

hancock

hancock neighborhood association newsletter www.hancockna.org October 2011

HNA Members Hear Crime Prevention Tips

Chris Wilson from the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association made a presentation at the September 21 HNA membership meeting about Cherrywood neighbors' efforts to reduce property crime in that area.

Wilson said before the neighborhood made a concerted effort to lobby city hall for more resources to control residential crime, home burglaries were up by 86 percent, with nearly 3 home burglaries a day. He noted a lack of arrests by the Austin Police Department and a revolving door for those who did get arrested. Now, with more cooperation from APD and a more effective system for communicating across neighborhoods, the Cherrywood

burglary rate is down to one a month.

Wilson said, "The big change is a result of a lot of research, lobbying City Council, education efforts in the neighborhood and a refocusing of APD resources." Now, he said, the main issue is petty crime, such as stolen bicycles.

Wilson advised neighbors to be vigilant and call 9-1-1 if there is any suspicious activity. He gave the example of a stranger walking down the street, stopping at parked cars and looking inside. Or a stranger sitting in a car for long periods of time, seemingly doing nothing but smoking or talking on a cell phone. "They're casing cars and homes," Wilson said. "You

should call 9-1-1 right away."

He advised people to park their cars in a driveway or garage, and to leave the car empty. "Don't leave anything in the car, even an empty bag, CDs, books, change," he said.

Wilson emphasized the importance of community-building, education and awareness in fighting neighborhood crime.

Habraken asked for a volunteer to be the HNA liaison with the Cherrywood neighborhood to exchange crime rate information as a beginning step in organizing a similar effort in the Hancock neighborhood. Mike Hirsch volunteered.

Update 3208 Red River

The HNA Zoning Committee met October 6 and reports the following update concerning the zoning/plan amendment change request by the

owners of the property at 3208 Red River.

The buyer has agreed to limit the number of tenants to 6, prohibit the use of live, known infectious and pathogenic organisms, practice proper waste disposal, prohibit uses requiring a hazardous occupancy per building code, and hire a single-point-of-contact safety officer among other things.

A motion was made to accept the presented conditional overlay

and restrictive covenant, noting certain conditions (see meeting minutes in full on the HNA website) be observed. The motion passed unanimously.

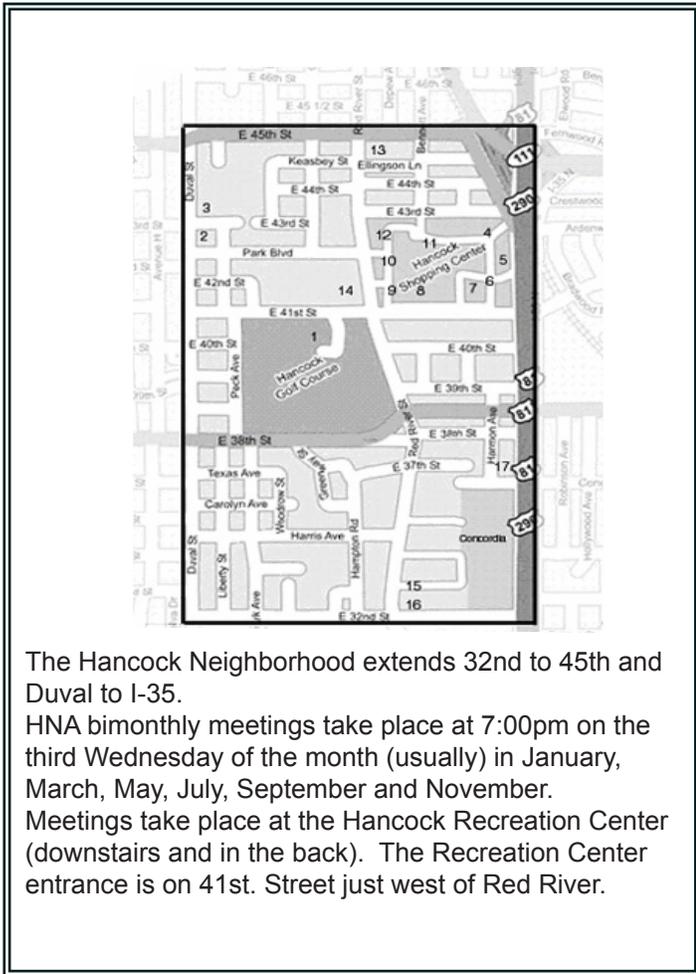
The applicant will petition to have the case heard by the City of Austin Planning Commission on Oct 25. The case would proceed to City Council after this.

