



Allandale Neighbor

December 2023
Vol 38, Issue 6

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed!

- » The Allandale Neighborhood Association has openings for a variety of positions, including on the Social, Communications, Parks, and Zoning Committees

ANA Board Meeting

- » Wednesday, December 6, 7-9 pm
- » Update on repurposing the Rosedale School

Austin City Council Meeting

- » Thursday, December 7, 10 am
- » File your protest against the HOME Initiative before December 6
- » Sign up to speak at the meeting no later than noon on December 6
- » austintexas.gov/department/city-council/council/council_meeting_info_center.htm

Happy Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year!



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ANA Celebrates 50 Years, Welcomes a New Era

Mary Fero

On an unseasonably warm early November Sunday afternoon, neighbors from all corners of Allandale joined together to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA).

To mark the occasion of ANA's founding in October 1973, Mayor Kirk Watson issued an official Proclamation designating October 4th, 2023, as Allandale Neighborhood Association Day in Austin. The proclamation, displayed at the event, referred to Allandale as one of Austin's "iconic neighborhoods" and called the ANA a "powerful organizing force on behalf of neighborhood residents."

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Troop 845 Update

Devin Sager

This year, our eighth grade cadette troop took on the Silver Award project, an award offered to Girl Scouts in grades six through eight. To complete this award, cadettes first must make a cadette journey, and then complete a minimum of fifty hours toward a sustainable project that helps our community. Three girls from Troop 845, June R., Lorena E., and Devin S., decided to take on building an irrigation system for a Title 1 school.

Step two was all about the layout and how we would execute the project we took on. When we visited the garden, we sketched the garden layout and our plan for the irrigation system to start deciding what we would need and how to use it to make the system. We had several meetings planning the materials and the date when the irrigation would be built. Step three for us was fundraising. We raised money for the project through a poster, a video, and an email. After we sent out our advertisements, we started getting

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It took some time to decide on our project; we had other ideas, like creating a greenhouse or garden. After we agreed on an irrigation system, we began planning. The first step would be looking at the layout, so we planned a meeting at the school and discussed how we would accomplish this project. A couple of weeks later, we started step two.

Lettuce Recycle! Holiday Edition

Dena Houston



The holiday season presents many recycling challenges. I am happy to provide some ways to meet those challenges easily. Happy holidays and happy recycling!

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The Allandale Neighbor

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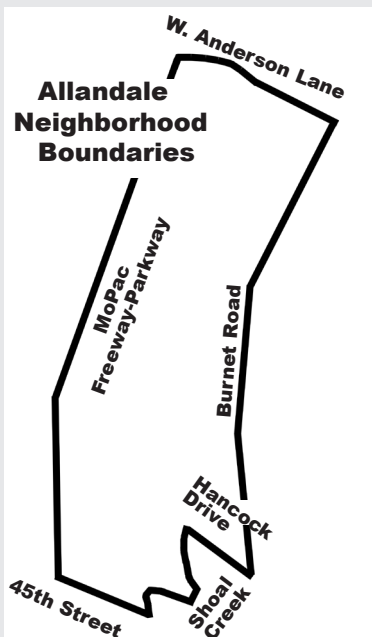
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center. General Membership meetings are held in April and October. (Meetings are currently held via Zoom)

Committees

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phillip.sparkman@austintexas.gov



President's Letter

Hans Magnusson, ANA President (512) 522-8773, ana@hmviking.com

Dear Allandale Neighbors:

The first weekend in November was filled with activity in our own Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park (that's a mouthful). On Saturday, volunteers shoveled mulch from a huge mound onto sleds and wheelbarrows. Other volunteers dragged sleds or pushed wheelbarrows to a restoration area to dump and spread mulch near the pool. This area will, over time, have soil improvements for native plants to grow. In the parking lot next to the ballfield, another group of volunteers had a tougher job of moving the mulch up the hill to the rim of the ball field towards the pond.

On Sunday, November 5, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ANA founding in 1973 with a well-attended picnic in the park with pleasant weather. Lots of folks of different ages attended, and there was special entertainment for kiddos courtesy of Gail Dickinson. Our "Allan Dale" t-shirts did sell out quickly, so we have ordered a second batch that will arrive before this newsletter is printed—more on the anniversary on the following pages with pictures.

