



T · H · E

Bryker Woods

H · E · R · A · L · D

Annual Meeting of the BrykerWoods Neighborhood Association

Saturday November 19th

9:30am at BrykerWoods Elementary

Featured speakers Mayor Will Wynn and
City Neighborhood Planner Glenn Rhoades

Topics of discussion: neighborhood zoning and traffic calming

Refreshments will be provided! Share your thoughts and concerns about the
Various issues affecting the quality of life within the neighborhood.
Visit <http://www.brykerwoods.org> for additional information.

Neighborhood Traffic Update

BrykerWoods has appealed once again for the implementation of a neighborhood traffic-calming program. The traffic (both volume and speed) from MoPAC continues to increase. This summer BrykerWoods investigated a "Safe Routes to School" grant request to improve the safety of the Westover/Northwood MoPAC interchange; the ramps at this dangerous interchange figuratively slingshot traffic at high rates of speed into & out of the neighborhood, directly across designated pedestrian/bicycle lanes. The installation of 4-way stop signs at the Westover/Northwood MoPAC interchange, although not a perfect solution, does slow and help control the traffic anxious to get on and off MoPAC.

Neighborhood Pedestrian Improvements

The BrykerWoods neighborhood plan calls for improved pedestrian safety and access. The city is now in the process of adding some sidewalks to areas of the neighborhood in need of safer pedestrian access. As of press time, the sidewalk construction project on 29th street from Harris to Lamar is nearing completion. Upcoming sidewalk projects include: Kerbey Lane from 29th to 35th; 34th Street from Lamar to south of Randall's; and 38th / 35th Street from MoPAC to Guadalupe. The Kerbey Lane sidewalk will heavily impact some Kerbey Lane property owners; however, all BrykerWoods residents (especially children going to/from school) will greatly benefit from the safer access provided by the sidewalks.

President's message

Throughout 2005, BrykerWoods continued to experience many changes such as sewer lines upgrades and new sidewalks. While changes are inevitable and frequently for the better, some negatively impact the neighborhood, and potentially threaten our quality of life. The two biggest threats to BrykerWoods are inappropriate re-development and ever-increasing traffic.

The construction of massive, over-sized houses (often called "McMansions") is increasingly occurring. Such structures typically maximize square footage, sometimes at the expense of context, pleasing proportions, and material quality. Many of these newer structures are displacing charming homes that have traditionally defined the neighborhood. BrykerWoods Neighborhood Association (BWNA) continues to closely monitor the scraping of lots / demolition of houses within the neighborhood – especially structures designated as Old West Austin Historic District "contributing" homes. While the BWNA acknowledges and respects the rights of property owners, we strive for architecturally appropriate re-development. The association seeks to ensure that City of Austin building / zoning codes are followed. Joyce Basciano (BWNA Zoning Chair) has been following construction projects on Churchill, Mohle, Glenview, Jefferson, 30th and 34th Streets.

However, not all re-development is unwelcome. Design for many home-remodeling projects have embraced and respected the neighborhood's history, context and scale. The BrykerWoods neighborhood is part of the Old West Austin Historic District (<http://www.owahd.org>), and many people are honoring the historical significance of the neighborhood by restoring homes with appropriate and sensitive additions. This type of thoughtful activity preserves the character of the neighborhood we love.

Neighborhood cut-through traffic continues to be an issue of great concern to many residents, and intensified real estate development in the west campus area of U.T. will worsen traffic in BrykerWoods. Your BWNA has been actively pursuing a city traffic-calming program to help

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BWNA Board Membership

President: Edward Tasch (478-1337)
Vice President: Greg Chico (482-8755)
Zoning Chair: Joyce Basciano (454-0207)
Secretary: Polly Lanning Sparrow (495-9568)
Treasurer: David Boenisch (453-0304)

Members at Large

Michael Curry (453-7512)
Eldarose Cardenas (477-2178)
Irene Pickhardt (451-6820)
Randy Schrecengost (472-7952)
Tom Shefelman (477-9176)
Margaret Tenny (236-8356)
Tracy Warren (476-0518)
Bill Woods (454-9180)

The BrykerWoods Neighborhood Association (BWNA) is now 22 years old and serves as an advocate for protecting and maintaining the quality of life within the BrykerWoods neighborhood.

