Neighborhood Association of Southwestern Williamson County

NASWC • P.O. Box 170297 • AUSTIN, TX 78717 • WWW.NASWC.ORG

January 27, 2015

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Attention: Director of Multifamily Finance PO Box 13941 (MC 332-10) Austin, TX 78711-3941

Attn: Ms. Nicole Fisher (<u>Nicole.fisher@tdhca.state.tx.us</u>)
Re: Quantifiable Community Participation ("QCP")

Dear Ms. Fisher,

The Neighborhood Association of Southwestern Williamson County (NASWC) requests the opportunity to provide feedback as an interested party on proposed Subsidized Housing Projects in our area, input as Quantifiable Community Participation ("QCP"), by submitting the following information:

 Neighborhood Association of Southwestern Williamson County P.O. Box 170297 Austin, TX 78717

Website: www.naswc.org

- 2. Contact Information
 - a) Cathy Mandell 13003 Sherbourne Austin, TX 78729

Phone: 512-258-2008

Email: zoning1416@naswc.org or cmandell@pointech.com

b) Bryan Finley 9707 Braes Valley Austin, TX 78729 Phone: 512-258-0794

Email: pres1416@naswc.com or bfinley1@sbcglobal.net

- 3. Proof that Neighborhood Organization has been in existence prior to January 8, 2015:
 Attached is pdf file of our Fall 2014 newsletter, *The Oak Post*.
- 4. Map of Neighborhood Boundaries is attached.

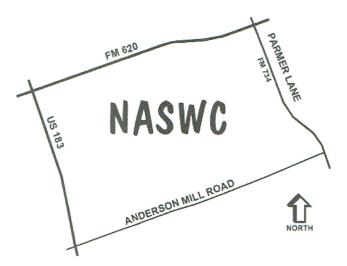
We appreciate the opportunity to provide input. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

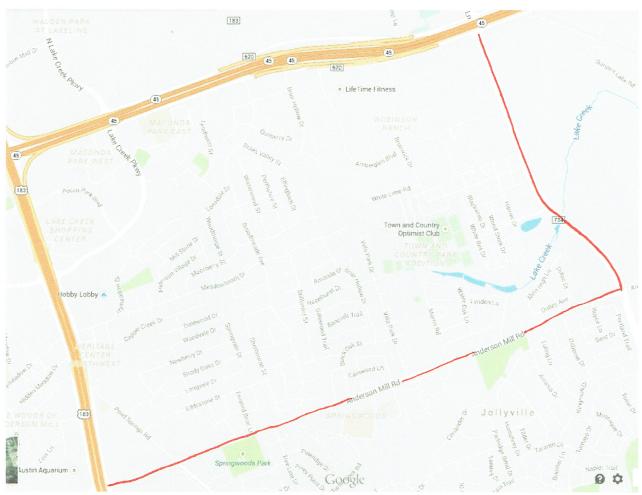
Sincerely, Bryon Finley

Bryan Finley President

Attached: *The Oak Post* newsletter
Map of Neighborhood Association boundaries

Neighborhood Association of Southwestern Williamson County (NASWC) Bounded by: Anderson Mill Road, US 183, FM 620, Parmer Lane (FM 734)







Neighborhood Safety Issues Need Your Help

We live in a beautiful neighborhood with attractive homes and many large trees overhanging our streets. Our Jollyville Fire Department purchased a new fire truck this past summer with all the latest technology to help protect our homes and loved ones in case of fire and other emergencies. But they can't do that if they can't get to you. The problem is our trees hanging over our streets are creating a barrier that keeps fire trucks and other emergency equipment from reaching some parts of our neighborhood.

Chief John Kiracofe at the Jollyville Fire Department is asking that we trim our overhanging trees to give at least 14 feet of clearance above the street. This is the required clearance established by law. Tree limbs hanging lower than 14 feet can create a barrier requiring time consuming detours or possible damage to the emergency trucks and equipment making them inoperable.

We are responsible for clearing safety hazards on our property. Please make sure the trees on your property have that 14 feet of clearance. We cannot depend on Williamson County to take care of this because they only have one crew to cover the whole county.

You might also have trees or large shrubs in your yard that need to be trimmed in case we have a heavy ice storm this winter. This will help protect you, your valuable trees, your cars, and your home and fences from injury or damage due to falling limbs this winter.

