



THE MUELLER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

the FRONT PORCH FLYER



Lake Park Idyll by Woody Lauand

FRONT PORCH FLYER

the FRONT PORCH FLYER

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Letter from the Co-Chairs

Welcome to our new neighbors,

With all the new houses going in on the east side of Berkman we are gaining a lot of new folks living in Mueller. John and I want you to feel at home so please reach out to us and let us know what you need to feel welcome.

Summer is almost over, which means the "open" swim at the pools is going away and only residents will have access with their pool keys. Remember though, the life guards will not be on duty and you need to watch out for each other.

Please note that our pools are not maintained by the City of Austin, but by our property owners' association and the fees each homeowner pays into it.

The bike lane additions on Zach Scott Street are mostly complete. The lights on Airport and Zach Scott will get a timing check so the kids going to Maplewood by bike will not be left in the center section by a red light. Next up is a discussion about the crossings of Airport at Zach Scott and Aldrich. Do you like them or are they a pain?

Fall Fest is coming in John Gaines park in November. Come take advantage of the parks and the wonderful vendors that support our neighborhood association.

We will have a special treat at the October General Membership meeting. Olaniyi Rasheed Akindiya, or AKIRASH, the artist that has been chosen to create the art for 51st Street upgrades, will be talking about his work and what he is thinking about for Mueller. We had a great visit with him recently and this should be fun.

Sincerely,
Preston and John

MNA T-Shirts for Sale

Show your pride in our Mueller Neighborhood Association (MNA) by purchasing a Mueller Neighborhood T-shirt. They are available in various styles and sizes from toddler/ youth through adult, and colors including navy, white, grey, and light blue. Adult shirts are \$15 (+\$2/\$3 for 2XL/3XL) and toddler/ youth shirts are \$10. Shirts may be purchased at MNA meetings and at the Fall Festival on November 9. All proceeds from the sales go toward MNA events and grants. Contact Joan Quenan, jmquenan@gmail.com, for further information and to reserve your shirts.



