No Back Seat For Sendera Traffic Concerns

By Art Hays

I’ve been in Sendera since 2013. I live on Copano, south of Davis. My block, along with Ramies Run between Copano and Sendera Mesa Drive, sees quite a bit of traffic cutting through for Mopac access. This includes many people who don’t live in the neighborhood and who are usually in a big hurry during rush hour.

This cut-through traffic is not limited to these blocks, of course. I’ve heard similar complaints from residents about the rest of Copano, Latta, and Corran Ferry. It’s slightly better at Latta because there are no homes facing the street. Latta was originally designed to be a cut-through street for our area so it makes sense that the houses were designed not to face Latta.

Then there is Davis Lane between Brodie and Mopac: this area is treated like a highway, most likely because of its easy-to-drive design. The most recent city traffic study clocked speeds on Davis as high as 68 MPH. This is on a 40 MPH road, and one where junior-high and high-school school students wait for the bus and also dangerously cross the street. Neighbors report kids crossing Davis on bikes and on foot around the time school gets out.

Our city representatives have taken some action. Renée W. Orr (Arterial Management Division), Anna Martin (traffic engineer), and our District 8 City Council Member, Ellen Troxclair, have graciously responded to all of our concerns. The new pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) at Davis and Latta is one of those improvements that Council Member Troxclair was able to fund last year. Before the PHB was installed, there was not one pedestrian crossing on that stretch of Davis.

Per the city’s recommendation, we are also getting a light at Copano and Mopac, but the funding for that is still being worked out. Another major issue in that area is the slight curve between Corran Ferry and Copano that limits drivers’ ability to see someone pulling onto Davis, or a pedestrian trying to cross the street. I will never forget seeing a man and his son literally run for their lives as a car suddenly came up on them around the curve. There are traffic signs going west that ask drivers to be careful around the curve, but they seem to get ignored.

As far as future issues for our neighborhood, people have expressed apprehension over the upcoming Mopac/Slaughter construction (http://www.mopacsouth.com/intersections/proposal.php), fearing it will cause even more cut-through traffic on the streets I mentioned earlier. I have also heard many complaints from drivers about the wait times at the Davis exit off Mopac, as well as concern that a light there would cause delays. But I think the issue is that without lights, the high level of traffic has rendered these intersections inefficient, not to mention dangerous as there have been multiple reports on Nextdoor.com of drivers ignoring the stop sign. The intersection of Davis and Westgate—although not Sendera—is a great example of something that doesn’t work anymore as just a 4-way stop. The city is aware of these areas and has ranked them on their list of recommended projects. Anyone who is interested in the rankings of currently pending requests can access them here: https://data.austintexas.gov/dataset/Traffic-Signal-Requests/pnzb-xcxc/data.

There is a Facebook group for Sendera residents to join in the conversation about our traffic safety: https://www.facebook.com/drivesafesendera/. Renee Orr with Austin Transportation has been crucial in getting the PHB and traffic light studies done. She can be reached at (512) 974-5607 or renee.orr@austintexas.gov. Anna Martin is our area traffic engineer and can be reached at (512) 974-7105 or anna.martin@austintexas.gov.
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Annual Homeowner’s Meeting 2017

WHEN: Thursday, April 20, 2017, 6:30-8:30 pm
WHERE: Community Fellowship Hall
Bethany Lutheran Church
3701 W. Slaughter Lane
FOOD: Pizza & drinks!

Last year we had a record turnout of homeowners for the Sendera annual meeting. Mark your calendars to attend this year’s meeting on April 20. This is a great chance to meet the board, meet your neighbors, find out what’s happening, and share ideas to make our community better.

Homeowner attendance must be at least 10% in order for business to proceed. That means at least 82 homeowners must be present (or represented by proxy) in order to achieve a quorum and conduct the required yearly business. If attendance is not met, the board will have to schedule another meeting later in the year at a waste of time and money to the community.

An easy way to be represented at the meeting is by proxy. Watch your mailbox for the proxy form from Pioneer; they will be mailed ASAP to homeowners and will also be available on Nextdoor and in next month’s newsletter.

