



## Co-President's Note

*By Lynn Marshall, NUNA Co-President*

**T**he pandemic isn't over, but there are some hopeful signs that it is lessening. UT started the spring semester with a few weeks of virtual attendance and at the end of January will decide whether to shift back to in-person classes or keep going on the laptops. For now, it is quiet around the neighborhood, what with some students opting to not come back until they know more about the schedule. So, with not much happening at the moment (though NUNA is monitoring some important issues that if implemented by the City would significantly affect the neighborhood), this a good time to do some organizational upkeep.

The NUNA bylaws were last revised and adopted in 2006. Since then, a lot of things have happened that need to be addressed. Times (the pandemic!) and technologies (Zoom!) have caused changes in how we meet, do business, maintain records, and socialize, and over the past couple of years Babs Davis and I, as co-presidents, and the Executive Committee have had to punt on how to handle some procedural matters and how to respond to pressing issues under a ticking clock and limited interactions. Now, with that under our collective belts, we can step back and polish up the bylaws to guide NUNA through the next several years.

### In This NUNA Newsletter

Update on our Afghan Neighbors  
NUNA Infrastructure Team  
Scene and Heard  
Dogs of NUNA  
Project Connect Update

The bylaws currently in effect can be found on the NUNA website. When the committee completes its work, a draft with the proposed changes will be put out to the membership for discussion and adoption as per the process designated in the bylaws.

This is also a good time to get a handle on some other processes and procedures, so when officers change and a hand-off of duties takes place, everyone knows what is where and who does what and how. Examples are how passwords and logins are maintained, when the website registration expires and who takes care of that, how email communications with official bodies are managed, and such.

If you have any questions or comments, please email Lynn Marshall through the NUNA website at [www.northuniversity.org](http://www.northuniversity.org).

# Update on our Afghan Neighbors

*By Pamela Bell*

Goodness, such a lot has happened since our last newsletter! 14 of the children are in school! Special thanks to Lee Elementary, the International High School, and McCallum High School for welcoming all of the children and putting them on the path to learning and speaking English like Texans. Woo-hoo!

Before the winter break, Julie Willis and neighbors delivered gifts to the children. It was a lot of fun to watch them open the gift sacks. Even funnier was the boys' expressions when they received cold weather hats, gloves, and mufflers--they thought the mufflers were a mistake, that they were headscarves meant for the girls! Luckily it got cold enough recently for them to wear and appreciate them.

During the first week of December, mom Nadia was approved for CHIP-Prenatal Health benefits, so her doctor visits and medication costs were finally covered. I am now a huge fan of the People's Community Clinic. They were the first clinic to say, "Bring her over!" The services they provided included interpreters, doctor visits, referral for legal services, and referral to a fetal specialist. They were very caring and thoughtful, and helpful when scheduling visits. Nadia and Fazlullah went to doctor visits twice a week. The second week of December, the children's Social Security cards arrived. (More about this later). The third week of December, Fazlullah received a SNAP card for groceries. YAY! And on the 23rd, little Leema was born at St. David's Hospital nearby. Big sister Nagina stayed overnight to help out her mom. On December 25th, Leema came home to meet her family. Her brothers and sisters love to hold her and stroke her sweet little baby cheeks; that is one family where you can feel the love.

January brought more doctor visits: post-natal visits for Nadia, and pediatrician and pediatric cardiologist visits for Leema. Mom and new daughter are doing

## GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

**FEB 7, 2022 6:30PM**

Welcome

Vote on Nomination Committee membership for 2022-23 NUNA Officers

Report on 33rd Street Bridge Project status

Project Connect

By-Laws Committee update

Afghan Refugee report

Treasurer Report/  
Membership registration

Secretary minutes/Vote

Quadrant Leader reports

Adjourn

fine. One big surprise is that Refugee Services of Texas swooped in one morning, picked up all the children (two cars!) and took them to the clinic to get their next round of immunizations, so they could stay healthy and in school. The number of shots each received ranged from 1 to 7; they were feeling sort of cruddy for a day or two. They also received Medicaid cards, all but one child, and the insurance plan choices for medical and dental services were faxed to Texas Health and Human Services. Hopefully the insurance cards will arrive soon.

One major obstacle is straightening out the children's Social Security cards. This is important, because all the benefits for each child are tied to his or her number. The problem is that one child has no number, while another one received two! After two hours in the Social Security office yesterday, now one child no longer has two, but the other still does not have one. An interpreter was not offered to Fazlullah, so he had to patiently sit and wait through the long process. And we will have to do it all over again. Congressman Lloyd Doggett was contacted, and he is monitoring the case.

Jan Moyle has enrolled eldest daughter Nagina in ESL classes at Austin Community College. She will need a computer (a Chromebook so her siblings can help her?) to take the online course; orientation is on February 11h. Please contact Jan Moyle at moylejan@gmail.com if you are able to help.

