



Rattan Creek Neighborhood News

Serving Milwood at North Austin MUD # 1 since 1983

Distributed Monthly By The Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association, Vol. 17, No. 6

December 2002/January 2003

AROUND MILWOOD



Caroling In The Park
Sunday,
December 15
6 pm
Rattan Creek
Park



**Join us and sing Carols
around the Bon Fire!**

***Don't forget a flashlight
to see your songbooks!***

Don't miss Santa...



***The Jollyville Fire Department will
be bringing Santa from his sleigh to our
park, to meet with each little boy and girl,
who would like to see Santa before
Christmas.***

He should be arriving about 6:30 PM.

**MOM AND DAD's:
Here is a photo op for you to get
pictures of the children with Santa
at no charge!!**



EVENTS

December

- Dec 1-18 Holiday Decorating Nominations Begins
- Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 15 Caroling in the Park & Santa Arrives via Firetruck
- Dec 18 MUD Meeting, 6 pm
9511 Ranch Road 620 North
- Dec 19 RCNA Meeting, Exec Board
13207 Darwin
- Dec 20 RRISD Winter Break starts
- Dec 21 Holiday Decorating Contest Nominees
will be posted on website
- Dec 25 Christmas Day
- Dec 28 Christmas Tree Pickup



January

- Jan 1 New Year's Day
- Jan 4 Christmas Tree Pickup
- Jan 7 RRISD Classes Start
- Jan 10 Newsletter Deadline
for Feb/Mar Issue
- Jan 11 Christmas Tree Pickup
- Jan 15 MUD Meeting, 6 pm
9511 Ranch Road 620 North
- Jan 16 RCNA Meeting, 7 pm
13207 Darwin
- Jan 20 MLK Day Holiday

Teddy Bear Drive

***December thru January 17
See page 16 for
more information.***

Christmas tree pickup

Dec. 28, Jan 4, Jan 11

RCNA Board of Directors

P.O. Box 200584
Austin, Tx 78720-0584

Website: www.rattancreek.org

RCNA Board of Directors:

President

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Email: jrjones@austin.rr.com

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Email: drabideau@austin.rr.com

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Email: hutchg@austin.rr.com

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Membership:

Volunteer Needed OPEN

Safety/Security, Streets/Utilities:

Martyn Robinson 219-1812

Publicity/Social:

Volunteer Needed OPEN

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Recipe Corner:

Stephanie Doherty 249-0253
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Yard of the Month:

Jon and Gina Martin 331-1109

*The Rattan Creek Neighborhood News welcomes your letters and guest columns. Letters must have a verifiable signature. Guest columns and letters will be printed on as space available basis. Neither the Rattan Creek Neighborhood News nor the Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association accept responsibility for the opinions expressed in editorials, letters or guest columns. The Rattan Creek Neighborhood News reserves the right not to publish any submissions and the right to edit all submissions. Mail to the following address:
Jo Jones, RCNA Editor, 13119 Green River Trail, Austin, Tx 78729 or e-mail: JRJones@austin.rr.com*

President's Notes

Friends and neighbors,

Robin Hood. \$10 million this year. \$20 million next year. \$30 million the year after. The numbers alone tell a nasty story.

Most of you are aware of the deep hole that our school district is in because of the so-called "Robin Hood" law. In a nutshell, state law caps the amount of money school districts can collect per student through property taxes. Any money over a certain threshold has to be given back to the state to support school districts that earn less.

In principle, the goal of this plan is worthy: support those schools who don't have funds. In practice, this system is broken: those districts with the highest costs have to give away the most.

School districts with either rising property values or booming Populations get hit hard. Those with both get severely pinched. Both Austin and Round Rock's school districts are now above the limit the law allows and must send money to the state each year -- whether or not they can afford to.

This school year, RRISD had to find \$10 million to send to the state. Next year, that number has risen to \$20 million. Predictions are that will climb right to \$30 million the year after. That is of a total budget of \$200 million annually.

(Continued on page 3)




Silver Christmas Sale

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Gift Cards Now Available!!



Martin's Jewelry Box

8650 Spicewood Springs Road, #202

331-1109

Jon Martin, Owner

RCNA Member/Milwood Resident



WATCH BATTERIES \$4.95 INSTALLED

Valid with Coupon (expires 01/31/03)

(President's Notes Continued from page 2)

The cuts that we are facing have already gone past the initial stage of fluff and inefficiency that can be cut. A citizen's committee is desperately trying to find ways to meet next year's requirements. There's no avoiding it: to meet our requirements, we'll have to cut into core programs, class sizes, and teacher positions. There really is no way to avoid that type of cutback.

I know that not all of you of kids, and that even all of you who do have kids moved here just for the schools. But an excellent school district is one of the primary reasons behind our neighborhood's vitality and our property values. Great schools are in and of themselves great things to strive for in a community. But they are also financial benefits to us as well. People prefer to buy houses here and live here when the schools are great. If the schools become mediocre, than our appeal as a neighborhood will be seriously weakened. I can't emphasize this enough: each and every home owner in our neighborhood has a direct, financial incentive to keep our school district excellent. Fail that, and we cut our own home investment down.

I want you to think about this for several reasons. Most importantly, I want each and every one of you to work towards fixing this crisis. As

neighbors, as voters, as volunteers, as parents, we are extremely capable of doing something to make this situation better. Individually, we can each make but a small dent. Together, if hundreds of us each do

something to help, we can make a serious impact.

What can we do?

