

1997 Annual Neighborhood Meeting
10 AM Saturday November 15
Bryker Woods Elementary

Annual Meeting to be held November 15, 1997

Several important items top the agenda for this year's Annual Meeting of the Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association on Saturday November 15, 1997 in the school cafeteria at Bryker Woods Elementary School 3309 Kerbey. We encourage and welcome your attendance and participation. Bagels and coffee provided by New York Bagels on 35th in Jefferson Square.

Agenda:

- Election of BWNA Officers and Board (see below)
- Tree Week on Shoal Creek (see next column)
- Meet Lt. Shauna Jacobson (see pg. 3)
- Updates on neighborhood issues (see pg. 3-5)

Election of BWNA Officers and Board

At the Annual Meeting, we will vote on the following slate of candidates for the Neighborhood Association Board and its officers.

President: Donald Zappone (477-4395)
Vice President: Bill Woods (454-9180)
Secretary: Alice McAfee (451-0785)
Treasurer: David Boenisch (469-4572)
Newsletter Editors:
Susan Handy and Matt Richter (480-0800)

Members at Large:

Jerry Balaka (453-1072)
Joyce Basciano (454-0207)
Greg Chico (482-8755)
Lisa Curry (453-7512)
Michael Curry (453-7512)
Betty Gross (453-3504)
Tom Shefelman (477-9176)
Barbara ten Brink (482-0532)
Irene Pickhardt (451-6820)

Tree Week on Shoal Creek, February 16 - 21, 1998

On February 21, 1998, over 200 trees will be planted along the Shoal Creek greenbelt between 31st and 38th streets. The partnership project, coordinated by TreeFolks, a local not for profit organization, and the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD), provides a unique opportunity for all members of our community to work toward beautifying the area where we live and work.

The William Hoey Memorial Grove will be created to honor the memory of Bill Hoey (1930 - 1994), a well-known regional artist and art instructor at the University of Texas. So far, the Gallery at Shoal Creek, 34th Street Cafe, TreeFolks, Inc., and PARD are sponsoring the Event Week, but more sponsors are needed and everyone is invited to take part in some capacity.

During the event week, February 16 -21, 1998:

- **Volunteers will direct educational activities for students and adults.** Students at Bryker Woods Elementary and St. Andrews School will participate in classroom activities, tree education workshops, and a poster contest. Winning illustrations will be used for promotional posters and exhibited at local businesses.
- **The NeighborWoods Program will distribute trees throughout the neighborhood.** The City of Austin NeighborWoods Program will be offering free street trees to residents who need them. Watch for door hangers delivered in February.
- **Signs along major thoroughfares will recognize business sponsors.** Area participating businesses will display posters, collect donations and register volunteers for the tree planting project. Please use the donor boxes for your spare change.
- **The NeighborWoods Program will distribute trees throughout the neighborhood.** The City of Austin NeighborWoods Program will be offering free street trees to residents who need them. Watch for door hangers delivered in February.
- **Student "releaf" posters and original art memorializing Treaty Oak will be on display.**

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- Signs along major thoroughfares will recognize business sponsors. Participating businesses will display posters, collect donations and register volunteers for the tree planting project. Please use the donor boxes for your spare change.
- Planting day (February 21) activities include doorprizes, refreshments and fun for all. Honorary Chairpersons for this event are Mayor Kirk Watson (a former president of the Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association), U. S. Representative Lloyd Doggett, Dean David Deming, and Lowell Lebermann.

