



From Car-Dependent to Car-Light and Toward Car-Free

By Dennis Mick

Among the best of nationwide examples of land developments aligned with the principles of New Urbanism, the Mueller community has garnered national recognition for intentional neighborhood design connecting modern communities with the way towns were built for the last several centuries.

Plans for New Urbanist land developments feature, to varying extent, the following principles:

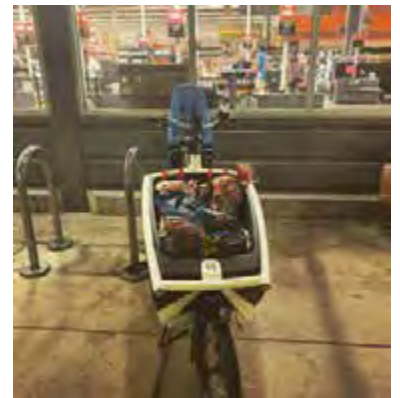
- Walkability
- Connectivity
- Mixed use and diversity
- Mixed housing
- Quality structures and urban design
- Traditional neighborhood structure
- Increased density
- Green transportation options
- Sustainability
- Quality of life

sprawl was created by the automobile, disrupting the traditional human community.

Wide roads, parking lots, on-street parking, traffic backups and sealed autos themselves create barriers to human contact that weren't present years ago and are not present today when cycling, Joshua reports. "Drivers in cars are more destination-oriented while cyclists are more journey oriented," he says.

Much of the Rudow family's transportation occurs on just two wheels. In addition to a daily 20-minute work commute by bicycle for Joshua, the Rudow family bought a cargo bicycle recently. The Electric Cargo Urban Arrow Bike allows the family to cycle for short trips thanks to its large cargo capacity and variable motor assist. With the whole family aboard or carting groceries, the Urban Arrow cargo bike makes a statement about the Rudows' values.

"Cycles allow so much more freedom. Alternate routes are quickly found to avoid congestion, and there's frequent interaction with pedestrians and other cyclists in addition to the benefit of physical



A week's worth of family groceries can be handled by the Rudow family Urban Arrow Cargo bike. Photo contributed by Joshua Rudow.



Talia Rudow enjoys outings on the family cargo bike. Photo contributed by Joshua Rudow.



Joshua and Galit Rudow with daughter Talia and dog Finnegan often use their family cargo bike for local outings. Newborn son Avi is expected to join them soon. Photo contributed by Joshua Rudow.

"I expect to never live anywhere else," says Mueller resident Joshua Rudow who moved to a new townhome near Berkman Drive four years ago and lives there with his wife, Galit, and two small children. A Ph.D. urban planner employed by the City of Austin, Joshua is a longtime proponent of New Urbanism and takes its principles to heart.

"For the last 75 years, we have designed our population centers around the demands of the automobile," he says, "and this fundamentally impacts the way people interact." Suburban

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FRONT PORCH FLYER

the FRONT PORCH FLYER

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"From Car Dependence..." (Continued from Cover)



Joshua Rudow's dad, Marc Rudow, accompanies Talia and Finnegan around town. Photo contributed by Joshua Rudow.

exercise," he says. While Joshua admits that weather can be an issue, he points out that's why the family's new cargo bike was outfitted with power assist and rain/shade covers, making precipitation and the central Texas summer much less intimidating.

The Rudows also own a Toyota Prius V and describe their current transportation requirements as "car lite," a growing trend among urban families marked by a dependence on shorter trips, walking, cycling, and public transportation. Longer-term, Joshua hopes to join the ranks of totally car-free families, currently at 10 percent of Americans and growing. The American Automobile Association estimates that the average American spends \$8,410 per year to own a vehicle, \$700 per month, including payments, insurance, gas, oil, washes, fees, taxes, parking, and repairs.

Other elements of the New Urbanist environment of the Mueller Community are embraced by Joshua and his family.

Their radius of travel is intentionally small but Mueller provides for all their typical needs, plus they know all their immediate neighbors and they collectively depend on one another in this mini-community for socialization, support, child care, and more. "It's a return to the community of a hundred years ago," says Joshua, "with greater codependency and less isolation than typical new neighborhoods."

