



2019 MUELLER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION EGG SCRAMBLE

April 20th marked the Mueller Neighborhood Association's annual Egg Scramble. Kids hunted for eggs, met the Mueller Bunny, and participated in activities throughout Ella Wooten Park. A big thank-you goes out to Joan Quenan for organizing such a wonderful event!



*The Mueller Bunny greeting a tiny Muellerite.
Photo courtesy of Woody Lauand.*



A parent helps with egg collection. Photo courtesy of Woody Lauand.



*Egg Scramble Coordinator Joan Quenan with Steering Committee.
Photo Courtesy of Woody Lauand.*



Ella Wooten Park filled with activities during the annual Egg Scramble. Photo courtesy of Dan Updegrove.

FRONT PORCH FLYER

the FRONT PORCH FLYER

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A little Muellerite examines her haul of eggs. Photo courtesy of Woody Lauland.



*Kids were able to pet real bunnies thanks to the Tiny Tails to You petting zoo.
Photo courtesy of Woody Lauland.*



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Letter from the Co-Chairs

Hi Neighbors,

The Egg Scramble was a great success! So many thanks to Joan Quenan, her intrepid band of volunteers, and our top tier sponsors, Seton-Ascension, Frost Bank, and Envision Eye Center, for all the good times and many smiles on faces young and old. You can see photos from the Egg Scramble in another article in this month's Front Porch Flyer.

Leading news in the neighborhood this month was an update from AISD on the new Northeast Middle School. AISD held an open house at the Seton Administration Building and described exciting possibilities for the new school. It has a planned capacity of 800 and will follow the AISD vision of 21st century learning spaces, incorporating flexible spaces allowing for collaborative, interdisciplinary, and project-driven learning. Plans include a 900 square foot community room open to the public during non-school hours. Anticipated opening date is August 2022. Current Mueller fifth graders could be ready to begin their 8th grade year in the new space. For additional information, visit the AISD website: <https://austinisd2017bond.org/schools/new-northeast-ms/>.

As the school year draws to a close, we are reminded summer is around the corner. And with summer comes the 4th of July! Time to step up and volunteer for our signature summer event: the 4th of July Parade and Festival! Bill Kirwin is chairing the event again this year, and he is planning some really great activities. Come to Paggi Square to join the parade and walk with your neighbors to Ella Wooten park where we will have our festivities. We will have the "best decorated bike" and "best costume" awards for children in two age categories this year. Ages 0-5 and ages 6-12 will compete for a winner's certificate suitable for framing and card to carry they can show their friends.

Don't forget to join us at our upcoming general meeting on Saturday, June 15th. While the meeting will begin at 10 AM, we hope you will stop by beforehand to chat with your neighbors and enjoy some food and coffee.

Your neighbors,

Preston Tyree & John Wooding. MNA Co-Chairs

MNA "Community Builder" Award Recognizes Dennis Mick

By Kathy Sokolic



*MNA Community Builder
Dennis Mick*

Editor's note: Recognizing members of the Mueller Community playing important roles in the creation of the social infrastructure of our interconnected, supportive, and culturally stimulating neighborhood, winners of the Mueller Neighborhood Association's (MNA's) Neighborhood Builder Award are named annually. One recent winner is Dennis Mick, Mueller resident since 2009.

Dennis Mick had long been eyeing the transition of Mueller from airport to neighborhood and was attracted by the new urbanist principles that went into its planning. He and his wife, Carole, were nearing retirement and looking for unique benefits the master plan offered, such as eco-conscious mixed-use development, mixed income, density, transit-oriented design, and walkability. Reducing their carbon footprint was a primary motivation for moving to the neighborhood. Dennis says all their expectations have been met and exceeded.

But after moving to Mueller, the Micks didn't sit idly by, waiting for the neighbors to come to them. Dennis and Carole joined various committees, clubs, and activities in order to meet their neighbors. In fact, even before leaving their old neighborhood in northwest Austin, Dennis became the block captain on north Scales. A friend and neighbor, Betsy Hilton, states that "he's been active and engaged in building the fabric of the community — serving on MNA, organizing block captains, and actively involved in a variety of issues impacting Mueller."