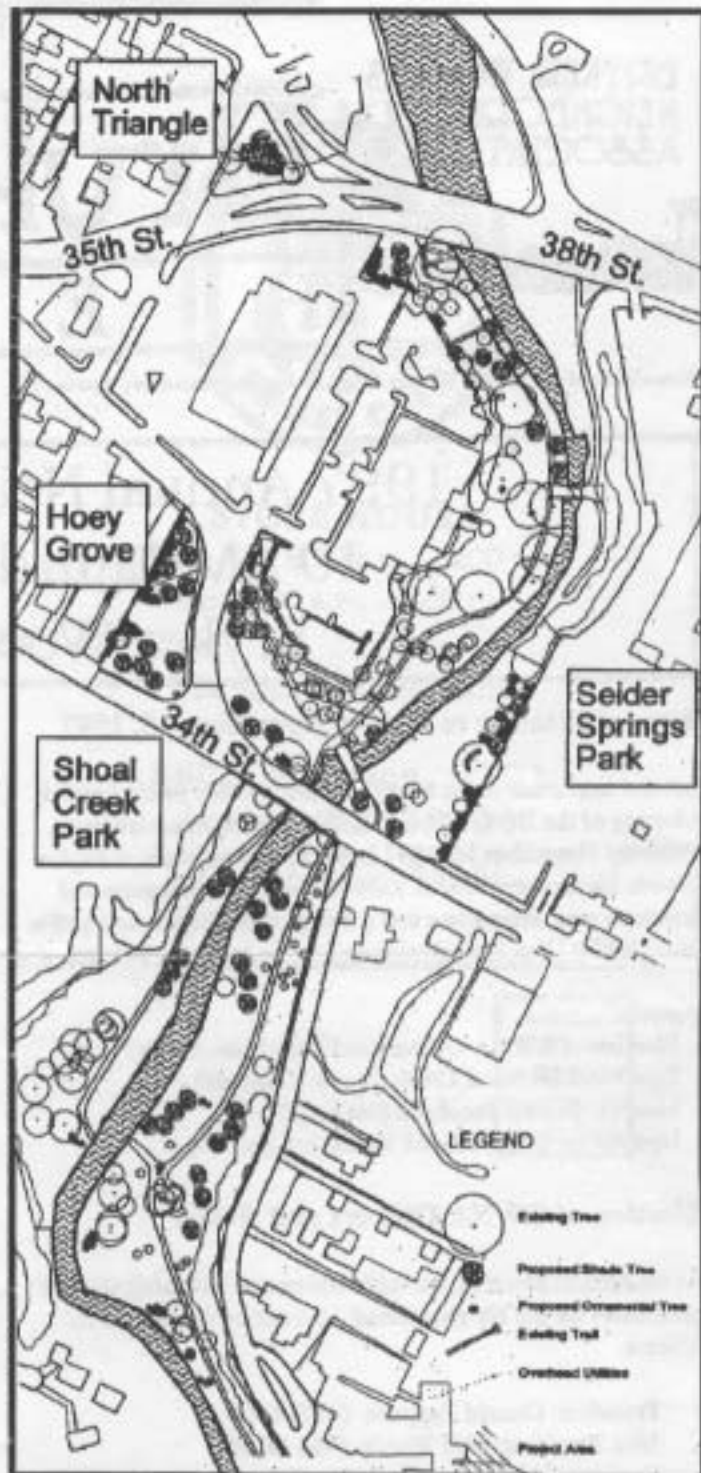
The goals of "Tree Week on Shoal Creek" are to:

- (1) raise \$100,000 for public tree planting in Austin
- (2) increase awareness of the importance of trees in urban areas.
- (3) form partnerships between the public and private sectors.
- (4) unite diverse groups in making Shoal Creek a more inviting place in which to live and work.

For Tree Week on Shoal Creek to be successful the project needs your help. Volunteer opportunities include: classroom activities, planting day activities, and to distribute the street trees to the neighbors. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Joyce Basciano 454-0207, or TreeFolks 443-5323, or the City of Austin 476-3809. Sponsorship categories range from Tree Steward (\$100) to Old Grove Sponsor (\$5000). Contributions are tax deductible and will be recognized in the Austin American Statesman.