Letter from the Chair

Dear Neighbors,

When Mueller is fully built, we will have over 6,000 residential units (single and multi-family homes) in our neighborhood. However, it's not just the size and density of our community that makes us a presence in Austin, but also the fact that as residents, we are engaged and informed. As the empty lots in our neighborhood fill and new residents begin to call Mueller home, it's important that all of us try to stay up to date on what's happening in our community. To that end, I want to share some sources of information I find helpful when it comes to staying in the loop:

- If you aren't already, become a member of the Mueller Neighborhood Association. You'll receive our monthly newsletter that provides information on community-wide updates, notices, and events.

- Encourage neighbors to sign up to receive the Front Porch Flyer (visit <https://peelinc.com/index.php/resident-subscriptions/>).

- Visit and explore our website at www.muellerneighborhood.org.

- Attend our monthly General Meetings. These are held on the third Saturday of the month except for December, which is on the second Saturday of the month.

- Like and follow our page on Facebook (insert short link).

- Join the Mueller Neighbors Facebook page facebook.com/groups/muellerneighbors/. Note: This is a closed group for residents only. A neighbor usually vets your request within the day.

- Locate your block captain (via our website) and send them your email address.

- Attend the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission's (a.k.a. Mueller Commission) monthly meetings and visit their website at www.austintexas.gov/rmmapiac to view the meeting agendas and minutes, reports, and presentations.

- If you're a homeowner and aren't receiving the POA newsletter via email, email Isabelle.Solis@associa.us with your address to be added to the distribution list.

This list isn't meant to be exhaustive, so if you have a good source of information, spread the word to friends, family, and neighbors. In the meantime, I'll see you all round the neighborhood and at the next monthly general meeting.

Sincerely,

John

Clifton Career Development School

By Tatiana Antonio Tierney



Ms. Antonio works with student, Kevin Rojo, as he learns how to make pizza dough from scratch.

sophomore year and includes skill-building, industry-recognized certifications like Food Handler Permits and OSHA, participation in local internships, and attainment of employability skills.

KVUE recently did a story on the school's programming, which can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/uye2n62>.

The campus is located just outside of Mueller, one block north of 290 off of Berkman Road. Two of the eight teachers at Clifton are actually long-time Mueller residents: Kim Wine teaches Childcare and Tatiana Antonio Tierney teaches Culinary Arts. They both love working close to where they live and agree that this is the best teaching job they've ever had.



Ms. Antonio working with first year students on knife skills. Students pictured: Eddie Torres from McCallum and Ari Rojas from Akins High Schools.

luncheon. The Culinary students prepare the main meal and sides while the Hospitality students prepare the desserts. The luncheon is from 12-1 pm, open to the public and only costs \$6/person.

Every luncheon includes a fresh salad bar and many of the ingredients are locally sourced from the Clifton gardens including vegetables and herbs. The Horticulture program also contributes their pearl oyster mushrooms to many dishes. Several Mueller residents already regularly attend the luncheons and say they love it.

Clifton is a vocational education high school located just north of Mueller that serves students with special needs. Clifton offers six vocational pathways for students to choose from, and is open to special needs students from any high school in AISD.

The pathways include Culinary Arts, Hospitality, Health Sciences, Ag Tech, Horticulture, and Child Care. Clifton is a three-year program that starts for students in their

They say that the small classes allow them to develop close relationships with their students. Additionally, all of the classes are very hands-on experiential learning, which allows students the opportunity to truly master skills and develop confidence and leadership.

Weekly Friday Luncheons: Almost every Friday, the Culinary Arts and Hospitality programs host a weekly

Muellerite Lori Bausman said, "The food is homemade and tasty and the presentation is on par with any nice restaurant!" If you are interested in attending, you can add your name to the email list by going to their website at cliftoncds.weebly.com. After adding your name, you will receive a calendar invite with a menu for each luncheon. RSVP via the invite and join us on that Friday. Just note that Clifton works hard to curb food waste, so RSVPs are required.