Many things:

-- get involved with the School District's citizen committee that is helping the RRISD formulate an action plan towards addressing our Robin Hood obligations. Various subcommittees have formed and are trying to gather ideas and opinions to guide the school district in meeting our

obligations. Subcommittees are addressing curriculum options, program scheduling alternatives, operations and administrative efficiencies, alternative funding, and learning environments. If you have any feedback you want to contribute, contact me (eric.freeman@acm.org / 512-947-5204) or send it directly to the Robin Hood committee (robin_hood@roundrockisd.org)

-- volunteer at our local schools a few hours a month, by coaching, mentoring, assisting in class rooms, etc. There are dozens and dozens of opportunities that need manpower, and many more

(Continued on page 9)

NORTH HILLS community church

casual contemporary community

New Message Series: The Rollercoaster of Love

- 12.1 Dealing with Divorce (Divorce Recovery)
- 12.8 Starting Over (Options after Divorce)
- 12.15 Reconcilable Differences (Conflict/Communication)
- 12.22 *Christmas In Austin*
- 12.24 *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 PM*
- 12.29 *A Clean Slate (New Year's Message)*
- 1.5 Fanning the Flame (Putting the Sizzle back in your Marriage)

We're located in the Lake Creek Village Center
@ the corner of Lake Creek Pkwy. & 620
Next to Serranos on the second floor.

Service Time 10:30 AM

Children's ministries for birth - 5th Grade
available during the services.

388.0270 nhconline.org



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Around Rattan Creek

New Neighbors and Babies:

New Neighbors:



Donna and Felipe Montemayor and their children Madeline, Jenna and Noelle
12609 Modena Trail



New Babies:

Noelle Montemayor
Born September 6, 2002,
to Donna and Felipe Montemayor and
sisters Madeline and Jenna
12609 Modena Trail

If you know someone has just moved into the neighborhood, or just had a baby, help us to welcome the new folks and/or congratulate our neighbors on their special event. Please contact Terri Olsem at 219-7931, Or email to her at terriolsem@aol.com.



Milwood Parent Activities

New mom in Milwood would like to form a play group with other Milwood moms. If you have a baby less than a year old and you'd like to introduce him/her to other little ones and meet other moms sharing in your new experience please give Angela a call at 336-9067.

Young Toddlers (Born Sept 2000-Aug 2001): New Group! Call Kelly Buczek at 258-6482.

Toddlers (2 to 3 years): Call Jackie Gibbons at 257-2230.

Toddlers (3 years): Call Julie Oliver at 258-5661.

Toddlers (Children with birth dates in Fall 1996 and Summer/Spring of 1997): Call Candance Kreiling at 331-9773.

Multi-age Summer Group (5 years and younger): Call Dallas Hall at 257-3494.

Home schooling Group (all ages): Annette Anderson 250-5137.

Are you interested in a group activity not listed? There may be others interested in the same activity. Call Marcie at 335-6960 to get your name listed for a new group.

Milwood Parents.....

Please contact Marcie De Oliveira for updates, new groups, changes or reports on activities at 335-6960 or by e-mail - mdeoliveira@austin.rr.com

10/02/02

Volunteers needed:

2 Block Captains:

Taranto and Cove of Tovar

1 Section Head Needed:

Area of Tovar, Peabody, Balamos and Rossello

Please contact Dallas Hall

257-3494

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RCNA Member/Milwood Resident

RCNA Event Sponsor

RCNA Scholarship Fund Donation for each sale I make in Milwood!

December & January Yard Activities, Frost Protection & To Prune or Not?

Preventative maintenance is the name of the game in the winter, with several items listed below. The obvious ones have to do with preventing frost damage. First, a real preventative is to spray plants with liquid seaweed monthly to harden the plants and help them hold moisture. Another method of sealing in the winter moisture is spraying with an anti-transpirant product called Cloud Cover.

When a freeze is forecast (overnight temperature below 25 degrees) there are several ways to minimize damage. Covering cold-tender plants with cloth or plastic will hold in the ground heat and keep the cold wind from the plants. Plants like bougainvillea, plumeria and hibiscus are common non-native cold tender plants that can be harmed by freezing weather. If they are blooming well, after a few days under 40 degrees, they will decline and it is time to move them to store. Prune back the bougainvillea and stack the containers on top of each other in a room or shed protected from freezing temperatures. Oriental hibiscus do need light and water every 2 weeks to survive the winter. Citrus in containers can be moved inside if not too heavy. Plants that cannot be moved inside can be protected by building a temporary structure around them. A wooden frame with plastic across it works well. Use a mechanics light or even Christmas tree lights for a heat source on

especially cold nights.

The cloth coverings are best because they do not conduct the heat away from the plants and if not removed the next morning, the plants will be OK. Plastic coverings are cheap and easy to apply and dry out quickly **but:** the plastic conducts heat away from plants touching it killing the foliage and next morning, plastic coverings must be removed quickly so the sun will not scald the plants. Plastic draped over a blanket works well or a cardboard box works well.

Another easy preventative to minimize freeze damage, is a good watering periodically. Spraying with water in the evening does not work well. If plants look frozen, spray in the morning so the plants will thaw gradually. If plants turn brown after freezing, cut this material off and discard it so it doesn't rot and attract bugs and fungus.

Remember to water thoroughly, if we continue to have a warm windy spell, the plants need moisture all winter long. Mulching will conserve soil moisture and mulching also helps protect the roots from freezing. Even if the top growth dies, plants with a strong root system will quickly recover in the spring.

(Continued on page 6)

Emergency Numbers:

Emergency – 911

Non-Emergency Numbers:

**Williamson County Sheriff
943-1300**

**Travis County Sheriff
854-9285**

**Williamson County Constable
248-3239**

**Jollyville Fire Dept.
258-1038**



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(Continued from page 5)

Winter is the time to prune. While the trees and shrubs are dormant, it is time to cut off broken branches and prune to shape. The Texas Department of Agriculture says “pruning is only helpful to remove dead or diseased wood, for periodic thinning, or for removing branches growing toward and hitting the house. Topping trees is generally not recommended if the tree is growing too fast and out of shape, remove it now and plant a better mannered native tree.

Pruning cuts should NOT be flush: they should cut just outside the branch collar, leaving a small stub. The branch collar is the wider area of bark growth where the branch is attached to the trunk. Leaving the collar promotes proper healing by the branch bark over the small stub. Do NOT use pruning paint, it can slow down the healing process by harboring moisture, insects and pathogens and excluding oxygen.

