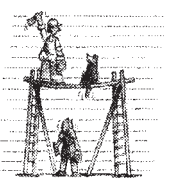

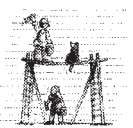



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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
Take care of your neighborhood! Send in this membership form or call Blake Tollett at 477-4028. Please take forms to your friends and neighbors and ask them to join WANG. An active membership will be a strong voice that's heard when critical issues are debated.

Next Meeting of Executive Committee:
7:00 pm
October 4th, 1999,
at the Howson Branch Library
2500 Exposition Boulevard
Agenda: Election of Officers



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From the bylaws of WANG:
This association shall be a non-profit, non-partisan organization open to all residents within the boundaries of a designated area within the City of Austin. The association shall be concerned with community development, the ecology, the safety and other related matters that indirectly and directly affect the quality and character of the neighborhood and the City of Austin. The association's goal is to preserve the neighborhood and to protect it from deterioration.

Protect Our Water!
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Yes, I want to join WANG.
 I want to renew my WANG membership.

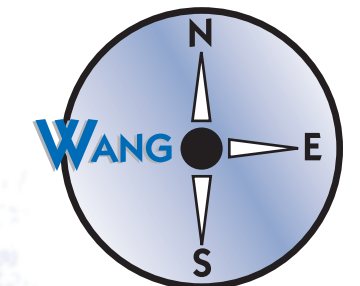
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"To preserve our neighborhood and protect it from deterioration through advocacy and action."

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- Dudley Houghton
Zoning Chair

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- Don Cook
- Linda Dickens
- Chris Garrigues
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- Gwen Jewiss
- Sara Madera
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Background Photo of Lime Kiln #PICA24140, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

THE ANNUAL NEIGHBOR

P.O. Box 5722 • Austin, Texas 78763-5722
September, 1999

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: ANNUAL NEWSLETTER, 1999

Fellow Neighbors:

We are the **West Austin Neighborhood Group (WANG)**, and this newsletter provides information about us and the Neighborhood and serves as your invitation to our Neighborhood Social, September 25th, 10:00-Noon, at Reed Park. Below you will find some summaries and/or updates of Neighborhood concerns which arose over the last year. Neighborhood organizations are truly "grass roots." Come join us—we're your Neighbors.

West Austin EMT Station: I am pleased to report that at this writing, on Labor Day, our West side station will go into the design and planning phase this fall with construction beginning next year. It was two years ago when Mike Levy, then a member of the EMS Quality Assurance Team, informed WANG of the status of the proposed medic unit for West Austin-primary City coverage for an area roughly bordered by Lamar Boulevard on the East, Windsor Road on the North, Lake Austin on the West and the southern Town Lake areas to the South. At that time, EMS had approved funding for personnel and vehicles for the station but had no funds available to construct it. Sue Edwards, Director of EMS, stated that the project had been EMS's highest unfunded Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project since 1993. Believing in the need for this project, the Executive Committee (ExComm) of WANG, along with the general membership, began the process of seeing to its realization. In conjunction with EMS, it was decided to push for funding under the proposed 1998 bond election. WANG sent representatives as speakers in favor of inclusion of this item in the bond package to the City Council, the Planning Commission, and the Citizen's Bond Advisory Committee. Once the station was included in the bond package, and that package was passed by the voters, we then worked through the City Manager's office and with the Citizen Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) to get priority funding. At one time the projected start was 2004. Thanks to efforts by WANG members, such as Council

member Beverly Griffith and CBOC member Chip Wolf, not only were the merits of the project recognized, but also the necessity of its early funding was realized. As before, WANG's ExComm will continue to monitor the project until its completion.

Austin Police Department (APD)/District Representative Program: As part of the Community Policing (CP) reorientation of the APD, a District Representative (DR), Officer Tim Atkinson (480-2121), has been assigned to our West side. The idea of CP is to form a neighborhood relationship with APD in order to identify and then solve problems unique to that community using the full range of the City of Austin services including those not specific to APD. One theme of CP is the "fixing of broken windows" theory that the focus on/enforcement of minor law violations enhances the overall community well-being. Traffic, for example, is a major concern on the West side, whether it be parking congestion, boat trailers stored on the street, or speeding. Officer Atkinson is our direct link to the Patrol Officers and he can focus resources as necessary. (E-mail: timothy.atkinson@ci.austin.tx.us).

