



Wooten News

Serving the Wooten community

November 2018

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

Next WNA meeting

Monday, January 14, 7:00pm
Redeemer Lutheran Cafeteria

Meeting agenda

- Meet your neighbors
- Safety and crime
- Wooten Park Updates
- District 7 & city updates

Wooten Celebrates National Night Out

The neighborhood celebrated National Night Out on October 2nd in Wooten Park. Travis County Precinct 5 Constable Carlos Lopez's office co-hosted the event with Wooten neighbors.

Festivities included a kiddie train and tour of an Austin Fire Department firetruck. The Constable's office served hot dogs, chips and drinks and Redeemer Lutheran, manned a *very* popular snow-cone stand! Mr. Martinez from Wooten Elementary, along with Constable Lopez, served as M.C.'s. The WNA Parks Committee collected donations, neighborhood volunteers were on hand to help eligible Wootenites register to vote, and State Representative Gina Hinojosa met with constituents. Other vendors included the YMCA, Special Olympics, Texas Roadhouse, Dragon's Lair, Summer Moon and more.

National Night Out is a yearly neighborhood event that connects neighborhoods with law enforcement to prevent crime and strengthen relationships within the community.

- Joanne Garret



Wooten Park Clean Up

Several neighbors were out in force on November 3rd for "It's My Park Day," a seasonal day of service in Austin area parks. Volunteers weeded and trimmed the corner garden on Burrell Dr and Dale Dr. This garden was installed in 2014 and requires regular maintenance to keep the Bermuda grass at bay! Volunteers also weeded the butterfly garden near Wooten Elementary and added mulch (provided by the City) to the trees around the park's edges. Many of the trees in Wooten Park are less than 10 years old. Mulching the bases of these trees ensures they retain moisture during dry seasons. **Thank you to all who volunteered on a beautiful fall morning!**

The Parks Committee is also looking for more regular members. The Committee schedules regular clean-up days in the park, fundraises and organizes park beautification projects, and communicates with the city about future park improvements.

In the past, the Parks Committee used donations to plant 15 trees in Wooten Park and to help build the picnic table pavilion near the play ground. You can help! Attend the next WNA meeting or email park@wootenna.com to learn more.



Volunteers remove overgrown grass in the corner garden at Wooten Park

Events at North Village Branch Library

Café au Lit - adults

Tues Nov 20 & Dec 18 @ 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Bow Wow Reading with Aussie - kids 5 and up

Wed Nov 21 @ 3:30 PM

Weeknight Cinema: American Animals - adults

Wed Nov 28 @ 6:30 PM

Pajama Storytime - kids 5 and under

Thurs Nov 29 & Dec 27 @ 6:00 PM

Practiquemos Español - adults

Thurs Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 & 20 @ 7 to 8:30 PM

The Nutcracker: A Literature Live! Production -

kids 5 and up

Wed Dec 5 @ 3:30 PM

Graphic Novel Book Club: Book Share! - adults

Wed Dec 5 @ 6:00 PM

Classics and Contemporaries Book Club: Little Women - adults

Wed Dec 5 @ 7:00 to 8:00 PM

Lego Lab - kids and teens age 5 and up

Fri Dec 7 @ 4:00 PM

YA For Adults Book Club: Spellbook of the Lost and Found - adults

Tues Dec 11 @ 7:00 PM

Early Literacy Playgroup - kids age 3-5

Fri Dec 14 @ 11:00 AM

Robotics Intermediate Class - kids ages 9 and up

Fri Dec 14 @ 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Tech Time: Ready device, activate!

Fri Dec 21 @ 3:30 to 5:00 PM

More info at <https://library.austintexas.gov/events/>

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IT'S A **BOGO** LUNCH THIS DECEMBER @

Conans PIZZA NORTH!

MON-FRI
11a-2p

BUY ANY LUNCH COMBO DEAL
GET A LUNCH COMBO FREE!!!