The HOME initiative (Home Options for Middle-Income Empowerment), sponsored by District 7 Council Member Leslie Pool, continues to move through the process leading up to a vote in council on December 7. The assault by astroturf agitators, ideologues, and monied interests in neighborhoods is a version of a Pearl Harbor Day sneak attack, with few people knowing what is happening.

The details in this land development code amendment are still moving around, but the overall direction is the same. The stated objective is to allow more affordable housing. The discrepancy between the stated goal and the net result of the changes is stark. The details depend on whether a neighborhood has deed restrictions or not.

In neighborhoods with deed restrictions, the impact is likely limited to mega-mansions being built since the McMansion restrictions are removed and thus allow for multiple buildings on a SF1-3 lot. When deed restrictions don't constrain how a single-family home is partitioned, bigger houses can be built than what current zoning allows. Yes, more flooding will likely result from this impervious cover increase.

For neighborhoods without deed restrictions, condominiums or rental units can be built in addition to mega-mansions. After the existing SF home and obstructing trees are removed, several units can be built. If sold to individuals, the property must be set up as a small condominium to manage the property tax. If the complex is sold to or funded by an investor, it would be a traditional rental property. In either case,

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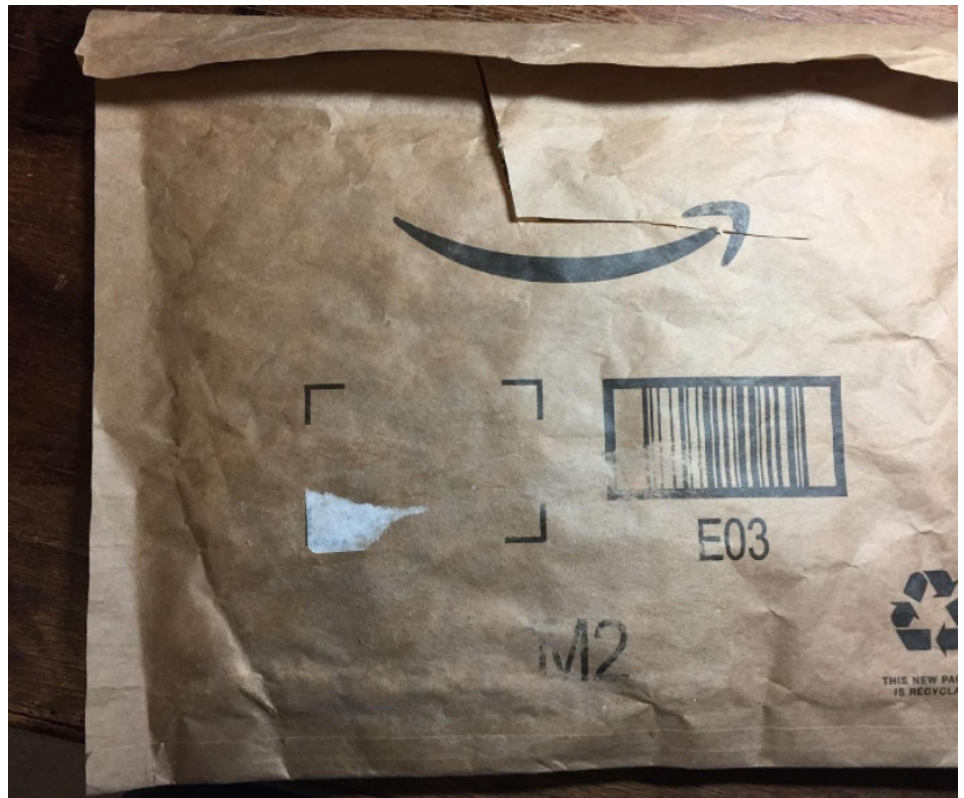
CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Boxes and Mailers: Boxes, even with tape and staples, can go into your blue recycling cart. Plastic mailers need to go into the plastic bag collection bins at the grocery store; be sure to remove the label. The brown Amazon mailers with a middle layer of white foam cannot be recycled in our market, even though they say “recyclable.” These must go into your trash cart. See the photo for an example.

Batteries: Household batteries, including rechargeable, can be recycled at most Austin public libraries and at the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center.

Gift Bags: Kraft paper or plain paper gift bags can be placed in your blue recycling cart. Gift bags with any foil, fabric, adornments, glitter, beads, or handles cannot be recycled unless the handles and adornments are removed from the bag.

