of water from the 33rd St. bridge. Jason Recker, John Middleton, Mike Kelly, and David Hernandez presented the plans, and

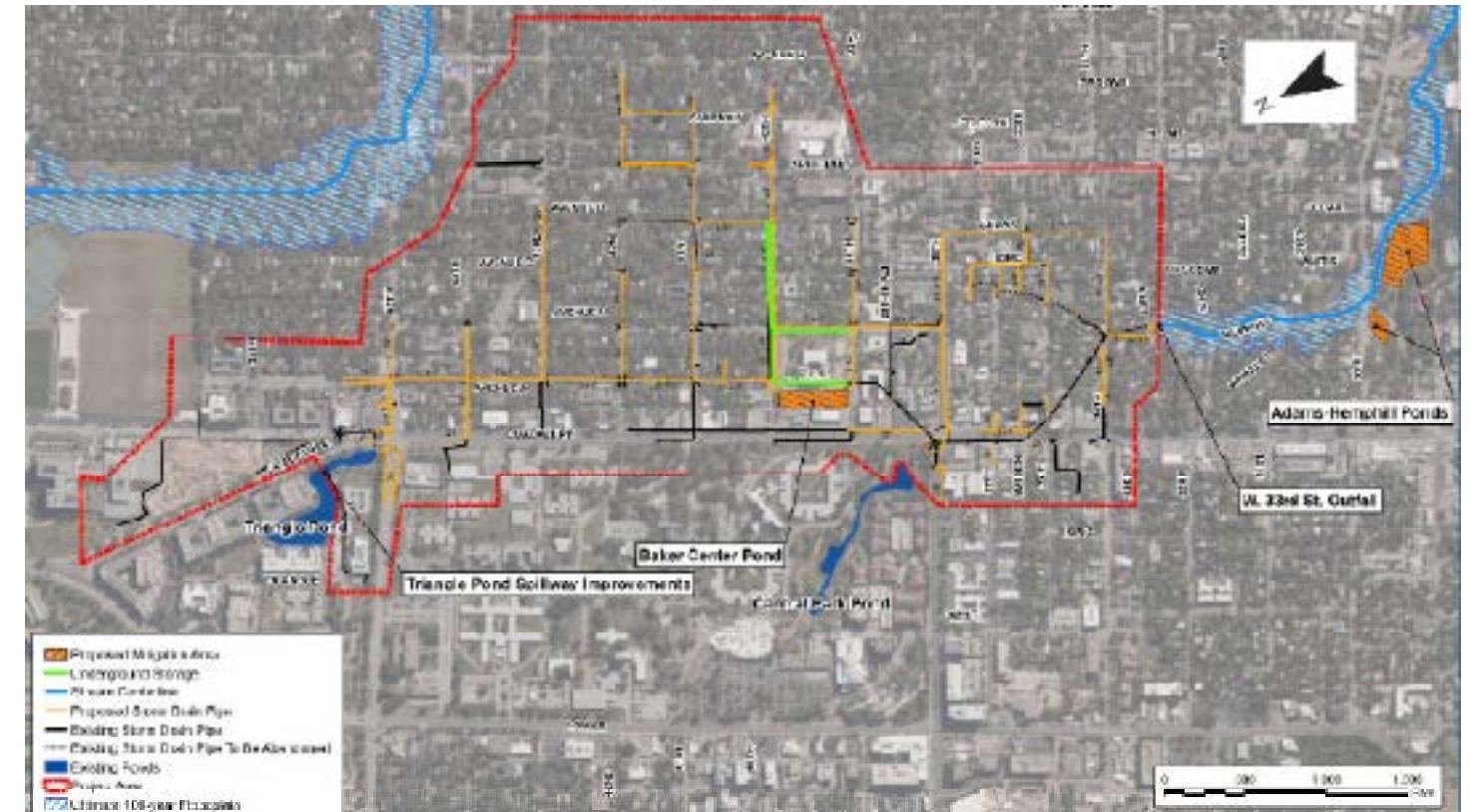
answered NUNA's questions. The project is in the preliminary stages, and we were assured that they "cannot do any harm downstream." The project focuses on preventing 2- and 10-year flooding.