Officer
Nominations at
November 16th
Meeting

Officer elections will take place at the January 18, 2012 HNA membership meeting. According to the HNA bylaws, nominations must be made at a regular meeting at least one month before the election. Therefore, the deadline for nominations is the November 16 meeting.

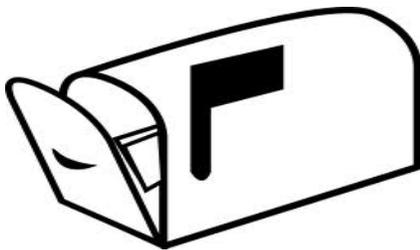
In order to vote, please be sure your HNA Membership Dues for 2012 have been paid prior to the January 18, 2012 Officer Election Meeting. [see page 2 for more details]

hna officers



The Hancock Neighborhood extends 32nd to 45th and Duval to I-35. HNA bimonthly meetings take place at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of the month (usually) in January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings take place at the Hancock Recreation Center (downstairs and in the back). The Recreation Center entrance is on 41st. Street just west of Red River.

President	Wouter Habraken gw@habraken.com
Vice President	Rafi Anuar rafi.anuar@gmail.com
Treasurer	Mary Ann Osborne mary.ann.osborne@gmail.com
Secretary	Carol Moczygemba carolmoczygemba@sbcglobal.net
Historian	vacant
Neighborhood Council Liaison	Linda Guerrero
CANPAC Reps	Bart Whatley, Mike Hirsch
Newsletter Editor	Carol Moczygemba carolmoczygemba@sbcglobal.net
Advertising	Kathleen Strong kstrong@wt.net
Webmaster	George Wilson george@wilson.name
Austin Police Neighborhood Liaison (above 38th/below 38th)	Rolando Gutierrez 974-5998 Rolando.Gutierrez@ci.austin.tx.us Joshua Metteauer 974-8124 Joshua.metrauer@ci.austin.tx.us



Letters to the Editor

We invite your letters to the editor in which you may express opinions on any of the issues affecting the Hancock neighborhood. Letters may be edited for length and grammar.

Please email your letters to Carol Moczygemba at:
carolmoczygemba@sbcglobal.net.

HANCOCK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN MEMBERSHIP DUES

To be a voting member of the Hancock Neighborhood Association requires a yearly membership fee of \$5 per household. Dues checks are made payable to Hancock Neighborhood Association and may be mailed to: Mary Ann Osborne, 512 E. 39th Street Austin, TX 78751. Include your name and street address along with your dues payment.

Thanks!

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Zoning Update

Notes from September 15 Zoning Committee

Submitted by Bart Whatley, chair

The committee discussed the requested rezoning/plan amendment at 3208 Red River and concluded they need to hear back from the applicant/owner's agent on questions raised in the city-hosted neighborhood plan amendment meeting.. Safety is a primary concern, since biological specimens will be present in the proposed lab. A bond could be requested from the owner for any private restrictive covenant between the owner and HNA. The owner expected from 3 to 6 tenants in the lab who will be conducting research.

Few adjacent neighbors have attended meetings on this item. The committee proposes a vote on the item at the November HNA membership meeting.

The committee discussed permits and work at the Perry estate, and concluded it appears that currently all permits are in order. They discussed a proposed special committee on zoning cases that have 6 or more immediately adjacent neighbors who would be affected. In such cases, following city form, 3 members within 200 ft. (city petition distance) or 500 ft (city notification distance) would join members of the existing zoning committee to form a special committee in certain instances.

A motion passed to report back to the general membership with a recommendation to establish a special committee consisting of the zoning committee and up to three neighbors with property within 500 feet of the Perry Estate who are regular members and excluding members who have a conflict of interest.

See page 1 for more details.



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November 16 HNA Membership Meeting

7 p.m. Hancock Recreation Center

Members will vote on proposed bylaws changes.

Go to Hancockna.org for more details.

January 18, 2012 HNA Membership Meeting

7 p.m. Hancock Recreation Center

Election of Officers

HNA Membership Meeting Minutes | September 21, 2011

[Minutes have not been officially approved.]

The Hancock Neighborhood Association membership meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Wouter Habraken at the Hancock Recreation Center on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. About 15 members were in attendance.

Carolyn Palaima made a motion from the Parks Committee to include on the agenda the variance request at 3803 Duval. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer reports:

Treasurer - \$9,976.60 in checking; savings \$2,502.04; \$1640.00 paid out for parking permits, same amount as collected

President - The \$1,000 approved by the membership to donate to Hancock Recreation Center has not yet been allocated, pending staff changes at the Center.

