

BRYKER WOODS
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION



T · H · E

Bryker Woods

H · E · R · A · L · D

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NOTICES

The **Annual Meeting** for the neighborhood association is set for **Saturday, Sept. 23rd at Bryker Woods Elementary School at 9:30 am**. Please mark your calendars!

West Austin Caregivers has provided assistance to elderly, home-bound West Austin residents. If you know of one of our neighbors who might benefit from such assistance, give that organization a call at 472-6339 to get details.

Bryker Woods Elementary School Carnival will be held on October 21, 1995 – beginning at 5:30 pm at the school. Food, games and fun! Everyone is invited.

Low Water Pressure? If you believe you have significantly low water pressure in your home, contact the City of Austin Water & Wastewater Dept. at 322-0101 to describe the problem and provide your address.

Xeriscape? If you would be interested in a presentation on Xeriscape and other water conservation measures, please indicate on your membership form. If there is enough interest, we will try to organize such a program.

Recycling couldn't be easier than the curbside pickup program currently in place. Recycling saves us money, and conserves resources for our children and grandchildren. Our goal is 100% neighborhood participation!

Moved recently? The deadline for voter registration to allow voting in the November 7th election is October 8th. Applications can be obtained at Post Offices, and some area stores.

Got suggestions for improving the neighborhood? We want to hear them – jot them down and include them with your membership form.

NOMINEES FOR 1995 - 1996

The nominating committee chairwoman will be presenting the following 1995 - 1996 slate for vote at the annual meeting:

Co-President: Greg Chico, Lisa Curry

Vice President: Tom Shefelman

Treasurer: David Boenisch

Secretary: Rachel Kolberg

Newsletter Editor: Lee Jones

Directors-at-large:

Jerry Balaka, Joyce Basciano, Michael Curry, Betty Gross, Susan Handy, Irene Pickhardt, Matt Richter, Barbara TenBrink, Bill Woods, Don Zappone

PUBLIC TREE CARE ORDINANCE

The BWNA Executive Board unanimously approved a motion to support the proposed Public Tree Care Ordinance after a careful review and discussion with John Giedraitis and members of the Urban Forestry Board. This ordinance was designed to make it easier for citizens to plant and care for trees in the City's right-of-way (often, 10 feet in from the curb). This ordinance will also ensure that when streets are constructed, that trees are included as part of the project. Another aspect of the ordinance will ensure that work done on public trees is accomplished according to nationally recognized standards that will protect the

public's trees from damage, protect public safety, and limit the City's liability. We joined with the Austin Neighborhoods Council, The Sierra Club, The Parks and Recreation Board, and many neighborhood associations in supporting this ordinance which will be a benefit to all and correct problems inherent in the old ordinance.

Betty Gross

MENTORING SCHOOL KIDS

Hey Buddy, got a minute? How about 30?

Be that special friend to a child needing extra support & encouragement. A 2 hour training session is all that's required to start, and then you'll meet 30 minutes each week on campus with the student. Training sessions will be held:

- Sept. 12th, 11-1; Sylvan Center South
- Sept. 18th, 1:30-3:30; Hilton Hotel
- Sept. 19th, 11-1; Read Elem. School
- Sept. 28th, 11-1; Allen Elem. School

For more information, to register and to reserve a training spot, call counselor Randie Fraser before 11:30 am on school days at Bryker Woods Elementary (414-2054), or Sarah Simpson at 480-0966. Please help. Frustrated with the system? Well, so are the kids. When we help them, we help ourselves. You can make a difference.

Lisa Curry

SHOAL CREEK UPDATE

Shoal Creek is the largest of the urban watersheds in Austin. It is the major contributor of pollutants to Town Lake. Pollutants include trash, silt, phosphates, and toxins, such as pesticides and fungicides. In an effort to clean up Town Lake, the City's Environmental and Conservation Services Department (ECSD) will begin to retrofit Shoal Creek.

What does it mean to retrofit a creek? The purpose of retrofitting is to control water quality to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff in urbanized areas. Will retrofitting turn Shoal Creek into a drainage ditch with bags of rocks for banks? Can it be done sensitively so that the ecosystem remains intact and neighbors can still enjoy the benefit of a beautiful, alive, natural area?

These are some of the questions that neighbors asked at a recent public meeting. ECSD will do their best to walk the fine line between the need to clean up Town Lake and the need to preserve some of the last remaining wild space in the neighborhoods along Shoal Creek.

Both neighbors and ECSD agreed that the best way to benefit the creek and the lake was to use nonstructural controls. These are water-quality controls which do not require construction, and include:

- public education to teach people about non-point source pollutants such as motor oil, detergents, and antifreeze and the havoc they wreck on aquatic ecosystems when they are not disposed of properly.
- inlet stenciling in which paint is sprayed on curbsides at the inlets to alert people to the dangers of dumping.
- citizen monitoring of spills and dumping, and calling ECSD to report these problems.