What the BWNA does:

- represents the neighborhood in city policy decisions
- publishes and distributes biannual newsletters
- Conducts annual neighborhood meetings
- helps with maintaining neighborhood greenspaces
- hosts annual 4th of July parade
- maintains a resourceful and informative website
- defends the neighborhood from inappropriate development and increased cut-through traffic
- Conducts neighborhood "green-sweep" parks clean-up

Historic and recent calls to action:

- Limit encroaching commercial development in sections of the neighborhood bordering the 35th street corridor.
- Fought to keep a 6th grade class at BrykerWoods Elementary (one of only two schools in town to have a 6th grade elementary class)
- Had installed neighborhood traffic calming devices on Jefferson to help reduce cut-through traffic speed
- Protect the neighborhood from the expansion of the MoPAC and 35th street corridors
- Had installed neighborhood sidewalks such as the one along 29th street down to Lamar.
- Contributed and actively defending the historical character of the neighborhood
- Created a website respected city wide for informative and rich historical content

BrykerWoods Neighborhood Association 2006 Membership Form

Yes! I want to join the BWNA I want to renew my BWNA membership!

I have enclosed my 2006 annual dues for:

\$5 retiree household membership \$10 regular household membership
 \$50 BrykerWoods friend membership \$100 BrykerWoods supporter membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Date: _____

Please indicate which topic or topics are of interest to you:

Communications/Newsletter Trees Neighborhood social gatherings
 Traffic/Safety Neighborhood parks & greenspaces Zoning Issues
 Historic Preservation Transportation & Sidewalks Neighborhood Plan

Please mail this form
along with a check to
the following address:

Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association (BWNA)
c/o David Boenisch
1804 W. 34th Street
Austin, Texas 78703

(President's message continued from page 2)

control the volume and speed of cut-through traffic. Roadway developments for the central Austin MoPAC corridor continue to be monitored with vigilance by the BWNA. As an active participant of the MONAC coalition of central Austin neighborhoods, BWNA is working to minimize neighborhood impact as the MoPAC evolves. I encourage anyone interested in MoPAC's future to attend the MONAC meetings.

Despite the threats of "McMansions" and heavy cut-through traffic, BrykerWoods continues to remain a desirable neighborhood because of our good school, charming homes, tree-lined streets and close proximity to the University and downtown. Once again, BrykerWoods Elementary received a "recognized" rating for academic performance! One neighborhood #19 bus stop has received improvements and we now have a sidewalk along W. 29th Street from Harris to Lamar and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. Several new restaurants have also opened within walking distance of the neighborhood. What better way to embrace living in cen-

tral Austin, and enjoy cool fall weather, than taking a walk to a local restaurant? And this coming spring, the Shoal Creek Greenbelt will finally see some long overdue attention. The Seiders Springs area and the section of greenbelt between 29th and Gaston (dog park) will undergo re-vegetation. Plans also call for a new pedestrian bridge and trail south of 29th Street, and extensive erosion control along the creek banks.

The next several years will prove crucial for BrykerWoods. Pressures from re-development and increasing traffic to and from MoPAC will intensify. The central Austin MoPAC corridor will be re-developed and homes

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Interested in advertising in the next BrykerWoods Herald Newsletter?

Contact Edward Tasch (edward@brykerwoods.org) for pricing and availability. The next newsletter is scheduled for delivery in the Summer 2006!

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will continue to be remodeled or replaced. How will plans for the MoPAC corridor affect the neighborhood, and how many "McMansions" will line our streets? Both of these issues will exert influence on property values. BWNA will continue to actively protect our neighborhood's quality of life by minimizing impacts whenever possible. Within the next two years BrykerWoods will engage in creating an official neighborhood plan. The City of Austin has pledged to consider Local Historic Districts as a potential tool to help protect neighborhoods from inappropriate construction.

Your BWNA is committed to preserving qualities of BrykerWoods that will continue to make the neighborhood one of Austin's best. However, we can use your help. To maintain a strong neighborhood association, we need active membership. Please consider subscribing to the BrykerWoods neighborhood list-serve at the brykerwoods.org website and officially joining the neighborhood association (pre-addressed enveloped enclosed.) Dues are very reasonable, and subscription to the neighborhood email list-serve is easy. By staying abreast of neighborhood issues, together we can remain vigilant in protecting our quality of life. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Edward A. Tasch (BWNA President)

A very special thanks to Print Depot, Greg Chico and Polly Lanning Sparrow for thier helping producing this edition of the BrykerWoods Herald newsletter.