NUNA members were concerned regarding the lack of mitigation downstream, at the 32nd Street, Wheeler St., and 30th St. bridges. The staff stated that the plans will not impact properties; if the modeling finds that properties are impacted, then the project must stop. However, the staff was unsure about how properties would be impacted, and they will come back in the spring with more information regarding the flood models.

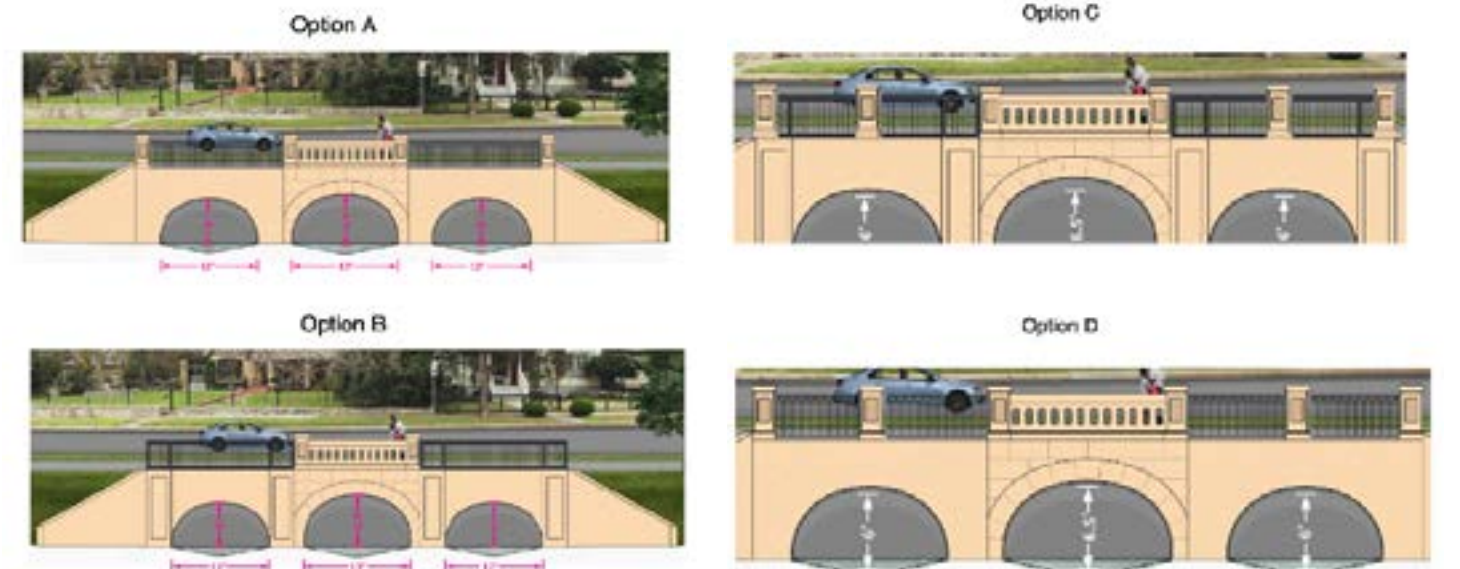
The map is hard to read with regard to our area; it shows the entire project from Hyde park down to Adams Park. A deep retention pond is planned to go along the west side of the Baker School near Guadalupe. New underground pipes will replace old ones, with three large openings at the 33rd St Bridge. There is no mitigation between the downstream bridges in our park. A retention pond will be dug into Adams Park. In a 10-year flood, water does not divert to Baker Center, but in 25-year and 100-year floods, it will divert water to Baker Center and to Adams Park.