Gift Wrap Paper: Wrapping paper (but not paper with glitter or made of foil) is recyclable and can be placed directly into



Example Amazon mailer, which cannot be recycled in our market

your blue recycling cart. This can even include paper with tape still on it.

Holiday Greeting Cards: Plain cards can go into your blue recycling cart. Cards with glitter or other adornments must go into the trash cart. Batteries must be removed from musical cards and recycled with batteries. Christmas photo cards can no longer be recycled and must go into the trash cart.

Holiday Light Strands: Strands of broken lights can go to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. Do not put these into the blue recycling cart.

Holiday Party Waste: With curbside composting, we can now put our party-generated paper plates, napkins, and food products into the green compost bin.

Household Clutter: Holiday time is a great time to get rid of the old stuff to make room for new items coming in. There are many wonderful organizations in Austin that will happily accept these items. Here is a link to the Austin Reuse directory to help find a home for your old stuff: austinreusedirectory.com. Another source for getting rid of this clutter is the Buy Nothing Project. For more information on the project, go to buynothingproject.org.

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Styrofoam Peanuts and Bubble Wrap: Styrofoam peanuts and bubble wrap that are clean and in good condition will be accepted at most mailbox stores. Bubble wrap can also go into the plastic bag collection bins at most grocery stores. Styrofoam is accepted only at the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. NOTE: The recycling center no longer accepts Styrofoam peanuts.

Styrofoam Collection Community Initiative: The Rotary Club of Austin-Southwest has begun a Styrofoam collection project. It is held on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the SFC (Sustainable Food Center) Farmer's Market in Sunset Valley. Club members will take the Styrofoam to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. This is a wonderful community service.

Recycling Presentations: I have made several recycling presentations to community groups around Austin. I have done them on Zoom and in person. If you are interested, please contact me at denahouston3309@gmail.com.

Reader Q & A

How do I recycle old, broken toaster ovens?
These can go to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center.

How do I recycle bottle caps?
These are too small to go into the blue recycling cart. Austin Creative Reuse will be happy to take them.

Is the plastic bag insert in cereal boxes recyclable?
Yes, if it is clean and dry, it can go into the plastic bag collection bin.

Can wine corks go into the compost bin?
No, these cannot. Most wine corks today are synthetic and will not compost. Spec's Wine stores have collection bins for corks. Austin Creative Reuse also takes wine corks.

Do I need to remove the sprayer component in spray bottles?
No. You can put the entire bottle (including the metal spring) in the blue cart.

Reader Reuse Suggestions

University of Texas Reuse Store: UT has a surplus reuse store. It is full of stuff from all departments of the University. For more information, visit alcalde.texasesexes.org/2023/09/surplus-reuse-store.

Ice Packs: Clean, dry icepacks can be recycled at Capital Food Bank, at 6500 Metropolis (not Montopolis) Dr. Leave them in the food donation box, which is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F, and is located on the Burleson side of the property.

Cereal Boxes for Compost: It has been suggested that empty cereal boxes, paper sugar, and flour bags be used to contain the compost that goes into the curbside can.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do.

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: denahouston3309@gmail.com.

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It's My Park Day Fall 2023: Another Big Success!

Mary Fero

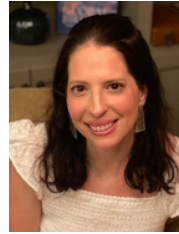
More than 70 enthusiastic neighbors and park friends showed up bright and early on the first Saturday in November at Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park for Austin Parks Foundation's It's My Park Day 20th anniversary event. It's My Park Day is Austin Parks Foundation's biannual, community-led day of service that takes place the first Saturday in March and November each year.

Folks ready to spread some love and mulch quickly split into two groups. The first group headed to work on the high trail on the Shoal Creek Dam/levee, spreading mulch along the low spots that tend to get muddy during winter months. They also distributed a portion of the mulch around the old pecan tree above the baseball field and around others near the parking lot.

The second group took the bulk of the volunteers and helped spread a thick layer of mulch to the hillside natural area across from the playscape. IMPD project coordinator Ranleigh Hirsh recently received approval from the city's Watershed Protection Department to implement a long-term project to restore this grow-zone area. More information to come on this, along with future opportunities to participate.

Thanks to everyone who showed up to work at Sheffield Northwest Park. This work was part of an effort across Austin involving almost 3,000 volunteers at nearly a hundred distinct projects.

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President's Letter

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the cost of land and construction will price the units well above the affordability target for both sales and rent scenarios.