Plant Sale: Looking for some very healthy and reasonably priced plants? The Horticulture program is hosting its annual plant sale on March 7th from 8-12 pm. If you can't make that date, no fear... you still have plenty of thyme to make your purchases. After that date, the Greenhouse is open daily from 9-12 pm and 1-3 pm. They have a wide assortment of ferns, ornamental flowers, edible herbs, vegetables, and succulents grown in their 4,000 square foot greenhouse.

Custom Woodwork and Metal Projects: The Ag Tech/Welding program is continually looking for custom projects to challenge their students throughout the year. Some projects they have done in the past include custom-made picnic tables, benches, BBQ pits, metal art pieces, and more. If you are interested in obtaining a bid for a project, just contact the school and ask to be connected to contact Russell Duncum.

Community Involvement: Local businesses in and around the Mueller area have been a huge part of the success of the Clifton programs. Some of our partners have included L'Oca D'Oro, Doubletree Hotel, Tillery St. Plant Company, Eden East Farm, Childcraft School, Child Inc, Copernicus Academy, and Westminster Nursing Home. Clifton is always looking to expand its community partners. If you would like more information on providing an internship or post-school job placement, please contact the school at (512) 414-3614.



Plant sale 2019. Many options to choose from!



Sample of a unique upcycled project by the Ag Mech class that combines metal and wood.



Marigolds growing in the Greenhouse. Should be blooming in a few weeks!



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Mueller Egg Scramble

**Save the Date: Saturday,
April 11, 2020
9 - 11 am at Ella Wooten Park**



Bounce houses are one of several attractions for youngsters

Bring your children and grandchildren to enjoy bounce houses (provided by MNA sponsor, Eastside YMCA), Tiny Tails To You Petting Zoo, face painting, hair chalking, and braiding, and of course, gathering eggs.

There will be breakfast items from HEB and goodies from many of our sponsors.

We need volunteers to help make this event a success. If you are able to volunteer with setup, bounce house supervision, and/or cleanup, please fill in your name and contact info on this webform: bit.ly/MuellerEggScramble

Calendar of Events

March 6, 6:15 PM: KUTX Rock the Park - Lake Park

March 7, 4 to 10 PM: Water Lantern Festival, Browning Hangar

March 13, 6-7:30 PM: St. Practice Day, Aldrich St. Paseo

March 21, 10 AM: Mueller Neighborhood Association meeting

Seton Administration Offices, 1345 Philomena St

April 3, 6:15 PM: KUTX Rock the Park - Lake Park

April 4, 8 AM-9 PM: HONKTX! - multiple locations

(Lake Park, Paseo, others)

April 11, 9 AM: Mueller Neighborhood Egg Scramble

Ella Wooten Park

April 18, 9:30 AM: March of Dimes - Browning Hangar

Events at Mueller Farmer's Market on Sunday:

March 8, 11am - 1 pm: Peculiar Produce Chef Demo

March 15, 11am - 1 pm: Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins

March 15, 11am - 1 pm: Travis County Master Gardeners

March 29, 11am - 1 pm: Season's Best Chef Demo w/ Maggie Perkins

Imagine a Village to Practice "We Are All ONE" in Mueller

By Ani Colt and Preston "Ty" Tyree



The four core team of WAAO Inc.

For several years, the Mueller resident-based team We Are All ONE Inc. (WAAO) has envisioned the addition of a unique urban village to the neighborhood, conceptualizing it constructed on the eight acres at 51st, Berkman, Barbara Jordan, and Aldrich Streets. On January 25th, over 75 people gathered to become acquainted with this vision as the WAAO Inc. team and several architecture students presented ideas and architectural renderings for this innovative urban village, imaginatively dubbed ONEderment Central.



