



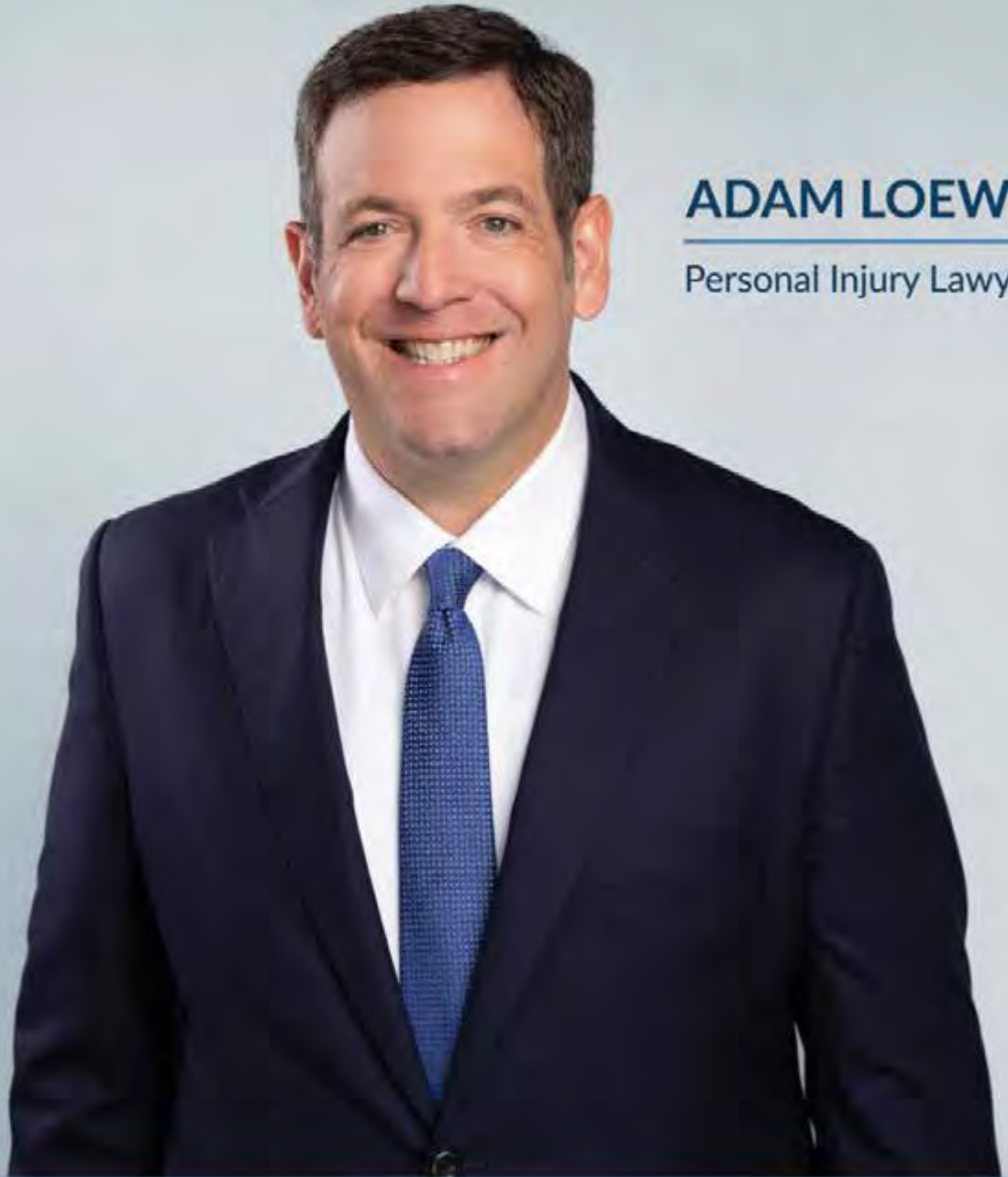
THE MUELLER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

# the FRONT PORCH FLYER



*Duck in the Lake at Sunset by Monica Rivera*

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## Letter from the Chair

Dear Neighbors,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. As summer comes to a close, all of us are still adjusting to the new realities of life during a pandemic - something that can change on a daily basis as we learn more about COVID-19. For the Mueller Neighborhood Association, this has meant taking our general and Steering Committee meetings from in-person gatherings to digital affairs and canceling or scaling down our usual events around the neighborhood.

However, the Steering Committee has been hard at work to help make this transition as smooth as possible. In addition to rethinking how we plan events, we recently purchased a Zoom subscription that will allow us to hold more online live meetings.

While there's a lot of uncertainty about the future, our organization will continue to adapt and rise to the occasion.

Take care,

John

### Updates:

Koreena Malone new member of the Steering Committee

### Get involved:

Run for a position on the Steering Committee

- Shape the present and the future of our neighborhood.

- Elections will be during the November meeting

Register to vote and go to the polls – whether that's by mail, during early voting, or on election day.