On the low end of investor-funded n-plexes, one can imagine a twelve-plex built on a 10,000 sqft lot. Each unit in the twelve-plex can have six bedrooms, so theoretically you could rent out seventy-two bedrooms for less than \$500/month each and still make a good profit. Another possibility is to forgo bedrooms and have a bunk-room with maybe twenty triple-decker bunk beds. You could cram in even more unlucky souls in such a scenario.

Basic economic theory is ignored in the HOME initiative. There isn't much profit to be made in "affordable" housing. There is possibly a profit to be made in an exploitative manner, preying on the vulnerable low-income demographics.

Correction:

I made an error in the October letter stating that drug addiction disqualifies you from being accepted at Community First Village. This is not the case.

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." -Martin Luther King, Jr.

hans

Help out a neighbor ■ Pick up litter ■ Spay/neuter your pets ■ Plant flowers ■ Volunteer ■ Use our trails,

Take Pride In our Neighborhood

parks, and greenways ■ Conserve water ■ Drive carefully ■ Have a block party ■ Attend a neighborhood meeting ■ VOTE! ■ Flip over an upturned turtle ■ Observe the speed limit ■ Take walks around the neighborhood ■ Pick up after your pets ■ Keep bicycle lanes open ■ Join ANA ■ Donate household items ■ Report potholes 3-1-1 ■ Say hello to your neighbor

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ANA Celebrates 50 Years, Welcomes a New Era

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Former State Representative Elliott Naishtat, District Judge Catherine Mauzy, and County Commissioner Brigid Shea represented our local elected officials who were on hand to say hello to long-time friends while meeting some of their newest constituents.

It was a joy to welcome so many new faces to the neighborhood, including one family who joined in after moving to Allandale that very week. Kids of all ages, led by Gail Dickinson, used microscopes to get a good look at life in the park. Gail helped them make geckos with flashing LED eyes. Adults talked while the youngest kids played on the playscape, and others ran around exploring this wonderful outdoor space – still one of the best-kept secrets in town.

Neighbors with a long history in efforts to boost Allandale's civic standing showed up, as they have for decades. The dedication of some of these early ANA Board and committee members led Allandale to victory in the largest rezoning case in Texas and protected properties by enforcing deed restrictions. Others worked to establish a lasting legacy of community spirit through events such as ANA-sponsored Parties in the Park and the annual Allandale July 4th Parade.

Whether newly arrived or here for decades, everyone seemed to agree that we're mighty fortunate to reside in this great neigh-



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Two Fosters, One Price live in concert

borhood, and Allandale is a wonderful place to live!

Two Fosters, One Price, featuring Christy Palumbo Foster, Dan Foster, and Maryann Price, provided an energy-boosting backdrop to the festivities. Their range of crowd-pleasing music – from bluegrass and country to rock, jazz, swing, and traditional blues – guaranteed fun for everyone.

Generous donations from local area sponsors were especially appreciated. Folks went home delighted with gift certificates for a Free Scoop of deliciousness from our neighborhood favorite, **Amy's Ice Creams** – always a crowd-pleaser. **Waterloo Sparkling Water** provided many cases of sparkling and still waters, especially welcome on a warmer-than-usual day. Long-time favorites and new seasonal flavors excited the taste buds for those who tried one for the first time. **Starbucks Coffee**, at the corner of Anderson and Rockwood Lanes, provided a generous donation of coffee and hot chocolate, which was a big hit

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New neighborhood shirt vs. old neighborhood shirt

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ANA Celebrates 50 Years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

with the kids. Beverages accompanied confetti-sprinkled cupcakes, a happy reminder of this very special birthday.

During the afternoon festivities, folks discussed changes in Allandale and throughout Austin. Hans Magnusson, ANA President, along with other ANA board members, fielded questions and comments about potential ordinances being considered by the City Council. As was true in the past, neighbors can count on ANA to continue to be a “powerful organizing force” that will speak out for neighbors and the betterment of Allandale. If you want to help ANA sustain that effort, please consider supporting the association through a modest membership contribution in honor of the next fifty!

Join ANA at allandaleneighbor.com/anamembership.



Children using microscopes with Gail Dickinson



Allandale neighbors in conversation



Shirts for sale

Troop 845 Update

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

donations from the A-Plus AC and Home Solutions, Crenshaw Athletic Club, Duhon Electric, and Loewy Law Firm. In all, we raised around \$300 to spend on the irrigation system.

