

hancock

hancock neighborhood association newsletter

www.hancockna.org

august 2012

UPDATE ON HANCOCK GOLF COURSE

The Austin Parks and Recreation department made presentations to neighborhood stakeholders in May concerning the status of Hancock Golf Course. According to Kimberly McNeeley, PARD Assistant Director, PARD will provide fiscal information on the golf course in 2014.

The two-year time period begins upon completion of the reclaimed water installation project slated to begin in August 2012. The city council passed consent to "...authorize and execute a contract through the Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard) with ACM INDUSTRIES, INC. for the purchase of Rainbird Irrigation System for the Hancock Golf Course for the Parks and Recreation Department."

The Department can now proceed with all purchases necessary for installation and is currently working with an internal project manager on scheduling. Construction is not expected to significantly impact play at Hancock. Specific installation dates will be forwarded in the near future.

The Golf Division, with the assistance of the Department Preservation Planner, has researched options for historical designation, researched historically designated golf courses across the country and met with the City Office of Historic Preservation. While historical preservation can be achieved via several options, the Department is looking for the most meaningful option and will prepare a full proposal.

PARD intends to provide stakeholders this information for feedback, bring this information before the Golf Advisory in August, bring the matter before the Parks Board and provide City Council with the action plan prior to seeking designation, McNeeley said.

THE SHORT-TERM RENTALS

By a vote of 5-2 the Austin City Council, at its August 2 meeting, approved short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods. Opposing the new rules were Council Members Laura Morrison and Kathie Tovo.

According to a story in the August 3 edition of the Austin American-Statesman, there are no restrictions on the number of owner-occupied homes that can be rented on a short-term basis, i.e., 30 or fewer days. The rules also permit short-term rental of second units of an owner-occupied duplex and non-owner occupied rental homes.

The HNA membership at the July 18 membership meeting voted to oppose the ordinance and subsequently, HNA President Mike Hirsch sent the following letter to the mayor and council members:

At the July 18th meeting of the Hancock Neighborhood Association the membership voted to oppose the passage of the Short Term Rental Ordinance currently being considered by the City Council. This proposed commercialization of neighborhoods is seen as a threat to the long-term viability of our community. We ask that you and all members of the City Council oppose passage of this ordinance.

Wednesday
September 19, 7:00pm

Next HNA Mtg

Hancock
Recreation Center

HNA Officers

President Mike Hirsch

Vice President Rafi Anuar

Secretary Julia Reynolds

Treasurer Bruce Fairchild

CANPAC Reps Bart Whatley &

Mike Hirsch

Neighborhood Council Liaison . . . Linda Guerrero

Please visit our website for email addresses

hancock newsletter is published by the Hancock
Neighborhood Association [HNA].

HNA meetings are held bi-monthly beginning in January, at
7pm on the 3rd Wednesday at the Hancock Recreation Cen-
ter located at 41st & Red River.

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The Hancock neighborhood extends from 32nd to 45th
Streets and Duval to I-35.

HUFFSTICKLER GREEN UPDATE

Sara Krause, program coordinator with the City of Aus-
tin, recently reported that the city will be pushing con-
struction work on Huffstickler Green out to October.
This is owing to the weather, and also to some other
construction priorities. Huffstickler Green refers to the
undeveloped parcel on the corner of 38th and Duval
that is slated for development as a green space with
benches.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Folks,

I've been talking with many of our neighbors about the
recent spike in tagging in our neighborhood. I have ad-
vised them (as others have advised on our listserv) to
report all tagging incidents by calling 311, the city's non-
emergency number. Be prepared to give a precise loca-
tion of the tagging you've called to report. Summer time
is a peak time for tagging activities. The sooner
we report it, the quicker it is covered, and the less re-
warding it is for the taggers. See the article in this news-
letter with more details on the city's graffiti removal ef-
forts.

The 311 call-in service can be used to report a wide vari-
ety of neighborhood problems. This past month in addi-
tion to reporting tagging incidents, I have reported emp-
ty homes with holes in their roofs and collapsing struc-
tures (building code violations), side walks obstructed by
the growth of vegetation, remains in the ground of bro-
ken street signs and other city fixtures, and signs illegally
posted on city poles. I have reported problems I have
personally noted as well as problems reported to me by
our neighbors.

I encourage all of you to make use of this city service to
keep neighborhood problems in check. Most reports can
be completed in about ten minutes.

Mike Hirsch
President, Hancock Neighborhood Association

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STAGE 1 WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Stage 1 Water Restrictions took effect on Monday July 16, 2012. Customers can water up to 2 days a week according to address. On your watering days, irrigation systems may be used only before 5 a.m. or after 7 p.m. and hose-end sprinklers may be used only before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m. Hand watering is allowed any time on any day of the week. For more information see: www.austintexas.gov/departments/stage-1-watering-restrictions

RECOGNIZE YOUR GOOD NEIGHBORS

Steve Vinklarek, of Vinklarek State Farm insurance, is a frequent advertiser in this newsletter. He would like to establish a Good Neighbor Award as a way of saying thank you to HNA neighborhood residents who go above and beyond.

Do you know a neighbor, family member or friend who helps to enhance your neighborhood? Someone who has performed a good deed or provided a service that you feel deserves recognition? Honor them with a Good Neighbor Award.

The Good Neighbor Award recognizes the ongoing efforts of Hancock residents who are making exceptional contributions to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood without seeking or receiving recognition for their service.