(of equal or lesser value, one per customer, good thru Dec 18)

Exclusive offer for our Wooten neighbors *Bring a Friend.*

PAN PIES - THIN PIZZA - SALAD - WINGS - BEER - VEGAN - GLUTEN-F

Who's Wooten?

As residents of the Wooten neighborhood in Austin, we've almost certainly passed Wooten Neighborhood Park. My neighbors have often told me how beneficial Wooten Park has been for them. While I appreciate having it nearby, I've always been more focused about what a funny name, "Wooten" is.

According to Ancestry.com, the name "Wooten" is an English delineation of the word "wood"; which is fitting given the history of Goodall Harrison Wooten. While Wooten was a physician by trade, his residence (which is now the Hotel Ella at 1900 Rio Grande St.) was known throughout the South for its flower gardens, and he was personally very involved with the Boy Scouts of Central Texas. In fact, when his only son died at the age of 21, Wooten bought a 125 acre piece of land for \$5,000 in 1934, and designated it as a Boy Scout camp. (The land itself was sold to a developer in 1983, but the camp was essentially relocated near Lake Bastrop, where Boy Scouts still use it to this day).

Not only was Wooten a second generation physician, but he was also a second generation Longhorn. In fact, based on the history page of Wooten Elementary School his father, Dr. Thomas Dudley Wooten, "was one of the original members of The University of Texas Board of Regents and served as president of the board for many years." Goodall Wooten received his B.S. and M.A. degrees at the University of Texas in 1891 and 1892. After he earned these degrees he attended medical school in New York, then promptly returned to Austin, where he would go on to become a prominent figure.

He was the President of the Austin Chamber of Commerce from 1936-1937, and had a reputation for actively trying to make Austin a more attractive city. As a testament to his civic credibility in his community, he was awarded the title of, "Most Worthy Citizen". In addition to local affairs, he was also committed to improving the University of Texas's credibility as an educational institution. During his later years while serving as the President of the Chamber of Commerce, and practicing medicine, he helped establish the Texas Historical Museum on campus. In true Texan fashion, when he died on January 30, 1942, he willed his extensive gun collection to the museum. It should be noted that his collection is one of the best in the world, and can still be viewed at the museum to this day.

So the next time you're walking around the block, or stuck in traffic, keep in mind that what Goodall Wooten did for the city, and why his name is prominent in our neighborhood. Just like the protagonist in Johnny Cash's, "A Boy Named Sue"; you can have a funny name and still go on to accomplish great things.

-Martin Chavez

Volunteer Opportunities

PALS and Groceries to Go

Did you know Meals On Wheels doesn't just do meal delivery? They offer a wide range of programs for the elderly and home bound in our community including two programs I currently volunteer for - **PALS (Pets Assisting the Lives of Seniors)** and Groceries To Go.

PALS allows seniors to keep their four-legged family members by offering two services. Volunteers deliver food and litter monthly and transport pets to doctor and grooming appointments.

PALS is a win-win all the way around. For many MOWs clients, caring for their fur-babies gives them a sense of purpose and provides regular companionship they may not have otherwise. And, without the PALS program, clients might not be able to care for their beloved pets and, therefore, have to surrender them to a shelter etc. All services, food and litter are either donated or paid for by MOWs clients.

Groceries to Go partners you with someone that needs help with grocery shopping. Some clients like to go to the store with the shopper while others are fine with you going alone. Some like for you to go every two weeks while others are on a once a month schedule. It is up to you and the client to determine what works best for you both.

If interested in these (or other MOWs programs) you can submit a volunteer application at : <https://www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org/forms/volunteer/step1.php>

Someone will contact you regarding the next scheduled orientation(s) etc. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to email me at: park2@wootenna.com

- Joanne Garrett

Celebrate at Wooten Park

You're invited to the official **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** for the picnic new pavilion at Wooten Park!

Saturday, December 8 @ 11am

Afterward you're done cheering, join your neighbors for the popular annual fundraiser, **Cocoa and Caroling**. Drink delicious hot chocolate and sing some fun holiday tunes on a winter afternoon. All proceeds benefit the Park fund. Donations from previous fundraisers contributed to building the new pavilion we now enjoy!