The students received strong feedback on their work

The event began with an eight-minute video (youtu.be/9ZZ425fd7hc) describing the concept. Then Dr. Cellia Giusti, Associate Dean for Outreach & Diversity at the Texas A&M University College of Architecture, provided an overview of the college and students. Dr. Zhipeng Lu, Associate Director of the Center for Health Systems and Design at Texas A&M University, had heard about the urban village concept from his wife, Assistant Professor Xuemei Zhu, who is conducting

a long term research project on active living in Mueller.

Nine of Dr. Lu's architecture students from five countries (Albania, China, India, Jordan, and the U.S.) shared three different models they had developed as teams. Their renderings provided unique visions for an urban village that might include a community life complex, co-op cafe, satellite library, and new housing options -- assisted living, micro units, cohousing, and condos. The goals of the ONEderment Central concept include fostering community in a way that facilitates Austinites living and aging healthfully over the next decades.

The January 25th presentation gave the students an opportunity to exhibit and discuss their designs with the audience, which included over ten professional architects. Dr. Lu encouraged the audience to challenge the students in order to give them practice in presenting and defending their work.

The WAAO team is thankful to Ascension Seton for providing the meeting space, to HEB for providing food, and to the Halcyon the coffee service.

The WAAO team is looking for support and encourages people to get involved as board members or as collaborators. Learn more at WAAOinc.org.



Students presenting from left to right: Kinjal Ashish Shah, India; Guangxin Zhou, China; Sahar Farraj Radwan, Jordan

Census Timeline

By Lila Valencia, Senior Demographer at Texas Demographic Center

The 2020 Census is officially underway. The once-a-decade population count affects our representation in government, determines how much funding our Texas communities receive, and provides data to help plan for the future. Starting March 12, 2020, the Census Bureau began inviting households to participate in the 2020 Census.

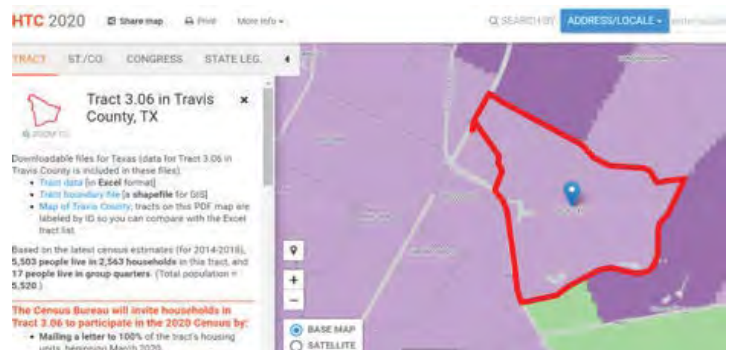
The Census Bureau invites households to participate in the 2020 Census in the following ways:

1. **Internet First mailing (in English)** – letter invitation received by mail will invite participants to respond online or by phone.
2. **Internet Choice mailing (in English)** – letter invitation plus a paper version of the questionnaire received by mail.
3. **Internet First mailing (Bilingual)** – letter invitation in Spanish and English received by mail will invite participants to respond online or by phone.
4. **Internet Choice mailing (Bilingual)** – letter invitation plus a paper version of the questionnaire in Spanish and English received by mail.
5. **Hand Delivered Packet** – Census Bureau enumerator will visit households and deliver a packet including a paper version of the

questionnaire in areas of high PO Box style addresses.

Census Tract 3.06, where Mueller is located, will receive an Internet First invitation sometime in mid-March.

For all households receiving a mail invitation, the letter will also include a language assistance insert with instructions in 12 different languages for calling a phone assistance line with questions or to



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LIVING AT OVERTURE MUELLER: A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

By Sally Campbell

More than 10,000 Americans reach retirement age each day and, according to a recent study by Deutsche Bank, that number will increase to 12,000 a day within the next decade. As thousands of seniors begin to make plans for retirement, one of the most significant decisions they will make is where to live in their next stage of life.

How would you like to spend your retirement years on a cruise ship? Well, maybe not literally, but if beautiful surroundings, continuous activities and a convivial community of fellow travelers through life ARE appealing, then you may be in luck. Overture

Mueller, a Greystar apartment community for active adults 55+, has been described by residents as living on a continuous cruise. Located at 4818 Berkman Drive, Overture Mueller opened in August 2017, includes 201 apartments, and was the first of three Overtures built in Austin.