The Carr Family sporting their MNA gear



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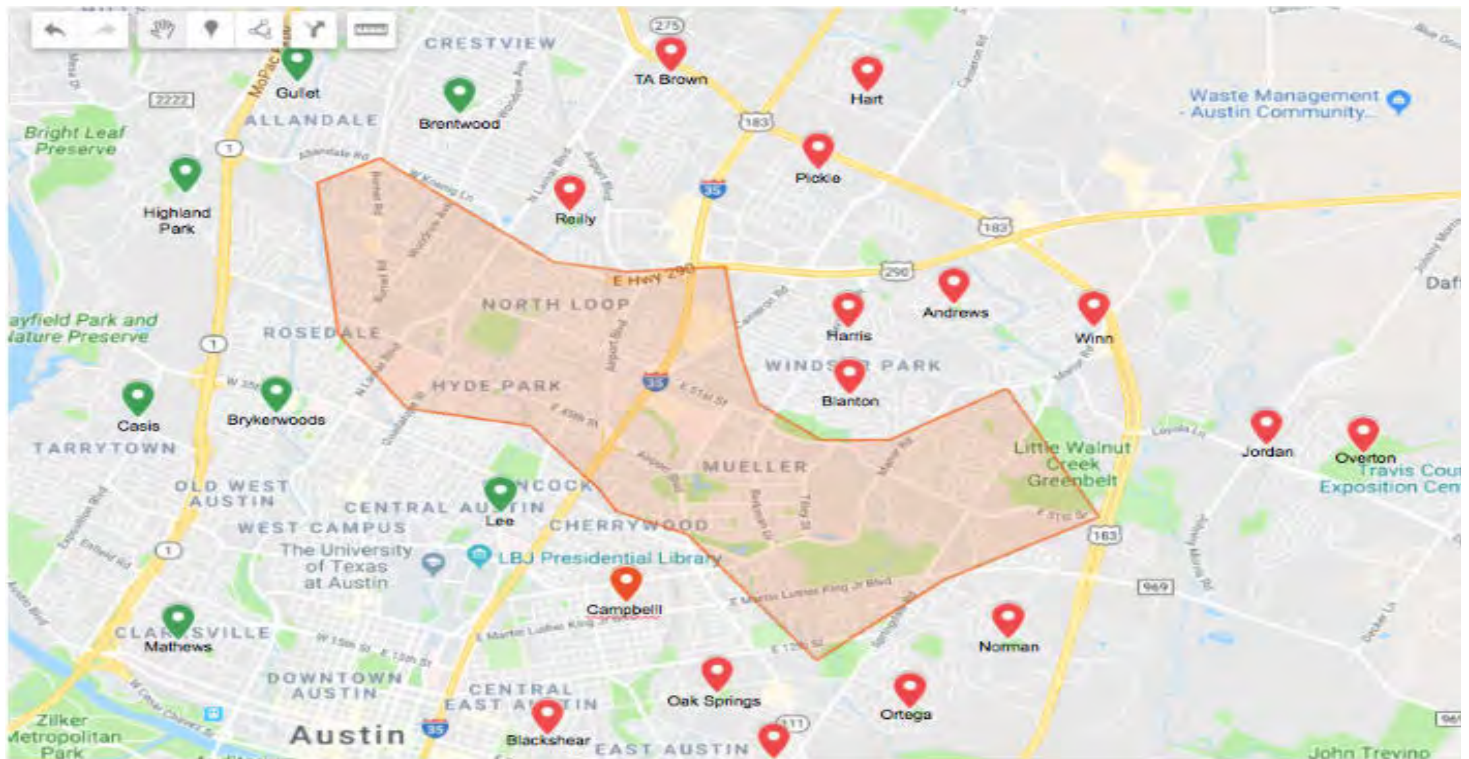
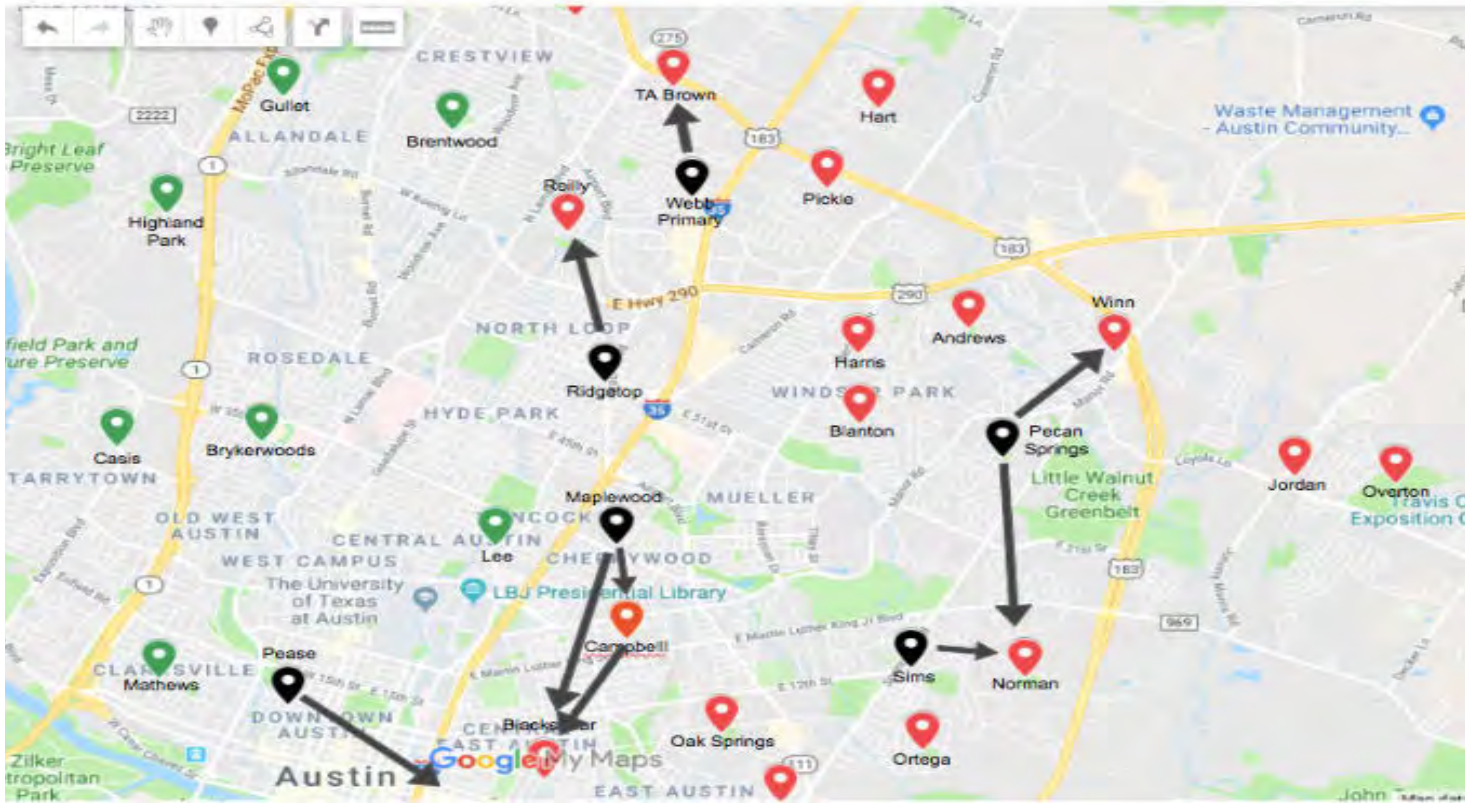
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Austin ISD Releases School Changes Plan - Several Area Schools Proposed for Closure