And have you been to any of those legendary Scales block parties? I asked Dennis how he consistently keeps the good times a'rollin', and he explains the Scales and Mattie block party happens every year (nine, and counting) simply because the block wants it to. Neighbors are willing to chip in with money and effort. The blocks also take advantage of the generous MNA grants, which can help with seed money for block parties.

Dennis is hopeful more residents who benefit today from the efforts of committed neighbors will involve themselves in the work of the MNA to sustain our community's culture. We can all honor Dennis by doing just that! Volunteer for an MNA committee, help plan an event, or become a block captain, as it really does make a difference!

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Mueller Commission Update

By Michael Jones, Chair

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (aka the Mueller Commission) wants to hear from you. The eleven-member advisory commission welcomes public input on its soon-to-be completed 2018-2019 Annual Internal Report to City Council. The report includes a summary of commission activities between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019 and goals and objectives for the next twelve months.

The next Mueller Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11, at the Britton, Durst, Howard & Spence Building, located at 1183 Chestnut Avenue in the northwest corner of Rosewood Park. The commission does not meet in July.

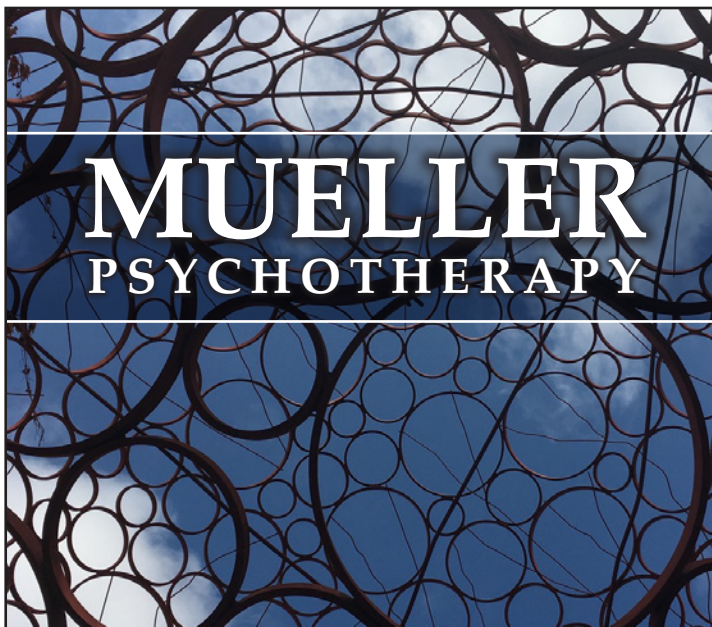
This spring, the commission agenda includes updates on two high profile Austin Energy Department projects. During the April 9 commission meeting, city officials reviewed the progress of the city's Sustainable and Holistic Integration of Energy Storage and Solar Photovoltaics (SHINES) project. The project

is supported by federal, state and city funding and SHINES includes a half-acre battery research project on the eastern end of Zach Scott Street.

The commission's June 11 meeting will feature a discussion of preliminary plans for the new 275,000 square foot Austin Energy Department headquarters to be located in Mueller's Town Center district. Once completed, the new city building will serve as the workplace home to approximately 850 city employees.

In addition, the commissioners re-elected Chair Michael Jones (Mayor Pro Tem Garza appointee) and Vice Chair Rick Krivoniak (Mayor Adler appointee) to a fifth term in their positions during the April meeting. They also welcomed new commissioners Rodrigo Lima (Council Member Ellis appointee) and Christopher Jackson (Council Member Tovo appointee).

Documents relating to the Commission can be found on the City's website at http://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/45_1.htm





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Haven't You Always Wanted to Be a Block Captain?

