



Rattan Creek Neighborhood News

Serving Milwood at North Austin MUD # 1 since 1983

Distributed Every Other Month By The Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association, Vol. 19, No. 1

February/March 2004

Around Milwood

Time to pay your annual dues:

RCNA dues are only \$20 a year. Please pay using the form on page 6 or you can use a credit card at www.rattancreek.org, and using paypal. We depend on your support to cover the cost of this newsletter, scholarships and events. Please pay you dues today!

Our New RCNA Board:

President: Eric Freeman	947-5204
Vice-President: Chris Villalpando	996-8380
Treasurer: John Lenz	249-7667
Secretary: Dallas Hall	257-3494

Positions Open -Volunteers Needed:

- Membership Committee For RCNA Board
- Head for Newsletter Distribution
- Classified/Teen Services Advertising Person
- Advertising Person



Our next event will be our
Annual Easter Egg Hunt
in the park.

We will be meeting on
the 6th of March and the 3rd of April.
It's a lot of fun. Come and join us.
Please feel free to bring the kids.
We will be meeting at my house.


Where: 13201 Kepler Cove Time: 4:00pm
Thank you, Dallas Hall 257-3494
*For a list of items needed to help make this
event a great one, please see page 26.*

EVENTS

February

Feb 2 Groundhog Day 
 Feb 14 Valentine's Day
 Feb 16 RRISD Day Off
President's Day
 Feb 16-Feb 29 POOL CLOSED
 Feb 18 MUD Meeting, 6:30 pm
 9511 RR 620 North
 Feb 19 RCNA Meeting, 7 pm
 13207 Darwin

March

Mar 9 Vote in Primary Election 
 Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
 Mar 17 MUD Meeting, 6:30 pm
 9511 RR 620 North
 Mar 18 RCNA Meeting, 7pm
 13207 Darwin

April

Apr 3 Neighborhood Garage Sale 
 Apr 3,4 Neighborhood Cleanup
 Apr 4 Daylight Savings Time
 Begins: "Spring Ahead"
Set your clock ahead 1 hour
 Apr 6 Passover
 Apr 9 Good Friday
 Apr 10 Easter Egg Hunt
 Apr 11 Easter Sunday
 Apr 15 RCNA Meeting, 7 pm
 13207 Darwin 
 Apr 21 MUD Meeting, 6:30 pm
 9511 RR 620 North

RATTAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD

RCNA Board of Directors

P.O. Box 200584

Austin, Tx 78720-0584

Website: www.rattancreek.org

RCNA Board of Directors:

President

Eric Freeman 947-5204

Email: eric.freeman@acm.org

Vice President

Chris Villalpando 996-8380

Email: cvillalpando@austin.rr.com

Secretary

Dallas Hall 257-3494

Treasurer

John Lenz 249-7667

Email:

RCNA Committees:

Membership: POSITION OPEN

Safety/Security:

Chris Villalpando 996-8380

John Lenz 249-7667

Email: safety@rattancreek.org

Publicity/Social:

Sam Pherwani s.pherwani@motorola.com

Website Administrator: www.rattancreek.org

Hutch Gregg email: hutchg@austin.rr.com

Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Jo Jones 335-1805

email: JRJones@austin.rr.com

Classified Advertising/Teen Services:

POSITION OPEN

* Please contact Jo Jones 335-1805 for info.

Display Advertising:

Jo Jones 335-1805

Distribution:

POSITION OPEN

New Neighbors/Babies:

Terri Olsem 219-7931

email: terriolsem@aol.com

Recipe Corner:

Stephanie Doherty 249-0253

email: thedohertys@austin.rr.com

Yard of the Month:

POSITION OPEN

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

Volunteers needed for Newsletter Delivery

Head of Newsletter Delivery Needed: This job entails staying in touch with section heads and block captains. If block captains move out, helping locate new block captains. Accepting delivery of newsletters from printer, and delivering on to section heads once every two months, as quickly as possible to help speed delivery to the neighborhood.

A Block Captain delivers newsletters door to door on a specific street for a range of house numbers, once every two months. You help keep us in touch with the neighborhood.

Block Captains are needed for:

Earp Way Tovar Kingman
Portland Trail Varcella Trail
Tamayo (13000 block) Margit Trail(12700 block)

The Section Head sorts the newsletters and delivers to the houses of the block captains, on streets close to yours. It is mostly car work.

A Section Head is Needed for: Tovar Area.

If you take on one of these volunteer positions, please remember, if you are moving, to let the Head of delivery know **before** you move. That way we can try and help find a replacement to keep your area informed.