Stay tuned to wootenna.com and social media in December for updates in case of bad weather.

Wooten Elementary Aquarium

Wooten Elementary has two aquariums that need help to get back up and running. They used to have fish last spring but now they are empty due to budget cuts (actually, one has a tarantula, but he is temporary). The school can no longer pay someone to maintain the tanks.

The tanks have since been evaluated and a list has been made of supplies needed for one of the tanks.

Wooten neighbor Jessica Mueller has arranged an Amazon Wish List and we encourage you to donate a piece of equipment and shipping it directly to the school:

Wooten Elementary
C/O Chris Moreno/fish tank
1406 Dale Drive
Austin, TX 78757

Amazon Wish List: <http://a.co/coI9cYN>

"Once we have the equipment, I need to set it up and let it run for a bit," says Jessica Mueller. "The next step will be adding live plants, which the old tank didn't have, and a couple weeks after that, fish!" Look out for future possible volunteer opportunities to maintain the tank.

Connect with your Neighborhood Online

Facebook:

<http://facebook.com/groups/wootenneighborhood/>

NextDoor:

<http://wooten.nextdoor.com>

Yahoo! Groups:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wootenna>



Cocoa and Caroling, 2017 - photo by Kathryn Rogers

Suzanne Valentine

YOUR NEIGHBOR.
YOUR REALTOR.

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MLS Stats for Wooten

Wooten, like most of Austin, is experiencing a lot of real estate activity. Given the proximity to downtown as well as all the businesses near The Domain, it's a perfect neighborhood for people looking for good sized homes in an urban setting. Most of the homes here are around 60 years old (give or take a few years). It's not surprising then that so many of them are being updated and sold to new owners. Or, sold and then updated, and then sold again! Currently, the Austin MLS shows 14 houses for sale in Wooten and 6 pending sales. In the last 90 days, 12 houses have closed. The median sales price for the homes sold in the last 90 days is \$404,500. The median sales price for the same period last year was \$396,500.00 so there has been a modest increase.

Whether you just bought your home and or have been here for years, Fall is a great time for some maintenance to help make sure you get you top dollar when you do pass along your home to new owners.

Here are a few good ideas for taking care of your house:

- Seal cracks around doors/windows so you don't waste energy and allow warm air to escape
- Clean the gutters. Debris can cause gutters to sag and become damaged.
- Check out the roof. Look (with binoculars) for shingles that are buckled, cracked or missing. Also check for rust on flashing. If you see any damage, contact a roofing professional as soon as practical.

- Have your HVAC serviced for maximum safety and efficiency.
- Cut back tree limbs to ensure they are not touching the roof. Prune plants near the home.
- How is the fireplace? You can use a flashlight to look inside the flue to make sure the damper works properly. Check firebox for cracks or missing bricks and mortar. If damaged, it's wise to get a fireplace inspection from a professional. A professional chimney sweep should clean the fireplace flue every other year.

- Suzanne Valentine

Boy Scouts Fundraiser

Local Boy Scout Troop 49 is making yard candy canes again this year! These scout-made candy canes are not available in stores or on Amazon. All money raised supports scouting activities: camping, service projects, equipment, training, summer camp, as well as scholarships for Scouts who cannot afford the everyday costs of scouting.



\$55 per candy cane delivered to your location
\$65 per candy cane delivered and installed

Order online: www.austintroop49.org

The Scouts will deliver Candy Canes on Nov 25 and Dec 1. Questions? Contact Michael at 512-680-2423 or email mneibergall@gmail.com with the subject "Troop 49 Candy Canes"

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD. Join Wooten Neighborhood

Association. Bring \$5 to the meeting, use the PayPal link on wootenna.com or mail to: **WNA / Box 10171 / Austin TX 78766.**

Name: _____

e-mail: _____

Wooten address: _____

phone: _____

Neighborhood interests and concerns: _____

Annual membership period is Oct 1 - Sept 30.

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