More information will be available at the meeting. Or call Joyce Basciano 454-0207 or TreeFolks 443-5323 - Joyce Basciano

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Lt. Shauna Jacobson New APD Baker Sector Head

Many of us knew Lt. Greg Lasley of the Austin Police Department (APD). Lt. Lasley was the head of Baker Sector, which includes Byrker Woods, until he retired from the APD in June. Lt. Shauna Jacobson is the new head of Baker Sector.

Lt. Jacobson began her police career with the APD 15 years ago and has worked in almost every sector of Austin. She initially worked in patrol for six and half years, including a year and a half in Baker sector. She was promoted to Detective and then to Sergeant four years later. She was promoted to Lieutenant and her current position in June of 1997.

In addition to her full time police duties Lt. Jacobson is completing her undergraduate degree at Southwest Texas. Her husband also works for the APD and they have a 20 year old son. Lt. Jacobson said she is active in her church and likes to exercise.

Lt. Jacobson would like BWNA's help in learning about neighborhood concerns. Call or write Lt. Jacobson (385-7741) or her assistant Senior Officer Ed Blanton (385-7854). - D. Zappone

MoPAC Noise Abatement Stalled

BWNA member Bill Woods, the neighborhood's representative to the MoPac Noise Abatement Coalition (MoNAC), has been discouraged by the recent lack of progress in controlling noise from MoPac. Frances Allen provided this update:

For five years MoPac Noise Abatement Coalition (MoNAC), a coalition of seven neighborhood associations, has made forward progress on the problems of excessive noise created by traffic for residents living along MoPac. The coalition has worked successfully with the Austin Transportation Study Committee (ATS) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDoT) to identify the problem and set aside 2.5 million to initiate the project. ATS and TXDoT commissioned a noise study for \$90,000 which was presented to the public in May of 1997. The results were as expected. Most of the property along MoPac exceeded the federal guidelines of 67dB. This guideline is used in new construction to qualify residence for noise abatement.

At this point the information gathered by the noise study is of little consequence because in May of 1996 TXDoT discovered that the \$2.5 million could not be spent on noise walls unless the State of Texas made application to the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) for an application to use money on retrofit noise abatement. TXDoT and the neighborhood coalition petitioned the Texas Highway Commission to apply for the application and another study was commissioned for \$250,000 to study the financial impact of approving the retrofit walls in other states and how it might impact Texas highway finances. The study does not include assessment of the impact on human health and safety or neighborhood value.

Taking another direction, TXDoT has hired a consulting team to begin a Major Improvement Study of MoPac and Hwy 183, looking at the feasibility of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. Major construction on MoPac would qualify MoPac for noise walls if the state finds the walls to be feasible and effective.

Ten Ways the Brykerwood Neighborhood Association Works for Neighbors

Do you ever wonder, what has the neighborhood association done for me? Here's a short list of ways the neighborhood association has worked to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood:

- **Helicopter Noise**—Seton Hospital helicopters use 35th Street corridor, instead of flying over homes
- **Traffic Safety**—4-way stop sign at 29th and Jefferson has reduced traffic accidents
- **Zoning**—turned back repeated attempts of inappropriate commercialization
- **Mo-Pac Noise**—work with the MoPac Noise Abatement Coalition
- **Air Quality**—worked to assure that a medical waste incinerator would not be built in neighborhood
- **Planning**—developed one of the first Neighborhood Plans in Austin
- **Shoal Creek Clean-up**—works to monitor water quality and litter abatement in Shoal Creek area
- **Housing**—work to increase housing along edges of neighborhood to reduce commercial encroachment
- **Tree Planting**—tree planting in the common areas of the neighborhood
- **Good Taste**—our three-time president of BWNA, Kirk Watson, is doing a great job in his first term as mayor of Austin.

Of course this list doesn't include the fellowship and warmth that comes from knowing your neighbors.

Join the neighborhood association! Support your neighborhood!