We have limited volunteers and sections of the neighborhood currently do not receive their newsletters because their block captains have moved away and we do not know it.

If you are in one of these sections, please think about volunteering for one of these positions, or if you are not receiving your newsletter, at least call us and let us know you are not receiving your newsletters.

Thank you,
Dallas Hall 257-3494

Extra newsletters are available at the Rattan Creek park sign.

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President's Notes

Dear Neighbors:

The notes this month will be brief, a mix of various short notes that have been piling up.

First, I want to let you know of several new board members for the RCNA.

Chris Villalpando is our new Vice-President, Dallas Hall our new secretary, and John Lenz our new Treasurer.

I think I mentioned this last newsletter, but the time has come to renew your RCNA membership. Please renew today, or local events such as the easter egg hunt, Rattan Fest, and local scholarships will not have enough money to continue.

As I write this, I am suffering a long litany of post-race discomforts: I finished the 3M Half-Marathon today, in a slow but steady 2 hours and 22 minutes. And that's after only having started training --heck, even jogging -- in August. The Rattan Creek 5K in September was the first organized race I had run in 18 years, and now I completed 13.1 miles. Now, I might not be able to get down the stairs for breakfast tomorrow morning, but it feels great to have pushed and challenged myself this far. Hopefully, by summer, I'll also complete my next challenge -- completing two triathlons (swim, bike, run, for about 2 hours) this summer.

Now, I don't mention this to toot my own horn, but rather to illustrate why I am interested in trying to grow our annual Rattan Creek 5K run into something larger this year. I've discussed the possibility of expanding the 5k run with either a kid's run or a kid's triathlon. I want to know if any of you are interested in help work with me to put on an event such as this in early September. Please contact me directly if you are.

Update on the 183 toll road proposal: apparently, the political blowback that was caused by floating this idea has at least temporarily shelved the toll proposal for the McNeil to Lakeline stretch of 183. However, the idea has not been taken completely off the table, and the involved figures with CTMRA and TXDOT and the Commissioner's Courts have purposely hedged their words, and suggested that TXDOT might convert it to tolls if

necessary (in their opinion). Thus, there is still a lot of pushing to do to ensure that 183 stays toll-free forever.

The Easter-egg hunt is scheduled for April 10th this year, the Saturday before Easter. Please contact Dallas Hall (257-3493) if you have any interest in helping out -- stuffing eggs, monitoring the event, etc.

Election Day is coming up on March 9th. Please don't forget to vote. Or you'll be constantly pestered by me for the next few years. There are important races to decide on both sides of the aisle. On the Democratic side, obviously there are presidential contenders to choose from, and depending on how things play out over the next few weeks, Texas could have some significant sway in the nomination. On the Republican side, the races to replace our county commissioner, Mike Heilegenstein, and our county sheriff have drawn several contenders. It is worth the 10 minutes it takes to ensure that we have decent representation.

Your neighbor,

Eric Freeman
President, RCNA

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Around Rattan Creek

New Neighbors and Babies:

New Neighbors:

No New Neighbors this issue



New Babies:

No New Babies this issue



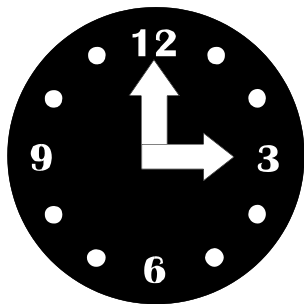
If you know someone has just moved into the neighborhood, or just had a baby, help us to welcome the new folks and/or congratulate our neighbors on their special event.

Please contact Terri Olsem at 219-7931,

Or

email to her at terriolsem@aol.com.

Don't Forget !!



set your clocks ahead 1 hour April 4th

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Milwood Parent Activities

Looking for a playgroup for your little ones? Here are a couple to chose from:

- Playgroup for children born between July 2001 and July 2002:
Call Angela at 336-9067
- Playgroup for children with birth dates in Fall 1996 and Spring/Summer of 1997:
Call Candance Kreiling at 331-9773

Post a message!

- Would you be interested in meeting other moms at the playground?
- Do you like to scrapbook and would like to do it with others?

Contact Marcie at 335-6960 to have your message posted.

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.

1/23/04

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Recipe Corner

**CARMEN'S HOLIDAY MORNING
FRENCH TOAST:**

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 3 tsp. cinnamon (divided)
- 3 granny smith apples, cored / sliced
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries or raisins
- 1 loaf Italian or French bread; cut into 1" slices
- 6 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla

- Combine sugar, butter, 1 tsp cinnamon in 13x9" pan.
- Add apples and cranberries / raisins; toss to coat.

