



THE MUELLER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

# the FRONT PORCH FLYER

## The Fourth Annual Zach Scott Birthday Party



*The Fourth Annual Zach Scott Birthday Party was held on March 2, 2019, hosted by Zach Scott Block Captains Anita Roberts, Auzzie Krobatsch, and Katie and Woody Lauland. The Mueller Community Singers lead neighbors from all over Mueller in singing "Happy Birthday." Then everyone enjoyed cake and ice cream courtesy of the Mueller Neighborhood Association (MNA).*

*Photo courtesy of Woody Lauland*

Correction: In Part 1 of Beyond the TLAs: Your Neighbors in Action through MNA CommitteesI in the March 2019 issue of the Front Porch Flyer, we referred to the Transition and Community Space Initiative committees as 'indirectly tied to the MNA.' This notation was made in error. The Transition and Community Space Initiative Committees are very much a part of the MNA. These committees are chaired by Karen Sharp and work continues, including a meeting between Transition committee members and Catellus staff as well as a scheduled tour of the Salvation Army space at Rathgeber Village by members of the Community Space Committee. We apologize for any confusion.

Hi Neighbors,

As co-Chairs of the Mueller Neighborhood Association Steering Committee, John and I have been busy this month working with the many committees and their members to see what can be done to make our community work better for all of our residents and visitors. If that looks a lot like the first paragraph for the letter in March, we are continuing to work for our residents.

The Transportation and Urban Planning Subcommittee is continuing to work with Catellus to try to get the big construction trucks off of the residential streets and on the streets where they belong. It seems to be working as the number of complaints has dropped considerably. As the construction continues, it will be interesting to see if we have to raise the issue again

Our sponsor list is growing quickly thanks to the good work by Lila Valencia and Bart Glaser. Some of the new businesses in Mueller are stepping up to sponsor the work of the MNA. With their support, our three signature events are moving forward.

The Egg Scramble is set. The dynamic planning duo Leila Melhem and Richard Wood have joined efforts with Joan Quenan. They are working towards a great event on Saturday, April 20. They can use some help filling plastic eggs with prizes for the children. We have lots of eggs but if you have some extra we can always use more.

Note: There will be no General Membership Meeting in April due to a conflict with the Egg Scramble event.

The annual Yard Sale is coming up. On Saturday, April 13 from 8am-noon, you will be able to find that perfect gift for yourself or someone else. Goodwill trucks will be at Ella Wooten Park for those things you didn't sell.

The website committee is working to find a new name that is more representative of the work they are really doing on all the informational tech tasks. You should have noticed that the website is working better and has more information than ever. Bart Jacob is doing a great job and is being helped by Dusty Harshman and Bill Kirwin. Be sure to visit us at [www.muellerneighborhood.org](http://www.muellerneighborhood.org).

We have lots of events coming up in Mueller including the HonkTX event March 29-31. Lots of good music and big brass bands. Check the website for this and other activities.

We are looking forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

Your neighbors,  
Preston Tyree & John Wooding





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## MNA "Community Builder" Award Recognizes Veronica Castro de Barrera

By Dennis Mick



*Barreras Photo Caption: Members of Veronica Barrera's family are (from left) Andrea, Veronica, Martin, and Sebastian.*

*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 Veronica Castro de Barrera, Mueller resident since 2009.*

Vitally interested in sharing of cultural values and traditions, "Veronica and her husband Martin open their home to neighbors interested in learning to make paella," said Lila Valencia, immediate past chair of the MNA. "Her father cooks in their kitchen as neighbors learn about their culture and experiences."

Veronica also served on a diversity panel during a neighborhood conversation with Austin Mayor Steve Adler and advocated for the inclusion of a new middle school in Mueller in the last AISD bond election. Many will remember, as did Dusty Harshman, Veronica's role in "the ultimate community event several years ago: The Lake Park Hug...inviting residents and community members to gather at Lake Park for a picnic and then join hands in effort to make a human chain around the entire lake."

**Front Porch Flyer:** What were your expectations of "community" when moving to Mueller? Has it met those expectations?

**Veronica:** My expectation of what it means "to live in community" was shaped early in life growing up in the pedestrian-friendly city of Queretaro in the heart of Mexico. I had a deep nostalgia for that place because the memories of walking and playing outdoors everywhere in the streets full of life were integral in my joyful upbringing. I dreamed of raising my children in a vibrant place similar to my childhood and Mueller's vision aligned with my dream. Every day my love for this place and its people continues to grow. I often say that I have a serious crush on Mueller, so it's no surprise that the community has surpassed my expectations in particular as I witness how much my two children Andrea and Sebastian have been nurtured by caring neighbors whom we consider now extended family.

