



2018 Mueller Neighborhood Association Fall Festival Wrap-Up

By Evan McClendon, Photos by Woody Lauand

The Mueller Neighborhood Association’s Annual Fall Festival on November 10th was an event to remember. Each year local businesses and members of the community come together at John Gaines Park to celebrate the fall and build community. This year’s Festival was presented by our neighborhood sponsors, and featured live music by The Paul Klemperer Band, Colleen’s “Berry Good

Punch” made with Tito’s Handmade Vodka, fresh-popped kettle corn, The Bubble Magician, hair chalking by Haute Salon, and lots of delicious neighborhood fare. This event brought together hundreds of neighbors, adults and children alike, who braved the cold to build camaraderie and welcome the fall. A big thanks to all the volunteers that helped make this event a success.



Kids play with giant bubbles at the festival



A huge thanks to Evan McClendon and Kathy Farley for coordinating the event



HEB Buddy was on fun patrol duty, making sure everyone was having a great time



Mueller Neighborhood Association leadership



The Paul Klemperer Band kept everyone on their feet



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FRONT PORCH FLYER

(Continued from Page 2)

the community and adding transparency to their process.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who make our neighborhood events happen. These volunteers help organize all the fun that takes place in our neighborhood, including the Egg Scramble (coordinated by Leila Melhem & Richard Wood), the 4th of July Parade & Festival (chaired by Bill Berman & Bill Kirwin), and Fall Fest (chaired by Kathy Farley & Evan McLendon). These events are a lot of work and truly help to build community. I hope you were able to join in on the fun.

Lastly, I'd like to welcome the 2019 Steering Committee members. They are full of talent and energy and are poised to continue the community building efforts of the MNA. Please keep in mind their success also depends on volunteer efforts from you. With your help, I am confident they will do a great job in 2019.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on helping to build community within and outside of Mueller.

Warm regards,

Lila Valencia

Lila Val.



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Antone Wins 2018 Holiday Block Contest

Photos & Article by Drew Harris



Each year, The Front Porch Flyer recognizes the Mueller neighborhood block with the most holiday spirit. This is a block competition, not based on individual houses. We hope to encourage neighbors to work together to bring the biggest, brightest holiday cheer, for the joy of the entire Mueller neighborhood.

This year the 1900 block of Antone Street (the block closest to Airport Blvd) shows

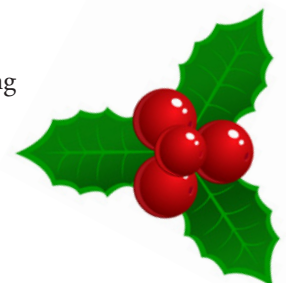
what we were looking for: not just one elaborately lit house, but three elaborately lit houses together in a row ... on both sides of the block!

An honorable mention goes to a prior winning block, the 2000 block of Emma Long, with their alternating colored lights on their trees. Ruiz and Page were two other streets with notable decorations.

Congratulations to the 1900 block of Antone, and when the next holiday season comes around, remember that your Front Porch Flyer editors will be looking to see which Mueller block has the best holiday spirit!

Past Holiday Block Winners

2017: 2600 block of Zach Scott
2016: South Threadgill
2015: 2000 block of Emma Long
2014: 2000 block of Antone
2013: South Berkman
2012: Gochman
2011: 4100 block of Threadgill
2010: Lawless
2009: Lawless
2008: Cal Rodgers



Mueller Supper Club

By Jaime Safianow

Hi friends! As a fairly-new resident of Mueller, one thing that has impressed me is the sense of community. All different walks of life are thriving in our neighborhood. Mueller is a diverse area with different beliefs, races, and religions, and yet people come together frequently to create a robust and thriving community. It's a magical place and I feel very lucky to live here.

After moving to Mueller, I was looking for a way to connect with my new neighbors, and one commonality that people have is: food! So I decided to see if I could find some other neighbors who would want to check out some new restaurants with me, and I reached out via the Mueller Neighbors Facebook page to see if there was any interest in creating a supper club. We now have over 150 members and are growing every day!