The staff predict there will be less flooding in 25 and 100-year rainfall. This prompted questions from NUNA members: What is a 2- and 10-year event? If the downstream effects are adverse, is there a mechanism to reverse the project? Staff defined a 2-year flood as 4" of rain in a 24-hour period, a 10-year flood as 6 1/2" in a 24-hour period, a 25-year flood as 8 1/2", and a 100-year flood as 12 1/2". They stated that if the project is completed and it has adverse impact, they would have to fix it.

Staff requested that we study the 4 possible designs for the 33rd Street bridge (attached), and that we submit our choice by mid-December so they can move on to the next phase of design. There will be another meeting in the spring.



33rd Street Outfall Design



Southwest Quadrant News

On Wednesday Nov. 17, Jim Creswell went to the City of Austin Household Hazardous Waste Center to drop off some materials. He had offered to drop off any neighbor's hazardous waste. (A full list of what counts as "hazardous waste" can be found by searching "City of Austin Hazardous Waste"

including cleaning products, old batteries, pesticides, aerosol cans, and many other items, including old cell phones and computers. A list of items not accepted is also on the website.)

Several neighbors took him up on his generous offer, and he filled his car! Thank you, Jim, on behalf of your neighbors!

Roger Binkley Memorial Bench Dedication

By Mary Ingle and Janet Beinke

Roger Binkley's friends and relatives gathered in Hemphill Park on October 24th around the bench dedicated to him. The event was an opportunity to celebrate Roger and reminisce about all his good deeds for NUNA and Aldridge Place, including the successful Aldridge Place Historic District campaign, championing the historic Aldridge Place gateway columns, and helping protect our park and waterway.

The sizeable crowd featured all age groups. Attendees shared tears, hugs, and laughs as they sought joy in remembering Roger rather than sorrow at his passing.

Four musicians, dubbed the Hemphill Quartet by MC Rick Iverson, set the perfect tone, starting with La Vie en Rose. Poems, anecdotes, and spontaneous dancing were part of the upbeat celebration.

Ricardo Solis and Sonia Freeland of the City's Parks Department were acknowledged for their help making this bench materialize in record time through the City's Memorial Bench Program (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/memorial-bench-program>).



We have raised enough funds to pay for the bench. Thanks to all who contributed! But if you haven't donated yet and still want to acknowledge Roger, any additional funds will be dedicated to the Aldridge Place columns, one of Roger's pet projects.

Visitors to Hemphill Park have already put the bench to good use, perhaps because of its welcoming plaque reading:

Roger Binkley 1947-2021

"Have a seat, friend, and tell me how you are..."

Donations for the Aldridge Place columns can be sent or dropped off at Janet Beinke's house: 207 West 33rd Street, Austin Texas, 78705. Make checks payable to NUNA. We appreciate any donation, large or small!