**FPF:** How have you benefited from the roles you took in building the social infrastructure?

**Veronica:** I think the role of building the social infrastructure has been effortless, so much so, that I've never thought that's what we were doing. It happened organically and over many spontaneous conversations and shared meals. January 2019 marks our 10th anniversary in Mueller and I am blessed to have this opportunity to reflect on what this decade has meant for our family. In Mueller I feel safe, a deep sense of belonging, joy, and sincere love. My relatives who visit from Mexico immediately feel the love as well. My 81-year old father still talks about cooking paella for our neighbors and making many friends who appreciate his cooking. I feel that we have been able to share our lives and traditions meaningfully.

Both my husband Martin and I are architects, and Mueller has been a living laboratory presenting constant opportunities to observe and learn how the theory of urban planning put into practice creates community by design. Mueller has taught us invaluable lessons that have influenced our careers deeply.

**FPF:** What are the key challenges facing Mueller's social development?

**Veronica:** I think the challenge is ensuring that we continue to offer social and economic opportunities within and around Mueller. I hope that Mueller will evolve incrementally over time into discrete neighborhoods woven seamlessly into the surrounding, existing city fabric.

Also, I think intolerance in general is a challenge in any community, but with the tight density that we are privileged to enjoy, I think we must truly work together in nurturing a diverse, tolerant, inclusive social network and be open to learn not only what it means to live in community but thrive in diversity.

# Calendar of Events

**April 5, 6:15 pm:** KUTX Rock the Park – Lake Park

**April 9, 6-8 pm:** Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission - Chestnut Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Ave

**April 20, 8:30 am:** MNA Egg Scramble – Ella Wooten Park

**April 27, 10 am – 1 pm:** Children's Mental Health Awareness Day 2019 – Browning Hangar

**May 3, 6:15pm:** KUTX Rock the Park – Lake Park

***March Events at the Mueller Farmer's Market on Wednesday:***

**April 3, 6pm-7pm:** Composting Class w/ Austin Resource Recovery

**April 10 5:30-7:30pm:** Zero Waste Chef Demo w/ Monique Santua

**April 17 5:30-7:30pm:** Trivia Night

**April 24 5:30-7:30pm:** Clothing Swap & Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins

***March Events at Mueller Farmer's Market on Sunday:***

**April 14, 11am - 1 pm:** Zero Waste Chef Demo w/ Monique Santua

**April 21, 11am - 1pm:** Earth Day Celebration & Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins





## Sand Volleyball at Mueller's Branch Park



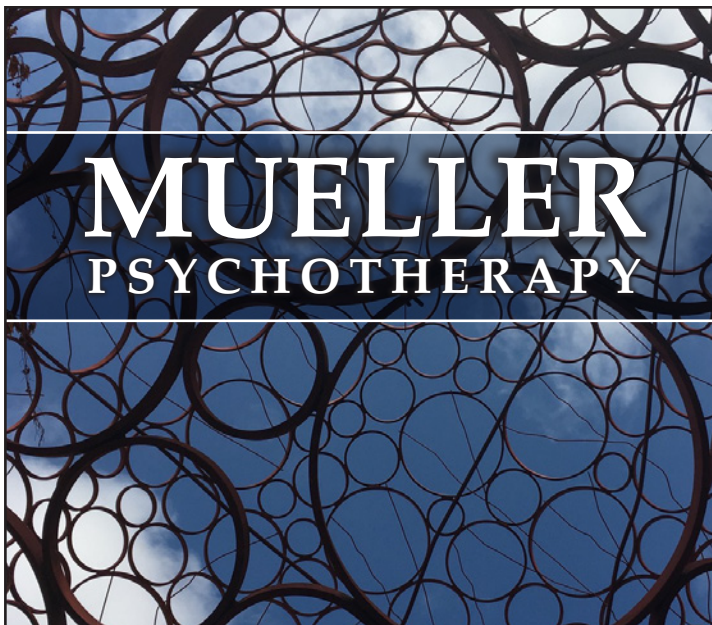
Two sand volleyball courts are features of the new Branch Park across the street from the Texas Mutual building. The courts are at the corner of Garcia and Ruiz Streets. They have already seen a lot of action with various meet-up and pick-up games. Players have been welcoming with all skill levels joining in.

There is a meet-up group on Facebook called "Mueller Sand Volleyball meet up." Join for more information on game times, updates, and weather cancellations. Membership is not limited to Mueller residents. Currently the group has regular games on Sundays at 4:30 pm. As the weather improves and when daylight savings time returns on March 10,

watch the Facebook postings for additional meet-ups! Various members have equipment including volleyballs and court boundary lines, so just show up and join in!

