

THE MUELLER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

the FRONT PORCH FLYER



MUELLER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL JULY 4TH PARADE AND FESTIVAL

This year marked another successful July 4th Parade and Festival for the neighborhood. Organized by Bill Kirwin, an army of volunteers made the event special by setting up booths and event for neighbors to enjoy. Thank you to all the business sponsors for making this signature event possible.

(Photos Continued on Page 2)

FRONT PORCH FLYER

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(Continued from Cover)



Andrew Clements in Patriotic Attire,
Photo by Woody Lauland



Cycling the Parade Route
Photo by Shawn Collins



First Place Winner in the Decorated Bike Contest,
Photo by Woody Lauland



July 4th Parade Procession
Photo by Stephen Henderson



Let Freedom Ring
Photo by Julie Berman



MNA Banner Kicking Off the Parade
Photo by Shawn Collins

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MNA July 4th Festival at Ella Wooten Park, Photo by Kevin McGillicuddy



MNA July 4th Parade Kiddie Express Train, Photo by D. Updegrave

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Letter from the Chairs

Hi Neighbors,

Wow! What a great turn-out at the July 4th Parade and Festival! Many thanks to Bill Kirwin, who led the charge, and with help from lots of volunteers, made the event a great success. He managed to put Ice Cream (Amy's) next to Cookies (Lady Quackenbush's Cakery), and they both handed out over 400 treats. Please remember to visit Lady Quackenbush's, as well as all of our other sponsors, and mention how much you enjoy their sponsorship of the MNA. Amy's has just opened a new store next to Hoover's on Manor west of Airport. If you've yet to visit, their treats are a great way to stay cool this summer.

In upcoming meetings, we'll be looking at a climate change resolution, presentations from the Friends of Patterson Park, and lots more to come. Let us know if there are things you want to know about and we can get them on the list.

The Zach Scott bike lane infrastructure installation is almost complete. By the time you read this, it should be finished with walk signals across both sides of Zach Scott on Airport, bicycle traffic lights on Airport, and completed painting of the pavement.

Please note, our August General Membership Meeting of the Mueller Neighborhood Association will be at Wildflower Terrace (3801 Berkman Drive) in the theater. While the meeting starts at 10:00 AM, we will be there at 9:45 AM with snacks and coffee. So come by, meet some of your neighbors, grab a bite to eat, and hear what's going on in and around our community.

This will be the last meeting of this year at Wildflower Terrace. The September meeting will be back in the Seton Administration building at 1354 Philomena Avenue. The June meeting in Wildflower Terrace had 75 attendees. Thanks to everyone who joined us for the discussion.

We hope to see you around!

Your neighbors,

John Wooding & Preston Tyree

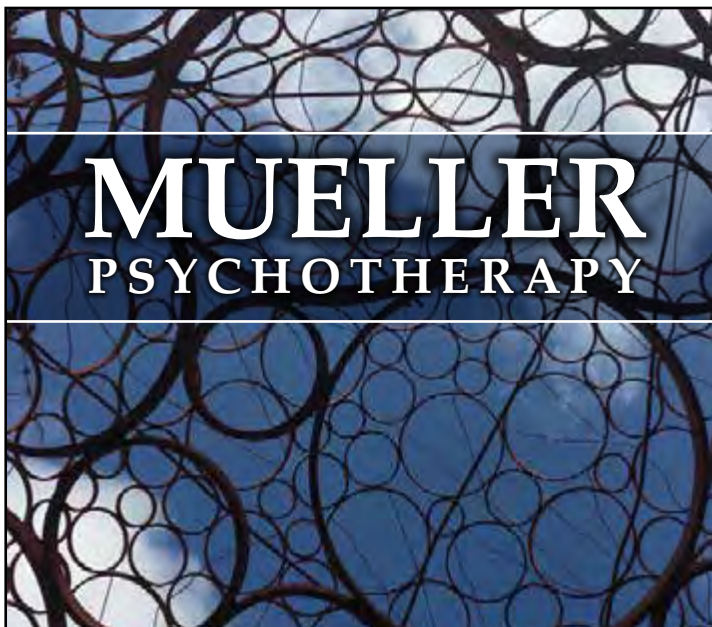
Summer 2019 Mueller Commision Update *By Rick Krivoniak, Vice Chair*