- Spread apple mix evenly over bottom of baking dish.
- Arrange slices of bread on top. Mix eggs, milk, vanilla and 2 tsp. cinnamon until well blended.
- Pour mix over bread, soaking completely.

Cover and refrigerate 4-24 hours.

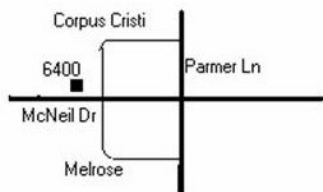
Bake, covered with aluminum foil, in 375 degree oven 40 minutes.

Then Uncover and bake 5 minutes. Remove from oven; let stand 5 min.

This recipe was submitted by Terri Olsem.

Anyone interested in submitting a recipe: please send it to Stephanie Doherty at thedohertys@austin.rr.com.

**AustinSmileCenter.Com
Gregory P. Watson, DDS**

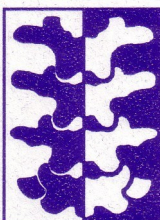


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Time to Renew Your RCNA Membership

Last year, 2003, the RCNA had only about 475 out of 2800 households send in their **\$20 annual dues**. We are lucky to live in a neighborhood where the dues are voluntary. Many neighborhoods and especially the new ones, the dues are mandatory. Most neighborhoods pay \$10+ each month, our dues are only \$20 a year. We are actually the envy of many of those neighborhoods, most cannot believe that we are only a voluntary organization and yet are able to produce the amount and type of activities and newsletter that we have.

What activities you ask?

For instance, the *Annual Easter Egg Hunt*. Every year we have more and more children, but less and less funds to work with. Many folks have voiced that we should have more eggs/prizes for the children. Well, that takes money and volunteers. With the dwindling participation in the neighborhood association (both monetary and volunteers), events such as this will inevitably suffer. Yes, we do get donations of candy and eggs, but we always need to buy more.

Other events include the *"Members Only Pool Party"*- the Pool Party is a catered event for those that did pay their dues - *sort of a reward*, *"Rattan Fest"*- has a few costs, for items like the T-Shirts for the run, signs used, or other items needed. *"Caroling in the Park"*-the song

books are printed, so again a small cost. The *"Neighborhood Wide Garage Sale"*- that is held twice a year, the RCNA pays for the ads and signs to bring folks to our neighborhood.

The dues also help fund our scholarship program, last year we gave out three scholarships to RCNA members children, totaling \$1500, this year we have voted again give out 3 scholarships totaling \$1500 in May.

In 2001, a hard decision was made to reduce the frequency of the newsletter, but due to rising costs, the economy and lower association participation, the RCNA had to cut down expenses. We feel that the newsletter is such a vital part of our neighborhood communication that rather than just the folks who paid their dues receiving the newsletter, we would reduced the frequency. Now the newsletter comes out on the even months.

***Please pay your \$20 for the year.
Thank you for your
support, we depend on you!!***

Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 200584 – Austin, Tx 78720-0584
Annual Membership Dues – \$20
(January – December 2004)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail: _____

Membership: Renewal New

I would like to volunteer to assist with:

Activities Committees Newsletter

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February/March Gardening

Planting Time is almost here, although, we can still have a freeze past Valentines day and into mid March.

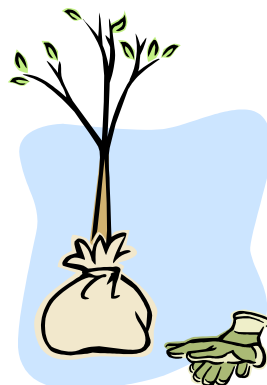
Plant some colorful annual plants. For spring and summer color, try carnations, mums, petunias and bluebonnets. A small bed or some pots with some annual flowers provides a spot of color for your yard at a nominal cost. They are more visible and easier to maintain if they are near a door or window to enjoy and to remind you to water, fertilize, and deadhead them periodically.

Most of the herbs do well in pots and make your front entrance smell great after a rain or when you water them. Try Rosemary, Thyme, Basil, Mints (a dozen types, great for adding to tea), or a couple of Chile Pequin (has small red peppers). Use pots bigger than you think you need,(but small enough to move in or out of the sun) remember, plants grow, and several plants in a pot make a bushy bouquet quickly. A pot can make a pretty touch to the **front sidewalk, deck, patio, or driveway.** Improve the look and value of your home.

Perennial flowers and shrubs will come back each spring and provide many years of enjoyment. **For full sun** areas there are the lemon colored and the hot pink Verbenas, Blue and White Mistflower, several types of Lantanna, Mealy Blue Sage that spread well and bloom all summer in full sun.