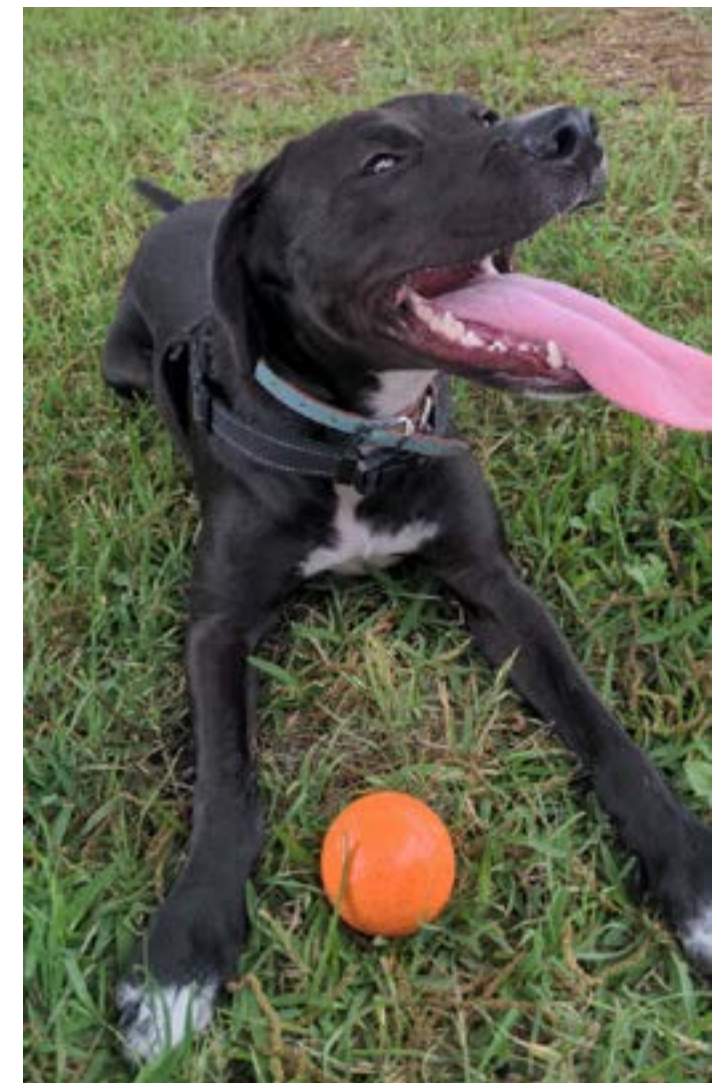
Dogs of NUNA

By Babs Davis

Rosie is a 3 year old lab/pitbull mix with a loving heart and an active personality. Her dad Lucas Best adopted her a year and a half ago from Austin Pets Alive! She was a stray weighing just 30 pounds. Today, she weighs a healthy 45 pounds! She can be spotted walking around Hemphill Park every day before and after Lucas goes to teach. Rosie loves to greet everyone on her walks and has made many play pals around the neighborhood including Wally, Beau, and Simka! Ever since Rosie got adopted, she has had a ton of energy! She loves to use her energy chasing balls, playing tug-of-war, and running around the Park. When Rosie is (finally) tired, she turns into a total 'snugglebug.' She loves to spend her evenings on the couch with her favorite person while he does the crossword or watches TV. If you see Rosie around, feel free to come up and say "Hi"! It would make her day!



Rosie in the snow (above) Rosie plays ball (below)



Our New Afghan Neighbors

By Julie Willis

Walking our dog on October 23, I passed a group of adults and children in the front lawn of a duplex in our neighborhood which had been empty for some time. It was clear to me that they had just moved in and, from their language and dress, it was also clear that they were refugees, I assumed from Afghanistan. I stopped to say hello but the language barrier made it impossible to ascertain anything about their situation. So I went home and posted to Nextdoor, seeking advice on how best to reach out to families in their situation.

Three weeks later – and thanks to the incredible efforts of Pam Bell – a number of NUNA families have come together to help support the families of Hahibullah Saide and Faziullah Mohammadi, who served in the Afghan army in Jalalabad in allegiance with the U.S. government, putting their lives in jeopardy when Afghanistan fell to the Taliban. They and their families – with 17 children between them -- were given one hour to evacuate their homes in July. They landed in Austin in October, and we are not yet clear on where they were for the ensuing months, or how they came to land in our neighborhood.

The families are waiting for help from Refugee Services in Austin to find jobs for the adults and enroll the kids in school; in the meantime, they have few resources and none of them speaks English. Hahibullah and one of his sons, Bilal, can read Pashto so we use Google Translate to communicate with them one imperfectly translated sentence at a time.

Many wonderful neighbors have stepped in to help these families with everything from groceries to healthcare. As one small piece of the overall effort, our family organized a clothing and toy drive for the children and are happy to report that, for now, everyone has shoes, a warm jacket and at least one change of clothes as well as some books, school

supplies and toys. We are currently working on providing backpacks for all of the children in the hope that they will soon be enrolled in school.