There are many places in our neighborhood that have shrubbery and other vegetation blocking visibility of oncoming traffic. These are places near corners and driveway entrances where the driver of a low profile car or other vehicle cannot see oncoming traffic or children on bicycles, skateboards, or other conveyances.

Speaking of visibility, when you walk on our streets and sidewalks after dark, please wear light colored clothing and use some kind of light. Otherwise, you are in danger of being hit by a passing motorist.

Other neighborhood hazards include bushes and low hanging limbs that obstruct traffic on our sidewalks forcing pedestrians to detour into the street. These sidewalks were installed by the county to provide a safe place for our children and others to walk.

Remember, you are responsible for vegetation growing on your property. Let's all take a good look at our yards and do what we can to make our neighborhood safe. If you notice problems on your neighbor's property, talk to them to see if they know about these possible hazards and need help finding someone to do their trimming.

If you have experience with tree trimming and would like to volunteer to help neighbors in this way, phone or e-mail your information to Bryan Finley (512-258-0794 or pres1416@naswc.org) or Mack Sherrod (512-258-6173 or safety1416@naswc.org).

Town & Country Sports

Winter Basketball Program - Registration Details:

Registration for the Recreational Winter Basketball Program for 6th grade through High School continues through January 13, 2015. **Registration Fee of \$130.00 includes T-shirt/Jersey.** Following team assignment, coaches will be contacting players/parents for first practices/schedules.

Please check the site (http://basketball.tandcsports.org) for more basketball information and updates. For league questions, contact the Basketball Board Members and/or Basketball Division Commissioners for the age group, a listing is located under "Board" and "Commissioners" tab on the Basketball website.

<u>Springwoods Pool – 13321 Lyndhurst St.</u>

Earlier this year SafeGuard Aquatics (SGA) assumed management of the Springwoods Pool. In addition to open pool hours, SGA offers a variety of classes with trained leaders to help promote a healthy lifestyle.

- Adult Masters Swimming Classes a program for adults of all swim levels and abilities. The classes are coached by Doug Russell, 2-time Olympic gold medalist.
- Aqua Zumba Classes are low-impact, high energy aquatic exercises which blend the Zumba philosophy with water resistance to help tone muscles.
- Aqua Fusion are water aerobics classes.

Their website, http://www.safeguardaquatics.com has more information. Click on the Springwoods tab for class times, pool hours, membership and program details pricing and fees.

NASWC Contact Information

Bryan Finley, President: pres1416@naswc.org
Bob Hamilton, Vice-President: vp1416@naswc.org
Susan Lewis, Secretary sec1416@naswc.org
Linda Finley, Treasurer treas1416@naswc.org

512-258-0794

(vacant), Information Officer info1416@naswc.org
Mack Sherrod, Safety safety1416@naswc.org
Cathy Mandell, Zoning zoning1416@naswc.org

For more information, visit our website at www.naswc.org

Hands-Free Austin New Law Effective January 1, 2015

In August the Austin City Council adopted Ordinance No. 20140828-041, amending the City Code, to prohibit the use of portable electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle or bicycle. This is part of an initiative to reduce Distracted Driving. The law goes into effect January 1, 2015.

Unless using a hands-free system (such as Bluetooth or headphones) or a permanently affixed GPS system, use of portable devices while moving in a car or on a bike will be a citable offense (fines up to \$500). This new law is in addition to the "texting while driving ban" which is already in effect. For more information, and a listing of devices, visit www.austintexas.gov/handsfree.

<u>Austin Police Department (APD)</u> Auto Theft and Burglary of Vehicle Crime Stats – Monthly Reports

APD's **Auto Theft Interdiction Project** now provides monthly reports for the crimes of Auto Theft and Burglary of Vehicle to help prevent vehicle burglaries and thefts in the State of Texas.

To view the monthly reports visit their website at http://austintexas.gov/department/auto-theft.

