



THE MUELLER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

the FRONT PORCH FLYER

Please Welcome Your New 2019 MNA Steering Committee



Front Row: Lila Valencia (ex-officio), Joan Quenan, Alison Raffalovich (Secretary)
Penny Brandt (Treasurer), Suzanne O'Malley, Maria Salas

Back Row: Richard Carr (Vice chair), Dan Updegrove, Preston Tyree (Co-chair), John Wooding (Co-chair), April Geruso, Bart Glaser

Not pictured: Bill Kirwin, Bart Jacob

Photo by Woody Lauland

the FRONT PORCH FLYER

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TREASURER

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April Geruso, Bart Glaser, Bart Jacob Bill Kirwin, Suzanne O'Malley, Joan Quenan Maria Salas, Dan Updegrove

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MNA Community Builder Spotlight Dave Neider

By Dennis Mick

Editor's note: Recognizing members of the Mueller Community for playing important roles in the creation of the social infrastructure of our interconnected, supportive and culturally stimulating neighborhood, winners of the MNA's Neighborhood Builder Award are named annually. One recent winner is David Neider, Mueller resident since 2010.

David Neider served on the MNA Steering Committee for several years in various capacities, including a year as its chair. He moderates a neighborhood Facebook group but still appreciates interpersonal contact. "We are a hyper connected neighborhood with many avenues for connection, virtually and otherwise. As we grow, those virtual interactions can begin to make one feel more anonymous and less tied to the humanity of those around us, but connecting online is not a replacement for face-to-face interaction.

"Prior to moving here I was looking forward to a stronger sense of community and walkability," he says, "both were lacking in the North Austin Suburb I moved from. The design of our neighborhood including porches, limited private yards, lots of parks, density and many local destinations gives us a huge head start on creating community and encouraging interaction among neighbors. While finding community came quickly in the early years, walkability took a bit longer to kick in. We had amenities like parks early on and eventually other walking destinations arrived."

According to Mueller resident Mateo Barnstone, "Among many other things, Dave was the primary organizer behind the mass participation events at Alamo Drafthouse and Kerbey Lane Cafe - well, as of this month we can now enjoy a movie at the Alamo and follow it up with a late night breakfast at Kerbey Lane, all without leaving the neighborhood. If that isn't worth of an award I don't know what is!"

A strong advocate for alternatives to automobile transportation, Dave is regularly involved in Cap Metro bus route and related public transportation issues.

In accepting the 2018 Mueller Community Builder Award from past chair Lila Valencia at a recent MNA meeting, Dave pointed out that volunteering with the MNA has taught him that a small group of well organized people can enact real change in their community and the city at large. "If you have been dreaming up ways to improve our neighborhood," he says, "get organized and make it happen!"



Photo by Paula Suchland



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Message from the MNA Steering Committee Co-Chairs

Hi Neighbors,

As co-Chairs of the Mueller Neighborhood Association (MNA) and the association's Steering Committee, Preston and I are excited for what the upcoming year has in store for our organization and our neighborhood. We have a great group of folks on the Steering Committee, and together we've identified two areas where we see the greatest opportunities for the growth of our community and the MNA— community engagement and involving residents in the association.

As an organization, we strive to find ways to meaningfully engage neighbors like you. Our regular membership meetings and events, such as Fall Fest, play a big role in bringing us together as a community. We are also excited about the potential to reach every neighbor's mailbox with updates and events, regardless of membership status, through the Front Porch Flyer. This is a first for

Mueller and a crucial step in fulfilling our pledge to reach out to you no matter what your living situation may look like.

What makes the Mueller Neighborhood Association such an incredible organization is the initiative our community takes in getting involved. Our organization offers many ways to become part of shaping your community through opportunities to serve on different subcommittees of the association. Each subcommittee of the association deals with a specific function or policy area of the MNA. Whether you're a policy wonk or a neighbor simply looking for a way to get involved, we encourage you to visit our website at www.muellerneighborhood.org and follow us on social media under our name, Mueller Neighborhood Association.

We can't wait to work with you to build an even better Mueller.

Your neighbors,
John Wooding & Preston Tyree



Maplewood Elementary School's Fourth Annual Parent Prom

By Maplewood PTA

Maplewood Elementary school returns yet again with its kitschy, funky annual fundraiser. The East Austin school, one of two AISD elementary schools to which Mueller residents are zoned, announced the Fourth Annual Parent Prom to be held on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019 from 7PM to 11PM at the Getaway Motor Club located at 3700 Thompson St. This year's event is themed "The Awkward Years." "This year we wanted to celebrate our school by bringing people together in a way that encourages openness and vulnerability," said Elizabeth McQueen, event chair and PTA Board member. "That's why we chose to celebrate 'The Awkward Years.'"