Since its inception, the group has collectively dined at many local Mueller restaurants as well as other great restaurants all over the city. Typically, we have at least two events a month (one on a Wednesday night and one on a Saturday night), and we alternate between local Mueller spots and restaurants outside the neighborhood. Some of our events include packing the Contigo patio with over 20 people, a large private event at Colleen's

Kitchen, a 10-course Chef's Tasting menu at Barley Swine, and an 8-course feast at Din Ho. We recently ate at Arlo Grey, Top Chef winner Kristen Kish's new restaurant, and also shared a great Italian meal at Red Ash. For our next event, we have 30+ people attending a private Mueller Cheese and Wine Party at Antonelli's.

Mueller Supper Club tries to accommodate as many people as possible, and is very welcoming and inclusive. All we ask is that you enjoy food and great conversation. We keep it light-hearted, welcoming, very fun, and I encourage anyone interested in the group to attend a future event.

There's a newly created Facebook group called "Mueller Supper Club," and I encourage anyone interested to like the page for upcoming event details, or follow our Instagram page: [mueller_supper_club](#)

If you have suggestions on where you'd like a future event to occur, please feel free to contact me at Jaime.safianow@yahoo.com

I'm looking forward to meeting other folks and having some fun new adventures. It's always casual and a really great time. Hope that you can join us!

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2018 MUELLER TURKEY TROT



Neighbor Lindsay Gray organized Mueller's very own Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning. Folks came out to run a casual 5k route from John Gaines Park, around the neighborhood, and back to the park.

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Mueller Ten Years Later: Reflections on a Holiday Tradition

By: Dusty Harshman, Photo by Woody Lauiland



the NOEL lightings of the early years. The first lighting ceremony my family attended was in 2007 at the newly renovated Mueller Central during the construction of the first handful of homes in Mueller. We were to be among the first residents in the neighborhood, and wanted to meet as many of our future neighbors as possible.

While we did meet many eventual neighbors that evening, we were somewhat surprised to also meet folks from the surrounding Windsor Park, Cherrywood, Delwood 2, and JJ Seabrook neighborhoods. The near Mueller residents clearly outnumbered the future Mueller residents at the event. I understood, with a faint notion, that the Mueller neighborhood was the invention of the neighborhoods that surrounded it, but this was my first taste of how deeply invested many of our fellow East Austinites were in the success of Mueller.

Fast forward to 2018...It didn't take long to have a revelation while walking around John Gaines Park during December's NOEL lighting at the Mueller Control Tower. I remarked to my family that this was likely the most Muellerfolk gathered in one place in the neighborhood's history. John Gaines was flooded with early holiday revelers that reflected the growth of our neighborhood. Among the 1,000 or so people in attendance, Mueller neighbors were everywhere...chatting up friends...waiting in line for hot cocoa...climbing on the playscape...posing for portraits. The weather was cool, the R&B band was hot, and the Reagan High drumline was even hotter (on fire!).

In 2007, Mueller may have become "3-D", but with the added fourth dimension of time, our neighborhood grows dynamically into a community. This year, as Austin City Council member Jimmy Flannigan flipped the switch and the NOEL floated brightly in the distance of the tower, I had a passing thought about how the annual tower lighting brings us together to recognize how fortunate we are to share this community.

In this series, Mueller Ten Years Later, we'll take a look at our neighborhood's early history and the ways we've evolved over our first ten years.

In the December 26, 2006 issue of the Austin Chronicle, urban historian Katherine Gregor described the upcoming transition of Mueller from an airport to a neighborhood. She commented about her drive down Manor Road: "The new Mueller neighborhood is brightened by the 'NOEL' display on the old airport's traffic control tower. A favorite of decades past, the holiday lighting was brought back at the request of surrounding neighborhoods. In 2007, Mueller will become 3-D."

As I enjoyed the 2018 Tower Lighting ceremony, I was reminded of

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It's Not Easy Being Green, or Rather, Blue!

By Taylor Youngblood

As amazing as Muellerites are at being green, we do have recurring "contamination" in our blue recycling carts. Below are incorrect items that are commonly found in Mueller's blue carts.

Did you know that the triangle commonly associated with recycling does not mean an item is automatically recyclable? It identifies the type of material. An item may be recyclable somewhere, but not necessarily in Austin. It's important to check What Do I

Do With, <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>, if you're not sure, especially if an item is not showing up on the current guide available at on the City's website.

Any items that are not recyclable via the blue cart, but that are accepted by the City of Austin (like Styrofoam), may be taken to the Austin Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center. <http://www.austintexas.gov/dropoff>



The items pictured in Photo 1 all belong in the trash cart. Carton containers for items such as milk (almond, soy, eggnog, etc.), liquid eggs, oatmeal, and paper mailers with plastic bubble wrap inside are made of mixed materials that cannot be separated or recycled in the City of Austin.