If you are interested in helping out, Pam Bell put together a google document to keep NUNA informed about what efforts are being made and what else is needed. You can find it here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lz5f5if8tYxZLuevLXPRFYuTex9VE-zwcdW6283a3D0/edit?usp=sharing>

(Editor's note: It will be updated after Thanksgiving.



Our Service Project

By Luke Willis

My name is Luke Willis. I am an 8th grader at St. Andrew's. My brother and I helped my mom organize a clothing and toy drive for the Saide and Mohammadi families and I was a little nervous meeting the families at first. But once I got to know everyone it was really fun. We played a bunch of different sports like volleyball, soccer, and football – and they were really good. I taught one of the kids how to throw a football, and he caught on really quickly. It was really

nice to meet the little kids too. They were really cute. It didn't matter that we couldn't speak each other's language. We didn't need to say anything. We were laughing together and playing together. I feel like fun is its own language. Anyone can have fun with each other. One of the teenagers and I did try to talk a bit with Google Translate. We would use the app on our phones to talk that way, and it was awesome to understand each other. I thought it would be harder to do. I could tell that they were really happy with the things we brought them, and they could tell us what else they needed. I thought it would be hard to interact with them, but it was actually really easy. Fun is a universal language!



By Cole Willis

My name is Cole Willis. I am a 7th grader at St. Andrew's. When I visited the Saide and Mohammadi families for the first time, I noticed right away how were incredibly polite they all are. Even though I couldn't understand their language, they were warm and friendly. We shook hands and said thank you a lot (one of the English phrases they know.) We taught the kids the words "catch," "throw" and "bounce" while we played with a ball. One of the teenagers is really good at sports and the one-year-old wanted the ball all the time so I think he will be too. He is super cute!

NUNA

2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES

2022 is approaching and it's time to renew your membership or become a new member of NUNA.

Our dues cover the calendar year, so any dues paid now will apply to the coming year. It's a good time to become a contributing and voting member of NUNA.

We have many important neighborhood issues and by being a voting member, your voice will be heard.

There should be a form in the newsletter, but if not, please include your name, email, street address and phone number when you send your check. NUNA is a big area, and we like to have all parts of the neighborhood represented.

You can mail your check to Jan Moyle, 200 W. 32nd St., or drop it through the mail slot.

Some people have paid for 2022.

Check with Jan if you have any questions.
moylejan@gmail.com

ADVERTISE WITH NUNA!

NUNA Newsletter Information & Rate Sheet

About The Neighborhood: The North University Neighborhood is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Austin and the third most dense after Riverside and West Campus. We are an eclectic mix of University folk (professors, students and staff), families and working professionals. Our neighborhood lies between 27th and 38th streets, bound by Guadalupe on the west and Duval on the east, with Hemphill/Adams Park with Waller Creek running through its center.

About the Newsletter: The North University Neighborhood Association (NUNA) News is published 6 times a year, February-March, April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November and December-January. We print and distribute 1000 copies to homes, businesses, coops and non-profit agencies in our neighborhood. The newsletter also appears online at nunaaustin.org. The content of the newsletter is all about our neighborhood and we like to include stories about our supporters and advertisers.

Sizes and Rates: We sell ads by the year (6 issues). Our rates are:

1/8 Page Ad (3.5x2.25): \$200

1/4 Page Ad (3.5x4.5): \$300

1/2 Page Ad (5.3x8 horizontal or 3.6x9.875 vertical): \$550

Full Page Ad (7.5 x 9.875) – \$1000

Ad specifications: Black & white, no bleed, 300 dpi

Please contact our NUNA Treasurer Jan Moyle at moylejan@gmail.com



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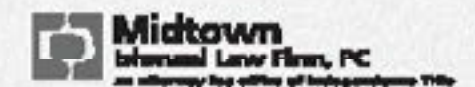


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Charming 1930s grunge apartment in Hancock Neighborhood. 1 BR, 1 BA, central A/C & heat, wood floors, stacking W/D. Walking distance to U.T. Available now. \$1,400/month.

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