After fundraising, we traveled to Lowes to get all the materials we needed. We walked around the store, picking up the materials needed, and made adjustments to the list as we went along. Once we got everything, we paid, headed back to our houses, and got ready to face the long days ahead. A few days passed, and finally, it was time to build the irrigation system we'd been planning for.

The day came, and we all arrived at the garden bright and early so we had less time in the hot sun. We aimed to finish the irrigation system on Saturday and do small details and testing on Sunday. The day started with digging trenches and pathways for our system because we didn't want kids to trip over anything since it was an elementary school. It took a couple of hours, but after that, it was time for the fun part. We started gluing pipes together, and the irrigation system was coming together. By the end of the day, we had finished the main pipe, all

the digging, and one of the three offshoots.

Sunday rolled around, and we had another full day of work ahead. That day was much easier. We started immediately with the offshoots, which took about an hour. Once that was completed, we placed valve boxes so the valves could be accessed without being exposed. We came to a little problem: we were a few parts short. We took a break while our group project

leader, Mrs. Caroline, went to find some parts. When she returned, she told us there weren't any parts, but we found a way to move around that.

Our last step was pressure testing. We tested every offshoot and mainframe. That moment was the moment when the whole irrigation system worked! The last step was getting the missing parts, filling in the trenches, and returning to do the final touches on the system we built in two days. We returned another day and added the pieces, then showed one of the teachers how to use them.

All in all, we are all so proud of the work we have created and very lucky to have so many people to help us along the way. This project made us feel accomplished! I'm very glad that we chose this project for our Silver Award.

We want to thank a couple of people, starting with our parents. Without them, I don't think this project could have happened so easily. Next, all of our sponsors! Thank you, A-Plus AC, Crenshaw Athletic Club, Duhon Electric, and Loewy Law Firm. Ms. Coba, thank you so much for allowing us to do this project. Lastly, Mrs Caroline: she was amazing. She cared for this project just as much as we did. She spearheaded our project, and for that, we are so grateful.

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Allandale Quick Bites: Tikka, Ziki, and Cheri

Robert Mace

We're in "best of" season, but before I slather the kudos on our hood's chowslingers, let's see what's new, coming, and closed. When you read this, Tikka Shack Indian Grub should be open at 2438 Anderson Lane. Ziki, a Greek-Mexican trailer, has pulled into 5100 Burnet. Cuter-than-a-button-cactus Cheri Coffee & Flowers opened at 6727 Burnet. Verdad True Modern Mexican in The Grove announced its opening on December 11. Newly announced for the spring is Snarf's Sandwiches at 7301 Burnet. Austin's Very Own Salt is still slowly crawling toward an opening, as is our very own H-Mart.

Kitchen United suffered another All Hallow's Eve bloodbath (one-year leases must be up) with Benvolio's, Burger & Sons, J. Fermentos, Little Juliet, Pokaii, Pomodoro, Scooped Cookie Dough Bar, Teji's Indian Restaurant, and What The Farm falling to the chainsaw of post-Covid inflation and fickleness. Only Fuddruckers and Hawaiian Brothers survived.

Now for neighborhood kudos!

The Austin American-Statesman's Matt Odam, Austin's second-best restaurant reviewer, honored Yamas on his list of the year's best restaurants and included the Shiitake Dumplings at Barley Swine, the French Dip at Bartlett's, the Duck Enchiladas at



Ziki food truck at 5100 Burnet Road

Fonda San Miguel, and the Beef Enchiladas at Enchiladas y Mas on his list of iconic Austin dishes.

Austin Chronicle's Melanie Haupt lists Eldorado as Austin's best restaurant and Little Deli as the town's eighth best. Readers recognized Fonda San Miguel (Interior Mexican, Ambiance), Phoenicia Bakery & Deli (Mediterranean), Bird Bird Biscuit (Breakfast Sandwich), Thundercloud Subs (Sandwich), JewBoy Burgers (Burgers), Eldorado (Enchiladas), Amy's (Ice Cream), Juiceland (Juice/Smoothies), and Chez Zee (Weekend Brunch).

