



NORTH UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



President's Note

By Lynn Marshall, NUNA Co-President

Maybe it is because I am sitting in the same front yard that I sat in with my grandmother when I was five years old, watching the same puffy clouds (Look! An elephant!), eating the same breakfast (toast and eggs with runny yolks), and looking at the same ancient oak tree where the old carriage track turned, that memories and thoughts of the neighborhood have stolen in with the changing light that foretells that fall is on the way and the world is changing.

The chiming Tower brings back my grandmother's stories about when the family lived on 24th Street next to Waller Creek, where they had chickens, a garden, and a donkey named Nightingale. You could catch fish in Waller Creek then and eat them back then. My grandfather headed up the building program at UT during the time when such iconic buildings as the Tower, Gregory Gym, and the McDonald Observatory were built. The 40 acres was once surrounded by large stately homes; the family lived in several over the years because of my grandfather's position at UT. Now those homes are gone, taken over by UT (some things never change...). My mother, having been taught to play the carillon from the man who installed it, played it on New Year's Eve 1936, the year the Tower opened. My grandfather, in addition to his engineering skills and his disregard for

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the concerns of the regents during their visit to the under-construction McDonald Observatory (he was off bowhunting when they arrived by train and they got huffy), was a skilled traditional bowmaker. On the side, he taught women's archery classes using bows he made by hand from bois d'arc (*Maclura pomifera*) he had collected along West Texas fencerows. When I was a child, his tools and the large concrete block with an eyebolt in it that he used to wind linen bowstrings were objects of fascination to me and my cousins as we explored the "under the house," a mysterious treasure trove of family treasures (aka "stuff," "junk," and "what's that thing?"). Also to be found "under the house" were the silk blueprints of the Tower and a set of longhorn horns that in my adult mind stretched 12 feet from tip to tip. And my aunt's and mother's Nancy Drew books, the ones with the blue cover and silhouette of the girl detective.

Those relics, which seemed ancient when I was five and ten and fifteen years old, disappeared decades ago (I do have the Nancy Drew books), along with

the box turtles, rhinoceros beetles, snakes, and frogs that populated the yard. But much remains and new things have arrived, and these memories remind me what a remarkable place our North University neighborhood is.

In our neighborhood stagecoaches once stopped and University presidents and professors dwelled (and many still do). The Bird Woman captivated curious children with vast cages of twittering birds. Leadbelly played on the porch of the Lomax home and Lyle Lovett opened for Nanci Griffith at Emma Jo's on Guadalupe. Physicists tested their newly-invented gravity meters on the hills and in the valleys, and UT theater student Bruce McGill practiced vigorous and loud sword fighting under the streetlight at my corner before decamping for New York and Julliard and riding a motorcycle down the stairs in Animal House.

North University Neighborhood -- what a smashing place to call home.

Welcome Newcomers!

We are the North University Neighborhood Association (NUNA). We would love to have you join us at our meetings. General membership meetings are held on Monday evenings of the "even" months of the year (October is our next meeting). You'll see signs with the Zoom link posted around the 'hood.

Trash pickup: Our day is Friday, which means you need to have your bins at the curb on Thursday night. Garbage (tan/grey bin), compost (small green bin), and yard waste are picked up weekly; recycling (blue bin) is picked up every two weeks (the next pickup is 9/24, then 10/8).

Noise: The City of Austin has a noise ordinance. It briefly states that a person may not make an unreasonable amount of noise between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. Be a good neighbor and take

your parties and loud outdoor discussions inside at 10:30 p.m.!

NUNA OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING INFO

October 4, 2021 General Meeting (Zoom)

6:30 Welcome

33rd St. Bridge, Stephanie Lott, COA
Watershed

APD policing concerns (TBD)

Topics of Concern

Other Business

Announcements

7:30 Adjourn

Dogs of NUNA

Wally joined the Parsegian clan just over two years ago. He is an adorable "Golden Doodle" puppy hailing from Salado, TX. With the onset of the pandemic he became a far more intimate part of his new family's daily lives than was expected. Wally is charming, loving, and gentle – so much so that the two Parsegian cats (Jerry and Dean) oftentimes walk with Wally around Hemphill Park - just to share time with him!