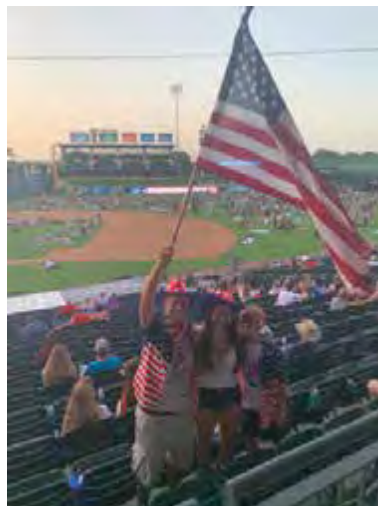
## Having Fun During COVID-19

*By Shawn Collins*

Global pandemics are a drag with the social distancing and quarantining, but there is safe fun stuff out there if you look for it.

Back in late June I came across an ad for a concert by country artist Granger Smith, followed by fireworks, on the 4th of July at Dell Diamond up in Round Rock. I knew one song by him ("Backroad Song") and typically wouldn't want to go see his concert, but I also wanted a safe place to take my kids and enjoy some fireworks and music.

The event was billed as being compliant with CDC and State of Texas guidelines and they had



*Dell Diamond 4th by Shawn Collins*

a seating plan on the field where groups up to 4 could be in marked off areas on the baseball field, as well as spots in the stadium seats that were well distanced from each other.

We went with 5 seats along the first base line and there was nobody within a dozen or so feet on any side. People were required to wear masks and it was outside, so I felt comfortable with the environment.

I was happy to see the crowd was all on board with masks and distance and it was a lot of fun to watch the concert and an awesome fireworks show afterwards.

That wasn't the only time getting out into the world and having some fun. While there aren't new releases playing at our local Alamo Drafthouse, there are a variety of drive-in movie options I've enjoyed over the past months.

One night we headed right outside of the neighborhood to see "The Outsiders" at the Blue Starlite Mini Urban Drive-In.

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# FRONT PORCH FLYER

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*Dell Diamond 4th by Shawn Collins*

Another time I headed down to Buda to see “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” at Doc’s Drive-In Theatre.

More recently there was a five-week series of movies at Evo Entertainment’s Kyle location where Anthony Michael Hall hosted double-features of classics featuring some of the other actors with him and Q&A.

I also went to “Outdoor Floyd - A Socially Distanced Pink Floyd Laser Phenomenon” at the H-E-B Center at Cedar Park. That was a unique environment of people tailgating in a socially distant manner and enjoying sights and sounds.

There are all sorts of drive-in concerts, movies, etc. coming up around here – get out of the house and enjoy some safe fun in the fresh air again.

## My Backyard Garden

*By Dan McAtee*

You don't need much space for vegetables. Laura Spoor and I have harvested lots of veggies from a few modest spots around our yard home. Two small areas next to the alley are dedicated to vegetables such as onions, garlic, and potatoes. These are also interspersed with other plantings in two more small garden areas in front of the house.

This year, so far, we have harvested red potatoes, butternut squash, onions, cilantro, cantaloupe, garlic, and Swiss chard. Poblano and Anaheim peppers, as well as cantaloupe, are loving the sun.



*Cantaloupe by Dan McAtee*

Last year we had lots of tomatoes and onions. This year we were too late for tomatoes, which makes the mockingbirds unhappy.

Vegetables grow in good soil, so we have added that plus some sand and compost. We fertilize only the calamondin tree. We water regularly, as needed, with drip irrigation. We converted our sprinkler system to drip irrigation. We don't do much about the sun and heat beyond adequate watering. Tomatoes die back in hot months.

*Continued on Page 5*

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*Onions by Dan McAtee*

At that time, we cut them back to 18 inches and they return to life when the weather cools.

In addition to vegetables, Laura has been providing neighbors with various types of potted house plants for several years, hosting regular front porch give-aways. Laura starts cuttings in water, and then when roots appear, she moves them to soil in pots. Onions and garlic are started the same way.



*Porch Plant Donations by Dan McAtee*

## You are Not Alone – SAFeline

You are not alone. SAFE is an Austin nonprofit dedicated to stopping abuse for everyone. During this period of shelter-in-place, SAFE knows that home is not a safe place for everyone. If you are or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call or text 911.

If you are concerned that you or someone you know may be experiencing violence or abuse, please call, chat, or text the 24/7, free & confidential SAFeline. Our SAFeline advocates can help you assess the level of danger, create a safety plan, discuss ways to help someone you know, or just talk.