The items pictured in Photo 2 - as well as bubble wrap - are not recyclable in the blue cart; however they are recyclable at a store that has a bag recycling station at the entrance/front such as HEB, Central Market, Target, Walmart, etc. If these items are put in the blue recycling carts they can jam the machinery, causing hours of delay for cleaning and/or possible injury to workers. These items may also be taken to the Austin Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center.



The items pictured in Photo 3 do not go in the blue cart as-is. The plastic wrap needs to be removed from the cardboard tray and then may go to a store for bag recycling. The loose cardboard tray may go in the blue cart. The pizza box has food contamination and goes in the green compost cart. Styrofoam of any type, once clean and dry, goes to the Austin Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center. The egg carton, clean of egg may go in the blue recycling cart. With egg, it goes in the green compost cart. Extra recyclables will be collected at no extra charge. Once your blue cart is full, place additional recyclables in a cardboard box or other reusable container next to your cart.

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Rathgeber Village: Everyday Heroes in Mueller

By Susan Egan



The journey of four non-profit organizations toward new, permanent homes began with Dick Rathgeber's caring for other humans, his vision, and his ability to make things happen.

Rathgeber Village sits near the intersection of Zach Scott Street and Manor Road, at the far east end of the Mueller neighborhood. The 17.6-acre plot of land was donated to the Austin Community Foundation in 2008 by Dick and Sara Rathgeber, to provide homes for several non-profit organizations that help children. These are Austin Children's Shelter, Salvation Army (Austin Citadel Corps Community Center and Area Command), Rise School of Austin, and Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Central Texas. The SAFE Alliance also has administrative offices in the BBBS building. The style of the buildings may look familiar, as Rathgeber Village was required to follow Mueller Design Book guidelines in order to fit in with our community. The main entrance to the village is on Manor Road just north of Zach Scott Street.

Rathgeber Village came about after Dick Rathgeber, a local real estate developer and philanthropist, visited a children's shelter on busy Enfield Road and realized it was inadequate and unsafe for children. Still very engaged in his 70s, he began looking for a better shelter location and found it as he was driving along Manor Road one Sunday afternoon. He knew the property, adorned with a small, rusted metal realtor's sign, was adjacent to what would soon be developed into the Mueller neighborhood. It took a year before he was able to negotiate the purchase and donate the property for a new children's shelter.

The Austin Children's Shelter made its new home at Rathgeber Village in 2009, with 5 cottages. In 2015, the shelter and SafePlace (formerly The Center for Battered Women) joined to form the SAFE Alliance. (A future Front Porch Flyer article will focus on SAFE and its local facilities, one of which will soon open on Tannehill Lane.)

The newest organization to locate at the Village is the **Salvation Army Austin Citadel Corps and Area Command**. Major Andy Kelly, a 34-year Salvation Army veteran, and his wife, Major Amy Kelly, were assigned to the facility after serving in Washington, D.C., among other places. Together, the Kellys oversee all Salvation Army facilities in Travis and Williamson Counties, including shelters and Social Service Centers, plus stores and donation centers that fund a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in South Austin. This is one

of about 40 Salvation Army Area Command centers in the U.S. Groundbreaking for the building took place in June of 2017, and the offices were occupied in September 2018. The 17,000 square foot \$6.4 million facility includes a chapel, gym, classrooms, kitchen, and community room on the first floor. Administrative offices are housed on the second floor. The community center is intended for public use, including neighborhood meetings, banquets and receptions, and indoor basketball (which may require a reservation). A banquet hall seats 200 and has a commercial kitchen.

The Salvation Army lobby has a display of articles, awards, and photos of Dick Rathgeber, who has donated much time and money to a variety of Austin area causes. Rathgeber started working with the Salvation Army in the 1970s. His family donated money for the downtown Salvation Army shelter and purchased land to double the capacity of the Salvation Army operated Austin Shelter for Women and Children. In 2016, he was awarded the title of Honorary Colonel, one of the highest honors given by the Salvation Army and the first in Texas. Only 7 others worldwide have received this award in Salvation Army history, which began in 1865.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas headquarters at Rathgeber Village opened in October 2016 and held its grand opening in January 2017. It includes a youth activity center, meeting rooms, offices, and conference space. BBBS of Central Texas started as "Dads and Sons Clubs" in the 1960s and in 1971 became Big Brothers of Austin. The organization's objective is to "provide children facing adversity with professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever."