As a family of 5, Wally's household is a busy one. There's Seth (17, Sr. at McCallum) Ben (14, Freshman at LASA) and Lauren (7, 2nd grade at Lee) along with the "old head" parents Homer and Phyllis. Wally sleeps on his own bed each night and has a blanket that came with him as a puppy that he still fawns over. You can often find Wally hanging out with the boys when they are playing basketball in the back yard. He loves chasing and wrestling with Ben – they can be heard throughout the house laughing and bumping into walls. Wally is a true gentleman and is loved by whoever crosses paths with him, especially his family!



Roger Binkley Memorial Bench Dedication

By Mary Ingle and Janet Beinke

In the August NUNA News, we wrote about our friend and neighbor Roger Binkley's death on May 3, 2021. Roger spearheaded the successful Aldridge Place Historic District campaign, championed the historic Aldridge Place gateway columns, and helped protect our park and waterway. To remember Roger and his work for our neighborhood, we have been collecting donations for a memorial bench and for restoration of the Aldridge Place columns, one of his pet projects. Our goal is to have a significant base of funds to help restore the columns, since the cost of bench has already been met! Thanks to all who have contributed thus far!

Austin Parks and Recreation staff assisted us in selecting a location for the bench on the east side of Hemphill Creek between 32nd and 33rd Streets. Progress has been at lightning-speed: the slab for the bench has been completed, and the bench has been installed! A forthcoming plaque on the bench will quote Roger's welcome to visitors:

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

The appropriateness of that quote and fond memories of Roger have generated donations from NUNA current and former residents, and even from some who didn't know Roger. If you would like to donate to the bench and restoration of Aldridge Place columns, please send or drop off checks payable to NUNA at Janet Beinke's house: 207 West 33rd Street, Austin Texas, 78705. We appreciate any donation, large or small!



A short dedication for the bench will be held on Sunday, October 24 at 4 pm. You're invited to gather beside the bench to reminisce and celebrate Roger. We would like to acknowledge a special thanks to Ricardo Solis and Sonia Freeland at the Austin Parks Department, as part of their Memorial Bench Program (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/memorial-bench-program>) for their help with making this bench materialize so quickly! Please come and join us in Hemphill Park near 33rd Street for this dedication!

Rest In Peace, Roger, if we are unable to conjure you out of the creek bed at the bench site!

Southeast Quadrant Report

By Dick Holland

First, a reminder of the boundaries of the southeastern quadrant of NUNA: 38th Street south to 27th Street, (north to south) and Speedway to Duval (west to east). Of all quadrants of NUNA, this is, in my opinion, the most diverse and interesting section, but I say that having lived on Moore Boulevard since 1977 (44 years).

The obvious annual change every fall is the beginning of the fall semester at UT. Last year, 2020, was of course an exception, but this year everything is more or less back on track. Masking or not masking on campus is still something of a mystery to me, but based on the 90,000 crowd at the first home football game on September 4, there were a lot of naked faces. After the embarrassing recent loss at Arkansas perhaps the home crowd will thin out a bit.

A big housing transition occurs around August 1, when most student leases appear to end and new ones begin. For a couple or three weeks, there is a good deal of trash in front of apartment buildings, duplexes, and rent houses. Good neighbors can and sometimes do help the newcomers remember when trash day is and the difference in two trashes and three trashes. Being college students, they catch on pretty quickly and in most cases seem happy to comply. On my street it is always striking how much fancier the student cars are than those of whom I would call the long-time (older) residents.