If you are interested in learning more about the retrofitting of Shoal Creek, contact Anne Sharlach, manager of the City's urban retrofit program at the City of Austin, ECSD at 499-2501.

Irene Pickhardt

austin
plumbing repair

Don Tiemann Plumbing, Inc.

DON TIEMANN

9701 Gray Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78758
339-7766

MOPAC NOISE ABATEMENT

The MOPAC Noise Abatement Coalition (MoNAC) is made up of people from every neighborhood which borders MoPac (Loop 1), and was formed for the purpose of having a noise abatement wall installed along the MoPac corridor.

In the 1970's, the State of Texas constructed MoPac through established neighborhoods along the Missouri Pacific Railroad. MoPac originally was designed as a 40 mile per hour boulevard for commuters into the U.T. and downtown areas. Over time, it has expanded dramatically and will continue to expand, until it connects with I-35 to the north and Texas Highway 45 to the south.

Over the last 18 years, vehicle traffic has risen by 350% to 1,000%, with the noise level consistently exceeding the Federal highway guideline of 67 decibels. In some backyards the decibel count exceeds 80! A recent study by a realtor showed that property bordering MoPac sells for 15% less than property across the street and others in the neighborhood. And, a real danger is that vehicles have crashed through the wooden fence, into neighbor's backyards, causing some parents concern for their children.

MoNAC has accomplished the following:

- 1) Eight neighborhood associations have passed resolutions concerning the need for noise abatement.
- 2) The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) allotted funds to begin a noise study in September, 1995.

3312 BRYKER DRIVE



**AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR YOUR FRIENDS
TO MOVE INTO OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD!!**

FANTASTIC RENOVATION! New island kitchen with beaded wood ceiling that opens to large, bright family room. Three spacious bedrooms. New master bath with shower & soaking tub. Two limestone fireplaces, refinished oak & pine floors, beautiful tile patio with huge shade trees! \$255,000. Call your neighborhood Realtor.

DAVID BOENISCH

**EDEN BOX
& COMPANY
FOR SALE
472-3336**

- 3) MoNAC representatives from the neighborhood associations have met with the Austin Transportation Study (ATS) several times, most recently on June 12th and August 14th, and presented their case for noise abatement.

From time to time MoNAC needs your support. Usually, they put flyers on your doors announcing special meetings or ways in which you may help. Even a telephone call, fax or letter to appropriate officials is very important.

Bill Woods

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT

The 22 member Citizen Planning Committee was commissioned by the Austin City Council in September 1994 to assess Austin's current planning and development process, and recommend changes in response to the current growth crisis facing the City and its citizens. Membership includes leadership and expertise representing a

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broad spectrum of interests in planning, development, neighborhood, transportation, and environmental issues. Its chairman is architect and past president of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, Ben Heimsath. Its report was completed and presented to the City Council in January 1995.

The Council's response was to authorize the Commission's next phase -- the formation of subcommittees with expanded participation to work out details and specifics for implementation of the report's 13 recommendations by January 1996.

Of particular note is the change for greater neighborhood participation in the planning, policy making, review and enforcement process. This is in contrast to the traditional crisis reaction role.

For this reason, one of the vital subcommittees for us as a neighborhood association to be represented in is the neighborhood planning subcommittee. It meets

bi-weekly from 5:30 to 7:00 pm Wednesdays in the 2nd floor conference room of the Planning and Development offices in the City Hall Annex at 201 West 2nd Street. It is chaired by Cecil Pennington, city planner and current president of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association.

To date, there have been more than 4 meetings. Representation for Bryker Woods so far has been Michael Curry and Tom Shefelman. It is important that all of Austin's neighborhoods be represented, play a part in this process, and get to know each other better. There are many shared and common concerns, and many divergent concerns or priorities as well.

Many of these issues, as we well know, are in urgent need of attention now, if Austin is to remain -- or for some to become -- a sustainable city. Do we want to wait for the next neighborhood crisis or be heard now? We of Bryker Woods, have a window of opportunity and need to maintain our organization and awareness.

One way is participation in at least keeping in touch with this Citizen's Neighborhood Planning Subcommittee process. We urge others to participate and will do what we can to keep you informed through the BWNA newsletter.

Michael Curry
Tom Shefelman

Advertising Note:

The BWNA newsletter is distributed to approximately 800 homes, and accepts paid advertising. Any local business may help defray publication costs by placing ads.

If you would like to place an ad in a future issue, please call David Boenisch (453-0304 or 472-3336).

Rates: Half page \$49.00
Quarter page 29.00
Business card 19.00

1995 BWNA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Annual Dues - \$5.00

____ Yes, I would like to become a member/renew membership (1995) in the Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association. Enclosed are my \$5.00 (per household) annual dues. (Checks payable to Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association).

Address: _____

Name (please print)

Signature

Please detach and mail or deliver to the BWNA membership chairman. Thank you.

____ Please check if interested in Xeriscape Presentation

**B.W.N.A. -- c/o Mr. David Boenisch
1804 W. 34th St.
Austin, TX 78703**