For **partial shade** the red and yellow Texas Gold Columbine are great plants (mine stayed green all winter), nice lacy, blue green foliage and they bloom most of the summer with an occasional foliar feeding of liquid seaweed or something. They really need compost for mulch to do well in mottled shade. The Fall Asters, Purple Coneflower, Tropical Sage, Turks Cap and Zemenia all bloom in partial shade and will attract and feed butterflies and hummingbirds and birds to your yard. A very relaxing sight.

Trees - It is always time to plant trees so if you have been putting it off, select a few 1 to 5 gallon trees and start growing the beauty and shade you'll enjoy for years. Remember, deciduous trees on the South and West side of the house to block the summer sun and let in the heat after the leaves fall in the



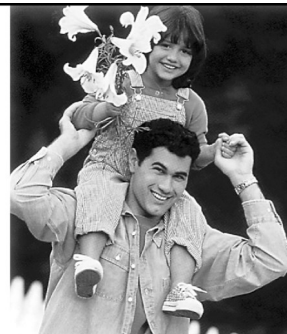
winter. Large shade trees include the Cedar Elm, Chinquapin Oak,, Bigtooth Maple, the Chinese Pistache, and the large Burr Oak.

Some of the evergreen favorite trees are: Large Live Oaks, and smaller trees Texas Mountain Laurel (for a small tree with beautiful and fragrant blooms in the spring), Cherry Laurel, Southern Wax Myrtle, Yaupon holly , Montezuma Cypress do lose their leaves for a short time,(plant in a low spot, they need a lot of water to stay green).Some pecan trees but require a lot of spraying etc, so check with the Travis County Extension office for a variety that will do well in your neighborhood.

For under story size trees with beautiful spring blooms, plant and enjoy the Mexican Plum, Texas Redbud, Texas Persimmon (a bit dirty with dropping fruit, so put one or three in a corner), or Desert Willow in full sun, or the Possumhaw with the scarlet red berries visible this time of the year. .

Shrubs for sun/part shade include the Argarita, Bear Grass, Cherry Sage, Dwarf Wax Myrtle, Dwarf Yaupon Holly, Evergreen Sumac, Glossy

(Continued on page 8)



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(Continued from page 7)

Abelia, the Hawthornes, and a large bush with green changing to white to purple berries that the Mocking Birds love, the American Beautyberry.

Remember to water new plants weekly to monthly during dry spells for the first year, periodically for the first 2 years to establish the roots. After that your watering can be determined by how fast you want the plants to grow.

Tree folks says to be sure to have a wide ring of soil covered with mulch around the base of the tree, at least 3-4" deep mulch will stretch out the time between waterings. As it decomposes it provides food for earthworms and other little soil builders. Earthworms bring rich subsoil to the soil surface and decompose organic matter into invaluable compost. They also leave tracks in the soil which allow moisture and air deep down where your tree roots need them.

Check the moisture level of your tree at least once per week. When the soil is dry 1" below the surface, water the tree slowly and deeply. Recommend at least 5 gallons per week for the first

year and double that the second. That's for a well mulched tree. It takes much more water for trees without good mulch cover of the soil.

Add Compost - As always, add composted material to beds and lawns for slow release fertilizer and to add organic matter to our Blackland Prairie heavy clay soil. If you have very little soil over layers of limestone, you need organic matter also. The nurseries have composted material by the bag and by the truck load. Several of our neighbors split a 6 yard truck load of Dillo Dirt to share the cost of the delivery truck every year or so in Spring or Fall. It sure makes great looking flowers and grass and helps lower the pH of our alkaline soil which releases the nutrients to the plant roots. Dillo Dirt is available in bags now at many of the local nurseries.

Tree Care Should Wait - We can still have a freeze through Valentines Day so pruning fertilizing and cleanup of yards should wait until late February. These activities stimulate new growth that can be easily killed by a late frost. Most plants require warm nights (when the soil is really warm) before much growth starts in the spring.

Since I had a virus or fungus under the bark of one of our live oak trees a few years ago, and I talked to a dozen or more people and got a short course in live oak maintenance. As I remember it, live oak trees grow for 120 days from February to May when they shed their leaves, grow the yellow flowers, drop them and grow new leaves. This is the time to fertilize and provide extra water to live oak trees. The main roots are 8 to 10 inches down and require access to oxygen from the soil.