Zoning: As a normal but unofficial policy, WANG does not initiate opposition to requests for zoning changes or variances. We are informed by the City of all such neighborhood requests. We try to look objectively at both sides of issues, but where an amicable resolution is not possible, greater weight is given to the concerns of neighbors most directly affected, unless there is an overriding community interest involved. When the ExComm feels the request is a detriment to our neighborhood, we will take action. We take seriously our goal "to preserve the neighborhood and to protect it from deterioration." WANG is a very effective advocate.

Tarrytown United Methodist Church (TUMC): Dudley Houghton, Zoning Chair, and I have been meeting with TUMC staff about their proposed expansion plans. To accomplish TUMC's objectives, they are going to ask for a zoning change on the main campus from

ZONING ACTION FYE 9-30-99

PROPOSED VARIANCE AT 1805 RALEIGH

The Executive Committee of the West Austin Neighborhood Group opposed variances which would have permitted an exterior stairwell in the five-foot side yard setback and an eight-foot high rear stone fence (maximum permitted height is six feet) on this property. Bill Farris, the builder, had constructed a duplex above the garage which together with the house would have created three living units on the Single-family (SF-3) zoned property. He subsequently removed one of the kitchens from the duplex, thereby bringing it into compliance with the zoning category, but persisted in his request for the variances. The Executive Committee supported his immediate neighbors in opposing these variances. The Board of Adjustment denied the variances.

RESUBDIVISION AT 2515 QUARRY ROAD

In a zoning case last year, the applicant requested rezoning from Single-family (SF-3) to Condominium (SF-5). The

neighbors organized a valid petition opposing the rezoning, which was also opposed by the Executive Committee. The City Council voted not to grant the rezoning. This year the applicant proposed to divide the existing two lots into four, which would accommodate as many as four duplexes (eight units.) The Executive Committee requested that the Planning Commission require sidewalks and a retention pond on the site to which they agreed..

PROPOSED COMMERCIAL ZONING AT 2204 LAKE AUSTIN BOULEVARD

The Executive Committee and Karen Roberts reached an agreement to rezone the property at 2204 Lake Austin Boulevard from Single-family (SF-3) to General Retail (GR-CO-MU). Ms. Roberts will be permitted some office and commercial uses for the property while the façade will be preserved and development intensity will be limited. This residence, together with the two adjacent bungalows, was built in the early 20th century and makes a statement of the his-

torical and residential character of the neighborhood for people entering by way of Lake Austin Boulevard. The rezoning is consistent with the neighborhood plan which permits commercial zoning on lots that front on Lake Austin Boulevard.

SIDE-STREET SETBACK VARIANCE AT 513 DEEP EDDY

J. J. Rochel has applied for a variance to the required 15-foot setback from Johnson Street in order to build a duplex on the corner lot at 513 Deep Eddy. The site is difficult to build on because of large trees spanning the lot and adjoining property. Ms. Rochel and the neighbors were unable to reach an agreement on the size and location of the building. The Executive Committee supported the immediate neighbors in opposing the variance, which was denied by the Board of Adjustment.

**Dudley W. Houghton
474-7608**

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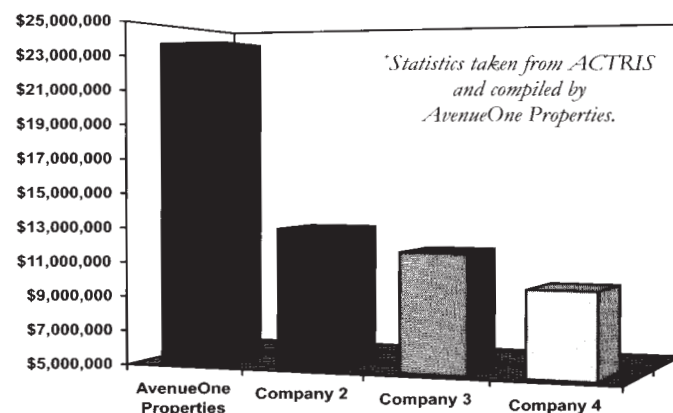
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Annual Neighborhood Social

WANG will hold its Neighborhood Social on September 25, 10:00-noon. This year, we'll meet at Reed Park to enjoy food and drink, and, most of all, each other's company. Janett Long Fish will regale us with Tarrytown Tales; guides will provide tours through the park preserve down to Taylor Slough; and the pool will be open for swimmers. Come find out what's going on in your neighborhood.