By Dusty Harshman



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The map on the left reflects the proposed elementary student movement should Sims, Maplewood, Pecan Springs, and Ridgetop close their doors. The map on the right reveals the relative lack of AISD elementary schools those closures would create in Northeast and North Central Austin.

On Thursday, September 5th, the Austin Independent School District (AISD) released a draft set of proposals entitled "School Changes 2019" (austinisd.org/schoolchanges/scenarios), intended to reimagine, reinvest, and reinvent Austin ISD. The document opens, "Schools are often the heart of the community where people learn, play, meet, share ideas and access resources. That's why it's so important we do everything we can to strengthen our campus communities to best serve our students and families."

"School Changes 2019" contains many districtwide proposals designed to serve all AISD students and families. Major highlights include extending care and educational opportunities from 6:00am to 6:30pm outside the traditional school day, enhancing multicultural studies in the classrooms, incorporating cultural proficiency and inclusionary practices among all district staff, working toward affordable housing options for teachers and staff, and re-aligning K-12 feeder patterns.

At the campus level, there are new academic programming initiatives, including a "Pre-K to Pre-Med" path in Northeast Austin that would include the yet-to-be named middle school in Mueller. Other local proposals include establishing 6th through 12th grade schools at Northeast (formerly Reagan) High School and a legal and civic studies-oriented Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy.

To fund a portion of these School Changes, the district has proposed closing and consolidating several campuses, thirteen in total. Northeast Austin would face a significant number of school closures, losing five elementary schools and two middle schools. In fact, four of the six closest AISD elementary schools would face closure. The elementary school closure proposals are of particular interest and are detailed as follows:

2020 - Webb Primary would close with its students consolidated to TA Brown ES

2021 - Sims ES would close and its students consolidated to Norman ES

2021 - Pecan Springs ES would close and its students consolidated to Winn ES and Norman ES

2023 - Maplewood ES would close and its students consolidated to Campbell ES with a choice to attend Blackshear ES

2023 - Ridgetop ES would close and its students consolidated to Reilly ES

The Mueller neighborhood is an epicenter of elementary school closures in the School Changes plan. All five school closure proposals will move students farther from the Mueller neighborhood (shown in the left image above). This would create a significant vacuum of elementary schools in our region (shown in the right image above). It is debatable whether any amount of programmatic or service enhancement could compensate for the loss of that many proximate schools.