Helpful Numbers and Links

- Emergency: 911
- Williamson County Website www.wilco.org
- Pct. 1 Commissioner Lisa Birkman 512-244-8610
- WilCo Sheriff's Department
 Non-emergency phone: 512-943-1900
- Austin Police Dept 911 for Emergencies, 311 for non-emergencies or (512) 512-974-2000 (stray animals, potholes, etc.)
- City of Austin Power Outages: 512-322-9100
- City of Austin Utility Customer Service: 512-494-9400 (account or general info about utilities)
- Nextdoor Forest North and surrounding neighborhoods – a "bulletin board" for messages and information https://forestnorthestates.nextdoor.com

NASWC is 20! (the first years)

By Phyllis Lowe

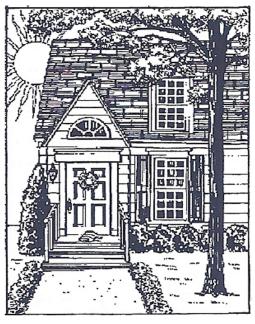
It is hard to believe that NASWC is 20 years old. So much has been accomplished by NASWC in those early years to protect the homeowners. In the beginning and before the explosion of commercial development around us, there was drainage. Our county commissioner at the time, Mike Heligenstein, called one of our homeowners on Meadowheath Drive and said that Williamson County was going to widen tributary 2 of Lake Creek. It is also referred to as Meadowheath creek, because it runs parallel to Meadowheath Drive. Williamson County wanted to get input from the homeowners along the tributary. Numerous meetings were held at the Jollyville Café, owned by Ben Bishop and his wife. Mrs. Bishop kindly provided coffee and cookies for the 20+ attendees.

Research was done on the history of drainage projects for Lake Creek and its three tributaries and found an interesting history. In the mid to late 1980s, the City of Austin required commercial land owners along Lake Creek Blvd. and highway 183 to contribute a onetime monetary payment to cover widening Lake Creek and tributary 1 that ran in front of the Forest North Elementary School. At the time, the two roads into the school were low water crossings and you can imagine the excitement it caused when we got one of those gulley washers and water was too deep to cross.

The funds collected by the City were to go to the widening of the main channel, tributary 1, and the construction of the two bridges into the school and the Broadmeade bridge. When the project was completed, it eliminated the flooding problem around the school. However, what most people were unaware of is that the widening stopped up a little ways and just around the corner towards the Optimist sports facility. It was out of sight, just before the main channel met up with tributary 2 and ran through the sports facility. The homeowners where the main channel and tributary 2 met were flooded multiple times. Thus, this was the need for Williamson County to widen and deepen the majority of tributary 2. It took several years to plan and to complete, but it fixed the problem.

By the time the creek project was complete, commercial development started in the boundaries that

surrounds our neighborhood. If you look around the fringes, you will see that most of the commercial business is very neighborhood friendly. There were long fought hours at the City of Austin, in attorney offices, and with real estate brokers to negotiate City of Austin zoning code for development that would protect our wonderful neighborhood. Your officers testified to the Environmental Board, Planning Commission, and City Council numerous times. We were successful in every instance to secure zoning that was neighborhood friendly. Today, NASWC still works in the homeowners' behalf to keep our neighborhood the place we all like to live in.



Shading the Future

- from Austin Energy Newsletter

Did you know that trees are available to Austin Energy for customers free through the Treefolks NeighborWoods program? TreeFolks, a local nonprofit organization, partners with the City of Austin to provide future shade trees for residents in neighborhoods throughout the Austin Energy service area. Mature trees can make your home more comfortable by blocking the sweltering summer sun and can keep surface temperatures 20-45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than exposed areas. TreeFolks staff will guide you through the process of selecting your tree and will deliver it to you. For more information and to find out if you are eligible, visit treefolks.org or call TreeFolks at 512-443-5323.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION to:

Neighborhood Association of Southwestern Williamson County (NASWC)