An exception to the no-paint rule is the live oaks, where the paint may discourage insect vectors, or carriers, of oak wilt disease. These trees should be pruned in late fall, or winter when the vectors are inactive. (More on that below)

Live oak trees require special care. Oak wilt disease is still a serious problem in the Austin Area. We have had several groups of trees in our neighborhood infected

that were removed and ditched around to keep it from spreading through touching root systems. The good news is that our trees have been here for hundreds of years and survived many passages of the live oak wilt. It is just another of Mother Natures way of thinning out too dense populations and providing more diversified plants. This is why the Austin Releaf and TreeFolks groups encourage use of many different varieties of trees to assure on-going vegetation after the cyclical invasions of bugs and blight.

Oak Wilt shows as: Large areas of leaves dying very quickly. A red oak can die in two weeks. In a live oak tree, the leaves turn brown in symmetrical patterns. This infectious fungal disease is spread by sap-feeding beetles bringing the fungus from an infected tree to your freshly-cut wound. Also the fungus is spread from infected trees through interconnected roots. If you make a cut with an infected saw blade or do not immediately paint fresh cuts, your tree can become infected by the beetles attracted by the fresh sap at the wound.

To help reduce oak wilt infection, follow these precautions when trimming live oak trees.

* Never prune live oak trees in the spring or fall when beetles are active. Prune in the dead of winter before the flush of growth in February or in the heat of July or August.

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kelly

(Continued from page 6)

* Always disinfect your saws and clippers before and after cutting each tree. And paint wounds immediately with pruning sealer.

* Always purchased fully seasoned and dry firewood as oak wilt can be spread by beetles living in green wood. Cover any firewood with clear plastic and bury the edges. Use up all stored firewood by February 15th.

*The safest way to prune live oaks is to hire a professional to do the work with sterile saws and who will haul off all limbs.

Remember to water all trees and shrubs if we have a long dry spell, healthy trees will withstand frosts and diseases better. To strengthen live oak trees, fertilize under and around an area which is 1-1/2 to 2 times the drip zone and water well during December through February when the trees are actively growing and are: dropping leaves, blooming, dropping husks and blooms, and spreading yellow pollen on our cars. This is a critical time for watering and fertilizing your live oak trees. Water in the night or early morning to reduce brown patch and other fungus in lawns.

For more information about Oak Wilt call the Travis county Agricultural Extension agent or call the Texas Forest Service at 266-9535, they will come and inspect any suspected trees at no cost.

Prune shrubs now while dormant, if done too late in the spring, a spurt of new tender growth in an unseasonable warm spell may be frozen by a late frost.

Crepe myrtles can be trimmed to shape or down to pencil sized branches as desired up through mid February. They bloom on new wood so pruning much later in the spring reduces blooming.

Bright colors from annual plants can brighten up the entire landscape. Select a few sunny spots and add some flowering annuals like the pansies, flowering kale, calendula, dianthus, snapdragons,, and sweet alyssum. Prepare for spring color by adding bulbs such as hyacinths, daffodils, ranunculus, and gay feather. Keep tulip bulbs in the refrigerator at 45 degrees for 45 days or until mid December. If there is no rainfall, it is important to water in the winter. Water in the mornings to prevent brown patch in lawns and other fungus.

Now is the time to plan shrubs and trees. Success with planting in November and January is the highest of any time of the year.

Happy gardening, Chuck Simms
e-mail: charlesvsi@aol.com

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Holiday Decorating Contest

Every year this event gets harder to choose the winners. Someone's feelings always get hurt and that is not the intention. This year we would like our neighbors email in and nominate the homes of their choice. *We think every home that is nominated is a winner.*

Beginning Dec 1st through Dec 18th, you can **email** your nominations and please include a photo, if you have a digital camera, to **holidaylights@rattancreek.org.**

We will publish all the nominees on the Rattan Creek website www.rattancreek.org for everyone to enjoy, by December 21st..

Be sure to leave your lights on, so that your neighbors can take their family on a cruise through the neighborhood to enjoy the lights.

Happy Holidays!



Curbside Christmas Tree Pickup:

Longhorn Disposal will pick up trees at the residents curbsides for 3 Saturdays in a row:

*December 28th,
January 4th and 11th.*



Gene Schubeck, GRI

Real Estate Consultant

Office: (512) 637-8209

Fax: (512) 346-9634

Home: (512) 331-6063



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R E A L T Y

9430

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Echelon IV, Suite 180
Austin, Tx 78759

Schubeck@texas.net

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Place Gene's photo here

Call me for a Free Market Analysis

(President's Notes Continued from page 3)

programs that don't yet have volunteer assistance that could use it. If you have any time at all, your skills and energy can be used to make the school work more effectively. The local PTAs at Pond Springs ES, Jollyville ES, Deer Park ES, and McNeil HS have many contacts that can point you in the right direction. Again, feel free to contact me (eric.freeman@acm.org / 512-947-5204) as a starting point.

-- contact your elected representatives to help push them towards addressing this issue in the upcoming legislative session. From January to May, the State Legislature meets again. Most of our elected officials have stated their frustration with the Robin Hood plan on the record, but have suggested that is 'unlikely' that the plan will be addressed this session due to time constraints. That's not good enough. If they miss this chance, then it will have to wait two more years, while our bill will rise to \$30 million, and perhaps beyond. Our elected officials need to take action now, before our school district kills itself with Robin Hood obligations. This is easily one of the most substantial threats to the quality of our neighborhood to yet come along. We need them to act on this problem NOW. Their contact info is

below.

Seriously, friends, we need to and we can take action to get our school district through this financial crisis. If we don't take action, our neighborhood will be far worse off for it. If we do take action, we will improve our schools, our community, and our own pride from it.

Please make the right decision.