District 5 City Council Member Ann Kitchen was on hand for the presentation of LEED certification and Austin Energy Green Building awards to the "Diamond Building" and Alamo Drafthouse Cinema. The Diamond Building at 1905 Aldrich Street achieved a 4-Star Green Building rating. It is home to BD Riley's Irish Pub, Lick Honest Ice Creams, Stella Public House, Halcyon, Novi Labs, Stantec Consulting, AARP, and most recently, McCann Adams Studio, the master planning firm for Mueller. Earning a 3-Star Green Building rating, the Alamo Drafthouse also was also the first Mueller building with gender-neutral bathrooms, which were voted for by the public, and Alamo has chosen to do the same on its new buildings across the country. The ground floor is also home to Massage Heights, Orange Theory Fitness, Colleen's Kitchen, Lilla & Beth, the Lash Lounge, Acai Hut, Baod Up, Swish Dental, and Barre 3.

Catellus expects to break ground this summer on the Austin Energy Headquarters building. By having Catellus build the 275,000 s.f. building, the financial risk is transferred to the developer, and the project is expected to be complete by early

summer 2021, rather than the six to seven years if the City were to build using traditional methods. At the June Mueller Commission meeting, several commissioners noted that the ground floor should house some commercial spaces to help animate the street beyond the typical 9 to 5 office hours (though AE's call center will be staffed 24/7). There were also questions as to the public art component included in typical City of Austin buildings, especially those in such densely populated areas. Commissioners also learned that the unconventional construction method would negate the usual Art In Public Places process, and again, urged that some form similar path be found to incorporate art into the project. Austin Energy will hold outreach meetings in the near future to learn more of what the community wants from this building.

The RMMAPIAC does not meet in July, but will next meet at 6:00PM on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at the Britton, Durst, Howard & Spence Building (Chestnut Community Center), 1183 Chestnut Avenue. To see RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes and other documents, visit austintexas.gov/rmmapiac



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When Can I Water My Yard?

By Dan McAtee

Texas and Austin face a shrinking water supply in the coming years as the population continues to grow. Government actions can be augmented by citizens conserving water to preserve our long-term water supply and to delay the costly expansion of our water treatment facilities.



Photo: Ladybird Lake, by the City of Austin

Did you know that the City of Austin offers assistance and rebates for water conservation, such as irrigation upgrades and converting turf grass to native beds? More information can be found here:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/water-conservation-rebates>

We are currently in Austin Water's "Conservation Stage." Some commonly asked questions related to when and how to water your yard (this applies to yard homes only, as rowhome watering is scheduled by the HOA) are answered below:

- You may only water on your assigned day(s) and times (found on the below website)
- Residential
- Hose-end Sprinklers - two days per week - midnight to 10 a.m. and/or 7 p.m. to midnight
- Automatic Irrigation - one day per week - midnight to 10 a.m. and/or 7 p.m. to midnight (Residential customers may also water a second day with a hose-end sprinkler)
- Wasting water is prohibited
- Repair sprinklers that are watering the streets and check regularly for leaks

More information on watering restrictions can be found on the City's website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/watering-restrictions>

Further, washing your car in your alley is prohibited by HOA rules. If you see a broken sprinkler head or leak in a common area or at a row home or garden court, alert the HOA at 512-328-6100 or ahc.info@associa.us.

Call for MNA Steering Committee Nominations

By Dennis Mick

The Mueller Neighborhood Association's (MNA) annual Springtime Egg Scramble, the 4th of July Parade and Festival, the Fall Fest, the network of block captains who facilitate neighbor-to-neighbor communications, the Front Porch Flyer, and much more, are building the sense of community that drew many of us to the unique Mueller neighborhood.