I you have compacted soil in your yard where the water and air do not reach the roots, the best treatment is to rent an aerator, run it over your yard and then fertilize with 1/8 to 1/4 inch of Dillo Dirt. If you have a sprinkler system, mark the location of the heads and stay away from the sprinkler heads.

If your trees are in real stress, have a tree company inject some liquid fertilizer every square foot to beyond the drip line. Then water deeply with a soaker hose every week for 2 years. This saved my tree but usually such drastic measures shouldn't be required if most of the roots haven't been paved over or severed.

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Your Rattan Creek neighborhood consultant!

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Do NOT smother tree roots, with more than 2 or 3 inches of soil, mulch, rocks, or anything over the roots of trees (especially Live Oaks). It will reduce the ability of the roots to gather oxygen, exclude carbon dioxide, and limit water flow. This greatly slows the growth of the tree and some trees will die.

One of our neighbors recently put 5 to 6 inches of 2-3 inch river rock in his backyard under 3 large Live Oaks where the shade and pacing dog had turned the St. Augustine grass into mud. By early January, one tree was quickly losing leaves and the other two did not have nice shiny leaves. After we looked at them, we called in an expert from Davey Tree (was Caldwell Tree) who suggested waiting until spring to see if they grew out. The deep stones were not helping it grow and so the owner removed down to a couple of inches at most. They were also going to deep fertilize the trees in the Live Oak growth season of mid January to March when they drop leaves, bloom, pollinate, drop blooms and hulls, and grow new leaves. This early spring fertilization usually does wonders for the strength and growth of live oak trees.

Pruning and Maintenance - At a Xeriscape Garden Club meeting Pat Wentworth discussed pruning and maintenance of trees. Pat is very involved in the local state and international arborist associations, has his own company and comes well recommended. His answer on how to fertilize trees was do what nature does; put 2 or 3 inches of compost and 4 inches of mulch under the tree extending 1 1/2 times beyond the drip line. I was surprised to learn that the Austin area native trees have such a wide spread root system to help the trees to quickly capture rain water before it runs off.

The trees around new homes have been stressed by cut roots and the compaction of the soil by construction equipment. A practical process to loosen up our heavy black clay soil includes: Go in with your neighbors to rent an aerator to loosen up the soil; Fertilize with a slow release fertilizer (urea based) or 1/8 to 1/4 inch of Dillo dirt and; Water it in well every week for several months during the growing season. Tree spikes or any strong fertilizer spread on the grass feeds the top few inches where the grass roots are, but will not get the fertilizer down

(Continued on page 10)

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(Continued from page 9)

to the tree root hairs 8 to 10 inches deep where it is needed. Nothing migrates through our heavy clay soil quickly.

Prune Trees and Shrubs - Prune now only to remove dead branches, diseased, crossing, rubbing, damaged branches, narrow weak crotches, or multiple main stems (try for only one main stem). When pruning, make the cut beyond the branch collar leaving a small stub. A flush cut requires the bark of the trunk to eventually close the wound and is much slower growing than the branch collar bark, which will quickly enclose the nub. Do NOT paint the cuts on any trees (except for live oaks to keep away the beetles carrying the live oak fungus).

Late February is time to **prune the lovely crepe myrtle trees/bushes** that can be pruned down to wood the size of a pencil. They bloom on new wood, so pruning helps the new branching and the blooming if not done too severely.

If they are the large variety and must be made smaller, use the old maintenance trick and cut off

near the ground at an angle, 1/3 of the largest trunks. Next year, prune the new growth for shape and cut out another 1/3 of the largest trunks. In 3 years you will have a healthy new cluster of trunks with heavy flowering provided by the massive root system developed over the years. Aggressive top pruning will work ok but it makes ugly stick trees for a few months.

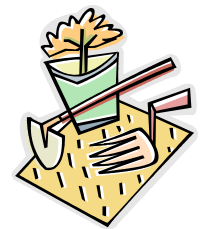
Plant some things now and begin to build the future yard you want. Your kids will even want to help if they get to participate in the planning, buying, planting and watering. Enjoy gardening it improves your outlook and life -- you deserve it.