Your friend and neighbor,

Eric Freeman

Representative Mike Krusee
 P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768-2910
 Email: mike.krusee@house.state.tx.us
 Phone: 512-463-0670
 Senator Steve Ogden
 P.O. Box 12068-Capitol Station
 Austin, TX 78711
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Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 200584 – Austin, Tx 78720-0584
Annual Membership Dues – \$20
(January – December 2003)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail: _____

Membership: Renewal New
I would like to volunteer to assist with:
 Activities Committees Newsletter

Thank You For Your Continued Support!!

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From the
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PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING APPLICATION

- All members receiving badges must be listed, with birthdates, for the application to be considered complete. (Children under three attending the pool do not need to be listed.)
- Guest passes can only be purchased by a member of the pool. All guests must be accompanied by a pool member.
- One complimentary pass, which can be used three (3) times, is issued with each badge purchased. Two (2) passes will be issued with each annual pass. (Complimentary passes are not issued with badges purchased for replacement of a lost badge.)
- A packet of ten (10) guest passes consists of four (4) cards totaling ten (10) uses.
- A check made payable to North Austin M.U.D. #1 (NAM1) Pool must accompany the application to be processed.
- The check for the pool, tennis key and the RCNA **must be mailed separately** from the payment for the NAM1 water bill.
- Replacement fees for lost or stolen badges are as follows:
Summer / Winter Badge: \$5.00 each Annual Badge: \$10.00 each
- If purchasing a combination of summer only / winter only and annual badges, please specify for whom the annual badges are to be assigned to, as each badge can only be assigned to **one** person.
- All badges and guest passes will be mailed out and are not available for pickup, even if registering in person. (However, by registering in person you will receive a receipt that can be used for admission until you receive your badges in the mail.)
- Annual badges are good from the beginning of the summer session until the end of the winter session of the same year and not necessarily a year from the date of purchase. (i.e. valid from May 2002 to April 2003)
- Tennis court keys are good from (approximately) the first of May until the end of April of the following year. New keys will need to be purchased at this time every year.
NOTE: Only ONE key can be issued per household.
- Badges, guest passes and tennis court keys are not pro-rated at any time.
- Please make sure you are filling out the appropriate application for the badges, etc., that you are requesting. (The application should state the year and session being registered for above the listing of fees.)
- If your child will be three years of age *PRIOR to opening day* of the session being registered for, he/she WILL need a badge purchased for him/her.

**ALL INCOMPLETE OR INCORRECT APPLICATIONS WILL BE
RETURNED WITHOUT PROCESSING**

PLEASE ALLOW TWO (2) WEEKS FOR PROCESSING

Rattan Creek Park, Pool and Court Rules and Regulations

Rules are established and adopted by the North Austin Municipal Utility District #1 Board of Directors
Pool Identification tags and tennis court keys must be purchased through the District Manager
ECO Resources 9511 RR 620 N, Austin, Texas 78726-2908

Pool Rules and Regulations

Identification

1. Pool is available to District residents who have paid tag fees and their guests. Out of District memberships are available. Only individuals with tags may enter pool area.
2. Identification tags must be worn by swimmers at all times.
3. Report lost or stolen I.D. tags to the pool manager. Replacement tags can be purchased through ECO Resources for a \$5.00 fee.
4. Use of pool I.D. tags by any one other than the swimmer listed on the current year's registration form will lead to forfeiture of that I.D.

General Requirements and Conduct

1. Conduct by any person deemed to be dangerous, unwarranted, or offensive is grounds for discipline by the lifeguards. Offensive behavior in particular, will be dealt with on an individual basis and could result in suspension from the pool. Any individual suspended three times may also lose all pool privileges for the season.
2. Running, jumping, skipping, or any activity other than ordinary walking in the pool area is strictly prohibited.
3. Bicycles and skateboards must be walked in front of the pool entrance for safety. No motorized vehicles are permitted in the park. No pets are allowed in the fenced pool area. Pets must be on a leash while in the park.
4. Pool may close for five (5) minutes each hour as a safety precaution
5. Floating devices are not allowed in the pool. Water wings or swim rings for non-swimming children may be used if accompanied by parent or approved baby-sitter.
6. Glass containers of any type are not allowed inside the fenced area or in the bath house area.
7. No cutoffs or street clothes are allowed in the pool.
8. Only lifeguards are to be on the lifeguard stands.
9. No person shall talk to, shout at, or in any manner distract a lifeguard while on the lifeguard stand except in the case of an emergency.
10. Only masks approved by the Pool Manager will be allowed in the pool.
11. One lane will normally be designated for lap swimming at all times, additional lanes may be added at the discretion of the Pool Manager.
12. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed in the fenced pool area.

Adult Supervision

1. Children under ten (10) years of age must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or authorized baby-sitter at all times while inside the fenced pool area, unless approved by Pool Manager.
2. Parents are required to provide written authorization naming a specific approved baby-sitter to attend their children under 10 years old at the pool. The baby-sitter must be fourteen (14) years of age or older and be a pool member or have a valid guest pass.

Guest Policy

1. Guest(s) must be accompanied by a registered pool member and submit a valid guest pass for admission. Pool members must accept responsibility for their guests.
2. Guest(s) must register with the gate keeper upon admission to the pool facility and sign a waiver of liability.

Private Parties

1. Adults eighteen (18) years and older holding a pool I.D. may make reservations to use the pool for a private party when the pool is not open for regular operating hours. All parties must terminate (all participants departing the facility) by 11:30 p.m.
2. Reservations must be made at least four (4) days in advance with the Pool Manager. Reservations are confirmed by a \$50.00 deposit. A reservation is not confirmed until the Pool Manager receives the deposit. The cost for rental of the pool is \$10.00 per hour

plus lifeguard fees.

3. Persons responsible for any parties must hire lifeguards. Lifeguards must be those guards that are under contract with the District.
4. Any damages resulting from a private party will be the responsibility of the lessee.