By 1974, the organization served more than 250 boys and in 1975 was renamed Big Brothers Big Sisters of Austin. The group now serves over 1,000 children and families, and there's a waiting list of 270 children, mostly boys. About two thirds of children served are from single parent families, and 85 percent live at or below the poverty level.

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FRONT PORCH FLYER

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The mentoring center is named for Kyndel Bennett and Dick Rathgeber, partners on several projects over many years. Bennett, a developer of affordable communities in Texas, has been involved with BBBS for over 20 years and is a past board chair of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas. Kyndel and Laura Bennett were major financial contributors to the building, and will be recognized in February for their philanthropy by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Greater Austin Chapter.

The BBBS philosophy is simple and clear: “The greatest predictor of a child’s future success is the presence of a consistent, supportive adult in their life.”

Providing supportive adults to children in need is the organization’s specialty: they carefully match compatible adult mentors with client children based on interests, personality, proximity, and preferences. Mentors make a minimum one year commitment to meet for an hour three to four times a month. Many of these relationships last for a lifetime, and many former “Littles” go on to become mentors or community volunteers themselves. Mentored children do better socially and in school, and attend college at higher rates than peers.

Opening its first permanent location at Rathgeber Village in 2014, the **Rise School of Austin** is a 26,000 square foot preschool with seven classrooms and a unique environment for 85 students, ages 12 months to five years. About half of the Rise students are children with developmental delays. All children, gifted, traditional, and developmentally delayed, learn and play side by side in the same classrooms.

The lobby of the school building includes a large mosaic, which was designed by artist Tracy Van Duinen, in keeping with the school’s parents’ and teachers’ vision of what the Rise School means to them. A

large tree is the artwork’s focal point, with the mosaic pieces assembled by parents and seeds painted by students. Within the artwork is a quote from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: “There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings.”

The first Rise School was established at the University of Alabama in 1974. There are now seven such schools in the U.S., including four in Texas, and one in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Alabama. The Rise School of Austin opened its doors in 2003, and had multiple temporary locations before moving to its current, permanent, location in Rathgeber Village in 2014. In 2011, University of Texas notables, Mack and Sally Brown, two of the school’s original board members, were honored for their longstanding commitment to the Rise School when the new Austin site was unveiled.

The Rise School of Austin currently serves families in 29 local zip codes. Rise offers scholarships and financial assistance to ensure their program is accessible to any family seeking a high quality early childhood education. Donations and fundraising events currently cover 60 percent of operating costs.

All of the organizations at Rathgeber Village are everyday heroes to those they serve. They need support, and are willing to serve our community as well. Mueller residents looking for a nearby place to have meetings or banquets, or to volunteer and/or donate, need look no farther than the east end of Mueller, where Dick Rathgeber made all of this possible.

Now 85 years old, Rathgeber continues to do real estate deals and be a champion for human needs. He recognizes that there’s always more need than available facilities, and said he wakes up many nights with ideas. “I will have my finger stuck up in the air as they close my casket,” he quipped.



Mueller Neighborhood Association Membership Form

To become a voting MNA member, a Mueller resident must complete this form and submit annual dues (FY end, Nov. 30). New members must then wait 14 days before they may vote. Annual dues are \$5.00 per resident, 18 years or older. These funds are used to help pay for the Front Porch Flyer, MNA Grants, funding neighborhood events, and operating costs such as printing, record-keeping, and the MNA P.O. Box.

You may give your dues to your Block Captain, bring it to an MNA meeting, or mail it to: MNA, PO Box 49123, Austin, TX 78765. Checks may be written to “Mueller Neighborhood Association.”

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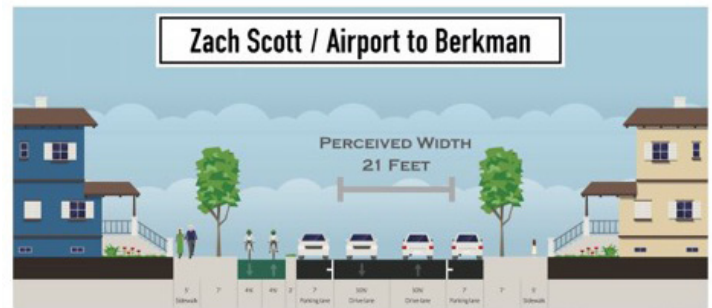
WHAT'S UP WITH ZACH SCOTT?