The Image of West Austin

When you think of West Austin, what do you envision? When WANG ExComm members thought about what local feature might best represent our neighborhood, we remembered the old stone lime kiln in Reed Park. Because of its significance to the settlement of West Austin, the lime kiln gives us an historic and permanent symbol.

In 1871, Peter C. Taylor arrived in Austin via San Antonio, having emigrated from Scotland twenty years earlier. He saw two ingredients here that would lead to a successful lime business: the first railroad line into central Texas and the unlimited supply of limestone. That year, he built Lime Kiln No. 1 and patented his design that could provide continuous operation. The lime was taken from a quarry now covered by the lake.

The Taylor kiln supplied the lime used to build the original Capitol building and produced over 50,000 barrels of lime annually. Along the creek adjacent to the lime kiln, carpenter, blacksmith, wheelwright, and paint shops sprung up. With the addition of homes for workers in the vicinity, this area became Austin's first industrial suburb.

To operate the kiln, fires under each of the two arches burned a half cord of cedar wood per hour. Their combined heat was directed by the natural draft against the limestone rock which was loaded into the kiln from the top. As the rock burned, it settled downward, and the quicklime rock was removed from the bottom level to be mixed with water and then combined with sand and other ingredients to make mortar. The reasonably-priced, high quality lime of the Taylor kiln, combined with abundant building stone, led to the extensive use of masonry construction in 19th century Austin.

As a standing reminder of West Austin's infancy, the image of the Taylor lime kiln is now one of the symbols of the West Austin Neighborhood Group. It is our history. Another symbol, the compass, represents

our locale. Together, WANG's ExComm members intend to serve both our history and our location, to preserve and protect our neighborhood.

Tarrytown Tales

At our Neighborhood Social, Janett Long Fish will spin tales about Austin of old and share stories of years past. A life-long Austin resident, Mrs. Fish was born in 1920, and remembers when 24th Street demarcated the city boundary. When she and her family moved to 2 1/2 acres on Green Lane in the early 30's, Pemberton Heights actually sat outside the city limits. An alumna of Austin High and The University of Texas, she grew up in a family that emphasized civic involvement. Mrs. Fish's father, Walter E. Long, worked hard to establish the lakes along the Colorado River.

Continuing her family's emphasis on involvement, Mrs. Fish, along with her husband Russell, pushed to establish the hike and bike trail along Shoal Creek, which was known as Comanche Trail because of its importance to traveling Native Americans.

Mrs. Fish believes that the most outstanding feature of early Austin was the generosity of its people. Citizens and business people looked for ways to contribute to the city, offered what they could to help others and improve the area. Although early Austinites had little wealth, they did have abundant energy and concern for the community.

We look forward to hearing more stories from our guest speaker, Janett Long Fish on the morning of September 25, 1999. We hope to see you there at our Neighborhood Social.

—Linda Dickens



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Continued from Page 1

SF-3 to GO, a zoning change on two houses just south of its campus from SF-3 to NO and a variance on the campus expansion on impervious cover requirements. TUMC is actively seeking input/comments from surrounding neighbors.

Walsh Boat Landing: When I moved into my home on Bonnie Road 22 years ago, I became a contiguous neighbor to the Walsh Board Landing (WBL) parking lot. At that time, neither the landing nor parking lot was dedicated park land (WANG pushed for a rezoning and the City Council granted a P [public] zoning in May of 1995). There was a very limited commercial development at Enfield Road and Lake Austin Boulevard, and Austin was still a fairly small city. Things have changed. Although not so obvious this past summer due to Walsh being closed for utility construction, the pressures of no City curfew, unregulated boating use of WBL (no coordination between boats and parking availability for their towing vehicles and trailers), and the parking overflow/customer behavior (read drunk and disorderly conduct/public urination) is overwhelming the neighborhood. A memo from a former ExComm member presented at the 7 June 1999, meeting outlined a proposed two-prong solution. The first part, the establishment of a Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program around Walsh, has not been contentious and is currently in the process of being implemented. This program, combined with a vigorously renewed request by WANG for a curfew on both the landing and parking lot, should go a long way