Many retirees are not only living longer but are also staying more active and involved in the community than in past generations. Therefore, a decision about where next to live does not just involve the expected “downsizing,” but also in finding a place that enables them to stay active physically, socially, and in the world at large. Obviously, mixed-use, walkable communities such as Mueller, with its abundant amenities, are a huge draw for many seniors. In addition, however, Mueller is also home to a relatively new style of apartment living for active older adults, which features a multitude

of activities, as well as a close community with an opportunity for social interaction.

The first floor of the building features contemporary furnishings and a spacious lobby framed by floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking a pool and outdoor living area. About half of the first floor is described as an “extended living room for residents.” The level also houses a well-equipped gym and exercise classroom, a game area, theatre room, dining room, demonstration kitchen, and other features.

Overture is a bustling, eclectic community of men and



Residents at Overture enthusiastically engage in Water Aerobics three times a week during the warm weather.

women from a variety of backgrounds. About one-third of the apartments are occupied by couples and the others are singles – many of whom moved to Overture to be close to family members in Austin or its suburbs. The community is ethnically and geographically diverse with about an equal number of Texans compared to those who are from other parts of the country, or world.

The population also includes a number of dogs and cats, since pets are allowed, and there is even a pet run on the property.

Since many residents have children and grandchildren nearby there are special events tailored for grandchildren during the holidays and sprinkled throughout the year. Many residents are retired, but a number still work part or full time.

Just as on a cruise ship, activities at Overture are abundant

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PSYCHOTHERAPY

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(Living at Overture...Continued from Page 6)

and varied. The exercise program is especially popular with three different classes of varying intensities each day ranging from aerobics to yoga. Water aerobics are a big hit during the warm months. There is a Mix & Mingle Happy Hour with a different theme and activities each week and complimentary continental breakfast each weekday. Residents also have the opportunity to participate in games such as canasta, poker, Mahjong, Mexican Train, ping pong, and bocce ball and enjoy activities such as book clubs, crochet and knitting groups, garden club, painting classes, movie nights, and a separate Men's and Women's Lunch Group. There are also many impromptu resident-led events such as watching the NFL Playoff games in the theatre room and noshing on a delicious pot-luck meal or enjoying a poignant Christmas Carol Sing-Along with piano accompaniment by a resident who was a long-time music professor and leader at the University of Texas.

The residents also enjoy participating in a variety of charitable endeavors including collecting school supplies or toys for the holidays and hosting booths and activities as they did at last year's "National Night Out." If all of this activity seems overwhelming, a seasoned resident explains, "One of the joys of living at Overture is that you can be as busy or social as you want, or retreat to your beautiful apartment when you'd rather curl up with a good book or have a more private day."

But, according to all of the residents I talked to, the very best thing about living at Overture Mueller, is the strong sense of community. One long-time resident remarked, "Overture Mueller is our home. Here, we feel like a family. We care about each other, have fun together, and are there for each other if anyone needs help." For most residents, this particular feature makes living at Overture Mueller even better than retiring on a cruise ship.

For more information about Mueller Overture, call 512-643-5555 or visit www.overturemueller.com.



Overture Mueller residents give it their all at Karaoke Night at one of their weekly Mix & Mingle Happy Hours.

(Census...Continued from Page 5)

provide responses right over the phone.

Every household that has not responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire. If you don't respond online, by phone, or by mail, the Census Bureau will follow up in person. This is the most expensive method for the Census Bureau. So we encourage everyone to respond promptly.

Regardless of the type of invitation received, householders can respond online, by phone, or submit their paper questionnaire by mail.

For additional information, visit 2020census.gov.

Additional Resources:
atxcensus2020.com/en

Austin-Travis County Complete Count Committee

Texascounts.org

Texas Counts is a statewide collaborative effort working to engage cross-sector leaders and organizations to leverage, amplify, and share resources to promote the 2020 Census



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