The evening will feature live music by The Recliners (featuring Maplewood Dad Neal Mehta) from 7PM – 8PM and DJ Girlfriend from 8PM – 11PM. There will also be a killer silent auction, a funky photo booth, dancing all night long and much more. G&M Catering will provide food, drink and a cash bar, and proceeds from the evening will go to support the school's literacy programs and library. The event is public and all adults (21 and up) are welcome. General admission tickets for the evening are free or a suggested donation of \$25 per ticket. For tickets (as well as boutonnieres and corsages) go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-annual-maplewood-parent-prom-tickets-53364494640>.

Parent Prom sponsorship opportunities are open to families or businesses under a variety of different sponsorship levels called "Team

Awkward." By joining Team Awkward, Parent Prom sponsors make it possible for other Maplewood families, teachers, and staff to attend the event. Team Awkward sponsorships help cover yearly costs associated with literacy support and more on behalf of the PTA. For more information on Team Awkward, or to get involved, visit the Eventbrite link above. "As PTA President this year, it is important that we host events without barriers to participation," said Stephanie Perrone-Freeborg and Amber Welsh. "By joining a Team Awkward, you support the school's mission and vision of inclusiveness and peace."

Maplewood Elementary school is located in East Austin and teaches grades pre-K through sixth. The school, opened in 1951, is known for its diverse student body and its motto, "Increase the Peace." The school is rated exemplary in the areas of overall performance, the fine arts, wellness and physical education, community and parental involvement, digital learning environment, dropout prevention strategies, its Second Language Acquisition Program and its 21st Century Workforce Development Program.

Maplewood is a resource to the surrounding community, serving as an official polling location and the venue for the annual Cherrywood Art Fair, one of Austin's most cherished holiday markets. For more information on Maplewood Elementary, please see www.maplewoodelementary.com.

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Reagan High School Early College Program

By Yazzen Turk

After attending a charter school for elementary and very small private middle school, I began my freshman year at Reagan Early College High School in 2017. It wasn't my first choice and it was a rough start. I had never met a student from Reagan, there were no other kids from Mueller there, and I had heard the school had intolerance and bullying. Most of the kids in my class had come from the same feeder middle schools and already knew each other, and my transition from a school of 30 students to a school of 1,200 meant learning to navigate an entirely different system than I was used to.

Though it took a lot of adjustment on my part, the things I have learned from this experience so far have been to find my own focus when there are distractions, adapt to every opportunity, there are great things happening at a school whose reputation does not reflect its innovativeness, and the kids there are trying their best to make it through high school just like me. Reagan has given me the opportunity to be a part of the Early College program, where I attend classes at Austin Community College and plan to have enough credits to graduate from ACC with an Associates Degree at the same time as I graduate high school. I play on the soccer, cross country, and tennis teams. Our coaches show up early to help us

work out, encourage us in more than just sports, and put their all into helping us make the best with what we have.

Eighty-four percent of students at Reagan are economically disadvantaged and 35% are English language learners. Some of the kids at school are dealing with a lot of challenges that make it difficult for them to be focused on learning. I see the teachers and administration going above and beyond to try to meet kids where they are and help all of us to meet our potential. I wish there was more support from the community and more kids from Mueller that decided to go to Reagan, but I am grateful for my experience and look forward to graduating with the class of 2021.



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MUELLER PSYCHOTHERAPY

Steve and Judith Katzman



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Paggi Square Shops


Images by Brenna Dwyer

Paggi Square is surrounded by what are called “shop homes,” a home with a retail space on the ground floor. Enclosed by Ruiz St, Robert Browning, and Page St, 14 different spaces provide many different amenities to the neighborhood. The directory provides a listing of the shops. Paggi Square - keeping it hyper-local. Take a stroll through Paggi Square, stop into the shops and see what our neighborhood has to offer.