Here are three final items:

1. Perhaps the most eccentric city of Austin curiosity is Sparky Pocket Park in our quadrant at 3701 Grooms. Originally an electric substation in the 1930s, NUNA convinced Austin Parks to convert it to a neighborhood meeting place when the city hired hatch + ulland, owen architects to design the restoration project in 2013. Since most of the NUNA meetings take place at Sparky Park, many of you know the place, but you can read up on its restoration on the City of Austin Parks internet site. This place is what Keep Austin Weird is all about!

2. Our favorite quadrant burger and beer joint these days is the Crown and Anchor Pub at 2911 San Jacinto. Convenient for the pandemic is the outdoor/indoor "dining." You order at the counter and the standard fare is the cheeseburger with fries. C&A is also noted for an extensive beer list, both on

tap and in bottles and cans. In the front and back and outside spaces are sports-devoted TV channels. The Crown is a must stop on weekends, especially on a game day. We have occasionally spied students with laptops working on homework with one hand and working on a burger with the other.

3. I would be remiss if I went without mentioning the quadrant's outstanding individual. This of course is Rocky, Lynn Marshall's plump Siamese cat who resides with Lynn on the corner of Grooms and Moore Boulevard. Some days you have to stand in line to greet the gregarious Rocky, who is usually to be found on Lynn's porch.

Editor's note: We are very happy that Dick is on the mend after a major fall. Keep moving, Dick!

Notes from the Northwest Quadrant

By Randy Thompson

NUNA is a friendly 'hood. When you are walking through it, take a moment to take out earbuds or look up from the phone and say "Hello!" Get to know your neighbors when walking your pets, and say a few words about their garden, the UT game, or the weather. It's important to make connections, as you never know when you need to call on a neighbor for a favor.

Reports from the Southwest Quadrant

By Jim Creswell

Things have been relatively quiet until this week, when thieves removed the catalytic converter from our neighbor's Prius. Talented thieves can steal one in less than a minute! These are expensive to replace, too. Be on the lookout for anyone working under a hybrid

car, especially a Prius, day or night. Car owners, the best deterrent is to park your car in your garage.

Update on Project Connect

By Pamela Bell

This summer Project Connect (PC) held a series of meetings to share the CapMetro vision at the "15% point." Many of the ideas for the Orange/Blue line will have tremendous negative impact on NUNA, as well as the Heritage and Hyde Park neighborhoods. The Zoom meetings included breakout groups for The Drag (including the proposed Hemphill Park station) and NorthGuad (29th St./Guadalupe, 30th St., the Hyde Park station at 37th-38th).

Here are some highlights from the material presented at the meeting:

1. No rationale was provided for the Hemphill Park station, as the removal of almost all nearby businesses will not make it a destination. Any students who live in the area can be served at the UT Drag station.
2. Closing Guadalupe at 28th for a pedestrian/bicycle/rail mall that extends to 20th St. will limit access to places of worship (All Saints Church, University Methodist, St. Austin's, University Baptist), as well as to businesses.
3. Rerouting north/south traffic with buses onto Nueces, with a diagram showing 4 traffic lanes, is disingenuous. Nueces narrows to two lanes at 24th St., and functionally provides only one lane given the area's construction in the area. No traffic study information has been provided.
4. With raised rails and curbs, east/west traffic can only cross Guadalupe at 29th, 30th, 34th,

and 38th. To access other destinations, such as Wheatsville, one must make a U-turn at an intersection with a traffic light. Again, no traffic study information.

5. Properties within 1,000 feet of the stations will be upzoned without regard for NUNA's NCCD.

For more specific information, please access the presentation and memo in the NUNA Google group. Contact Babs Davis (babs@mail.utexas.edu) to join the group and receive updates on PC. And plan to attend PC's upcoming Community Design Workshops to provide specific input to the design staff, and raise relevant questions for NUNA's future in this context that they must answer.