Andrew Clements, Chair MNA Transportation & Urban Planning Committee

Mueller residents experienced the gravel going down on Zach Scott Street, west of Berkman to Airport Boulevard (wasn't that a fun phase?). Then a new coat of asphalt but no traffic lane striping or other markings yet. Just what is up?

Well, it started with a notice from the City of Austin Transportation Department (ATD) back in July. The letter notice was alerting Mueller residents to "an opportunity to give input on proposed street improvements" – and those streets were Zach Scott Street (from Airport Boulevard to Berkman Drive) and Schieffer Avenue (what Zach Scott becomes after crossing Airport) plus an illustration of existing and new street cross-section to depict proposed changes. The primary improvement proposed was two-way protected (meaning separated from traffic) bicycle lanes. See Figures 1-3 from the ATD letter notice below.

MNA, and sent to the ATD. The MNA Counter-Proposal street cross-section (see illustration below) keeps two-way protected bicycle lanes, but a narrower barrier allows on-street car parking to remain on the north side of Zach Scott. Another benefit is the perceived



Credit – Preston Tyree

open width (between on-street parking on both sides) is less than the ATD Proposal, which means traffic speeds should be lower.

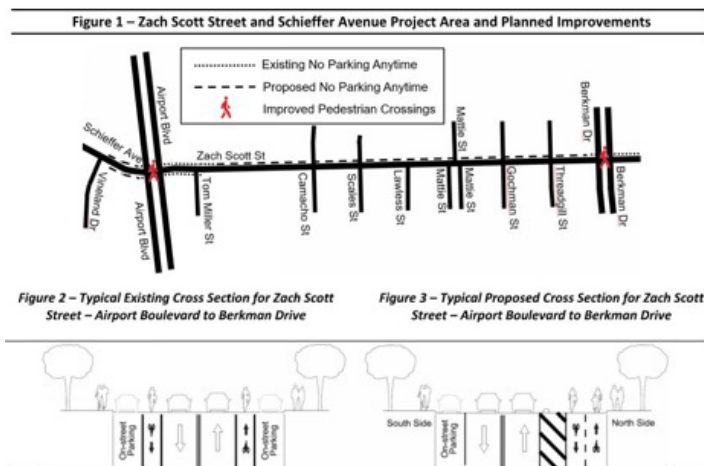
And the result? The MNA Counter-Proposal was accepted (to a great extent) by the ATD! And most (okay, not all) of the on-street parking on the north side of Zach Scott Street, in front of residences, will remain. Some existing parking will be lost for safe "sight distances" at intersections. The work will be phased, with a possible curbed barrier between the bike lanes and car parking coming last, and in a partnership between ATD and Catellus (Master Developer of Mueller). Even more good news? The intersection of Mattie and Zach Scott will be studied for all-way stop signs and an improved trail crossing at Tom Miller Street.

The final image, below, shows the actual ATD layout to be installed along a typical block of Zach Scott.



Credit – Austin Transportation Department

Thanks to all Mueller Residents who participated in this effort; and members of the MNA Transportation Committee (especially Preston Tyree), and to the Austin Transportation Department & Austin Fire Department who listened to our concerns and maintained transparency throughout the process.



Credit – Austin Transportation Department

The MNA Steering Committee directed the Transportation & Urban Planning Committee (hereafter referred to as the Transportation Committee) to study the ATD proposal, and to prepare a possible MNA response. The Committee sought neighborhood response, especially from residents along the affected stretch of Zach Scott Street. What came through loud and clear was the loss of on-street car parking, on the entire north side of the street (under the ATD proposal) was not welcomed or acceptable. And the Transportation Committee had two additional concerns – namely that the perceived "open" width of the street increased under the ATD proposal and would likely result in increased and unsafe speeds; and that pedestrians' crossing distances, both real and perceived, at cross-street intersections would increase, making crossing Zach Scott feel even more unsafe than now.

A formal Project Open House was held by the ATD on August 8th at the AISD PAC to get public input, and a formal MNA Counter-Proposal was prepared by the LUT Committee, approved by the



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