There will be a meeting October 12 to discuss bylaws issues - The bylaws will be up for membership discussion and a vote at the next scheduled HNA meeting in November. Members on the listserv are asked to RSVP. The October 12 meeting will be at 7 pm at the Hancock Recreation Center unless attendance is too small, and meeting will then be at Habraken's house.

Newsletter committee report: the committee met on September 11 and reviewed scheduling and deadlines. They discussed website and communications and the extent of newsletter committee involvement - Discussions with the membership committee will ensue in establishing a website with more interactivity -

Rosemary Lehmborg, Travis County District Attorney, who is running for reelection, gave a presentation about crime and public safety. She said crime rates are down in Travis County, but there has been a spike in burglaries in the Central Austin area. The Austin Police Department has recentralized units to improve communication and pinpoint serial burglars. Lehmborg said this has had some positive effect.

Chris Wilson from the Cherrywood neighborhood presented information on neighborhood crime and possible solutions. He made many recommendations, which will be noted in the October issue [page 3].

The zoning committee met September 15. Bart Whatley, committee chair, presented the following report:

1. The Becker Garage Variance- Has not gone through the Board of Adjustment yet. Bart Whatley will contact owner and ask for an update.

2. 3208 Red River Rezoning/Plan Amendment
Discussed need to hear back from applicant/owner's agent on questions raised in City hosted neighborhood plan amendment meeting.

Safety is a primary concern. Discussed need for periodic safety audits by a third party.

Discussed that a bond could be requested from the owner for any private restrictive covenant between the owner and HNA.

Owner expects 3-6 tenants. Perhaps even just one. Tenants will be upstart companies with solid financial backing.

Important to hear what adjacent neighbors think. Few adjacent neighbors have attended meetings on this item.

Propose November vote by the neighborhood on this item.

3. Perry Estate

Discussed permits and work that may have been undertaken without a permit. Discussed confusion on demolition. It appears that currently all permits are in order.

Process for a proposed special committee on zoning cases that have 6 or more immediately adjacent neighbors, as discussed at a previous HNA meeting- Discussed following city form, where 3 members within 200' (city petition distance) or 500' (city notification distance) would join members of the zoning committee to form a special committee in certain instances.

MOTION passed- To report back to the general membership with a recommendation to establish a special committee consisting of the zoning committee and up to three neighbors with property within 500 feet of the Perry Estate who are regular members and excluding members who have a conflict of interest.

4. 714 Harris Ave Demolition Permit

Neighbors have been discussing not opposing demolition of fire damaged structure if agreements can be made with the owner. WH to inquire with an adjacent neighbor for an update.

5. 3803 Duval- Discussed supporting Park Committee recommendation to membership.

No one from the Membership Committee was present, but a report was submitted to Habraken and presented to the membership announcing National Night Out activities October 4. Neighbors are urged to gather and discuss crime prevention in their respective neighborhoods.

Carolyn Palaima, Parks Committee chair, made a motion to support the variance request at 3803 Duval adjacent to Huffstickler Green which would allow an adjustment in the impervious cover requirement so the property owners can adapt to a reduced parking area. Formerly, tenants at the property were using the city property now designated Huffstickler Green. The motion was seconded by Mike Hirsch and approved by acclamation

Habraken read a motion by Hal Morris who was not present, to make the Historic Preservation Committee a standing committee. The motion was seconded and approved.

Mark Burch pulled the agenda item on a vote to amend the bylaws, saying a delay was acceptable to him.

A discussion ensued about the procedure for removing agenda items and the lack of opportunity to discuss bylaws amendments. Habraken said a bylaws discussion meeting will be held October 12 at the rec center at 7 pm. He said the meeting is for discussion only. Changes need to be voted on at a general membership meeting. A vote on the recommendations will be taken at the next membership meeting in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Supplemental Watering of Trees During Periods of Drought

A lack of available water to trees' roots can cause drought-stress, making a tree more susceptible to death, disease and insect attack. Trees growing in an urban environment face additional stressors:

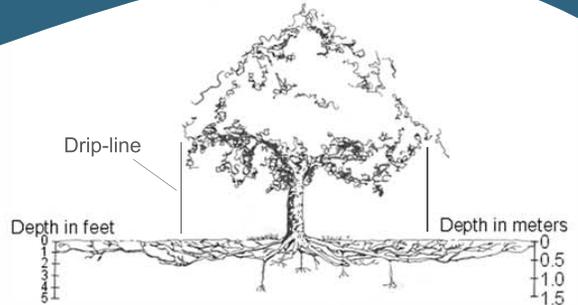
- ◆ Soil Compaction
- ◆ Competition from turf grass
- ◆ Pollution

Even adapted native trees, such as live oaks, cedar elms, and pecans, can succumb to drought-stress.