In terms of my fave local-to-the-hood dishes, I bequeath my Slow Bite award to the Cedar Plank Fried Redfish at Carve, the Ancho Relleno San Miguel at Fonda San Miguel, the Baklava at Yamas, the Birria Tacos at Que Divino Cocina Mexicana, the Spicy Ahi at Pokeworks, the Scallops at Gràcia Mediterranean, the Beef Enchiladas at Enchiladas y Mas, the chicken pirata tacos from Dos Batos, the Ichiga Daifuku from Asahi Imports, the Touchdown Tim from Pita Fusion, and the key lime pie from Bartlett's.

For a hot-linked full-color version, please visit austinwanderlist.com.

Parks in Brief

Mary Fero

Pool Renovation: The massive pecan tree within the back fence of the pool is slated for removal. City staff report it is in decline and poses a safety hazard. Previous cuts to the canopy had been made following severe winter storm events. The final Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest Aquatic Facility Renovation plan is expected to be presented to the Planning Commission in early 2024. See austintexas.gov/sheffieldNWpool for more information.

Late-Night Activities: Late-night gatherings continue in the area near the pond parking lot, and empty containers left behind suggest substantial amounts of alcohol are sometimes consumed. The portable toilet has been tipped several times, and graffiti recently made an appearance on the dumpsters (the latter by young artists spotted at the time). A nearby neighbor sees car lights regularly coming and going throughout the night. General concerns about park activities have been shared with our APD District Representative. Neighbors are encouraged to report issues to 311.

Help out a neighbor ■ Pick up litter ■ Spay/neuter your pets ■ Plant flowers ■ Volunteer

Take Pride In our Neighborhood

■ Use our trails, parks, and greenways ■ Conserve water ■ Drive carefully ■ Have a block party ■ Attend a neighborhood meeting ■ VOTE! ■ Flip over an upturned turtle ■ Observe the speed limit ■ Take walks around the neighborhood ■ Pick up after your pets ■ Keep bicycle lanes open ■ Join ANA ■ Donate household items ■ Report potholes 3-1-1 ■ Say hello to your neighbor



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CATERING • EVENTS

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You can also find a signup link on our website, www.allandaleneighbor.com

Neighborhood Schools Report

Tara Lane Bowman

Gullett Elementary students who are involved in out-of-school musical endeavors will be able to participate in Share Day in front of classmates on December 18 and 19. This is a chance for children to engage in a musical show-and-tell with their peers. Instruments may be stored in music instructor Will Jurgens' room on each student's Share Day. Pianists will use the classroom piano. This event is for a student audience. Be sure to ask your Gecko what their peers shared with their class.

Highland Park Elementary hosts school tours! Come for principal- and assistant principal-guided tours. Tours are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. There is no need to make a reservation; please just bring your license or ID. January 24 is the next tour date.

Lamar Middle School and Fine Arts Academy tours are popular and are now full through December. Future students interested in the Fine Arts Academy can find information on applications by visiting lamar.austinschools.org and clicking on Programs >> Fine Arts Academy. The handbook, audition requirements, and the Enroll Austin link can all be found there. Direct any further questions to Fine Arts clerk Annie Reeves at ariann.t.reeves@austinisd.org.



WE LOVE OUR
SCHOOLS!



McCallum High School and Fine Arts Academy students will have final exams on Friday, December 15, through Wednesday, December 20. On each of these four days, students will have two exams and an altered schedule. The grading period ends on the last day of the semester, December 20. All AISD students begin the spring semester on Tuesday, January 9.

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\$10–\$20 per household.

visit www.allandaleneighbor.com to
join or check your membership status

Carve American Grille

Robert Mace

John Kelso once berated Iron Works Barbecue for placing their salad bar at their entrance, something akin to greeting folks at a vegan restaurant with a butcher's table full of red meat. Well, no worries about a salad bar at Carve American Grille because you are, indeed, greeted not only with a butcher's table full of red meat but a butcher carving the day's sizzles. But don't let the greeting table of the Protein Formerly Known as Moo dissuade you—the place is a “Grille,” not a “Steakhouse,” — so there are other offerings for folks who don't automatically order steak when we see blood.