Wading Pool

1. Children taller than a height set by the Pool Manager will not be allowed in the wading pool.
2. Lifeguards will not monitor the wading pool. Children in the wading pool must have a parent or baby-sitter present at all times.

Pool Hours (as posted at the pool)

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Weekday hours are 11 a. m. to 9 p.m. Saturday hours are 11 a. m. to 9 p. m.; and Sunday hours are 12 Noon to 9 p. m..

WINTER SCHEDULE

Weekday hours are 12 noon to 1 pm and 4:30 to 8:00 pm. Saturday Sunday and Holidays 12:00 to 8 pm. Winter Maintenance closing will be posted at the pool.

General Information

1. At the discretion of the Pool Manager and as approved by the District Manager, certain periods of the normal open hours may be set aside for specialized activities such as, adults only swim, swim lessons, swim meets, and other special events.
2. Hours may be shortened before and after school starts, and during swim team season. Check the Pool Bulletin Board for scheduled events and scheduling changes.

Tennis/Sports Court Rules and Regulations





(In District Members Only)

1. No dangerous or offensive conduct will be allowed on the courts.
2. No pets, bicycles, skateboards, or motorized vehicles allowed on the courts
3. No alcoholic beverages are allowed inside the fenced court area.
4. No glass containers are allowed inside the fenced court areas.
5. A playing time limit of one hour (60 minutes) will be observed when other members are waiting to use the facilities.
6. Tennis courts one and two are subject to reservation by tennis leagues, not to exceed five (5) hours a week as posted at the courts.
7. A member may have a maximum of four (4) guests at a time on the sports courts.
8. At the discretion of the District Manager, certain specialized activities on the courts may be arranged.
9. A maximum of (4) players are allowed per tennis court at any time.
10. Soccer tennis is strictly prohibited.

Questions or Problems

Contact the Pool Manager or
Bill Burke at 331-7066.

North Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 Rattan Creek Pool Winter Schedule 2002/2003

<p>December 2002</p> <p>December 1 - 14: Pool Open - Winter Swim Monday - Wednesday - Friday 12:00 - 1:30 PM, and 4:30 to 8:00 PM. Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 pm</p> <p>December 20 - January 7, 2003: Winter Holiday Pool Open: 12:00 to 8:00 PM daily</p> <p><u>Pool Closed: December 24 & 25 (Friday & Saturday)</u> <u>and</u> <u>January 1 (Monday)</u></p> 	<p>February 2003</p> <p><u>February 1 - 16: Pool Closed for Maintenance</u> </p> <p>February 17 - 28: Pool Open - Winter Swim Monday - Wednesday - Friday 12:00 - 1:30 PM, and 4:30 to 8:00 PM. Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM</p> <p>February 17 School Out Open 12 to 8:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Time to get in shape for the summer - Join the Rattan Creek Masters Swim Club Contact John at maggio@texas.net</p>
<p>January 2003</p> <p>January 8 - 31: Pool Open - Winter Swim  Monday - Wednesday - Friday 12:00 - 1:30 PM, and 4:30 to 8:00 PM. Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM</p> <p>January 20: Student Holiday Pool Open 12:00 - 8:00 pm</p>	<p>March 2003</p> <p>March 1 - 31: Pool Open - Winter Swim  Monday - Wednesday - Friday 12:00 - 1:30 PM, and 4:30 to 8:00 PM. Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM</p> <p>March 10 - 14: Spring Break Pool hours : 12:00 to 8:00 PM</p>
<p>McNeil High Swim Team is swimming at the Rattan Creek Pool.</p> <p>MHS practice = Monday - Friday 7:00 to 9:00 AM</p> <p>Swim Meets will be posted but usually occur on Saturday mornings.</p>	<p>NOTES:</p> <p>Rattan Creek Pool is Managed by Clearwater Management</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Manager - Raine Maggio Assistant Manager - Tony Watt Pool phone - 257-8175</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clearwater Management Phone - 331-7066</p>

*** ALL HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. TO VERIFY HOURS,
CALL 257-8175 (POOL).**

The Perfect Gift
 By Todd Holubec-Edward Jones Investment

What size does she wear? What color does he like? Does she already have one of these? If you find yourself asking these questions when shopping for those special people in your life, here's an idea: Forget the retail stores; instead, provide a future of limitless possibilities by giving an investment as a gift.

With time, even a small investment can grow to provide a down payment for a car, a special vacation or an attractive nest egg. For those younger people on your shopping list, gifting into a college advantage 529 plan can help an aspiring teacher, doctor or veterinarian realize his or her dream.

When you gift an investment, the recipient may not be the only one who benefits. You, as the donor, may benefit from reducing your estate and income tax on assets gifted.

When you gift investments, your estate is directly reduced by the total amount gifted. So, if you give \$3,000 each to three recipients, your estate is reduced by \$9,000.

You can gift up to \$11,000 in 2002 per individual recipient and avoid filing a gift return or incurring a gift-tax liability. If you have children whom you'd like to help buy a house, car, etc., gifting can be a terrific way to lend a helping hand. For the investment to be considered a gift, you must give up control of the investment. This means the recipients can do as they wish with the gifted dollars.

Payments made directly to an educational institution providing education for the recipient and payments made directly to a medical institution providing medical care for the recipient are not considered gifts when figuring the annual exclusion.

Giving an investment as a gift does not generate a deduction for the giver or income for the recipient (unless it is a charitable donation to a qualified charity). No gains or losses are realized when gifting. These occur only when the investment is sold.

(Continued on page 16)



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444-0132
Ask for RJ Avalos
 Milwood Resident/RCNA Member

RCNA Event Sponsor

(Continued from page 15)

There are many ways to give an investment as a gift. A qualified tax professional can provide all the necessary details. It's important to consult a professional before gifting an investment because the laws concerning trust and custodial accounts can be complicated, and charitable giving and gifts to minors may have different tax implications. In addition, some states have a 36-month "lookback" rule that cancels any gifts made while trying to qualify for Medicaid.