Sand volleyball is traditionally played with 2 players on each side in an 8-meter court (8m x 16m / 26'3" x 52'6"). To accommodate more players, games at the Mueller courts are often 4 to 6 players on each side and the court size is often increased to 29'6" x 59'. When more people want to play, each team can rotate players in from the sidelines, which is helpful to keep the game going as people may arrive or leave at different times. Each team is allowed to touch the ball up to three times (including attempted blocks that result in a touch). When teams work well together, the three touches are a bump/dig, a set, and a hit. The bump/dig is a defensive move with the aim of neutralizing the other team's attack and positioning the ball for the setter. The second touch is the set. The setter attempts to place the ball in ideal position for the third touch to be an attack. The last touch is the hit or spike. With a mix of skill levels playing together, a perfect bump/set/hit may not be carried out each time the ball crosses the net. Regardless of how the ball is or is not returned in a volley, we always have a good time together. See you on the courts!

For more information: join "Mueller Sand Volleyball meet up" or email [davidtietz@me.com](mailto:davidtietz@me.com)



# MUELLER PSYCHOTHERAPY

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## Croaked Clothes? Torn Textiles? Hobbled Housewares?

By Taylor Youngblood

Approximately 6.6 million pounds of textiles are going to the landfill each year from ARR's curbside customers. That's 18,000 pounds of clothes going in the trash every day rather than being reused or recycled!

Did you know that the City of Austin recycles clothing, textiles and small housewares? Clothing/Textile Recycling includes clothing, shoes, stuffed animals, bedding, and small housewares. The current contractor is Simple Recycling and they provide the green bags you put out with your blue carts.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/clothing>

Photo Sample Recycling Bag

Recycling in this instance means more than donating usable items. It means taking cloth out of the landfill and recycling it into insulation, industrial cleaning cloths, etc. Cloth you may not realize you are throwing away may have another life beyond rags. Did you know you can also recycle:

- Socks: holes, torn elastic, missing their partners, etc.
- Underwear: popped elastic, undone seams, stains, torn, etc.
- Bras: stretched out, undone seams, bad wires, straps, etc.
- Clothes that really no one would want to wear, are stained, torn, etc.
- Stuffed animals that can't be repaired or washed, missing eyes, arms, tails, etc.
- Old bedding: pillows, comforters, blankets that aren't repairable or washable
- Shoes that cannot be repaired by Shoe Hospital or some other entity
- Scraps of fabric that would be too small with which to craft

Photo Textile Flow Chart

The City requests that you support local businesses with donations first before placing items in the curbside collection bags. Mueller has two neighbors that accept clothing and housewares donations:

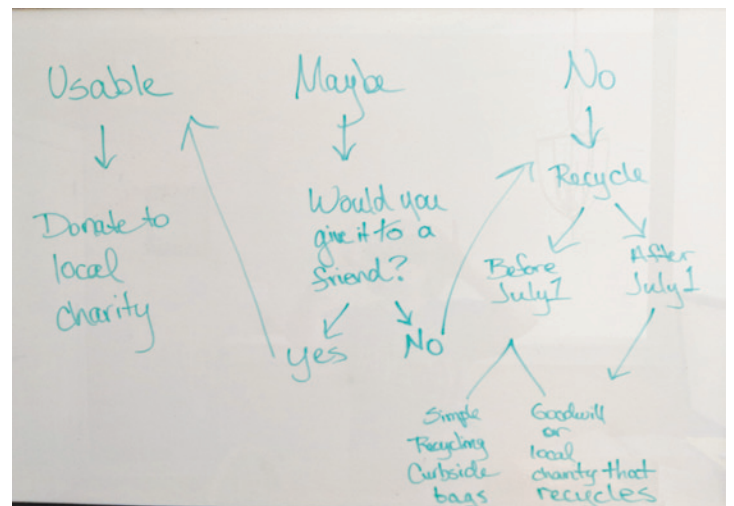
1. Hope Family Thrift Store on 51st Street (they'll also pick up large furniture)
2. Ronald McDonald House on Barbara Jordan Blvd (clothing only)

Fabric that is usable, along with other craft, office and school supplies may be taken to Austin Creative Reuse Center at 6369 Middle Fiskville Rd. #1801, in The Linc shopping center by Highland Mall.