A sophisticated sister of Perry's Steakhouse, the Carve at The Grove is the second Carve joining one at Barton Creek. With black hardware and low lighting, the vibe is Olsen Kundig steampunk crossed with upscale, minimalist goth. The mixology is decidedly Late Mesozoic (when dinosaurs got weird). I happily swilled the Sorbet Sundae Sour (Bulleit bourbon, freshly-pressed lemon juice, and egg white froth topped with Perry's Reserve Cabernet sorbet and a Luxardo cherry; \$15) while The Bride enjoyed her Bubbly Black Rose (Reyka vodka, St-Germain elderflower liqueur, freshly-pressed lemon juice, blackberry purée, and black tea topped with prosecco; \$15). We paired our bevs with soft and savory Lobster Corn Dogs (lobster and shrimp mousse with a hush puppy batter and lemon aioli; \$19 for three; yes, I favor ordering the goofiest sounding dishes on the menu).

For dinner, I chose the Carve French Dip

(smoked NY Strip shaved with Gruyere cheese, peppers, and onions on a hoagie roll with fried onion strings; \$24.5). It was bonkers good, super savory, and richer than pre-Twitter Musk. The Bride sank her hook into the Cedar Plank Fried Redfish (topped with a basil-parsley-pine nut-pecorino pesto drizzled with balsamic

glaze and a side of asparagus; \$39). This plank is pure magic: smokey, zesty, herba-ceous, and addictive—and one of the best fish dishes we've ever had.

With our (biodegradable) doggy boxes tucked warmly at our sides, we ended the

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The Lobster Corn Dogs at Carve

Carve American Grille

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evening with the Mini Trio of a bite-sized lemon tart, mini banana cream pie, and bite-sized torched s'more (\$13). The big surprise was how well the banana cream pie in that small mason jar cha-cha'd across our tongues. Carve offers several mocktails and, if you can coax them past the opening slaughter, a couple of vegan/vegetarian options (including a veg-head Salisbury steak). Carve also serves pizza, burgers, salads, lunch, and brunch, offering take-out with nearly every dish touched by wood, smoke, or fire.

Although Kelso passed away in 2017, he would have approved of the glass room of raw beef at the entrance (although it's hard to imagine him approving of New Austin). But as far as New Austin goes, Carve is dang delicious and well worth a visit (and many more).

Carve American Grille, 2613 Perseverance Drive, carveamericangrille.com. Visit austinwanderlist.com for a full-color review.



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We'd love for readers to submit ideas and articles.

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Did you know?

The Allandale Village H.E.B. first opened in 1950!



Fonda San Miguel

Robert Mace

Fonda San Miguel is not only a great restaurant—frequently topping Austin best-of lists—it’s also important, introducing Austin (and Texas) not only to the fine-dining of Mexican-from-Mexico cuisine (Mex-Mex?) but also cuisine from the Mexican interior. Started in 1975 by Tom Gilliland and Miguel Ravago, Fonda San Miguel has been cooking at the comal for almost 50 years at the same location in the heart of Allandale. Surviving 50 years in this town is remarkable, but to be so popular as to require reservations weeks out to land a weekend table is saying something.

With reservations in hand, we entered the hacienda through the two enormous doors, stepping into a stunning Mexican-styled courtyard. Despite a 5:00 pm opening and our 5:30 reservations, the place was already hopping from its first seating. We were placed in the main dining area and quickly ordered bevs, a Silver Coin Margarita (watermelon-infused tequila, frozen limeade, Cointreau; \$16) and a House Margarita (\$14) on the rocks, both good (and strong).

Instead of a normal appetizer, we started with the Ancho Relleno San Miguel (chile ancho filled with chicken, olives, capers, and almonds served over a light cilantro cream sauce; \$29), one of Fonda’s signature dishes (and one we hadn’t tried before). Wow. The chile serves as a treasure chest embracing a beach of ambrosial ingredients eroding in a tide of rich sauce.

For mains, The Bride caught the Pescado a la Plancha (grilled fish fillet seasoned with recado and served with salsa verde, rajitas, and grilled vegetables; \$37) while I went with the boring (for Fonda) choice of Enchiladas de Mole Poblano (chicken and mole topped with sesame seeds and a side of refried beans and rice; \$25). “Mole is never a boring choice,” our able server responded. Indeed. I always taste history when I have good mole, and the rich, deep, and delicious flavors of Puebla come alive with this plate. The Bride’s

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Ancho Relleno San Miguel at Fonda

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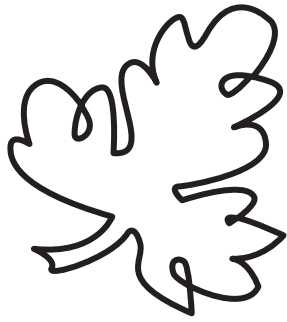
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Fonda San Miguel

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fish was unctuous and wonderfully seasoned—almost blackened. I wondered (internally—The Bride can eat what The Bride wants to eat) about the wisdom of ordering fish at the Fonda, but it was a wise choice.