HUGH JEFFERSON RANDOLPH, AIA
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**Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan -
A Message From the Shoal Creek Greenway
Partnership to Bryker Woods Residents**

Joyce Basciano has been representing Bryker Woods residents at the Shoal Creek Action Plan meetings. Call her at 454-0207 if you have questions or concerns. Ted Siff, from Trust for Public Lands, provided this message to Bryker Woods residents:

Planning for the Shoal Creek Greenway is underway. We would like all interested stakeholders, including individuals, neighborhood groups, and businesses, to be involved. Your active participation and valuable input will be greatly appreciated. Everyone is invited to the next stakeholders meeting: November 13 at 8:00 am. at GSD&M (located at 828 W. 6th; ask the receptionist for the Shoal Creek Stakeholders meeting).

The Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan will be developed through a unique public-private partnership to implement needed improvements to the existing Shoal Creek Greenway. The Shoal Creek Greenway Partnership is led by the Austin Metropolitan Trails Council (AMTC), the Trust for Public Land (TPL), and partners from both the public and private sectors. The objectives of the partnership and the Action Plan are to raise capital and develop physical improvement to the existing trails, water quality devices, flood protection measures and adaptive riparian habitat so that the Greenway supports a broad array of public uses. The partnership has hired consultants to work with the community and lead the planning process - Greenways Incorporated of North Carolina and Carter-Burgess of Austin.

The Greenway study area extends from 38th Street to Town Lake. Along this route, the Greenway Action Plan will propose design solutions for stream crossings, trail surfacing, drainage, public usage, lighting, rest areas, signage, linkage to other systems and points of public entry. The work program will include data collection and mapping, partnership meetings, a preliminary action plan, public review, and a final action plan. The consultants will assist AMTC, TPL, and the partners in facilitating meetings throughout the planning process. These meetings will update all partners on work progress, solicit input on design recommendations, establish action elements and priorities for the project and define an implementation strategy for construction and management of the project.

It is vital that all interested parties participate in this planning process. Please plan to attend the next stakeholder's meeting and let us know what you envision for your neighborhood creek.

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West Northwood Road Improvements Planned

Residents along West Northwood Road are taking action to make the small part of Northwood Road between Mopac and Jefferson more "user friendly" for residents and safer for both pedestrians and cyclists. West Northwood Road has a volume of over 10,380 vehicles per day (1192 traffic count) and the city of Austin officially designates this part of Northwood with the roadway classification of "Neighborhood Collector with Residential Use". Besides the many cars and trucks using Northwood Road, the Northwood Road underpass is frequently used by pedestrians and cyclists. Northwood Road for many years has been designated by the City of Austin as an official cycling route.


The residents along West Northwood are interested in maintaining the "Residential Use" aspects of West Northwood Road. To date three areas of action are being taken to make West Northwood Road more accommodating to the residents (trees, signs, and bike lanes). This fall residents will be planting at least one Bur Oak tree in the public median (triangle), and the city will be installing speed limit signs. Next summer the city will also be installing a Johnson Creek Watershed sign along West Northwood Road. At this time residents are in consultation with the city regarding the placement of bicycle lanes along West Northwood road (ie. the part of Northwood between Mopac and Jefferson). Although not yet certain, it appears that there is a very good chance of the placement for bicycle lanes. We should know more this spring.

If anyone has questions about the projects along West Northwood Road please call Edward Tusch at 478 -1337.

- Edward Tusch

Save Those General Mills Box Tops!

A new mathematics program, Investigations in Number, Data and Space and the Connected Mathematics Project will be underway soon at Bryker Woods Elementary School. To cover expenses for the program, the school has started a fund raising effort. You can help by collecting Box Tops for Education from any General Mills cereal or non-perishable snack food and depositing them in the box in the hall near the front entrance of the school. Consider a direct donation, too. For more information call Jean Warren at 476-0518.

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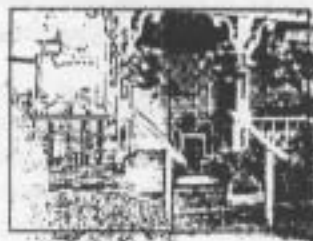
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