Once you've learned all the facts, you'll realize the full benefits of giving investments, both for you and the person receiving the gift. So, the next time you're searching for a special gift for those special people in your life, consider a gift that will keep giving for years to come-- the gift of an investment.

For more information, contact Todd Holubec at Edward Jones Investment at 219-1191.



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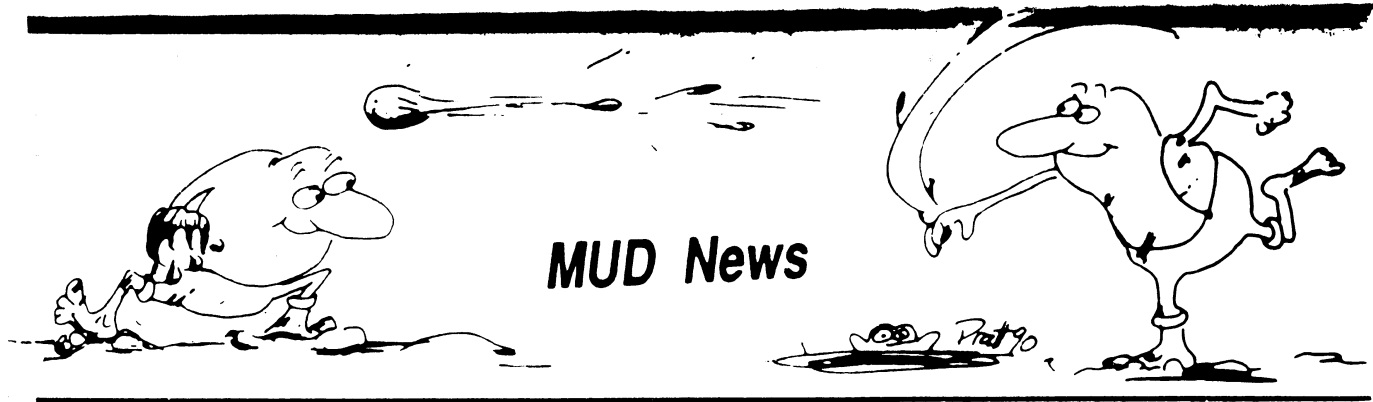
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North Austin Municipal Utility District #1 Board of Directors Report on Commercial Development, Parks, and Pool Activities:

The City of Austin is NOT trying to annex NAMUD now. I attended a Central Texas Legislative Forum last weekend and have more specific information about our sister MUD's. Our neighboring MUD, Springwoods who is to the NW and includes Hunters Chase neighborhood and most of the property from Anderson Mill Road NW along Broadmeade Ave. but does not include Forrest North or Northwest Woods neighborhoods. Springwoods MUD negotiated an agreement with the City of Austin (COA) in 1997 that gave them until 2002 to accomplish a badly needed Regional Drainage Channel Project which will be paid for by Springwoods bonds. Their neighborhood is built out and had paid off much of their bond debt so their taxes were going to be below COA taxes. This debt brought their tax rate up to almost the COA level. This drainage project was to channelize Lake creek from Parmer Lane, through Northwest Woods, through Forest North, almost to the Fire Station located on Lake Creek Parkway across from the Wal-Mart store. The project is behind schedule, and now the COA agreed with Springwoods MUD to negotiate a Special Purpose Agreement which pushes out their annexation date 5 more years. At that

time a Limited Purpose District will be formed to continue to maintain the Springwoods parks and drainage channels and provide trash pickup, composting, and restrictive covenants management.

What is probably going to happen about annexation of NAMUD#1 is: (based on the status of the non-annexation of Anderson Mill and Springwoods MUDs) it will be 3-5 years at least when annexation of our District is started. Then, the plan hopefully will be to form a new Limited District containing just the parks recreational areas and pool with taxing ability so the new district will be able to pay to maintain these areas, continue trash pickup and restrictive covenants management like Anderson Mill and Springwoods MUDs. The COA will then annex all the rest of the District and will begin to tax us like COA residents. Then NAMUD#1 will be dissolved transferring all the property and debt to the COA per our consent agreement.

Our contractor for inspections of Restrictive Covenant Violations, The Treasure of the Hills Senior Citizens Community Center, Inc. activity included: 2 calls for advice, emailed 10 first letters, sent 1 second letter, and turned 2 cases over to the MUD attorney, with 10 cases closed (violations corrected), and 18 new address complaints last month.

Rattan Creek Park Pool: The pump house was struck by lightning so had to go on manual chlorine control, the parts were ordered and chemical control continued with manual daily adjustments. One of the two heaters was used to maintain the water temperature of 82 degrees. The Board approved 5 repair/replacement projects developed by the Pool committee Alan McNeil and Don Conklin and Bill Burke of Clearwater Management including; repair the Pool Light, stabilize decking and move a pool light junction box, remove a fence section and cement behind the diving board, and

Deed Restriction Violations:
Deed restriction violations must be submitted in writing to:
Senior Citizens Center
408 Ridgewood
Cedar Park, Tx 78613

Be sure to include the address in question, nature of your concern and your name and address.

(Continued from page 17)

replace the sand filter. A new pool identification system will be implemented in several months to better identify and control the pool users. Three other projects are planned and will be voted on after the bids are received in the next few months.

Rattan Creek Park Tennis Courts: reservation system seems to be working. The policy on use of the sports and tennis courts was clarified to allow use by District Members Only, defined as residents living in the District's boundaries.

Rattan Creek Trail: The Board approved a project to add 48 cu. yards of decomposed granite to the trails and compacting, especially at the exercise areas. The Williamson County Engineer, Joe England is offering Capital Metro Grant Funds for the extension of the Rattan Creek Trail on the upstream side of Tamayo bridge. No firm plans were made on this or on the earlier offer for planting of trees in the greenbelt.