to calming down the area. The second part, asking the City to "explore options for alternative access to Lake Austin for motorized boats on trailers" and "for permanent closure of Walsh Landing for motor boats on trailers" with the idea of making Walsh a people friendly "green park," has proven highly controversial. For the last several months, I have solicited written comments from the membership and will eventually send copies to the appropriate parties (the letters so far are fairly evenly split pro and con). From my biased non-boater point of view, I believe Walsh's functioning as an access point to Lake Austin for motorized craft is limited, but I definitely can see the other side of the issue, I do know absolutely that the pedestrian use of Walsh seen this summer will be curtailed sharply when boat access begins again this fall. If you have an opinion on this and want it noted, please send me a writing.

Membership Renewals: Just a reminder that a lot of us renew at the Neighborhood Social, so bring a check when you come. We will have a membership table set up for your convenience.

Dog Walkers: As a daily morning hound walker, I would like to remind others of the need to clean up after your pets, whether it is someone else's yard or the street. This is not the most pleasant part of pet ownership, but it is a good way to recycle the plastic bags the newspaper comes in. This is our Neighborhood and we are Neighbors. Simple courtesy goes a long way toward enhancing our quality of life.

WANG's ExComm, as always, will meet the first Monday of each month (holidays excluded) at 7 pm, again this year at Howson Branch Library. I hope to see you at the Neighborhood Social, and feel free to contact me on Neighborhood business.

Blake Tollett
3701 Bonnie Road
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—Ann Phipps

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Neighborhood Park Improvements on the Way

West Austin neighbors will soon have three times as many play opportunities as before. Updates to the Tarrytown Park play area have been underway all summer and should be completed soon. Look for a new playscape in the shade, and the swings to be moved near the old playscape. Also note the new metal bridge.

West Enfield Park will get a facelift this fall as well. The Johnson Creek Hike and Bike Path will be extended through the park. New play equipment will be installed approximately where the slide is now.

The long-awaited Reed Park playscape will be under construction beginning about October 1. The contractor has been signed, the play equipment has been ordered, and construction fencing will go up soon. Both the West Enfield and Reed Park projects are anticipated to be completed within 60 days from starting, so sunny winter days should afford plenty of great new play opportunities for neighborhood children.

The Friends of Reed Park have worked with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department on the planning for the Reed Park play area. New safety requirements mandate the installation of a barrier along the driveway side of the play area. In place of unsightly chain-link fencing, the Parks Department has agreed to build a low stone wall. The wall will tie visually to the lime kiln across the wa, and provide lots of seating in the shade for watchful parents, grandparents, and caregivers. The Friends of Reed Park will be paying for the wall. If you would like to help by making a tax-deductible donation to this worthy project, please contact Ann Phipps at 472-3199 or aephpps@concentric.net.

Plans and pictures of these coming improvements will be available at the WANG Neighborhood Social.

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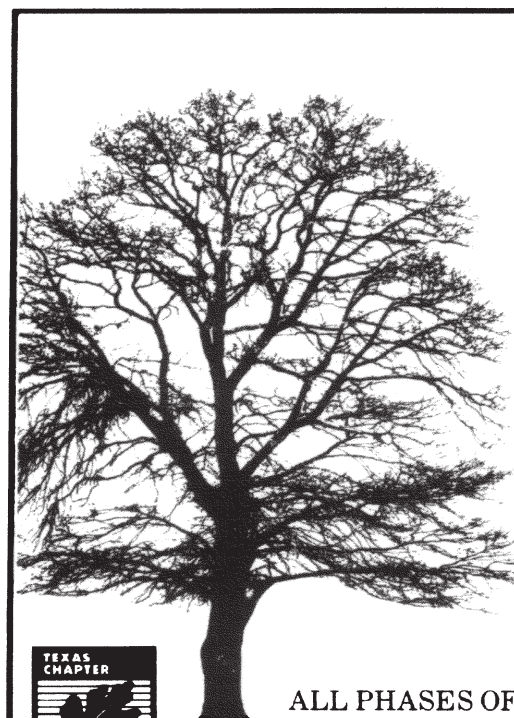
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