By Taylor Youngblood, Block Captain Network Chair

What is a Mueller block captain? These volunteers help build community, communication, and awareness on their block. A "block" can be defined many ways. It can be a literal block, such as Lawless Street, it can be a garden court, an apartment complex, or a condo building. Find out if your block has a captain and who it is here: <https://muellerneighborhood.org/block-captains/>.

The Mueller Neighborhood Association (MNA) seeks to enlist more block captains. On some blocks, turnover means a block captain may no longer live there. On other blocks, a block captain may just want a break and is hoping someone else can take over for a while. A few blocks have two captains that share duties! Partner up with a neighbor for twice the fun!

Interested?

Each block captain can handle their block in their own way. Each block captain is asked to collect contact information for each home/apartment/condo in their block area as communication is key. These lists may serve as "I need a cup of sugar" request or "we are having a block party this weekend" planning. Documents and training are available if you are interested.

Block captains are also helpful liaisons between residents and the MNA. They try to stay informed on what's going on in the neighborhood, or

they know where to get information. Helping welcome newbies and educating them on the founding tenets is also important. Mueller isn't just a redevelopment, but a vision, and helping neighbors understand this vision will help make Mueller home for everyone.

So if you like planning parties or sharing information and meeting new neighbors, find out more information on volunteering to be a block captain by emailing blockcaptain@muellerneighborhood.org. We look forward to your participation!



Threadgill and Berkman neighbors get together for a potluck in the courtyard. Photo by Robert Davis.

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2019 Scales and Mattie Block Party

By Kathy Sokolic

Another legendary block party is in the books for Scales and Mattie! The 9th annual, neighbors enjoyed delicious potluck dishes, revelry, and danced the night away to the Mighty Pelicans.



The Mighty Pelicans. Photo courtesy of Dennis Mick.



Neighbors enjoying the festivities. Photo courtesy of Dennis Mick.

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Calendar of Events

June 11, 6-8 pm: Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission - Chestnut Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Ave

June 15, 10 am: Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting, Wildflower Terrace, 3801 Berkman Dr.

September 11, 6:15: KUTX Rock the Park – Lake Park

June Events at Mueller on Wednesday:

- **June 5, 5:30 - 7:30pm:** Make Your Own Reusable Beeswax Wrap + Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins
- June 12, 5:30 - 7:30pm: Desk Plants Workshop
- June 19, 5:30 - 7:30pm: Craft Night
- June 26, 5:30 - 7:30pm: Trivia Night + Zero Waste Chef Demo w/ Monique Santua

June Events at Mueller on Sunday:

- June 2, 10am - 2 pm: Whole Kids Foundation Bee Festival + Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins
- June 9, 10am - 2pm: Clothing Swap
- June 16, 11am - 1pm: Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins + Father's Day Hand Painted Pot Holders
- June 30, 11am - 1pm: Zero Waste Chef Demo w/ Monique Santua



Beyond the TLAs: Your Neighbors in Action through MNA Committees

By Alison Raffalovich

Through this on-going series, I'll take you on a brief spin through the various committees of the Mueller Neighborhood Association 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. (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/>). 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 Taylor Youngblood to recruit Block Captains (more on that in Taylor's article). We also continually explore new ideas for socializing and to encourage community.

Local Business Committee

The variety of local businesses, large and small, is a key element of making Mueller such a walkable, stimulating and interesting neighborhood. We are fortunate to have a growing array of businesses supporting just about every need a resident may have. Suzanne O'Malley and Bart Glaser, both Steering Committee members, coordinate with our local businesses to help them get more engaged with the neighborhood through monetary and in-kind sponsorships of the MNA and our events. Sponsors are provided the opportunity to be spotlighted at a monthly MNA General Meeting, visibility on the MNA website, and more.

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Sunday Open Mic Night At Lady Quackenbush's Cakery

By Ted Herr



Mueller resident and Open Mic organizer, Barrett Simms sings and plays guitar at Lady Quack's on St. Patrick's Day. Photo by Janel Simms

It's Sunday evening. Part of Lady Quackenbush's Cakery on Simond Avenue has been transformed with a stage, cables, and equipment for an all-music open mic. At 7:00 PM, Barrett Simms, the emcee, does a quick sound check and starts off the evening entertainment with a quick set of music, singing, and playing a couple of songs on his guitar.