Supplemental water, provided as little as once every two weeks, can keep a tree healthy during dry spells.

Shallow, frequent waterings, such as those provided by lawn sprinklers, do not reach tree roots. Long-duration, deep waterings are best. Consider using a soaker hose.

Use the table below to determine water quantity.



Contrary to common belief, most of a tree's water-absorbing roots are within the first few inches of soil and extend 1.5 to 4 times wider than the width of the tree's canopy. Roots do not mirror the above-ground portion of a tree. Supplemental waterings should cover as much of the root area as possible. As a general guideline, water the entire area below a tree's canopy, also called the drip-line of a tree. This area may extend several dozen feet away from the trunk for larger trees. Avoid repeatedly wetting the trunks of trees or keeping tree trunks wet for prolonged periods.

Mulching trees is one of the best ways to keep trees healthy and drought-resistant.

The benefits include:

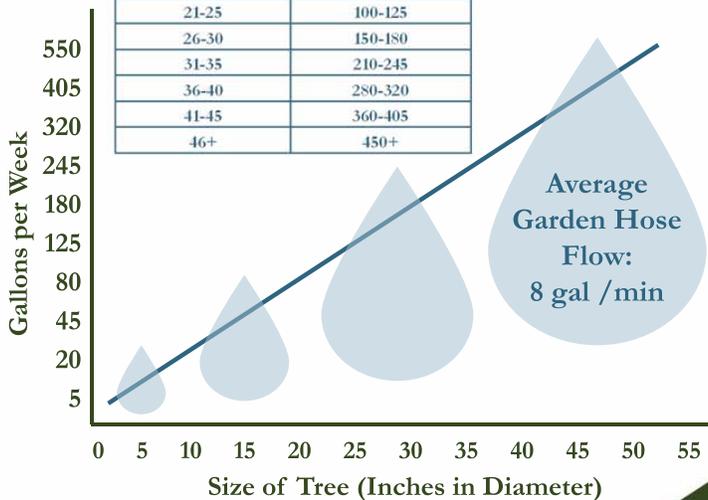
- ◆ Improved water percolation into soil
- ◆ Decreased water evaporation
- ◆ Soil temperature moderation
- ◆ Reduced competition with turf

Add a 3 inch layer of organic mulch to the entire root area of a tree. Do not place mulch against the trunk.

Source data: Center for Urban Forest Research

Size of Tree	Water Needs
Diameter (inches)	Gallons per week
0-5	1-5
6-10	10-20
11-15	30-45
16-20	60-80
21-25	100-125
26-30	150-180
31-35	210-245
36-40	280-320
41-45	360-405
46+	450+

How Much Water?



To determine the # of minutes to water with a hose, divide the # of gallons by 8. Distribute water slowly and evenly throughout the root zone. Add 5 minutes if the root zone is covered by turf grass



For more information about tree care or other information about Austin's Urban Forest, visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/forestry.htm

CANPAC Update

*Submitted by Bart Whatley,
HNA CANPAC representative*

CANPAC is the Neighborhood Plan Contact Team for our area. During the September 19 meeting, members discussed the denial of a request for zoning change in the West University area from single family of multifamily in a single family area.

West Campus height bonuses for affordable housing in the University Neighborhood overlay district was discussed and it was agreed that present height limits need to be preserved on the edges of the neighborhood. Eligibility for affordable units will be aligned with those for student financial aid instead of median family income.--

The Central Austin Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee (CANPAC) serves as the Steward of the Combined Central Austin Neighborhoods Plan by:

1. Supporting the goals of the overall Plan and the goals of the individual neighborhoods within the Plan;
2. Reviewing proposed changes to the Plan for the potential effects on the Plan area;
3. Monitoring proposed City ordinances or changes to ordinances for their effects on the Plan area;
4. Reviewing the Plan periodically for the purpose of recommending improvements or clearing up ambiguities in the Plan by the Plan Amendment process; and
5. As needed and upon request from individual neighborhoods in the Plan area, serving as a resource.

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Cromack Estate
4016 Duval Street

Celeste and Bert Cromack were leaders in the Hyde Park neighborhood for many years. Before she went to work for the City, Celeste served as president of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association. They were always seen on the annual homes tours, usually dressed in vintage costumes and always serving as gracious docents. Their passing is a loss for the neighborhood and their many friends here.