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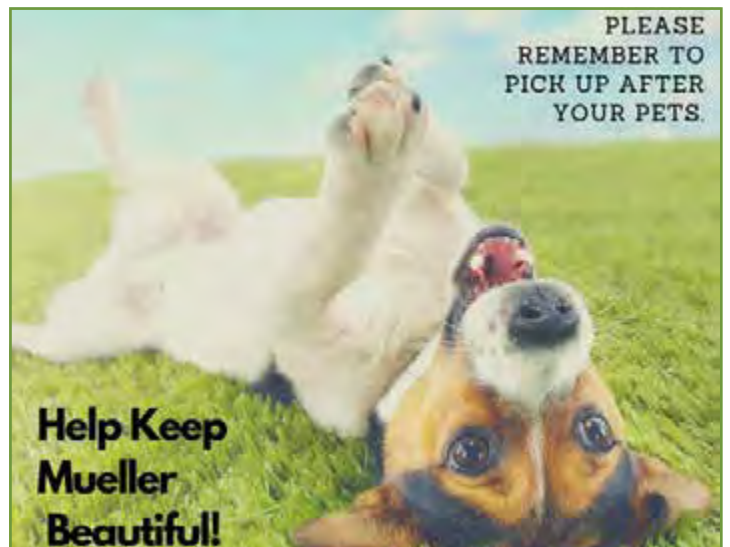
No está solo. SAFE es una organización cuyo objetivo es acabar con el abuso para todas las personas. Sabemos que la violencia suele aumentar en momentos como esté de estrés y aislamiento. Si Ud o alguien que conoce se encuentra en peligro inmediato, llame o envíe un mensaje de texto al 911.

Si Ud o alguien que conoce está sufriendo violencia o abuso, o si necesita ayuda, comuníquese con SAFE por nuestra línea confidencial SAFeline. Nuestros trabajadores de apoyo en SAFeline pueden ayudarle a evaluar el nivel de peligro, crear un plan de seguridad, discutir maneras en que puede ayudar a alguien que conoce, o sólo platicar.

| SAFeline – teléfono: 512.267.SAFE (7233) | envíe un mensaje de texto al: 737.888.SAFE (7233) | chatee en: [safeaustin.org /chat](https://safeaustin.org/chat)

SAFE Yard signs are now available. Contact [sorinblockcaptain@gmail.com](mailto:sorinblockcaptain@gmail.com) for pickup or to help distribute the signs, go here: <https://www.safeaustin.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

*Continued on Page 6*



# FRONT PORCH FLYER

*Continued from Page 5*

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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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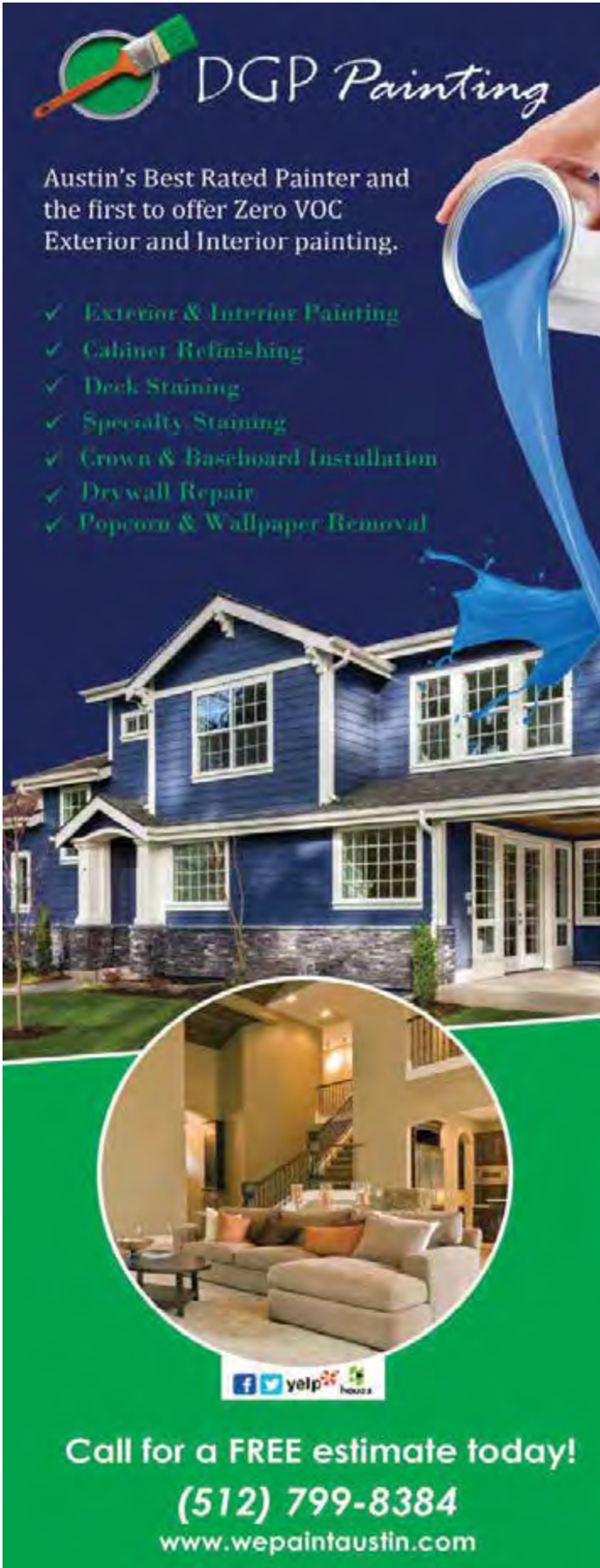
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