<https://austincreativereuse.org/materials-we-accept/>

The current contract with Simple Recycling expires at the end of June 2019. It will be a year or more until a new contractor is identified, so if you've been procrastinating now's the time to get your unusable items out to the curb. Starting in July 2019 and

until further notice please recycle these items with Goodwill, or at another entity who you know recycles what they can't sell.



## **Beyond the TLAs: Your Neighbors in Action through MNA Committees**

*By Alison Raffalovich*

Those of us who live in Mueller are happy to celebrate the unique qualities of our wonderful neighborhood – its neighborliness, friendliness, active lifestyles and diversity. One of our other unique qualities, an alphabet soup of Three-Letter Acronyms (TLAs), is perhaps less celebrated. Between the MNA, POA, and more, it can be more than a little confusing for newcomers. I think I was here for more than three years before I started to make sense of it all, and I'm still learning!

So let me put a human face on a vital role played by the Mueller Neighborhood Association – the various committees that live under its umbrella and bring positive change to the neighborhood. Fundamentally the MNA is all about building Community. We aren't responsible for the parks, pools, infrastructure, etc., but we do invest both time and money in fostering a vibrant community identity through our signature events (Spring Egg Scramble, the Fourth of July Parade & Festival, and Fall Fest) and other activities. I'll take you on a brief spin through the various committees and introduce you to some key volunteers in each – in the hope that YOU'LL be inspired to get involved!

### **Neighborhood Engagement Committee**

Maria Salas, a fellow Steering Committee member, and I co-chair this committee to spread the word about the MNA to neighbors, focus on activities that give neighbors meaningful ways to connect and get engaged, and recruit additional members to ensure that we have broad and inclusive representation in the MNA. (It's only \$5 per year per adult to join the MNA, so if you haven't already, please sign up today at <https://muellerneighborhood.org/mueller-neighborhood-association/become-a-member/> or using the form included in each Front Porch Flyer edition). With the help of other volunteers, we have kicked off a membership drive involving physically block-walking all over Mueller to connect with neighbors and who work closely with Dennis Mick to recruit Block Captains. We also continually explore new ideas for socializing and to encourage community.

### **Egg Scramble, 4th of July Parade and Festival, and Fall Fest Committees**

These committees, headed by Leila Melhem, Richard Wood, Joan Quenan & Sherri Taylor; Bill Kirwin; and Kathy Farley, respectively, organize the small army of volunteers who make these signature MNA events so engaging, entertaining and active, with something fun for ages from people in their first childhoods to people like me closing in on second childhood! If you'd like to help plan, set up, staff a tent, organize the wonderful sponsors and vendors who provide on-site snacks and entertainment, tear down or otherwise lend a hand, these committee chairs would love to hear from you! We are currently actively looking to round out the committee for the 4th of July Parade and Festival. If you would like to get involved in this fun event, please contact us at [contact@muellerneighborhood.org](mailto:contact@muellerneighborhood.org).

## **The ONEderment Project**

*By Sherry Jacobson*

With new homes rising from the dirt every month and new restaurants and shops popping up all over the place, it's hard to imagine what might be missing from a neighborhood as dynamic as Mueller.

A small group of residents has spent the past five years focusing on an important gap in the type of housing available in Mueller -- housing and services for people with serious medical needs that force them out of traditional housing and, unfortunately, out of Mueller.

They could be elderly residents who need nursing care or a child born with a severe disability or anyone who has suffered a devastating accident.

"Each of us should be able to remain in the community with our loved ones and our support group," said Ani Colt, a Mueller resident who is leading the effort to bring a new kind of housing to the neighborhood. "We have no funding and no developers yet, but we have a very good idea to share with the community."

The group has formed an LLC, Intentional Community Creators, in hopes of developing the project. Residents on the current steering committee include Colt, Rob Corbett, Joan Huntley, Bhavani Singal, Lynn Chavarria, and Preston "Ty" Tyree.

Their vision is an ambitious plan called "ONEderment Central," which would develop affordable apartments and shared housing, where exercise and healthcare needs could be met easily. The development would feature a large community center offering free space for activities involving residents of Mueller and beyond. There also would be commercial lease spaces for incubating businesses, artists' studios, gardening, and underground parking.

"We envision this as a laboratory to experiment with facilities to meet the changing needs of our community," Colt said. "We are currently looking for developers."

The group has set its sights on a 7.5-acre location on Mueller's northern edge, a four-block area designated for commercial development that is still vacant. It is bounded by 51st Street, Berkman Drive, Barbara Jordan Boulevard, and Aldrich Street.

The cost of the project is estimated between \$150 million and \$225 million, depending on construction costs and other contingencies. The value of the land was appraised at about \$8.5 million by the Travis Central Appraisal District.