These popular and effective community-building activities in Mueller are conducted by the MNA whose programs are, in turn, overseen by a 13-member steering committee (SC). Members of the SC are elected by the general membership at the annual meeting.

Please consider joining the steering committee and devote some time to working with neighbors to build our community's personality. Contact Dennis Mick, Nomination Committee Chair, to learn more about the SC and how you can participate.

dennismick@gmail.com

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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!

Steering Committee

These 13 people oversee the MNA overall with general oversight, goals and direction, creating and managing the budget, maintaining the bylaws, etc. Officers for 2019 are co-chairs Preston Tyree and John Wooding; vice-chair Richard Carr; Treasurer Penny Brandt; and me as Secretary. As an all-volunteer group, many of us also balance the demands of a day job, rearing children, or other community and service engagement, so we count on the engagement of neighbors in each specific committee to bring the MNA

vision to life and to add their own creative vision and passion.

Nominations Committee

Dennis Mick is a man who wears many hats, and when he has this hat on, he's recruiting neighbors willing to serve on the Steering Committee described earlier. At its best the Steering Committee membership reflects the diversity of Mueller, with people of all ages, backgrounds and experience levels contributing their energy, perspectives and creativity to fulfill the MNA mission. Dennis is in recruiting mode throughout the year in the leadup to the formal nomination and voting process, which is planned for November of this year.

For more information on participating on an MNA committee, please go to <https://muellerneighborhood.org/contact/>.



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Committee Update: Block Captain Network

By Taylor Youngblood, Block Captain Network Chair

There have been quite a few changes for the Mueller Neighborhood Association Block Captain Network since I took over in April. At our request, Google Maps has added newly installed roads in the new sections by Tilley Street to their maps. New blocks are being added to the block captain map as soon as blocks are being built out. There is a call out for new block captain volunteers in the June issue of the Front Porch Flyer, on the Mueller Neighbors Facebook page, and Nextdoor. The Mueller Neighborhood Block Captain Facebook group (separate from the Mueller Neighbors page) has new material and ideas to help existing captains build their networks. Over the next few weeks I'll be working with captain-less Mueller apartments and Mueller developers to try and get promotional volunteer materials into buildings and newsletters. We don't have an in-person training planned, but one-on-one meetings are available upon request.

Find out more information on volunteering to be a block captain by emailing blockcaptain@muellerneighborhood.org.

Find out if your block has a captain and who it is here: <https://muellerneighborhood.org/block-captains/>.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 17, 10am

Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting,
Wildflower Terrace, 3801 Berkman Dr.

September 14, 5:30pm

Austin Bollywood Day- Food, Shopping &
Entertainment, Mueller Lake Park

September 20, 6:15pm

KUTX Rock the Park - Mueller Lake Park
August Farmers' Market Events at Mueller on
Wednesday.

August 7, 5:30 - 7:30pm

Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins

August 14, 5:30 - 7:30pm

Zero Waste Chef Demo w/ Monique Santua
August Farmers' Market Events at Mueller on
Sunday.

August 3, 11am - 1 pm

Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins

August 11, 11am - 1pm

Zero Waste Chef Demo w/ Monique Santua

August 18, 11am - 1 pm

Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins

August 25, 10am - 11am

City of Austin Chicken Keeping Class

Tawny Crazy Ants

The tawny crazy ant, also known in Texas as the Raspberry crazy ant, was originally discovered by pest management professional Tom Raspberry (hence the name) in Harris County in 2002. Since then, the ants have been distributed to other parts of the state via people, plants, materials, and other things and are currently confirmed in 40 Texas counties.

Distribution map of Texas counties with confirmed presence of tawny crazy ants (in red).