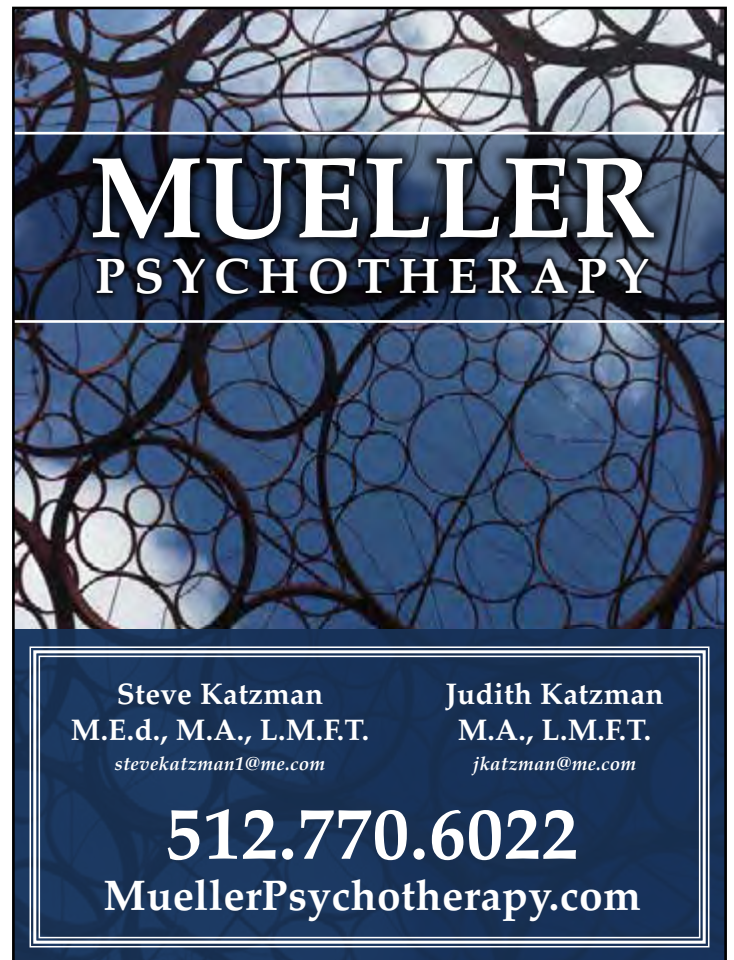
While it is important to understand that this is a DRAFT set of proposals, AISD expects to vet the proposals for public acceptance by November for a vote by Trustees, at which time they would become district policy. If you wish to offer your perspective about AISD School Changes, you have the following options:

MEETINGS: The district has scheduled a series of regional meetings throughout the city to discuss these proposals. You can find a schedule of the meetings on the School Changes website (austinisd.org/schoolchanges/meetings).

VIRTUAL FEEDBACK: AISD has offered a virtual feedback forum called ThoughtExchange (tinyurl.com/AISDscenarios) where people can post feedback and vote/rank other respondents feedback.

EMAIL: You may also reach out to the AISD superintendent Paul Cruz (superintendent@austinisd.org) and the AISD Board of Trustees (trustees@austinisd.org)

MNA SCHOOLS COMMITTEE: If you are interested in learning more about how the proposed School Changes might affect the Mueller neighborhood and the Northeast Austin region, consider joining the new Mueller Neighborhood Association Schools committee. Send a message to schools@muellerneighborhood.org for more details.



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Growing up Mueller

Greg Buford

I guess I'm crazy. As my kids grew of age in Mueller I a.) wanted them to get part-time jobs to learn life skills, and b.) didn't want to give them a polluting vehicle. They already knew I was nuts. After all, I made them ride the bus to school, and, when they tried to thwart me by missing the bus, I directed them to Capital Metro. Ha!

So when they decided they had outgrown the \$15/month allowance I had always generously provided them, the answer was simple: get a J-O-B!

"You're crazy," they cried. "You won't buy me a car? How am I going to get to work?"

To which I responded: "I'm sorry to hear your legs are broken."

I pointed them toward the great number of employers within easy walking and biking distance of our Mueller home and suggested they don't let the door hit them in the rear on their way out. I told you I was crazy.

Despite my efforts, they survived. My oldest worked at Papa John's and Jamba Juice and subsequently decided that going to college might not be such a bad idea after all. My middle child worked simultaneously at Barre3 and Acai Hut, and learned that her own money means independence. ("Now I can buy whatever the heck I want!") For his part, #3 still works at BD Riley's and wholeheartedly agrees with that ol' capitalist Deng Xiaoping that "to get rich is glorious."

In summary, thank you, Mueller, for being a walkable, bikeable, transit-friendly, mixed-used experiment - actually, it's an old idea that's come back around - that has gotten my kids to stop asking me for money and cars (mostly) and helped us keep a check on our carbon footprint.