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

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**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
BEFORE COMPLETING APPLICATION**

- All members receiving ID 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 admittances can only be purchased by a member of the pool. All guests must be accompanied by a pool member.
- Three guest admittances will be assigned with each ID badge purchased. Six admittances will be assigned with each annual pass. (Complimentary admittances are not issued with ID badges purchased for replacement of a lost or stolen badge.)
- A check made payable to North Austin M.U.D. #1 (NAM1) Pool must accompany the application to be processed.
- A check for pool ID badges, tennis key and/or RCNA **must be mailed separately** from the payment for the NAM1 water bill.
- Replacement fees for lost or stolen ID 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 ID badges, please specify for whom the annual ID badges are to be assigned to, as each ID badge can only be assigned to **one** person.
- ID badges can be picked up at the pool (during the summer session) on Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2 PM to 8PM, after your application is processed at ECO Resources. **Each** person for whom an ID badge is purchased (ages 3 and older) will need to have their picture taken at the pool office before the badges will be issued. No additional paper work will need to be completed at the pool, but identification will need to be shown. (If registering prior to the summer session, ID badges may be picked up March 1st – April 30th on weekends, Noon to 6PM.)
- Members registering by 5:00 PM on Tuesdays will be able to pick up ID badges at the pool beginning on Wednesday. Members registering by Noon on Fridays will be able to pick up ID badges at the pool beginning on Saturday.
- Annual ID 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 2003 to April 2004)
- 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. **Only ONE key can be issued per household.**
- ID 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 ID 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 an ID badge purchased for him/her.
- Only ID badges will be available at the pool. All applications and payments must be submitted by mail or in person to ECO Resources.

Receipts will not be accepted for admittance into the pool – NO EXCEPTIONS.

ALL INCOMPLETE OR INCORRECT APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT PROCESSING

RATTAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NORTH AUSTIN MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 - RATTAN CREEK PARK POOL

Application to Use Recreational Facilities and Release of Liability

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING – INCOMPLETE APPS. WILL BE RETURNED
APPLICATION FOR SUMMER/ANNUAL SESSION 2004**

NAMUD #1 Water Bill Account No. _____ Home Telephone Number _____ (Application will be considered incomplete without account number)	
Name: _____ (As it appears on NAM1 bill)	
Address: _____	ZIP _____
Emergency Contact: _____	Telephone Number: _____

I have made application for use of the District's recreational facilities on behalf of myself and the listed members of my family and our guests. I understand that the District's recreational facilities are for use of authorized persons only, and agree that all use by me, my family and our guests shall be in accordance with the District's "Rattan Creek Park Pool, Court Rules and Regulations." I agree that the District does not, by the providing of recreational facilities, assume any responsibility or liability to our guests or us. We assume all responsibility for , and waive any claim against the District for accidental injury, property damage or death arising out of the use of these facilities by any of our guests or us. We agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its directors, agents, employees and consultants whether paid or volunteer, from any and all claims by us or our guests which may arise out of use of the District's recreational facilities. If this application is on behalf of any minor children, the application represents that the applicant is the legal guardian of said children and fully responsible for such children, and authorized to execute this application and release on their behalf. I understand that the children, if under ten (10) years of age, must be accompanied by a person fourteen (14) years of age or older when using the District's facilities. *I further understand that I am responsible for any damage to District facilities caused by my family, my guests or myself.*

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____
(Application will be considered incomplete without signature)

Household Members Attending Pool: (All members receiving badges must be listed below)
(Badges required for ages 3 and up) Date of Birth

_____	____/____/____
_____	____/____/____
_____	____/____/____
_____	____/____/____
_____	____/____/____
_____	____/____/____

NO REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE TAKEN AT THE POOL.

2004 Summer Fees:	Make Checks Payable To North Austin M.U.D. #1 Pool	
Quantity		
_____ Summer In-District ID Badge	@ \$20 per badge	\$ _____
_____ Out-of-District Membership (Up to 4 ID Badges if needed)	@ \$200 per household	\$ _____
_____ Additional O.D. ID Badge	@ \$20 each additional badge	\$ _____
_____ Guest Admittance (only with ID Badges)	@ \$2 each (one time use)	\$ _____
_____ 10 Guest Admittances	@ \$15	\$ _____
_____ Tennis Court Key (In District Only)	@ \$15 (ONE KEY PER HOUSEHOLD)	\$ _____
_____ RCNA Membership (In-District Only)	@ \$20 per household	\$ _____
_____ Annual In-District ID Badge	@ \$40 per badge	\$ _____
SUMMER 2004 ID BADGES & GUEST ADMITTANCES VALID THRU 09/15/04		
Check MUST accompany this registration form to be processed.		Total \$ _____

Mail or Deliver to ECO Resources, 9511 Ranch Road 620 N., Austin, Texas 78726

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 Spring/Summer Schedule 2004**



March 2004

March 1 - 31: Pool Open - Winter Swim
Monday - Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM, 4:30 to 8:00PM.
Saturday-Sunday 12:00-8:00 PM