Tawny crazy ants are about 1/8" and orangish-brown in color. With a good hand lens or microscope, you can see 12 segmented antennae, 1 node, and a circle of hairs at the tip of the abdomen. These ants can be confused with other ants, so if you are unsure of what you have check with your local Extension office.

Tawny crazy ants have a cyclical population level throughout the year with populations peaking in late summer, decreasing in the fall and then beginning to build again in the spring. Tawny crazy ants are capable of biting, but do NOT sting like fire ants. They are mostly nuisance pests, but can reach extraordinary population levels (in the millions) and can become a problem if they get into electrical equipment. Tawny crazy ants do not have nests or mounds like fire ants; they tend to nest under things- rocks, landscape timbers, flowerpots, etc.

For more information on this particular ant species go to <http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/raspberry.html>

Treatment Options

- Removing harborage areas- fallen limbs, rocks, leaf

litter, etc. These ants will nest under pretty much anything on the ground, so you may want to remove anything that is not necessary.

- Alter moisture conditions (crazy ants prefer moist, humid conditions)- reduce watering, repair any water leaks, and improve drainage

- Eliminate honeydew producers from area. Crazy ants tend honeydew producers such as aphids, whiteflies, hoppers, mealybugs and scale insects.

- Use pesticide sprays to treat infested areas- under rocks, along landscape edging, etc. Pesticide sprays can also be used to create a barrier around the outside of the home. Piles of dead ants may build up in treated areas. If this occurs, remove dead ants to keep the pesticide barrier maintained.

- Hire a pest management professional (PMP). PMPs have access to pesticides that are unavailable to homeowners for tawny crazy ant treatment and they also have experience dealing with pest problems regularly.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.



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Stain Solutions

Try as you might to prevent them, spills, drips and splatters in your house are inevitable. Whether you, your family or your guests are the culprits, stains happen. Most, if not all, are treatable, especially if you act quickly and use the right stain-removing technique.

If there's an accident on your carpet or a rug, start by scooping up any solids and soaking up any unabsorbed liquids. Then, blot the stain with a white cloth or paper towel. You should work from the outside in so you don't spread the spill, and dab at it instead of rubbing or pressing hard.

You also can try spot cleaning with a soapy water mix. Dilute a ¼ teaspoon of clear hand-dishwashing soap with 1 cup of lukewarm water. Spray the solution on the stain, and mist the area with clean water or blot with a wet towel. Then blot the area with a dry towel. Repeat this process until you get as much residue out as possible.

Follow these specific instructions for cleaning up the more stubborn stains and sticky spots on your floors:

- **Red wine:** Begin with the same three steps—blot, apply soapy water and rinse. Then, dribble very hot water from a sponge onto the spill. Continue to blot with a clean towel, and repeat until

the carpet no longer shows any red.

- **Soft drinks and coffee:** Begin with the same three steps—blot, apply soapy water and rinse. Then dab on hydrogen peroxide. Wait one hour before repeating the process. Hydrogen peroxide bleaches a stain without breaking down carpet dyes. Use a 3 percent solution, which can be found at a drugstore, and apply at full strength.

- **Candle wax and chewing gum:** These are easiest to remove when hot or cold. For the cold method, harden the spot by rubbing it with an ice cube inside a plastic bag. Then, carefully scrape off the residue with a dull knife or a plastic card, such as an expired credit card. For the hot method, apply paper towels over the waxy area, and then use a clothes iron on low heat to soak up the wax. Replace the paper towels until all the wax is removed. Use a hair dryer to heat gum. Then with a plastic bag over your fingers, pull the goo off.

So the next time your carpeting endures a nasty spill, rest assured that it doesn't have to become a permanent stain. With these simple tips, you can keep your carpets and rugs looking great for years to come.



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)



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As a Mueller Pioneer and neighborhood organizer, I am in-the-know of all things Mueller and what's on the horizon throughout the city. A house is more than just materials – each part is a vital branch of the community. Contact me today!