Working Toward A Zero Waste Halloween

By Taylor Youngblood, Mueller Zero Waste Block Leader



Holidays can offer an exercise in creativity and reuse, and an opportunity to connect with neighbors. Here are some ideas to "green" your Halloween:

Candy/Treats

- Try to find boxed/paper candy that can be recycled/composted: Nerds, Dots, Milk Duds, Junior Mints, fake bone candies, Glee Gum, Pixie Sticks, etc.
- Think unconventional: cups of fruit, fun applesauces, raisins, craisins, Halo oranges, etc.
- Leftover candy loose in boxes or in paper may be composted; the whole thing may go in.
- Consider taking extra candy to work or asking neighbors if they support a group that collects edible candy so it doesn't end up in the trash.
- The Teal Pumpkin Project has a list of non-allergen, non-food treats: <https://tinyurl.com/y4klm8tt>. If you choose wisely, these can be recyclable non-food treats. Left over items may be donated to the Austin Creative Reuse Center.

Costumes and decor

- Consider a neighborhood costume swap. Or maybe a block party costume/decor swap. Check Mueller Marketplace, Marketplace, Freecycle, craigslist, etc. to find or get rid of decorations or costumes. Shop/donate at your favorite second-hand store or the Austin Creative Reuse Center.
- If purchasing new decorations consider metal or wood decorations that may last longer than Styrofoam or plastic and are

(Continued on Page 7)

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(Continued from Page 6)

more forgiving/tougher in storage. If you seal outdoor materials with the proper sealant they'll last longer in the elements.

- Store decorations responsibly so they last. Ask neighbors for packing paper or bubble wrap if needed. Temperatures tend to be cooler in the garage or house than the attic. Items may melt in attics, so plan accordingly.

- Try to repair burned out light strings before buying new. Replacement bulbs may be available from the manufacturer. Broken light strands may be recycled at the Austin Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center.

- Styrofoam that is painted such as tombstones or skeletons should be trashed if no longer usable. Only paint-free styrofoam can be accepted at the Recycle Center.

- Spiderweb that is not reusable should be trashed. It is plastic but would clog the recycling machines so is not acceptable in carts.

- Glow sticks, glow jewelry, etc. cannot be recycled because of the chemicals inside glow items. They might be reusable in craft projects. Otherwise, glow things go in the trash.

Pumpkins

- Real pumpkins, that are not covered in paint, should have their decorations (e.g. stickers, google eyes, etc.) removed and

the pumpkin itself may be composted after the holiday.

- Painted real pumpkins, those covered all over in paint, should be trashed.

- Styrofoam or plastic pumpkins should be trashed if no longer usable or donatable.



Happy Halloween!



MUELLER'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

October 4, 6 PM: Movies at the Park – Mueller Lake Park

October 11, 6 PM: Movies at the Park – Mueller Lake Park

October 12, 8 AM to Noon: Mueller Yard Sale – throughout the community

October 15, 6 PM: KUTX Rock the Park – Mueller Lake Park

November 14, 6 PM: Annual POA Meeting – AISD Performing Arts Center

November 15, 6:15 PM: KUTX Rock the Park – Mueller Lake Park

November 16, Thinkery's Gingerbread Run (more info TBA)

October Events at Mueller on Wednesday:

- **October 2, 5:30 - 7:30pm:** Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins

- **October 30, 5:30 - 7:30pm:** Halloween Celebration

- **Voter Registration** at the market every Wednesday 5-8pm

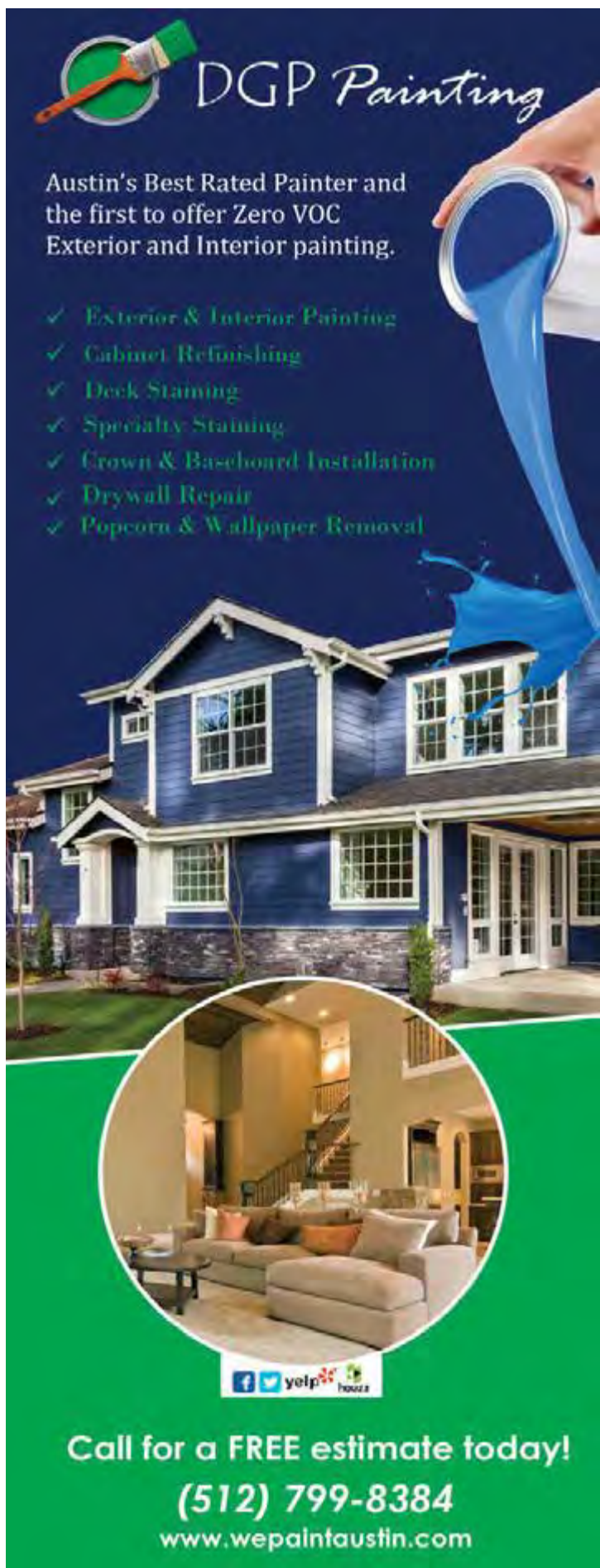
October Events at Mueller on Sunday:

- **October 6, 11am - 1 pm:** Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins

- **October 13, 11am - 1 pm:** Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins

- **October 20, 10am - 4pm:** Austin Fermentation Festival

- **October 27, 11am - 1 pm:** Halloween Celebration



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Save the Date the MNA Fall Festival is Around the Corner!

By Joan Quenan

Mark your calendars. Join the Mueller Neighborhood Association and your neighbors for one of the signature community events of the year.

Welcome the fall season with family and friends at John Gaines Park (2708 Sorin St.) on Saturday, November 9, from 3:00-5:00 PM. There will be free food and beverages from our local businesses and fun activities for the kids, such as face painting, hair chalking, and bubbles.

We can't make this event possible without the help of neighborhood volunteers. Tasks include set-up and take-down for the event, so sign up online through Nextdoor or Mueller Neighbors Facebook page.




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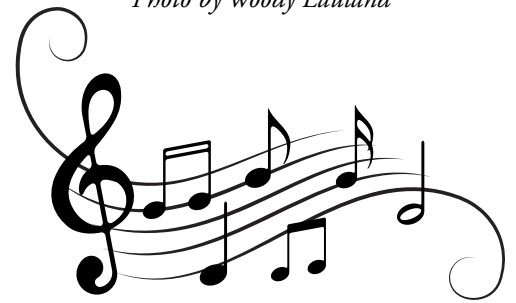
By Joan Quenan



men and women. We even have children join us in rehearsals and performances for some of the kid-friendly seasonal tunes! Rehearsals for the December caroling will begin in mid-October. For more information contact Julie Berman at bill.julieb@gmail.com or check out Mueller Community Singers on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Muellercommunitysingers/>

Community Singers at the MNA Meeting.

Photo by Woody Lauand



It all started at a Skylark Lounge pizza and beer meet-and-greet when two Muellerites, Julie Berman and Kim Updegrove, discovered their mutual love of singing. They quickly joined forces with neighbor Joann Zimmerman, and Mueller Community Singers was born. As with most community groups, the group has had several directors and various accompanists, still growing stronger every season.

