



*All of us at
McCarthy Print
wish you health,
prosperity
and an abundance
of blessings
during this holiday season.*

M C C A R T H Y
P R I N T

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Take care of your neighborhood! Please take forms to your friends and neighbors and ask them to join WANG. An active membership will be a strong voice that's heard when critical issues are debated.

- Yes, I want to join WANG.
- I want to renew my WANG membership.

I have enclosed:

- \$20 household membership
- \$10 student/senior membership

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

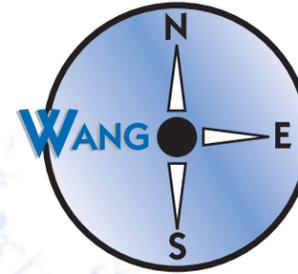
Phone _____ Fax _____

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Make checks payable to WANG
and mail to:
WANG
P.O. Box 5722
Austin, TX 78763-5722

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Howson Branch Library
January 5th, 2004, 7:00 pm
Please Check Mailing Label for Renewal Date

West Austin Neighborhood Group
P.O. Box 5722
Austin, Texas 78763-5722



West Austin Neighborhood Group

Organized 1973

*"To preserve our neighborhood
and protect it from deterioration."*

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THE NEIGHBOR

P.O. Box 5722 • Austin, Texas 78763-5722

Holiday, 2003

President's Message December, 2003

'Twas the last month of '03,
and all through the 'hood,
all the neighbors were planning
To do year-end good ...

... by giving their time
and their treasure, as well,
to make old West Austin
the best place to dwell.

"But what," asked the neighbors,
"can we do 'round here
to help with improving
the 'hood this next year?"

"I'm glad that you asked,"
said the president bard.
"Cuz I've got some ideas,
but this rhyming's too hard!"

So instead of more rhymes,
I will now propose
Some new year ideas
Using commonplace prose.

OK, OK, so maybe the new U.S. Poet Laureate shouldn't exactly feel threatened by my "talent." But I still hope that, in this holiday season, you will consider what you can do to support our neighborhood and its institutions. Along these lines, I submit the following neighborhood "Holiday Gifts" and "New Year Resolutions" ideas for your consideration:

Neighborhood Holiday Gifts:

Here are some "gift ideas" that you can give to the neighborhood.

- A wonderful gift for the neighborhood would be to agree to keep open the Holiday House located at the Tarrytown Shopping Center. (OK, so maybe there is only one person who could give this gift.)

- Help build a bridge over the creek in the Mayfield Preserve (contact Rene Guerrera 736-6415)

- Join and support (with your time) your local neighborhood organizations. Good

examples of such groups include:

- ◊ WANG, which is actively recruiting committee members to assist with our work in 2004, and which would welcome new member and new committee members to help with our work. Contact Mike Cannatti at 338-9100 if you are interested.

- ◊ Friends of Reed Park (contact, Louise Iscoe at 472-3605), Friends of Deep Eddy (contact, Leon Barish at 477-7556), Friends of Westenfield Park (contact, Ken Pfluger at 473-2827) and Friends of Mayfield Park (contact, Karen Cannatti at 453-7074), which are all fine organizations that take care of our neighborhood parks and that deserve our support.

- ◊ PTA of Casis (www.casispta.org), O.Henry (www.ohenrypta.com), Brykerwoods (www.volunteersolutions.org/ut/volunteer/agency/one_196223.html) and Austin High (www.austinhightpta.com), which are always happy to have more involved parents.

- Pick up your neighbor's newspaper when they are out or bring in their garbage cans.

- If you are planning on building or remodeling your home, be sure to talk with your neighbors to let them know of your plans and to make sure your plans are sensitive to any legitimate and reasonable neighbor concerns.

- Donate to the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas (282-2111).

- Support Friends of the Austin Public Library (contact, Kim Lindros at 250-01015)

- Take down any solid, tall front yard fences that just scream out "I want my privacy and don't want to have anything to do with the rest of the neighborhood."

- Build a front porch, sit in it, and say howdy to passersby.

- Help organize or participate in a park cleanup for one of our neighborhood parks or creeks.

- Search online for other volunteer opportunities in the neighborhood at www.volunteersolutions.org/ut/volunteer/index.tcl.

Neighborhood Resolutions for the New Year:

Here is a short list of "new year's resolutions" that you can make for the benefit of the neighborhood.

- Walk your block on a regular basis and

continued, next page

Background Photo of Lime Kiln #PICA24140,
Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Be sure to visit our website at <http://www.deepeddy.com/wang/>!