Recent Neighborhood Improvements

- ⇒ Sidewalk installation on 29th Street
- ⇒ Installation of an "all way" stop at the Westover/Northwood MoPAC interchange
- ⇒ New #19 bus stop and public green space improvements
- ⇒ BrykerWoods residential ACWP sewer project (scheduled to be complete December 2005)
- ⇒ Shoal Creek ACWP tunneling project (restoration scheduled to begin in spring 2006)

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN
FINE ART



Gallery at Shoal Creek

Neighborhood Parks and Green-spaces

BrykerWoods' residents participated in the "It's My Park Day" this past summer by cleaning up and pruning trees at Bailey Park. Work continues on the ACWP Shoal Creek Tunnel Project (more info at brykerwoods.org website). Unfortunately a large cottonwood tree had to be removed at the exit shaft located near Seiders Springs. However, the City has promised planting of several hardwood trees and substantial erosion control and trail improvements! Restoration of the Seiders Springs area is scheduled for spring 2006.

The neighborhood green-space triangle at 34th and Jefferson has finally received a long-overdue CapMetro bus stop bench- although we were hoping to be eligible for a covered bus stop pavilion. Several other neighborhood green-spaces and traffic islands have also received attention. Generous neighborhood residents continue to help keep these lovely areas and gateways to BrykerWoods clean of trash and well maintained. A special thanks to all of those help keeping our neighborhood clean!

34th

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HAPPY HOUR!**



Every Tuesday & Thursday from
5-7 pm. Mention that you are a
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receive a complimentary
appetizer. Only one appetizer
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MoPAC update

TxDOT has hired a new consulting team to evaluate options for improvements to MoPAC throughout central Austin. Most likely a “managed lane” will be added within the existing right-of-way and promises have once again been made for the installation of sound walls – time will tell... We will continue to closely watch the developments within the MoPAC corridor and remain an active player. To keep informed, join the brykerwoods.org list-serve to learn of announcements and relevant meeting dates.

38th street dental

David J. Tasch, DDS Mike Meek, DDS

"Helping Central Austin Smile for Almost 10 Years"

1500 West 38th Street, #56 (512) 452-4515

Local Historic Districts

The city of Austin is in the process of creating Local Historic Districts as a preservation tool for older neighborhoods. These districts will provide neighborhoods a greater say in the redevelopment. Standards for Local Historic Districts will be determined by individual neighborhoods and implementation of a formal district is subject to a majority of neighborhood home owner approval. The BrykerWoods neighborhood association is following the development of Local Historic Districts very closely. Should the districts become a viable option, the BrykerWoods neighborhood association will explore the possible creation of a Local Historic District for the neighborhood. There is still much to be determined by the city regarding the creation and implementation of Local Historic Districts. Visit the brykerwoods.org website for more information as it becomes available.



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Shoal Creek Cleanup

This year, Austin Parks Foundation will be taking direct action to improve one of Austin's neediest parks. Action for Parks program brings together the resources needed to create and sustain change in parks that are overused and under funded. Priorities for Shoal Creek include: resurfacing sections of the trail that are eroded, flooded or damaged using natural materials, preventing erosion issues and repairing flood damaged areas of the greenbelt, removing invasive trees and plants and plantings of native trees, plants and grasses to re-vegetate the greenbelt. Help revitalize Shoal Creek Greenbelt. Our next Shoal Creek event will be on December 3rd – "It's My Dog Park! Day." Please join us. To volunteer or get more information, check out the Austin Parks Foundation website (www.austinparks.org) Read more about the work at Shoal Creek at the Shoal Creek Foundation website <http://www.shoalcreektrail.org>.

Commercial Development Update

The Mills Ave. office buildings of the BrykerWoods Veterinary Clinic and the Shoal Creek Art Gallery are currently for sale. Plans call for the Vet Clinic to move into the old Gorbett Sprinkler building at the corner of Jefferson and Glenview. BrykerWoods neighborhood association is concerned with preserving city green space, keeping Mills Ave. open/accessible, and protecting the Elementary school from increased traffic congestion. Other commercial development near the neighborhood includes a "wine bar" planned for the former Obee's Sandwich shop location (the north side of 35th Street near the Print Depot).

Please visit our neighborhood business advertisers, without their support this edition of the BrykerWoods Herald newsletter would not be possible!