Now in its fifth year, Mueller Community Singers has conducted twenty caroling events and two Fourth of July programs and is still going strong. Not only does the group provide entertainment for Mueller and beyond, but it also gives its members a great deal of satisfaction and joy.

Here's what some singers have to say:

"Mueller Community Singers gave me a wonderful opportunity to meet new neighbors and have fun making music together." - Mari Ward

"Mueller Community Singers has been a low stress, fun, and creative way to connect with neighbors." - Karen Sharp

"MCS...has helped me feel part of the Mueller Community." - Janette Jones

"I leave every rehearsal and performance with joy in my heart!" - Alison Raffalovich

"The choir builds a sense of community, bringing strangers together in a united enjoyment of music and singing." - Kim Updegrove

MCS welcomes new members of all stripes, so If you love to sing please join us. There are no auditions and all are welcome -

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FRONT PORCH FLYER

Antone and Tom Miller Neighbors Enjoy a Day at Lake Travis

By Alison Raffalovich

Continuing on a more informal tradition from earlier years, neighbors from the 1900 block of Antone and adjacent blocks of Tom Miller took it up a notch this year and organized a door-to-door Lake Travis outing, complete with bus transit to and from the lake, where two pontoon boats awaited us. Our merry group of 50 neighbors, including youngsters ranging from a few months to teenagers, brought sides to share and chipped in for the costs of veggie and meat burgers, the bus, and the boats.

Once we boarded the boats, they motored us out to a quiet no-wake cove, where we could comfortably enjoy swimming without worrying about speeding boat traffic nearby. The captains tied our two boats together so everyone could wander back and forth to visit, ride down the waterslides, and enjoy all the delicious treats neighbors brought to share. It was a great way to spend time together, get some fun exercise on a hot day, and have conversations with neighbors you know and love as well as with folks who hadn't had the chance to meet before.

After we disembarked back on shore, the kids used up their last burst of energy running around in the play area, and we boarded the bus back to Antone St. In contrast to the buzzy excitement on the way out to the lake, there were many sleepy kiddos on the return ride - and a few catnapping adults too! All in all, it was a lovely way to spend a September Sunday. It will be a challenge to one-up this event next year! My husband and I are still talking about what an amazing group of neighbors we have here - such an accomplished, diverse, interesting, generous-hearted group of people. Special thanks to Koonj Shah for organizing the festivities!



On the way to Lake Travis, by Koonj Shah



Water slide and swimming at Lake Travis, by Koonj Shah

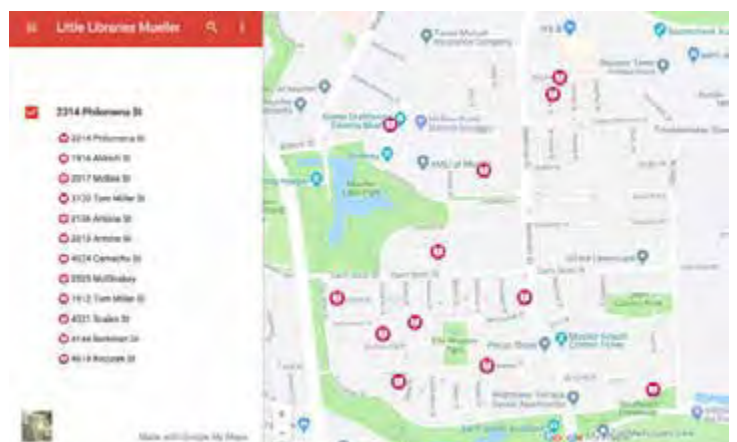
Little Free Libraries - Little Treasures Next Door

By Kathy Sokolic

Touted as the “world’s largest book-sharing movement,” Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. According to their website, 73 percent of people surveyed say they’ve met more neighbors through a library, and 92 percent of people say their neighborhood feels more friendly.

Mueller is home to at least a dozen Little Free Libraries, located throughout the neighborhood. Neighbor Dan McAtee has documented the locations of each library in a Google Map - <https://tinyurl.com/yy3tdegp>.

Cleaning off your bookshelves? Consider making a donation to a couple of libraries near you! For more information on building/purchasing a library, keeping it stocked, or adding yours to the online registry, visit <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>



Mueller Little Free Library Locations, by Dan McAtee

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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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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."

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