Peggi Square Shops

Shop-homes South Side

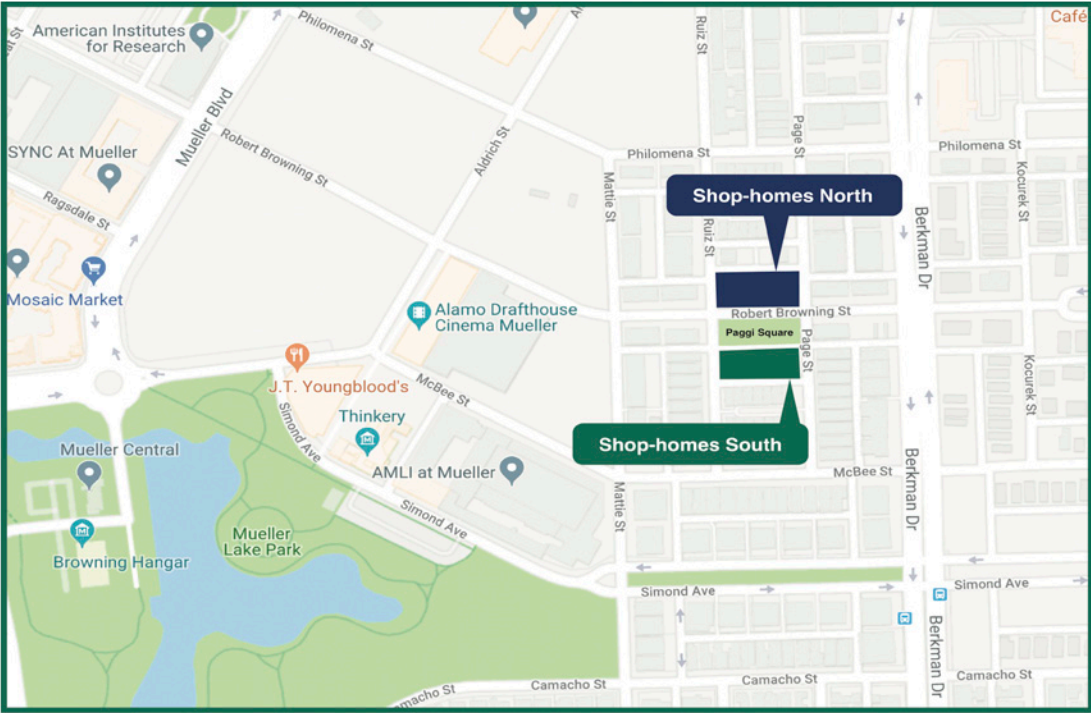
- 1) Haute European Salon and Beauty Products
4533 Ruiz St.
(512) 368-5880
haute-salon.com
- 2) Neofaue Studio & Gallery
4537 Ruiz St.
(512) 294-0786
neofaue.com
- 3) Ino Scarf Boutique
4541 Ruiz St.
(512) 937-3466
inollection.com
- 4) Centerpath Wellness
4552 Page St.
(512) 596-5510
centerpathwellness.com
- 5) Yawp
4548 Page St.
(512) 293-5100
austinyawp.com
- 6) Miniature Dental & Pharmacy
4544 Page St.
(512) 382-6020
muellerdentalaustin.com
- 7) Sharp Noggin
4540 Page St.
(512) 522-9770
sharpnoggin.com



Shop-homes North Side

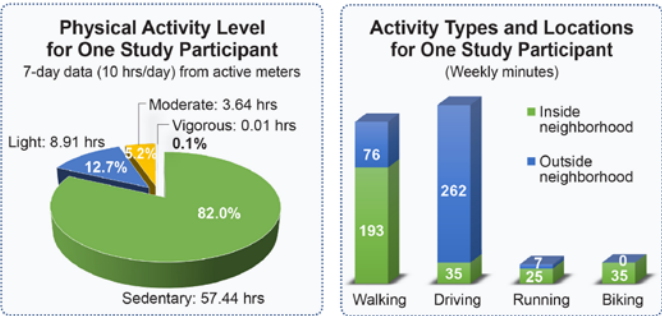
- 8) Mi Casa Es Tu Casa
2032 Robert Browning St.
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micasastucasa.com
- 9) Toy Dojo
2036 Robert Browning St.
(206) 569-5139
toydojo.com
- 10) The Hookers Rack
2040 Robert Browning St.
(512) 788-7236
hookersrack.com
- 11) East Austin Culinary Studio
2100 Robert Browning St.
(737) 203-0885
eastaustinculinarystudio.com
- 12) Drop-Inn Hourly Child Care Center
2104 Robert Browning St.
(512) 777-5568
mydropinn.com
- 14) Ashtanga Yoga Austin
2112 Robert Browning St.
ashtangayogaaustin.com