While they own a home in Mueller, Barrett and his wife, Janel, recently returned from spending nine months in a 27' Airstream trailer, working remotely, seeing the sights, and hosting open mics in campgrounds and RV parks.

Barrett's been playing music for 30 years and loves the vibrant music scene in Austin. "We wanted to support the local Mueller music community," he said. "If we don't support musicians, Austin will no longer be the music capital of the world. Secondary is to support the local businesses."

Janel takes a more of a "behind the scenes" approach with the events. She helps bring equipment, does the photography, signage, and graphics, and occasionally also serves as a greeter.

On hearing her introduction, musician Linda Murphy picks up her Gibson acoustic guitar and walks to the microphone. She adjusts the mic, introduces herself plainly and briefly, then starts to play.

The song is recognized by some in the audience, as Linda is covering someone else's work. But as a singer-songwriter, Linda also wants her voice to sing her own songs. And she does. She modestly introduces the next song as "something I wrote this afternoon."

The next musician is a high energy fiddler – a 12-year-old girl! Ingrid, a student at Lamar Fine Arts Academy, also studies classic violin. The crowd is awestruck as she shows everyone how its done for three songs. At that point, she looks at her mom, who gives her a thumbs up – meaning she still has time to do a fourth song.

The Sunday Night Open Mic got its start when Barrett saw a post on the Mueller Facebook group page from Julia Schmitz, the general manager of Lady Quack's, who was looking for people to coordinate events for the bakery. It was a natural fit for an open mic night.

When asked what makes this open mic different than others in Austin, Barrett replied, "We're not in a club or a bar – we're in the middle of the neighborhood."

The next performance, by Kelsi, doesn't fit within familiar walls – it is high energy, rhythmic, and a full palette of sounds that she pulls out of her guitar. She performs with confidence and lots of flair.

Everything is heartfelt. Outside there's no rain, but the singer reminds us that "thunder only happens when its raining."

The crowd claps with appreciation, and Barrett introduces the next act. The wood stool scrapes across the concrete floor as the man sets himself up, adjusts the stool and brings the mic down closer to his guitar. Vincent Wolf plays the familiar tune "Desperado," playing both the melody and accompaniment in an intricate dance. The audience instinctively reduces their conversations. He finishes and moves into the minor key cadences of "The Sound of Silence."

Although most of the music he plays is covers, Wolf incorporates familiar licks in his own arrangement of each. "Melissa" by the Allman Brothers rounds out his three-song set. Afterwards he explains that doing acoustic pieces is new to him. He's at the open mic to get used to playing in front of others.

Next, Gregg and Victor take the stage for a sound that is vaguely reminiscent of Willie Nelson: beautiful melodies, finger-picking, and a voice that has know the travails of life, with Victor on the harmonica. The depth of the talent is unmistakable.

Julia explains the bakery's role in the open mic: "It's such a close knit neighborhood and we want to embrace that and expand it, and provide a platform for people outside the neighborhood." She also extends the happy hour prices as a courtesy to the performers and patrons. She noted that the staff working Sunday evenings enjoys the music, and "whether it helps the business or not, it makes us feel happy." Lady Quack's also hosts a couple of neighborhood book clubs and a knitting group.

Sunday Evening Open Mic occurs from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at Lady Quackenbush's Cakery, 1900 Simond Avenue. Musicians may sign up starting at 6:45 PM, first come, first served.

The general manager, Julia Schmitz is seeking other groups who would like to use Lady Quack's as their meeting place. She can be contacted at julia@quacksbakery.com

For more information, please also see Barrett Simm's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WmBarrettSimmsMusic/>



A middle school student, Ingrid, wows the crowd with her songs.

Photo by Janel Simms



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