March 15 - 19: Spring Break
Pool hours : 12:00 to 8:00 PM

April 2004

April 1 - 30: Pool Open - Winter Swim
Monday - Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM, and
4:30 to 8:00 PM.
Saturday-Sunday 12:00-8:00pm

April 8, 9 & 12: Spring Holiday
Pool Open 12:00 to 8:00 PM

April 10: RCNA Easter Egg Hunt

Pool closed: April 11 (Easter Sunday)

***Rattan Creek Pool
is Managed by
Clearwater Management***

**Clearwater Management
Phone - 331-7066**



**Manager - Tony Watt
Pool phone - 257-8175**

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

It's Finally March and Almost Planting Time

If the soil is wet enough to stick to your shoes, wait for it to dry to clean up the beds and rake lawns so you do not pull up all the growing roots. No plants grow much until the soil temperature is into the 70's, so be patient in the shady areas.

A Reminder about Oak Wilt: To avoid infecting your oak trees with the deadly oak wilt fungus, you should postpone pruning them until summer. The fungus produces spores from March through the end of May, and the insects carrying the spores to fresh wounds on oaks are most active in spring. If you must prune, or if one of your oaks is injured, coat the wound with a commercially available protectant as soon as possible – before nightfall because the insects that carry spores are most active at night. For more information about oak wilt, visit the Oak Wilt Suppression Project Web site: <www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt>. Or call the oak wilt hotline at 473-3517, or contact the Austin office of the Texas Forest Service at 512-451-2178 or tfaus@swbell.net

We are not in a drought condition yet this year, but always look at your plants and water them when they look wilted and leaves begin to curl up to minimize water loss. Withholding water may let your plants die and you will have to pay for replacement work and new plants. Plant smart by creating small beds or in pots

with attractive flowers and shrubs near walkways or decks where they are very visible for more beauty in your life and are easier to notice when they need dead heading and watering. Then you can manage the larger less visible grass areas for less cost, labor, and water use.

Brown Patch in St. Augustine Grass is the wet soil condition with circles of fungal brown patch. Rake the dead grass thatch off and compost or throw away. Add live compost and the microbes will eat the fungus. Dillo Dirt will do it very well also. Water by sprinkling lightly to encourage grass spreading and then let the grass dry in between waterings to reduce the fungus growth. You may need some replacement grass sod which is easy, just buy a few squares, rake or dig up the soil and dead grass, work in some compost or a little fertilizer or root stimulant, lay down the sod, press down well and water. Keep the new sod moist enough so the roots do not dry out for several months until the roots grow down into the soil.

Thin St. Augustine grass and Live Oak leaves. If you have thin spots in St. Augustine grass, overseed with Fescue grass seed now to thicken the turf and let the St. Augustine re grow. Aerating the soil will help the roots grow. A large machine can be rented to do the

(Continued on page 16)



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Milwood Resident/RCNA Member

RCNA Event Sponsor

(Continued from page 15)

entire yard. It punches holes and pulls out the plugs of soil. For small areas and along sidewalks and driveways which have been tamped down, apply some clean masonry sand and then poke holes with a garden fork or an aerator tool.

In Austin, most fallen leaves will naturally compost in place and provide fertilizer to the soil and can be left in place, especially if you have a mower that mulches them. Live oak leaves and some other leather-like leaves do need to be raked up because they make thatch-like layers and not let the water and air through. Live oak leaves do not compost easily either, so bag them and put out for the solid waste disposal pickup.

Plant and fertilize now. Finish planting roses, fruit trees, and vines and then feed all perennials by mulching with compost to control fungi and to slowly feed the plants. Or, use granular fertilizers (organic or non-organic) to build up the strength of perennials. Follow the directions on the package and spread well and water in well to make the fertilizer available to the plants.

A light dressing with fertilizer every 6 weeks will keep plants blooming and growing well all summer. Or, a weekly foliar feeding of liquid fertilizer, liquid sea weed and fish emulsion will keep plants blooming. For

additional growth on trees apply a double coverage of fertilizer under and around the trees to 1-1/2 times the drip zone. Water well two or three times in the next few days to dissolve the fertilizer and take it down 8 inches to the Live Oak tree roots. This is especially helpful for Live Oaks in February and March when they are growing fast.

Dillo Dirt works well as a general top dressing (1/8 to 1/4 inch) for the grass and the beds. It works slowly, dissolving over 6 months and is will not be too strong and burn plants. The Home Depot store has it in small bags and other nurseries have it in bulk for your pickup load or will deliver for a charge. A commercial composted product available in bags called Back To Earth (BTE) works also. Use 3 to 4 inches of BTE or other coarser mulch under plants and trees for weed control. The larger nurseries have bulk compost that is cheaper and works well for a top-dressing on grass and for thicker mulching of plants in beds.