Sudoku

The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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Do you NEXTDOOR?
by Ron Urias

Sendera is blessed to have over 700 active accounts on Nextdoor.com. Are you a member yet? The BOD encourages you to sign up and become active with this electronic neighborhood bulletin board. Classified, lost and found, public announcements, URGENT notices, events and recommendations are just a few of the tools available to you.

You can choose to communicate with just the residents of Sendera or you can SHOUT IT OUT to 26 other neighboring subdivisions. There are also other notices posted by the City of Austin about critical meetings and connections in our area.

This is also a wonderful forum to communicate with the BOD directly, as many of us are online and can answer your questions or point you to resources/documents or great referrals. We also post many of the upcoming events and activities that affect you and your family.

You don’t know what you’re missing by not being a member, so please go to WWW.NEXTDOOR.COM and find out for yourself what this valuable website has to offer. Who knows, you may even tickle your funny bone reading the responses people have to current and upcoming events.

In the Garden
Submitted by Pamela Kurburski

Seem likes spring got here way ahead of schedule. It bumped all my pruning plans up by several weeks. Luckily, the January Sendera Garden Club meeting was all about the art of pruning. Even more fortuitous was the Central Texas Gardener episode airing the Saturday before the meeting. It covered a lot of pruning tips, especially the guidelines for pruning crape myrtles. We discussed a variety of pruning equipment (see photo) as well as what plants to shear and which ones should be cut down to the ground.

Unfortunately, a lot of people do a topping-off when pruning crape myrtles. What they wind up with is a bunch of side sprouts that have no shape. It is never an option in my mind. Central Texas Gardener had a good explanation about this at http://www.klru.org/ctg/2016/02/keep-crapes-pretty-with-pruning/. All I do to my crape myrtles is remove suckers from the bottom and keep the canopy trimmed up so I don't get hit in the head when I’m mowing under them. The real trick is to choose the proper variety for the space. There’s a good example of this over on Zuniga where they chose a variety that has a narrow, upright growth pattern. They are planted along the driveway and don’t take any pruning since they don’t spread at all. Whatever you do, don’t top them.

Even though the mild winter has allowed some plants to keep their leaves, most perennials (like Lantana, Esperanza and Beautyberry) benefit from a good cut back. Just be sure and leave enough of the plant so you can see where it is. You don’t want to step on those sharp sticks by accident. It’s not good for the plant and doesn’t do much for your foot, either. Evergreens should be sheared back to keep the new growth from encroaching on sidewalks and pathways. Many reseeding annuals have left behind the dead husks that produced all those seeds. It is past time that they joined the compost heap and made room for the next generation that will be sprouting up momentarily. For irises and lilies, remove any dead leaves and dried up rhizomes or bulbs. Once you have cleared up your beds, it’s time to compost and mulch before you consider buying new plants to fill in the blank spaces. Enjoy the spring! It’s usually shorter than the winter.

Sendera Garden Club meets on the third Thursday of each month. If you would like to join us, please call me at 512-940-8430 to find out when and where our next meeting will be held.

Sendera Recreation Committee News
March 2017
Submitted by Suzann Vera

The Sendera Spring Garage Sale will be held Friday, March 24th & Saturday, March 25th from 8:00am-1:00pm. (Rain date: April 7th & 8th.) An ad will be placed in the Austin American-Statesman, Nextdoor, and on Craig’s List. If you choose to participate on either/both day(s) have your items out by 8:00 A.M. All participants are encouraged to hang at least 1 sign.

Mark your Calendars! Sendera Spring Events:
• March 13-17 AISD Spring Break
• March 24th & 25th Spring Garage Sale
• April 1 Easter Egg Hunt by the Swim Center
• TBD Ladies Night
• June 10 Dive In Movie
• July 8 Dive In Movie
• August 12 Dive In Movie
• October 14 Fall Festival and Chili Cook Off
• TBD Fall Garage Sale
• October 27-29 Halloween Decorating Contest
• December 15-17 Christmas Decorating Contest

Event details can be found on:
The Sendera HOA website: www.senderahoa.org/home
The Sendera Facebook Page: facebook.com/SenderaHOA/NextDoor
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