The Robinson Park Trail project: Approved were: 1. construction of 3 berms to minimize flood damage to the new trail where water flowed over the and, 2. adding 24 cu. yards of decomposed granite and re-rolling to compact the entire trail.

The Parks Maintenance Committee Chuck Simms and Alan McNeil have been meeting with our landscaper to update the Landscape Maintenance Classifications Map to reflect recent changes. We carefully consider any increase in mowing area and our mowing cost. Our goal is to mow and maintain only areas actually being used by people and to maintain all areas with the appropriate and lowest-cost class of the 6 levels of maintenance.

Robinson Park Humphrey Entrance: will have some new material put in the bottom of the drainage ditch just downstream of the bridge. This will allow maintenance equipment access without damaging the drain ditch. This new material allows water to pass through and is considered to be only 3% impervious cover so it will minimize the impact on the area that is covered.

Finalizing with the Milburn Company: The Board is approaching the time when we will pay The Milburn Co. for their infrastructure construction from our bond funds. The Board has asked for a final accounting of all land transfers to the District. The Milburn Co. will build 4 single-family houses on the open lots on Amasia Drive, across from the Robinson Park playscape.

(Continued on page 19)



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NA MUD #1 Board of Directors:

Place One - **Keith Collins,** 258-6244
Ass't Secretary/Treasurer (5/04)
kcollins@northaustinmud1.org

Place Two - **Don Conklin,** 331-7669
Treasurer (5/02)
dconklin@northaustinmud1.org

Place Three - **Terry Ripperda,** 512-793-2160
President (5/04)
tripperda@northaustinmud1.org

Place Four - **Alan McNeil,** 219-8719
Vice President (5/02)
amcneil@northaustinmud1.org

Place Five - **Chuck Simms,** 331-9630
Secretary (5/04)
csimms@northaustinmud1.org

Website: www.northaustinmud1.org

(Continued from page 18)

The Board received the final plat for the Lake Creek greenbelt that runs from the Anderson Mill Road bridge West and North to under Parmer Lane. Per our Consent Agreement with the City of Austin, all un-developed land will be deeded to the MUD and then transferred to the City upon annexation. Discussion and review of the plans continues.

Wastewater Lines Inspection; District Manager Gary Spoons and Engineer David Malish continue to work with the COA to begin cleaning and televising in our District to fulfill their commitment to us to do 50,000 linear feet of TV inspection videotape work.

Anderson Mill Road: work continues with TXDOT and Williamson County who will provide an access road to our wastewater manhole in the middle of their water quality pond on the west side of the road across from the Amasia Drive. The opening date for the road appears to be the end of next year.

The JPI Apartment Development: *No change*, continues to fill up with renters and they have several businesses in the first floor retail areas.

The Williamson County Lake Creek Channel

Improvement Project: Many things are happening and if all goes well, the creek in the Lake Creek greenbelt running to the West of the bridge will be channelized to reduce the size of the 100 year floodplain and minimize flooding exposure. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers propose to mitigate the damage to that creek bed by having the COA and Springwoods MUD pay for a natural creek design and construction for the East Tributary of Lake Creek where it flows through Robinson park to the west of the soccer fields. Our goal is to make more area in the Robinson Park useable for recreational purposes instead of only wildlife habitat.

Security Agreement: The Williamson County Sheriff's office presented a proposal to modify our Security Agreement that provides extra patrol by two Sheriff deputies and one Constable. Discussion continues to assure continuation of this service.

A NAMUD #1 Recreation Center building: *No change*, Keith Collins and Chuck Simms are the Board committee and we are looking for suggestions so go to the NAMUD#1 web site to e-mail your thoughts to us, or give us a call.

(Continued on page 20)

Cap gym

(Continued from page 19)

Chuck Simms, Secretary,
NAMUD #1 Board of Directors.

Website:
www.northaustinmud1.org



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CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ad rates are 25¢ per word, per issue. Deadline for ads is the first of each month for the following month/issue. **Payment in full is required before publication.** Any ads received after the deadline, will be held until the next issues publication. **No exceptions will be made.** Send to:

**RCNA, c/o Kelly Buczek 6407 Crowley Trail
Austin, Tx 78729 or email: kelly@buczek.org
258-6482**

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE - Give the gift of health and relaxation to yourself or another. Perfect for Christmas, Birthdays, Brides and Mothers to be. \$10 off initial appointment. Call Barbara R.M.T. 918-1824 / 336-1350. (12/02)

Low Cost House Painting by True Grit - Reasonable and Reliable. Milwood Resident /RCNA Member. 218-1445. (12/02)

Personalized Computer Training in your home or office. Beginners to Advanced. Email, Internet, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and more. Call Mona Covey at 257-2523, or email mcovey@austin.rr.com (12/02)

BeautiControl Cosmetics- Julie Lucas. 331-9531. New Clients Welcome. (12/02)

TUTORING – State certified reading specialist and elementary teacher, ten years experience, Milwood resident. Can tutor most subjects. Call Heidi 219-6763. (12/02)

Custom Sewing For Your Home-Window coverings and decorating items made the way you want them for a great price! Call Betty - 249-7088.(12/02)

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Registered In-Home Childcare - 1 Opening, 18 months or older. Great References. Please call Cynthia at 335-1307. (12/02)

2 Baby Chinchillas - Just in time for Christmas! 335-5834. (12/02)

BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE POTTERY - Come get your Christmas gifts now! Custom orders for tiles taken. Call Anindita @ 336-8714.

www.aninsatelier.com. (12/02)

Nature's Sunshine Products Herbal supplements for health, nutrition and weight control. For information or ordering, call Mona Covey at 257-2523. (12/02)

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Too tired to clean your house? Got better things to do? Got a Life! Let me do your dirty work! For house-cleaning call Donna at 331-0973 (2/03)

Mary Kay - Julia Hall 257-1067 or 796-7718, email: juliahall@austin.rr.com website: www.marykay.com/juliah. *Milwood Resident discount.* (2/03)