"We need to seize the opportunity represented by the 7.5-acre space and do whatever is necessary to create this big dream," concludes the group's 34-page booklet, which explains the project in greater detail. "Mueller is almost completely built out."

The booklet can be accessed at [ONEdermentCentral.com](http://ONEdermentCentral.com).



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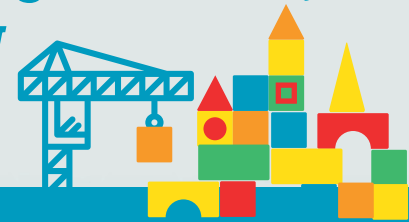
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# FRONT PORCH FLYER

## Mueller Spring Yard Sale

By April Geruso



The Annual Mueller Spring Yard Sale is coming up this month! Saturday, April 13th, please get all of your wonderful, but ready-to-be-passed-on-to-the-next-grateful-owner goods to your front porch / lawn from 8AM to 12PM. We're advertising the neighborhood yard sale on social media and other notable sites, but be sure to tell your friends and family. After noon, we'll have collection trucks for all of the remaining items you'd like to donate to charity. If you've been questioning whether or not to finally say goodbye to great uncle Henry's collection of rubber stamps, here's your chance to decide and see them off to a new good home. For more details closer to the event, check the Mueller MNA website and Facebook page. We'll see you at the yard sale!



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## Mueller Neighborhood Association Egg Scramble

By Joan Quenan



All are invited to enjoy the 2019 Mueller Egg Scramble on Saturday, April 20, in Ella Wooten Park beginning at 8:30 AM.

Children of all ages can collect eggs in age-appropriate groups (0-2, 3-4, and 5+). Of course the Mueller Bunny and HEB Buddy will be there to pose for pictures, so children (and adults) are encouraged to dress for the occasion. There will also be bounce houses, a petting zoo, face painting, hair chalking, food, and other activities. The band Cantaro will perform for your listening (and dancing) enjoyment.

The Mueller Egg Scramble is brought to you by the Mueller Neighborhood Association (MNA) and is supported by business sponsors in the community.

The event is chaired this year by Joan Quenan and Sherri Taylor, with assistance from Leila Melhem and Richard Wood. Volunteers are needed the day of the event with setup and to hide eggs; please contact Joan Quenan at [jmquenana@gmail.com](mailto:jmquenana@gmail.com) or text at 715-468-7710 to help.



## Riding the 335

*By Richard Carr*

Here in Mueller, we are blessed with five great bus routes that take us all over the city. This makes us something of an anomaly. Most outlying neighborhoods in Austin have just one or two bus routes, which makes it difficult to do much more than go to and from downtown without having to juggle transfers and schedule timing.

Last June, the CapMetro Remap project went into effect and created an opportunity to get to know our buses better. One of the best routes to investigate is the brand new 335, with stops along Berkman Dr. at Barbara Jordan Blvd., Simond Ave., and Tom Miller St. It is the only bus that traverses the whole length of Mueller on Berkman Drive, before taking 38th street across the entire city to Tarrytown. This makes it the only bus that every resident of Mueller can reach with a short walk.

Many people think of the 335 primarily as a circulator that lets them transfer to the bus they really want to ride. This view misses out on the easily contained trips accessible directly with the 335. At the top of the list is Cherrywood Coffeehouse. It is an easy 8 minute ride down the street and a great kid-friendly place to just relax for a few minutes or a few hours. With a giant enclosed patio

space and tasty, reasonably-priced food, it can be a real lifesaver.

Another great destination is Snooze, an AM Eatery on North Lamar. Normally parking is a huge hassle, but taking the bus means you don't have to worry about it. After a giant brunch you can cleanse your palate with some gelato or keep yourself awake with some espresso from Cafe Teo, on the other side of Medical Parkway.

The end of the line in Tarrytown is also right down the street from the Howson Branch Library, where you can take your kids to Books and Babies on Thursdays at 2 PM or their early literacy program for 3-5 year olds on Mondays at 11 AM. The staff there is really lovely, and it is reminiscent of the nearby Windsor Park Branch.

Taking the bus can be a wonderful activity with kids. The drivers are friendly and considerate, and here in Austin an adult day pass is only \$2.50 and kids ride free. The 335 especially is an easy route with views of parks and gentle hills. The whole length of the route only takes a half hour, and it comes every fifteen minutes so you know you will not be stuck on the bus forever or have to wait around outside. So next time you just need to get out of the house for a bit, walk down the street and hop on the 335.

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