

WootenNews

A newsletter serving the Wooten community

January 2010

Wooten Neighborhood Association • Box 10171 • Austin, Texas 78766 • blog: wootenna.com

Next WNA meeting: Monday, March 8, 7:00pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church cafeteria, 1500 W. Anderson (Burrell Drive entrance)

Letter from the president

With this issue of the newsletter we look at ways to make positive changes in our neighborhood. Every time we pitch in, we all benefit.

One of our local projects is the new trail at Wooten Park. After a good start, the project has slowed down a bit, and we are looking at options for grant funding to continue. Michelle Smith of Texas Action for Healthy Kids, with the input of a few observers, is putting together a document complete with pictures showing the issues that affect the park.

During the second week of January, three days of constant rain gave us an opportunity to observe water runoff patterns. We hope to work with the City of Austin and AISD to develop a plan to add a retention pond at the corner of Burrell and Dale Drive and improve the grading and runoff on the property. This will divert water from the playscapes and the trail so that it can be repaired without further worry of it being washed out again.

Please stay tuned for opportunities to help make this happen in the spring time.

Sincerely,
Adam Turner, WNA President
president@wootenna.com

Wooten Neighborhood Plan bylaws contact team

An important meeting (see page 4) will be held to vote on the bylaws to govern the Neighborhood Plan Contact Team for the Wooten Neighborhood Plan. This Contact Team will drive communications with the City of Austin about any changes to the previously approved neighborhood plan, which addresses improvements and future development in Wooten and surrounding areas.

- Monday, Feb 22, 6:30 pm
Village Christian Apartments
7925 Rockwood Lane



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Central West Commander's Forum

At the next Commander's Forum, City Council member Sheryl Cole will listen to our issues and address concerns about homeless and transient people.

Please come! Having Wooten well represented among people from the large area they cover shows that we're aware, interested in and committed to a safe neighborhood.

Next Commander's Forum:

- Tuesday, Feb 2, 6:30pm
McCallum High School
5600 Sunshine Drive

School reports

Wooten Elementary School has been chosen as the dual-language campus for North Austin. Principal Bolek will give a presentation at a spring WNA meeting to talk about this exciting new program and explain how it differs from ESL. Additionally, a Partners-in-Reading program will be established with training and materials provided to volunteers.

- Information: 414-4100

Despite complaints we hear and register over some Burnet Middle School students, the school itself has a positive atmosphere, with many volunteer opportunities to become involved and make a difference in students' lives. Research shows that the middle school level is the groundwork stage for success in graduating from high school.

Burnet MS has a Boys and Girls Club, Tech-Bridge and Gen-Austin for girls. The Communities in Schools program has a proven record of improving grades, attendance and behavior.

- cisaustin.org or 462-1771

Girlstart

Girlstart, which has been in our neighborhood for more than 10 years, is buying their building on the corner of Anderson and Lazy Lane. Their programs empower girls in science, technology, engineering and math and have served more than 20,000 girls and 5,500 teachers and families. They need volunteers in the office and offer internships of 10 hours a week. An Expanding Your Horizons conference will be held at U.T. on April 17th. And as they take over ownership of their building, they could probably use volunteers for building maintenance.

- girlstart.org or 916-4775

Library news

Due to budget cuts, our new North Village Branch Library would have reduced magazine and newspaper subscriptions to three. In defiance, neighbors organized a rummage/bake sale in late November and raised more than \$1,300 to pay for an additional 28 subscriptions.

From this effort, a group called Friends of North Village Library has formed to support our neighborhood library. Join this group at:

groups.google.com/group/nvfriends

You can also support all Austin libraries by shopping at Recycled Reads at 5335 Burnet Rd.

- Learn, donate, volunteer: 974-7443

Best deal in the neighborhood.

Just \$5 gets you into the best neighborhood association in Wooten. Join at the next meeting or mail to:

WNA, P.O.Box 10171, Austin 78766

Annual membership period is Oct 1 - Sept 30.

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Over the fence

by Joy Roberts

This is the first in a series about our neighborhood. This history will be recorded on wootenna.com and in future newsletters. I am also interested in older photos of the neighborhood. If you know stories of Wooten history, contact me at joy.roberts@att.net.

When I first moved to my new neighborhood in August '07, I noticed that many of the chain link fences had back gates into neighbor's yards. I pictured a world of the past with women going over for morning coffee and children running back and forth. I learned though that the gates were installed before Ohlen Road was built west of Burrell; the

21 things your burglar won't tell you, part one

Words of wisdom from convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs crimedoctor.com; and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book Burglars on the Job.

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
3. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
4. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
5. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.

gates were for the young people to walk through the open fields to Lanier High School when it was still located in the building now occupied by Burnet Middle School.

My neighbor Bill Nichols, one of Wooten's original citizens, has been a source of fascinating history. He says that a pipe that extends up to the utility wires was erected to take the smell of sewer gas away from ground level to vent far over our houses. This was a solution to a neighborhood problem from the past, and when asked, even city workers didn't know why the pipe was there.

6. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom-and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
7. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste...and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
8. Helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.

Read more in the next newsletter or on the blog at wootenna.com

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Be a Part of the Wooten Neighborhood Plan Contact Team



Date: Monday, February 22, 2010

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

**Location: Village Christian Apartments
In the Activity Room (towards the back)
7925 Rockwood Lane
Austin, TX 78745**



- This meeting will be to vote on the draft bylaws and nominate and elect officers for the Wooten Neighborhood Plan Contact Team.
- The Contact Team is responsible for monitoring and prioritizing the neighborhood plan's recommendations and is also responsible for making recommendations regarding any future amendments to the adopted neighborhood plan.
- The officer positions that will be voted on will be: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary and Attendance Keeper. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions please come to the meeting.
- Nominations for officer positions will be made at the meeting.

For more information . . .

**Visit the Crestview Wooten
Combined Neighborhood Plan
website:**

**[http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/
zoning/wooten.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/wooten.htm)**

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