Location of Paggi Square



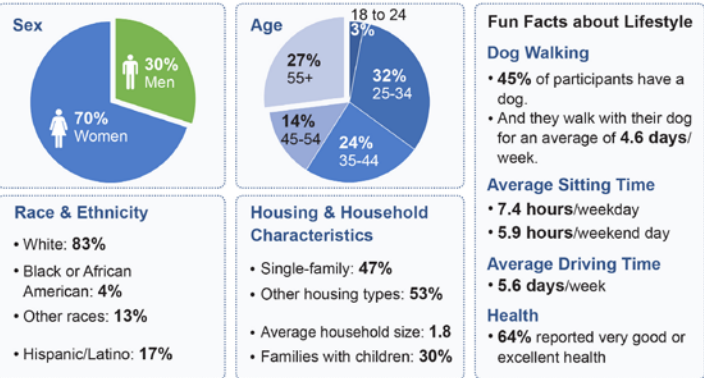
Active Living Austin

What makes a healthy community? Can moving to a walkable and activity-friendly neighborhood enhance a person’s health? These are some of the key questions being tackled at the intersection of the built environment and public health, which are being examined by Texas A&M researchers in a National



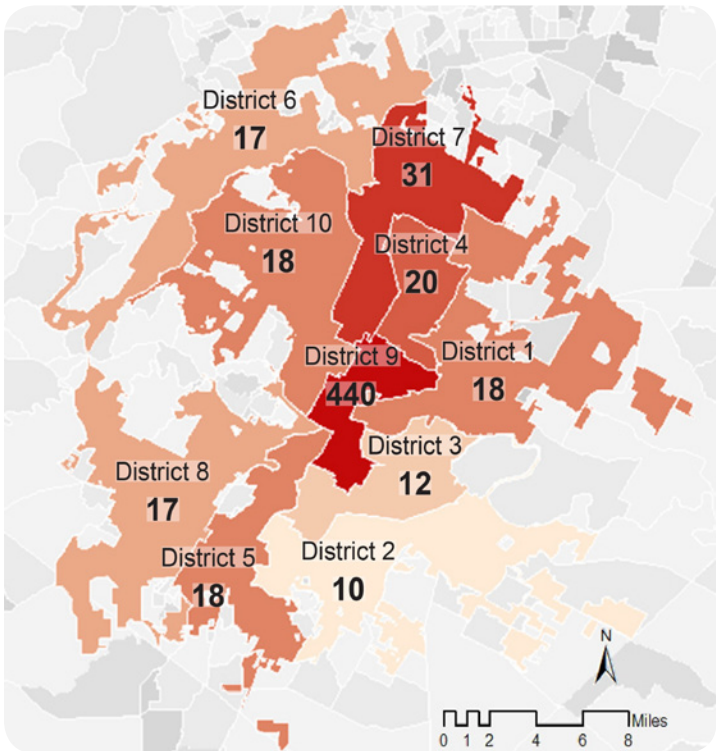
Data from our participants help us understand what physical activities they engage in, when and where different activities take place, how community environments play a role, and much more.

Institutes of Health (NIH) study titled “Active Living Austin (ALA).” But the study needs more participants, particularly people who are just relocating to Mueller. So far, a large percentage of the study’s 636 participants live in Mueller. Participation in this study involves completing an online survey at 3 time points and



Snapshot of our current study participants

possibly wearing activity meters for one week at each of those 3 time points. Gift cards of up to \$360 are provided to eligible participants satisfactorily completing all parts of the study. The study hopes to show short- and long-term changes in residents’ health after moving to Mueller. They are also determining what built and natural environmental factors lead to such changes, and how individual and social factors play a role. “This study represents a strong university-community partnership and multi-disciplinary collaboration,” the researchers say. The research team is led by three investigators, Dr. Marcia



Where Our Participants Come From: Different Council Districts in Austin

Ory from the School of Public Health and Drs. Xuemei Zhu and Chanam Lee from College of Architecture. It also includes other scholars from public health, health policy, architecture, urban planning, computer sciences, statistics, and education. The success of this study is built upon the strong support from community partners including local residents, developers, builders, apartment leasing teams, and city of Austin. At the end of the study, the ALA team hopes to inform future development of healthy communities by:

- identifying effective environmental changes that can promote physical activity and health
- understanding if and how people from diverse backgrounds are affected by such changes differently
- addressing the importance of making healthy living an easy choice for all

Do you know someone moving to Mueller? Help refer them to join our study BEFORE the move and receive \$20 incentive for referral.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 12, 6-8 pm: Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission - Chestnut Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Ave

February 16, 10 am: MNA Meeting, Seton Administration Building - 1345 Philomena St

Farmer's Market Events:

February 3, 11am - 1pm: Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins + Chinese New Year Celebration


February 6, 5:30-7:30pm: Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins + The Black Farmer Files w/ Austin History Center

February 16, 5:30-7:30pm: Valentine's Day card making

February 17, 11am - 1pm: Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins

February 20, 5:30-7:30pm: The Black Farmer Files w/ Austin History Center

February 27 6-8pm: Movie Night



Mueller Neighborhood Association Membership Form

To become a voting MNA member, a Mueller resident must complete this form and submit annual dues. 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."