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figure out the names of everyone on your street. (You can cheat by looking the names up online at the Travis County Property Records Search site at www.traviscad.org/travsearch.php?mode=address&kind=real)

- Enjoy Holiday House while it's here.
- Once Holiday House leaves, just get over it and start patronizing all our other great local eateries, including Maudie's Café, Mangia's Pizza, Zoot Restaurant, Original David's Brick Oven, Food!Food!, Mozart's, Hula Hut, Babbo's Italian Gelato and Coffee, Kitchen Door, Deep Eddy Cabaret (I think they sell chips there), Starbucks, Seattle's Best and The BoatYard.
- Join one of the committees of the West Austin Neighborhood Group to help target sidewalk additions for the neighborhood (Transportation Committee), to help prepare a federal historic district application (Historic Designation Committee), to help control development (Zoning Committee) and to help organize for our neighborhood plan (Infrastructure Committee).

And my last suggestion? Buy a moped for scooting around the neighborhood!!! I'm sure this sounds silly, but I can promise you that mopeds are tons of fun to ride, especially in the Spring. You feel much more connected to the 'hood when your ride a bike because you can see, experience and feel your neighborhood much better on a bike than in a car. And at scooter speeds, it is much easier to notice what's going on in the neighborhood. It's really amazing how you can sense that the smells and temperature in one part of our neighborhood differ from other parts of town. And you really can't find a more romantic way to go out on a date than to take your honey on a scooter with you. Besides, some of the newer model bikes (like Aprilia's Scarabeo or Leonardo scooter) are quiet to ride, get great gas mileage, and are better for the environment. I've been seeing more and more scooter riders zipping around West Austin lately, including the Mayor's lovely wife, the crossing guard at Casis, the treasurer for WANG, and yours truly. Once we get enough riders, maybe we can get Mayor Winn to lead us on a "Holiday scooter cruise" through the neighborhood to tour the yard light displays in West Austin. If you are interested in having such a ride, contact me at 338-9100.

With that festive holiday thought, I bid Happy Holidays to all!

Michael Rocco Cannatti
338-9100 or mike@hamiltonterrire.com

WANG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes December 1, 2003

Attending Board Members: Michael Cannatti, Joyce Basciano, Erik Cary, Linda Dickens, Stephen Griffith, Hal Katz, Ken Pfluger, Mike Falk, Jim Girardeau, Blake Tollett, Susan Pascoe, Gwen Jewiss, Joe Bennett.

Guests: Tom Moran, Assistant Director, Austin Public Library; Anita Fudell, Howson Library Branch Manager

Austin Public Library Long Range Planning: Tom Moran presented an overview of the long range planning process for the Austin Public Libraries. The library planning commission is organizing focus groups to solicit input from community members regarding strategic library plans. WANG can assist in this effort by advertising the WANG area focus group in its newsletter. A focus group might be held at Howson, although this has not been decided. The number of focus groups is limited by time and by budget restrictions.

The goal of the library planning process is to develop strategic long range plans that can be implemented given the projected library budget. Specific topics include the future of library and its services, facilities, the interaction between branch and central library, safety, collection, and services. Mr. Moran mentioned that the library system has had an increase in demand and use even after cutting library hours. Funding for collections was reduced by 33% from 1.5 million last fiscal year to 1 million this year. This level of funding is below other benchmark cities of similar size.

Committee Reports

Zoning
No news.

Communications
• The section of the newsletter for the yearly enrollment form will change to 1/4 of a page to save space.

• Comment cards from the annual social have been tallied, and members provided positive responses.

Membership
• The ideas from the annual board retreat generated four goals for the

board members:

1. Each member is asked to recruit 10 new members. The membership committee members will prepare an information packet and/or membership invitation to help in this effort.

2. Board members will survey the neighborhood to learn what the membership and neighbors want from WANG in terms of services and activities.

3. WANG will work to have a higher profile in support of the Tarrytown Fourth of July Parade, in terms of both financial support and a visible presence at the parade.

4. WANG will organize three to four neighborhood activities (such as a park clean-up, fun run, bonfire, etc.) in an effort to promote "neighborliness."

Liaison
No news.

Transportation
• A summary of the sidewalk issues from last year is being prepared.

• The committee will seek to help the city place sidewalks in appropriate areas.

• A suggestion was made to create a sidewalk fund in lieu of adding disconnected sidewalk sections when lots are sub-divided. This fund would be used to build contiguous sidewalk sections on selected streets. A key question is whether the fund is citywide or neighborhood wide, how a neighborhood boundary is defined, and how the fund will be administered.

Historical Designation
• The committee is currently formulating a plan to give information to the neighborhood.

• The city hosts a task force meeting on historic districts and zoning on Dec 10th.

Infrastructure
• The committee is seeking members of the community to assist in committee activities.

• Efforts will be made to create and

continued next page

maintain strong relationships with policy makers and regulators.

• A plan for flood control, utilities, and neighborhood services will be developed.

Nominating
• A new board member is needed for WANG's board.

Bylaws
No news.

Old Business
• The Board appointed Stephen Griffith to be or appoint WANG's representative to ANC and appointed Michael Cannatti as the representative to MONAC.

New Business
• The city agreed to pay for Mopac noise walls. WANG is investigating whether or not the current wood fences satisfy this requirement.

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Join WANG

See back panel for membership form.

Happy Holidays from all the folks in the West Austin Neighborhood Group!