Instructions: Fill out form and sign. (If you are already a member of NASWC, bills for dues are mailed each fall.) Make dues payable to "NASWC". Mail form and payment to: NASWC - Memberships P. O. Box 170297 Austin, TX 78717 Select either a Regular membership or an Over 65 membership when the head-of-household is sixty-five (65) years of age or older. One membership per household. A second household member can be named as a co-member at no extra charge. Regular member - \$25.00 Over 65 - \$20.00 Membership fees are due on October 1st of each calendar year. Statements will be mailed in late September. For first time members only who join other than October 1st, your dues are prorated per quarter as follows: October-December 100%, January-March 75%, April-June 50%, July-September 25% For example, if you mail your application on May 15th and are over 65, you would pay 50% of the \$20 fee (\$10). Today's Date Member Name(s) Home Address City Zip Code Home Phone Work Phone E-mail Address Amount Enclosed \$ Do you wish to participate in the Round Rock Refuse contract? Yes No What trash company are you currently using? Would you like to be a member of the NASWC Board? Yes No Would you like to be a member of the Scholarship Committee? Yes The Zoning committee? Yes The National Night Out Committee? Yes Yes, I want to join the Neighborhood Association of Southwestern Williamson County. Signature

If you have any questions or if you need to verify your membership, please call Linda Finley, Treasurer, at 512-258-0794 or e-mail at <treas2012@naswc.org>.

All information provided to NASWC will be held in confidence and will never be given or sold to outside parties

Round Rock Refuse - Holiday Schedule

The upcoming holidays all fall on Thursday, which is the normal day for RRR to pick up trash and recycling.

Holiday Schedule

- Friday, November 28 trash only
- Thursday, December 4, 11 and 18: regular schedule for trash and recycle (on 4th and 18th)
- Friday, December 26 trash only
- Friday, January 2, 2015 trash & recycle
- Thursday, January 8th regular schedule resumes

NASWC General Meeting

Will be Thursday, December 11, 2014, 7:00 PM At Northwest Fellowship Corner of Anderson Mill & Pond Springs Roads

Speakers for the evening will be Lt. Russell Travis of the Williamson County Sheriff's office and Chief John Kiracofe of the Jollyville Fire Department. They will provide useful information on safety issues for the holidays.

There will be light refreshments and door prizes.

Save the Date!

NASWC

Neighborhood Association of Southwestern Williamson County

Did you know that NASWC has been serving our neighborhood community since 1994? **20 Years!** Our community extends from Anderson Mill Road to RR 620, and from Hwy 183 to Parmer. NASWC is a Neighborhood Association (not an HOA) and Membership is voluntary.

What Does NASWC Do?

- Host annual National Night Out event at T&C for neighbors to meet & greet the First Responders and county Officials who protect and serve our community.
- 2) Liaison with WilCo Sheriff's Department and APD to address crime and safety concerns.
- 3) Liaison with WilCo Parks Department to improve our Hike & Bike Trail along Lake Creek.
- 4) Award scholarships each year for the Doreen Scholtes Scholarship Award to students to continue their education at college or trade school.
- 5) Support the Forest North Stingrays Swim team.
- 6) Interact with City of Austin and Developers to provide input on Zoning and Site Plan Cases so development in our community is neighborhood-friendly, protective of Lake Creek as it flows through our neighborhoods, and next to our Forest North Elementary School.

How Much Does It Cost?

Annual dues are \$25 per household; Senior Membership dues are \$20 annually.

What are perks of membership?

- 1) Discount rates for trash/recycle pick-up through Round Rock Refuse.
- Membership eligibility at 2 local credit unions: Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union University Federal Credit Union

When are the Association Meetings?

- 1) Executive Committee/Board meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Jollyville Fire Station. The Executive Committee is made up of elected officers and volunteer board members.
- 2) General NASWC Meetings are held quarterly on the 2nd Thursday of the month (December – March – June – September). Our next meeting is December 11th at 7:00 pm at Northwest Fellowship. General Meetings include a program/speakers and business meeting.

NASW*C* P. O. Box 170297 Austin, TX 78717 Presort Standard US POSTAGE PAID Permit #10 Cedar Park, TX 78613

Postmaster, please deliver between 11/29/14 – 12/4/14

To Our Neighbors at:



NASWC General Meeting

Thursday, December 11, 2014 7:00 pm at Northwest Fellowship Pond Springs @ Anderson Mill Road

NASWC Calendar of Events

Board meetings are the 1st Thursday each month at 7:00 pm at the Jollyville fire station.

General meetings are held quarterly on the second Thursday of December, March, June and September at 7:00 pm at Northwest Fellowship on Pond Springs Road. All are welcome!

Eligible students who will be attending college or technical/training school in the 2015/16 school year can submit their scholarship applications December 2014 through April 2015. Application forms and other information can be found on our website at www.naswc.org .