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

(Your email will only be used for official MNA communications)

What's Up with Zach Scott?

By Andrew Clements

Following last month's Front Porch Flyer article ("What's up with Zach Scott?") - after the article, and the FPF, was in the throes of publication - the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) issued an update. No real changes in the project, including the features the MNA advocated (yea!) but notice with a more detailed proposed timeline including the following:

- Construction on intersection improvements at Zach Scott Street and Berkman Drive is expected to begin in mid to late January, and work may last roughly three weeks.
- Construction on intersection improvements at Zach Scott Street and Airport Boulevard is expected to begin immediately following completion of construction at Berkman Drive and may last roughly three weeks. Intersection improvement construction is expected to be completed by March.
- Roadway striping installation on Zach Scott Street between Airport Boulevard and Berkman Drive, and on Schieffer Avenue between Vineland Drive and Airport Boulevard, will be coordinated with the completion of intersection improvements, and so is expected to be performed in March 2019.

More good news regarding another MNA advocacy point: ATD has received approval to install all-way stop signs on the Mueller portion of Zach Scott Street (between Airport Boulevard and Berkman Drive) - at the Mattie Street and Camacho Street intersections. These new, additional all-way stops will increase safety, both for pedestrians crossing at these intersections and by reducing driving speeds on Zach Scott. According to the ATD update, these all-way stops should be installed along with the roadway striping phase of the project.

The update also states "ATD and Catellus continue to explore a partnership to upgrade the striped bicycle facilities to include raised curb protections. If this partnership reaches an agreement, these upgrades could be constructed in a later phase." (Author's note: this is considered a very desirable upgrade, and is a feature the MNA advocated for previously.)

Austin Transportation Department project website:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/page/zach-scott-street-and-schiefferavenue>. If you have questions or comments, please contact Neil Quarles at (512) 974-7657 or Neil.Quarles@austintexas.gov

El Departamento de Transporte de Austin (ATD) pronto implementará mejoras planificadas en Zach Scott Street desde Airport Boulevard hasta Berkman Drive, y Schieffer Avenue desde Vineland Drive hasta Airport Boulevard. Sin embargo, debido a las dificultades climáticas y de los equipos, el programa de construcción ha cambiado y va a ocurrir entre enero y marzo de 2019. Si necesita un documento traducido en español, llame a (512) 974-7092.

Report from the Mueller Supper Club's Cheese Tasting Event

Photos and Article by Drew Harris

On a cold Wednesday evening in December, about 30 Mueller neighbors gathered at Antonelli's Cheese Shop for a private wine and cheese tasting. Here is my report from that delicious event.

As a big fan of cheeses (even the stinky kind!), I had been wanting to try Antonelli's cheese classes for a while. When I heard that Jaime Safianow (who leads the Mueller Supper Club) had organized a December 19 private event there, I quickly bought tickets for my wife and myself. At \$54 each (about the cost of a normal cheese tasting class), the tickets soon sold out.

Antonelli's had printed special menus with the five cheeses we would be tasting that night. Each cheese had some sort of pairing (meat, fruit, or special honey), and the courses were served along with bread, olives, nuts, and wine. Our cheese guide described each course, and we slowly worked our way from a creamy mild soft goat cheese to a tart tasty blue cheese. All the cheeses were from the United States—except for my favorite, the "Black Betty," a goat's milk gouda with robust flavor, from Holland.

To make the event even more fun, Jamie had organized an "ugly Christmas sweater" contest. Some people went all out with head-to-foot holiday ensembles! Everybody who participated in the contest got a prize of some sort, and many more gifts were given as raffle prizes. We finished the night with a chocolate dessert and hot chocolate.

Despite having lived at Mueller for over 10 years, I recognized few attendees, and I got to meet many new neighbors. Several had moved to Mueller within the last two years, and were eager to find ways to socialize with their new neighbors.

Many years ago, there was a Mueller Supper Club where sets of four households were grouped together randomly to have dinners at each other's homes or at restaurants. Jamie's new incarnation of the Mueller Supper Club seems a bit easier to administer, and hopefully will connect many more Mueller neighbors. I had a great time, and plan to go to the next event!



Cheese Tastings



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