There is less news of the Saide family because we have had less interaction with them; when the father is gone, his wife does not answer the door. However, they do have big news: wife Fawzia is pregnant with twins! Refugee Services of Texas has been taking her to prenatal appointments. Stay tuned to follow their story.

In addition, a wonderful neighbor and friend is helping the Mohammadi family with getting the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV). The SIV is for those who helped support the American troops in Afghanistan. There is little information known about the process; it is entirely possible that the Mohammadi case will be among the first in the Austin area. She is ready and willing to do the same for the Saide family.

Finally, the families are looking for affordable housing, they have to move in March. At least three bedrooms are needed. It does not seem fair that they were placed in expensive housing (\$2,300/mo.!), and then must move and disrupt the children's schooling. If anyone knows of a potential apartment, please

email me at [pamelajeanebell@gmail.com](mailto:pamelajeanebell@gmail.com).

**Thanks to the many neighbors and friends who make sure the families' needs are met:**

- A HUGE thanks to Meredith and Steve Patterson for the assistance correctly installing the infant car seat! That was most perplexing.
- Thank you to the People's Community Clinic for their caring and timely responses to meeting the family's needs: prenatal care, delivery and post-natal care, pediatricians, specialists, and legal services.
- Thank you to Dennis Burchfield for his donation, and for putting us in touch with Carly Walker, a very generous doula (car seat, DIAPERS, and Boppy infant seats).
- Julie Willis's family and neighbors for Christmas gifts for the children
- Thank you to Patti and Ed Woolery-Price for donating the bicycle, lock, helmet and pump for the oldest Saide son.
- Thank you to Caroline Swann, who refurbished a doll house Afghan-style, complete with rugs, furnishings, and dolls for the young Saide girls. They were very happy to arrange the furnishings and to install the doll residents in their places, and then play, play, play.
- Thank you to ministries from All Saints Church: Homecooked Fridays, Loaves and Fishes group, and the Daughters of the King, all of whom who provided prayers and much needed H-E-B and Target cards, and cash to meet needs. And Leema's cloud-soft hand-made baby blanket. (Here is an example of God's work: one member donated \$500 cash in the morning, and \$455 was used by the evening to purchase expensive medication and supplies for Nadia before she qualified for prenatal benefits).

- Thank you to Lisa Beaman and to Pat Campbell and Don Carnes for gift card donations.
- Kirsten Remeza, your friend's photograph of the Afghan children on a swing with the mountains in the background was greeted with excitement. The children are happy to have a piece of Afghanistan to remember home.
- Darrell Kirkland for dishes, baby things, and clothing.

Please forgive me if I left anyone out. In case you are wondering, gift cards and cash are thankfully used for mid-week grocery and diaper runs, clothing needs, and other essentials. Thank you so much! You may be interested in listening to this Voice of America story featuring Fazlullah Mohammadi (his name is spelled wrong): [voanews.com/amp/in-texas-afghan-refugee-families-struggle-to-begin-new-life/6414907.html](http://voanews.com/amp/in-texas-afghan-refugee-families-struggle-to-begin-new-life/6414907.html)

Baby Leema (pictured below)



## NUNA Infrastructure Team

*By Pamela Bell*

Members of the NUNA Infrastructure team met in December to discuss our response to the W. 33rd St. Bridge project.

We reviewed the map and information from the flooding study that was done about 20 years ago. We agreed that we would wait until the current study being conducted was released to us from the City. Recently our contact at the City, Jason Recker, sent a link to the study, and it is available in the NUNA egroup.

If you know how to interpret such findings, we would love to have you join our discussion.

In addition, we requested more information describing the four bridge designs, as they are so similar it is hard to tell the differences. Mr. Recker responded: "I have been working with our consultant to develop those exhibits.

But we recently received some comments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas Historical Commission regarding the 33rd St. design. My consultant is meeting with them both the first week of February.

Once we have confirmation there is no impact on the current design, I will get those exhibits to you. I apologize for the inconvenience but we need to ensure that the designs we provide you with can eventually be approved."

Please contact me if you are interested in meeting with our team when we review the data. [Pamelajean.bell@gmail.com](mailto:Pamelajean.bell@gmail.com)

# Scene and Heard

*By Brandon Tucker*

## **Texas French Bread burns**

The neighborhood was saddened to hear about a fire that destroyed Texas French Bread on 29th Street at 11pm on January 24. Reports are that a mechanical failure caused the fire. A GoFundMe established had already raised over \$106,000 for the ownership. As of press time, the owners had not announced the future of the bakery and were unclear what level of reimbursement they would receive.

## **More Mexican coming to the neighborhood**

The neighborhood is about to get a new casual Mexican restaurant. The large corner lot on 30th and Guadalupe (last occupied by Steel City Pops,

which closed abruptly) will be the new home of Salsa Limon, a regional Mexican restaurant that currently has several locations in the Dallas Metroplex. This will be their first Austin location.

## **Seeking garage apartment for caregiver**

One of our beloved and invaluable caregivers who has recently worked at the First English CDC (and is also an A+ babysitter) is looking for a garage apartment to rent in NUNA. If anyone has something coming available soon, please email Brandon at [brtucker@gmail.com](mailto:brtucker@gmail.com) and he can relay to her. Thank you!