Sip Pho

By Babs Davis

My first restaurant review! But I am a long-time foodie and Austin is growing in the number of restaurants available as we become a much bigger and more diverse city. And, John and I are long term fans of Vietnamese food (think Elizabeth St Café on South 1st). So off we go to Sip Pho, our neighborhood Vietnamese Café, for a hopeful trial of a young restaurant on the Austin scene.

Sip Pho, as many NUNA neighbors know, put a lot of effort into making their Café an airy and pleasant building, only to have to close immediately due to the pandemic in spring 2020. They have reopened and seem to be doing well in attracting business. On a Friday evening at 7:00 pm, they were beginning to fill up (mostly with UT students, but a few "grown ups" like us as well).

They feature counter ordering. After ordering, we were directed to a fenced outside patio in the back

of the main dining room. We were relieved, as we have not yet eaten indoors during the pandemic. It was pleasantly breezy and plenty cool.

We ordered green tea, and it was brought immediately to our table. It was not hot and not iced, requiring a little adjustment for Texans. But it was very well brewed. Our appetizer (pork eggrolls) came immediately as well. The eggrolls were fresh and hot; we looked forward to the rest of our order.

Very shortly, our entrees came along-Beef Pho Ragu (rare beef Wagyu with sliced raw Wagyu to cook in the broth at the table) for John and Bun Bo Hue (beef rib, rare beef tenderloin, bacon, meatballs, pork, ham, and various vegetables) for me. Both were unfamiliar to us so we felt we were "flying blind." Both were hot and fresh and came to the table quickly- a plus!

My dish was much more complex and far less satisfying than the beef Wagyu. However, I felt that it was based on my personal taste and unfamiliarity with the dish, not the competence of execution. John's Wagyu was very appealing to both of us, both in terms of taste and in terms of the "heat" in the dish.

Our judgement was that we want to go back and become generally more familiar with the range of dishes on the Sip Pho menu. All of the aspects of our experience were well-executed, and the open



design of the restaurant is very appealing, especially the interior patio. Altogether, a delicious offering of Vietnamese food, worth another trip!

Seen & Heard: September 2021

By Brandon Tucker

Our neighborhood pharmacy has closed. CVS, located at 30th and Guadalupe, closed rather abruptly in August. There is still a CVS on the drag, located on 24th Street. The vacancy leaves 30th street in a bit of a rut. Trudy's, the short-lived Steel City Pops and now CVS are all large vacancies. And for those looking a few years down the road, the proposed rail line may end up gobbling up the CVS and other nearby properties, per the recent Project Connect proposals.

In other news, we love seeing cool murals, and we passed Wheatsville one morning as artists were putting the finishing touches on a new one. J. Muzacz (@jmuzacz on Instagram) is the muralist behind the new commercial art (he's quite prolific around Austin and also did the recent mural at Flamingos Vintage).

Also, at long last, the old pawn shop on 34th & Guadalupe is an open store once again. Maaribu, a home decor showroom and cafe, recently had its grand opening. Learn more about it at maaribu.com. It adds so much more to the neighborhood ambiance!

Mulch Mishap a Boon for Neighborhood Trees

With My Parks Day indefinitely postponed by the pandemic, you might be wondering where all the

mulch on the south end of Hemphill Park came from. The short answer? Bad math.

Before placing a mulch delivery order with Whittlesy Landscape Supply, I took what I (still) believe were



the correct measurements and used an online tool to convert square feet to cubic yards. But when the truck showed up and dumped an Everest-sized load on our driveway, I knew I did something wrong.

My husband, Patrick, was out of town and got a



good laugh when I called to report in on my blunder while our dog, Bogey, delighted in it, blissfully rolling in the odiferous heat of Mt. Mulch, offering

no help whatsoever. It took myself, two paid high schoolers and my own children a full day to complete the job at our house, and we barely made a dent. Not even after we were joined by neighbors Chris and Robert Sanders – and, later, Jesse Salinas -- who took some for their respective sides of our adjoining yards. But not enough. I feared we might never shoot hoops in our driveway again.