We boxed up half of our entrees (bonus points for compostable doggie boxes) so we could enjoy an order of Tres Leches Cake (with Mango sorbet garnished with mango and strawberry; \$14) and French-pressed decaf (\$4.5). Almost too pretty to eat, the cake was a perfect ending to the meal.

Sadly, Chef Ravago passed away in 2017, but his partner Gilliland has thankfully kept the tradition running. However, Gilliland has also enhanced the menu to accommodate the Balkanization of diets. The current chowslinger, Chef Blanca Zesati, has expanded the menu with vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free dishes under the banner “De La Tierra” (and they all sound delicious). Fonda San Miguel is preparing for its 50th anniversary in 2025 with plans for a bold birthday fiesta. Let’s hope for more fiestas to come!

Fonda San Miguel, 2330 West North Loop, www.fondasanmiguel.com. Visit austinwanderlist.com for a full-color review.



Bonus shot of Two Fosters, One Price performing at the ANA 50th Anniversary Party

Allandale Neighborhood Association New or Renewal Membership.

All residents within Allandale's boundaries are welcome to join the Allandale Neighborhood Association. Annual dues are \$20 per household or \$10 (over age 55 household). Dues may be paid in advance for multiple years.

Name _____
Address _____
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Membership rates: \$20 dues per household \$10 dues per age 55+ household

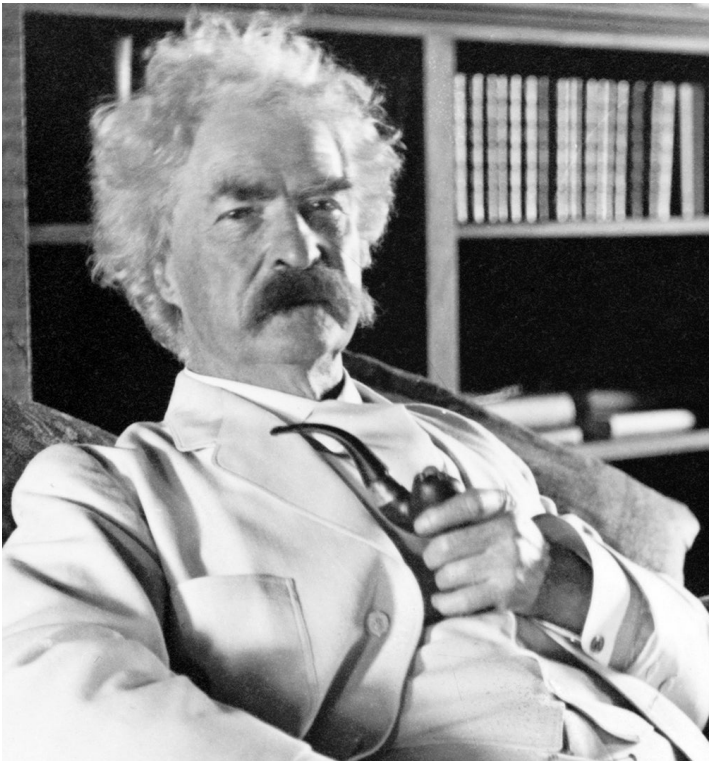
Please make checks payable to: ANA ■ PO Box 10886 ■ Austin, TX 78766-1886 ■

Or join online via www.allandaleneighbor.com

I am willing to serve on the following committees: Bylaws Communications Finance Membership
 Nominating Parks Safety Zoning and Planning Other _____

Get Involved with your Allandale Neighbor Newsletter

Allandale Neighborhood Association



Newsletter Submissions: Do you want to submit an article to our newsletter on a subject of community interest? Here's what you need to know!

- All submissions require the approval of the Allandale Neighborhood Association president.
- Submissions are due January 15 for our February newsletter and March 15 for our April newsletter.
- Articles may be lightly edited for grammar, spelling, length, or clarity. Do not add any special formatting or bold text. Headings, subheadings, and paragraphs are fine.
- Please submit all articles via Google Drive to newsallandale@gmail.com. Submissions in other document formats (Microsoft Word, PDF, etc.) cannot be accepted. Email us if you need guidance on document formats and we will assist you.



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