Adults and youth are eligible.

The nominee must be a resident of the Hancock area.

The nominee must not be employed by the City of Austin or on the executive committee of the Hancock Neighborhood Association.

The nominee must have made a significant contribution to their community during the current calendar year.

Nominations are due Monday, September 3, 2012. To submit your nomination along with the reasons you chose your Good Neighbor, please contact Steve Vinklarek State Farm at kris@steveinsures.com. You may choose to remain anonymous, but must include contact information for your nominee.

The winner will receive a \$100 State Farm visa gift card. Other nominees will receive a Good Neighbor certificate of recognition.



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If you are an Austin Water customer or Austin Community Tree Recipient stop by Austin Water's Waller Creek Center located at 625 E. 10th Street to pick up a free Treegator. Treegators are slow release watering bags that evenly deliver water to the roots of young trees without run-off or evaporation. Trees should be 2-3 inches in diameter (about the size of your wrist) with branches at least 25" from the ground. Supplies are limited and available on a first come, first served basis.

Pick up is available (one per Austin Water customer) between 8am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, at the 625 E. 10th Street first floor Customer Service office.



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Hancock, Hyde Park, & North University Real Estate Update

Neighborhood stats year-to-date*

HOMES ACTIVE	26	HOMES PENDING	13	HOMES SOLD	60
DAYS ON MARKET		LIST PRICE		LIST PRICE / SQ FT	
High	583 days	High	\$985,000	High	\$336
Low	1 day	Low	\$199,000	Low	\$137
Avg	69 days	Avg	\$401,275	Avg	\$248

* Stats shown are for single family homes through June 2012.

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NOTES FROM HNA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JULY 18, 2012

Members voted to approve a conditional use agreement for the day care center at 905 E. 38th St., with the stipulation that proprietors pay HNA \$5,000 in the event of breach of agreement.

The Parks Committee reported that the City is currently pricing work for completion of the golf course trail over the 38th Street retaining wall.

Eight volunteers participated in the most recent Waller Creek cleanup effort, earning a plaque from the City of Austin, which will be mounted in the vicinity of the creek.

The Zoning Committee reported on the sale of Paul's Beauty Supply at 4306 Red River and the purchase of the property by Austin Vintage Guitars, which requested a "light retail" zoning designation. The city Planning Commission approved the zoning change. HNA membership endorsed the change. See details on the HNA website.

The former Concordia site has been purchased and work is underway. After reviewing the plans, the Zoning Committee confirmed they are in compliance with the existing agreement with HNA.

The committee reported on the most recent meeting with representatives of the Perry Estate.

The owner's current proposal includes using the mansion as special events center. A restaurant is still planned but details are unclear. Intentions are for everything east of the dividing wall to be used special for events; all west of wall will be high density/upscale residential properties up to four stories high (approximately 50 residences). A new street would divide the property. Parking would be both under buildings and surface parking. Plans are to remove the convent building along Red River and build new facilities in its place.

Proposed zoning change of whole property to commercial.

Parking and urban gardens planned for flood plain.

This proposal is on the HNA website. Latest proposal includes outdoor amplified sound.

For the complete Minutes from the meeting go to the HNA website at Hancockna.org

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WALLER CREEK COMES CLEAN

By Kathleen Strong

Hancock Neighborhood Association, working with the Keep Austin Beautiful Adopt-a-Creek Program, has adopted the section of Waller Creek that starts at Hancock Golf Course on 41st Street, runs through the golf course, then under 38th Street, and through the neighborhood past Lee Elementary School to 32nd Street.

Adopting the creek involves holding four creek cleanups each year to remove trash. The second quarter cleanup took place on June 23rd when the weather was just right for wading through the cool shaded water. Armed with grabbers and big plastic bags, eight volunteers picked up 10 bags of refuse and dozens of golf balls. Thanks to our volunteers Meredith and Dave Brown, Ron and Alexia Henrich, Sheila Ochner, Alan and Helen Singletary, and Kathleen Strong.

Not only are creek cleanups important for aesthetic reasons, there are environmental reasons too. Trash can:

Decrease oxygen levels as it decays in the creek

Destroy aquatic habitat

Harm aquatic life (particularly plastic and plastic bags.)

In recognition of Hancock's adopting a segment of Waller Creek, Keep Austin Beautiful will place a plaque on the 41st Street Bridge.

Our third quarter cleanup will be in September with the date to be posted on signs at the 4 corners of the golf course. All are welcome to come out and help. As our volunteer pool grows, we can look into expanding our activities to include marking storm drains, cutting seeds off invasive plants on the creek banks, and planting native riparian plants, those that live along the banks of a waterway.



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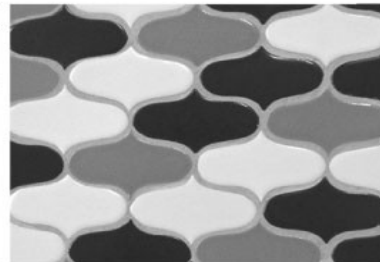
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<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/default.htm>

City of Austin Green Garden Project

<http://www.cityofaustin.org/greengarden/>

City of Austin Neighborhood Planning

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/default.htm>

Central Austin Combined Neighborhood Planning Area

http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/central_austin.htm

Hancock Recreation Center

<http://coawebparks.ci.austin.tx.us/registrationmain.sdi>



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