Now the Cromack home is available for sale. A sturdy 1928 vintage bungalow, it is a Hyde Park classic that retains its original character and craftsman-style details. The electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems were updated about 15 years ago, when a new metal roof was also installed, but the house needs additional work.

According to the tax records, the house has 1844sf of heated and cooled space. The living room is spacious and has a wood-burning fireplace. The dining room is also large and the kitchen has a breakfast nook and walk-in pantry. There are two bedrooms and a bath downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs.

The 60 x 135 foot lot has a very convenient rear entry from the alley at the end of 41st Street and is shaded by large trees. As of this publication deadline, the price has not been set.



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Conserving Water: Tips from the Sierra Club

1. Only run the dishwasher or washing machine with a full load. If it is time to replace either of these appliances, check in with your utility about rebates for water-conserving versions and purchase those instead.
2. Water your lawn on the right day. Are you odd or even? Most Texas cities restrict outdoor water use to one or two days a week during times of drought. Save water and avoid fines by learning and following your city's schedule.
3. Catch the condensation from your AC unit and use it in your yard. Depending on how your air conditioner is programmed, it can produce gallons of water per day. Catch that water in a bucket and put it on your garden, shrubs, and trees.
4. Turn the water off when you brush your teeth. This simple step can save up to eight gallons of water per day.
5. Fix leaky faucets. Leaky faucets can waste up to 7 gallons of water per day. To check for leaks at home, read your water meter and avoid using water for 2 hours. Read the meter again after this period. If the amount is different you have a leak.
6. Fix running toilets. Running toilets can waste a lot of water. Fix these leaks as soon as you find them. Check with the manufacturer of your toilet for the proper replacement "flapper" to ensure maximum efficiency.
7. Inspect your irrigation system. Have your system inspected by your water utility or a certified irrigator to make sure it is operating correctly, identify any problems, and help you set it to run more efficiently. Many cities offer free inspections.
8. Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads. These water saving devices are cheap and easy to install. Many utilities give them away to their customers. Check with your utility and pick up a few extras to share with your neighbors!
9. Install a high efficiency toilet. Toilets account for about 25% of water used in the home. Depending on the age of your toilet, you can save up to 5 gallons per flush by replacing older models. Check with your city for possible rebates.
10. Make water conservation a whole-family activity. Challenge your family members to think of new ways to save water and to be part of the solution.

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Newsletter

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What is krimelabb?

Krimelabb, www.krimelabb.com, is a Web site that supports community policing in Austin through the use of crime data. So by knowing about crime in your neighborhood, you are in a better position to find ways to deter it. To take it to the next level, you can become a Neighborhood Crime Analyst by attending a free training session then studying the data and making recommendations to your neighborhood. E-mail jack@krimelabb.com if you are interested. And krimelabb has no political agenda, so it tries to present "just the facts, ma'am" (or sir). Krimelabb offers:

1. krimelabb presentations for Neighborhood Associations
2. Neighborhood Crime Analyst (NCA) training sessions
3. Submit an anonymous tip to APD automatically from a KRIMELABB crime summary.
4. a page for putting in good word for one of Austin's finest
5. a page for submitting and viewing citywide alerts
6. SOON: Crime Reports for properties for realtors
7. SOON: KRIMELABB Forecasting Project: a foray into Predictive Policing
8. SOON: monitor crime data near the Halo cameras
9. SOON: near real time arrest tracking
10. SOON: premium accounts for more data

Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood... APD says "...Don't worry about feeling embarrassed if your suspicions are wrong; think instead about what could happen if your suspicions are right and you don't call. It is the Police Department's job to investigate suspicious matters, and any assistance in spotting suspicious persons or activities is appreciated."



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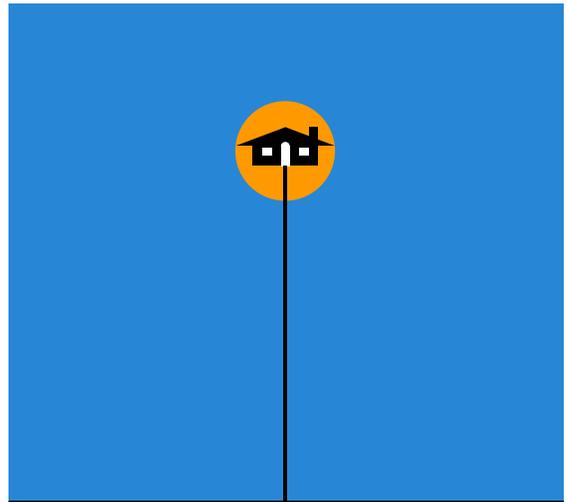
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