Milwood to Motorola & IBM VANPOOL! Share a ride to IBM (Burnet Rd.) & Motorola (Ed Bluestein campus) with your neighbors. The vanpool picks up riders at their homes between 6:45–7:00 AM and leaves Motorola for home between 5:30–5:45 PM. Save money on gas and insurance and enjoy a reliable, low-stress commute. Call Jason Porter for details: 336-1774. (2/03)

Computer having problems? Need troubleshooting done or software reinstalled? Or minor network or webpage design? \$25/hr. Call Paul at 331-0973 (2/03)

In Home Montessori School - Preschool - Kindergarten - 1st Grade - Montessori Curriculum and Academic work. Lessons are individually structured to keep pace with each child's developing skills and interests. Please call 250-0280 (2/03)

MaryKay - Susan Greer 336-2262 or 560-7930, email: sgreer@austin.rr.com. Website: www.marykay.com/susang. (4/03)

IN-HOME INFANT CARE – Individual loving in-home care for infants in the Milwood area. I will have one opening starting Sep. 16,2002. Please call Tisha @ 918-9427. (10/02)

Registered Home Day Care - Loving home day

(Classifieds Continued from Page 21)

IN-HOME INFANT CARE – Individual loving in-home care for infants in the Milwood area. Please call Tisha @ 918-9427. (12/02)

Registered Home Day Care - New Openings - Loving home day care in search of toddlers. Call Stacy at 250-9070 or for infant/toddler care in Round Rock call Teresa at 248-0805. (12/02)

COMPUTERS FOR SALE from \$300. Repairs, upgrades, and new systems built for reasonable prices! 695-1755. (12/02)

Neighborhood Watch Alert

Several cars have been broken into for items left in the cars, as well as car radios.

Please report any crimes as soon as possible to the Sheriff's Department.

LOST & FOUND:

A camera was found on Halloween night, (at Kingman & Osborne) if you have lost one, please call: Scott Telfer, at 257-0735, please describe the camera, and if it is yours, come and pick it up.

TEEN SERVICES

ATTENTION TEENAGERS: Your ads run free but **must be renewed once every 6 months**. The date at the end of your ad indicates the last month your ad will run. All ads must be submitted in writing and mailed or delivered to:

**RCNA, c/o Kelly Buczek 6407 Crowley Trail
Austin, Tx 78729 or email: kelly@buczek.org**

Kira Taylor, 13 - Do you need any one to watch your children while you are away? Well, I am a very reliable person who has had a lot of experience with children. I'm fun, hard working and very loving. I will be working 7 days a week, day and night. I can watch kids that are ten months and up. I give you my promise that I will do my ultimate best to tend to your child's every need. Thank you and have a wonderful day! You can call me @: 249-9341 (ask for Kira) (12/02)

Emily Lawrence, 14 - Are you in need of some one to watch your pets while your on vacation? I will watch pets in my home. For more information, please call 258-1209 (12/02)

Kira Taylor, 13 - I am also interested in caring for your pets. I take care of big and small animals. My care includes the following and more: Grooming, Walking, Feeding, and also just watching while you're on trips. I also clean up for you! (Birdcages, litter box, and just the little surprises that life of owning a pet may bring). You can call me @: 249-9341 (ask for Kira) (12/02)

Cassy Carter, 14 - Unique hair designs (French braiding, twists, etc.) Are you bored with the same old hairstyle? I can help you create a new look. Reasonable rates. Call 401-0157 (12/02)

Ryan Mire, 16 - Lawn Care Specialist - Lawn care will include: mowing; weed eating; edging; cleanup. I will supply my own equipment. Please

call 250-2104 for a free estimate. (12/02)

Scott Knepper, 15 & Nathan Wilcox, 15 - K&W Lawn Service - We trim, mow, edge, and blow with a 100% satisfaction guarantee. Contact Scott @ 258-5753 or email KWLawn@yahoo.com for details and pricing. (12/02)

Rebecca Thomson, 13 - Need a babysitter? I am certified, responsible, cautious, and experienced with children of all ages. I have also worked with Special Education children with a wide range of disabilities. References available upon request. Call 249-9633! (02/03)

Meg Pevoto, 11(August) - Babysitter / tutor / mothers helper, much experience at most ages, certified in Heimlich maneuver and C.P.R., available day and night. 331-8493 (04/03)

Tanya Welch, 18 - Are you looking for a babysitter who envelopes the 3 R's: responsible, reliable, reasonable? No need to look any further. I love children and have been babysitting for about 4 years. I am available to baby-sit weekends (including Fridays) and holidays. I strive to create a friendly atmosphere. If you are interested in knowing more, please call 257-2157. (04/03)

Good things come to those who (don't like to) wait.

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Not valid in combination with any other offer. Coupon expires 12-31-2002

\$10.00 Off

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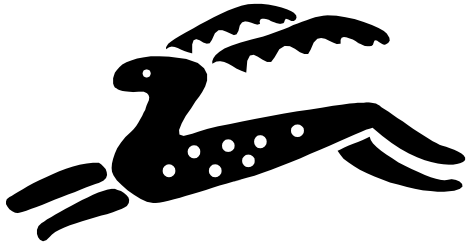
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Not valid in combination with any other offer. Coupon expires 12-31-2002



***Let's make Milwood
"a great place to visit"
this Christmas Season!!***

**The RCNA is pleased to announce it's
Fifth annual Holiday Decorating Contest.**

***The rules are simple:
Decorate your home for the holidays!!***

**Nominations will be accepted
December 1st to December 18th**

***To Nominate a home email to
holidaylights@rattancreek.org***

***Please email a photo of the home you nominate .
The photos will stay on the website through January.***

**All the homes nominated and the three top winners
will be listed online by Dec. 21st**

at

www.rattancreek.org



***Be Sure To Leave Your Lights ON!!
So your neighbors can enjoy your holiday spirit.***

Happy Holidays!

See page 8 for more information