So I called NUNA Parks Day leader and all-around-good-neighbor Mike Marcom, who in turn called Jim Creswell. Between Mike's love of Vespa-riding and Jim's love of a good cardio workout, the three of us (but mostly the two of them) made short work of the pile, loading sleds of mulch two at a time and hitching them to the back of the Vespa for Mike to carry and dump on as many trees as we could reach before we hit the bottom of the pile. Four days after Whittlesey dumped its load onto my driveway, not a trace of it remains.

I'm glad my miscalculation could benefit the neighborhood, but I'm not sure how to repay my debt of gratitude to Mike and Jim. I'd offer to arrange the next mulch order for My Parks Day, but I think we'd all agree I'm not the best fit for that particular job.

Wildflower Center Sale

Fall is a great time to plant!

It feels like the worst of summer is behind us. Finally! The cool mornings make me think about what new native plants can be included in my garden. I love going to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website to plan new additions.

Fortunately, the Wildflower Center is having its annual Fall Plant Sale. You'll need to register for a time to shop on the weekends of October or the first one in November. Shopping times help keep the sale safe for participants, and you have more time to get suggestions from the knowledgeable staff. I think that if you join at that time, you can get some plants for free (but don't quote me on that). Go to: <https://www.wildflower.org/plant-sales> for more information. I hope I see you there!

Have You Paid Your Dues?

Please become a member or renew your membership in NUNA and be a contributing member of our neighborhood. Our dues cover the calendar year, so this is the time to send in a check.

Your dues help with signs for meetings, and signs and other items for It's My Park Day, and a donation for the Fourth of July celebration. And there are always those needed materials for presentations to the City.

Some people have already paid for 2021. If you are wondering about your status as a dues paying member, check with Jan Moyle at moylejan@gmail.com.

Dues:

\$25/couple | \$15/one person | \$10/student
Mail to: Jan Moyle, 200 W. 32nd, Austin
(or put through my mail slot)

Please include: Name(s), address, email and telephone number.

NUNA News Carriers Needed

By Babs Davis, NUNA Co-president

You've all probably received copies of the NUNA News on your doorsteps. Those copies just don't fall from the skies. Some of your neighbors volunteer to distribute the News once every two months. It's a needed and much appreciated task that only takes about an hour to complete. NUNA needs volunteers to help with distribution of the News. If you're willing to devote 1 hour every other month to support your neighborhood, please contact Janet Beinke at jcbeinke@gmail.com. Thank you for caring about NUNA!

NUNA

2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES

NUNA dues are used to benefit the neighborhood, paying for neighborhood events, presentation materials, mulch for the parks, signs and small expenses that occur during the year.

- \$15/person
- \$25/couple
- \$10/student

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Make your check to NUNA and mail to:
Jan Moyle, 200 W. 32nd St.

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 nunaustin.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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3006 HEMPHILL PARK

Great opportunity and fixer upper in Aldridge Place Historic District. Traditional 1935 2BR, 2BA cottage facing Hemphill Park. Ready for restoration. List price: \$699,000



4807 ROWENA AVENUE

Hyde Park lease available now! 3BR, 2BA, private fenced yard, small pets okay. 2-car carport with laundry room and bike storage closet. Landlord maintains yard. \$2,250/month.



3105 WHEELER STREET

Aldridge Place Historic District. Charming 1926 bungalow with 2BR, 1BA, fireplace, original built-ins and architectural features, screened-in porch. List price: \$750,000

Hyde Park, Hancock and North University neighborhood homes are in strong demand! Properties are selling quickly and at record high prices. Call Suzanne, your neighborhood expert, today for a complimentary market analysis and customized marketing plan for your property. Check out new listings for sale on [**Instagram**](#) @hydeparkrealtor .

Suzanne Pringle

Broker, REALTOR®

512.217.1047

suzanne.pringle@sothebysrealty.com



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