# Dogs of NUNA

By Jessica Jones

Meet Beau, a 14-month-old miniature schnauzer. He lives with his mom Jessica and his two older cat siblings, Jefferson and Sofia. Beau is smart and very, very sassy.

He loves people and dogs, and wants to be best friends with every other pup he sees on his walks.

He wants to be best friends with every cat he sees, too, but that doesn't always work out for him.

He loves going on walks, playing at dog parks, and eating everything. Beau is very sweet and funny, and he makes his mom laugh and smile every day.



## PRIMARY ELECTION

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Early Voting in Person - Feb 14-Feb 25

For voting information  
(registration, vote by mail, etc) see

[VoteTexas.Gov](http://VoteTexas.Gov)

Local Election – May 7

Primary Runoff - May 24

## NUNA News Carriers Needed

By Babs Davis

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](mailto:jcbeinke@gmail.com). Thank you for caring about NUNA!



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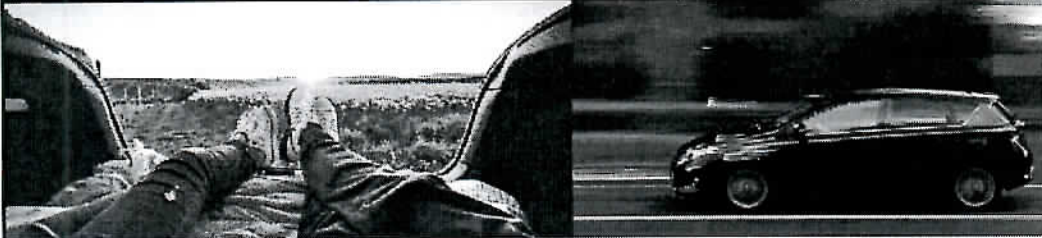
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# Project Connect Update

By Pamela Bell

On January 24, 2022 Project Connect staff (Vikram Sinha, Jerry Smiley, Jim Adams and others) conducted a Zoom presentation with the Central Austin Neighborhoods Planning Advisory Committee (CANPAC). Attendees from NUNA included Mary Ingle, Pam Bell, and Eva McDaniel. The focus of the presentation was on the UT West Mall/Drag, the intersection at 29th and Guadalupe, and the Hyde Park Station. The Hemphill Park station was not a focus.

The presentation included Options A and B. The staff has finally measured the Right-Of-Way (ROW) and determined that the intersection at 29th and Guadalupe only measures 53' from curb to curb, and is the most constrained intersection.

In their decision-making, the staff wants to avoid impact to multi-family housing on the east side, i.e. the Villas, and instead take out businesses. Flattening the curve will make for a better traffic flow (this is stated without a traffic study).

There will be "property impacts." Option A includes two-way traffic: one lane of traffic on either side/direction, on Nueces. Option A does not provide for buses, Option B has buses but no private vehicles. One neighbor requested that the Hemphill Park Station be shown in its entirety instead of "cut off" on various slides, and asked why the Hemphill Park station was even needed, given that most businesses from W. 27th down to W. 30th would be either gone or missing parts of the property.

The station would not be a destination. Staff replied they envision more multi-density "affordable housing" would rise up in their place. There was a very short discussion that the pocket park on the NW corner of 29th. The redesign of the intersection

at 30th now shows that El Patio will not be taken out. Staff stated they were engaging the businesses affected, but one commercial property owner stated that she had not been contacted at all.

Other discussion items were about how service vehicles will access the businesses along the Guadalupe pedestrian mall; that is not yet in the plan. One slide showed that the intersections at 34th and 35th would be permanently closed. (!?#! This was not discussed.) A staff member said that a traffic study on Nueces is underway, it should be available in the summer.

Time frame: staff is working on the 30% design, which will include environmental documentation, which will be done in the summer. There will be a 45-day public comment and review period.

Attendees asked staff to share a link to the presentation, but that won't happen as "it is in process." Importantly, a Zoom meeting on the Hemphill Park station to the Hyde Park Station is planned for February 10th. Be sure to sign up for it! [Feedback@capmetro.org](mailto:Feedback@capmetro.org).



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# NUNA

## 2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES

2022 has arrived and it's time to renew your membership or become a new member of NUNA. Membership is yearly and based on the calendar 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.

Use the form in this newsletter, but if you don't have it, please include your name, email, street address and phone number when you send your check. NUNA is a big area, and we like to know that all parts of the neighborhood are represented.

Some people have paid for 2022.

Check with Jan if you have any questions. [moylejan@gmail.com](mailto:moylejan@gmail.com)

- \$15/person
- \$25/couple
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Make your check to NUNA and mail to:  
Jan Moyle, 200 W. 32nd St. or drop it through the mail slot.

# 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](http://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](mailto:moylejan@gmail.com)



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## 429 TOWNE PARK TRAIL

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