Lawn Fertilizers: Do not apply lawn fertilizer until after two mowings. To be precise about the nutrition need of your soil, go to a nursery or contact Texas A&M for a soil sample kit. You will get back a report on your soil conditions and recommendations of the specific amount of nutrients that are needed for your soil.

(Continued on page 22)

Your Milwood Team

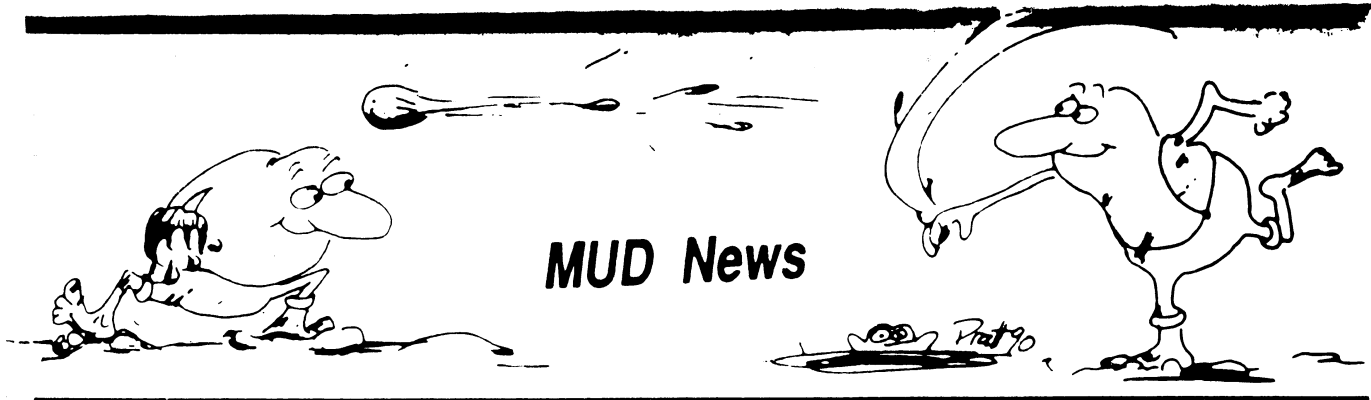
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North Austin Municipal Utility District #1 Board of Directors Report on Commercial Development, Parks, and Pool Activities:

Our contractor for inspections of Restrictive Covenant Violations The Treasure of the Hills Senior Citizens Community Center, Inc. had no report this month due to an illness.

District Water Pressure: At the Board meetings since April, District Manager Gary Spoons and District Engineer David Malish have reported that the City of Austin (COA) recently has had trouble maintaining water pressure in our section of town and are varying it on a 2 day cycle.

The present COA plan is to provide water from the tank and pump station on McNeil and #183 at higher than our normal pressure, and connect it to our existing Master Meters along McNeil and Parmer Lane.

The COA plan to use an existing 24" force line located under McNeil Drive to bring intermediate pressure water to our MUD, Motorola, and McNeil High School is progressing. The drawings for the pipeline provided enough information to progress the project to pressure and leak testing to see if there may be leakage problems. They plan to dig up the two ends of the pipe in late January and start the

pressure testing. We continue to work with the COA staff to minimize the effect of the low pressure in our District.

Homeowners Insurance Rate Decrease? No activities reported this month.

Rattan Creek Park Pool: The Board Pool Committee of Alan McNeil and Don Conklin met with Bill Burke of Clearwater Management to review and plan needed maintenance work. The pool heaters and office heater have been serviced. The pool buildings will be painted, the electrical system upgraded, wooden fence and benches removed and 2 lane ropes have been ordered. The office and bathroom floor surface is being removed and replaced, a refrigerated drinking fountain will be installed by Spring, a large clock is on order, and the diving stands are being prepared and painted. The East side cantilever cover torn by wind will be replaced. Some of this work will be done during the annual February shut down. The pool open hours schedule is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Rattan Creek Playscape: The Board and the RCNA neighborhood association are looking for volunteers to help in re-designing and replacing the playscapes next year. Please contact Directors Don Conklin or Alan McNeil to be added to the committee that will guide this major project this year.

Rattan Creek Greenbelt: The Parks Landscaping committee of Chuck Simms and Alan McNeil reviewed the completion of the tree planting by Williamson County. This is a remediation project to replace trees lost during the Lake Creek dredging and channelization project by Williamson County. The 262 15 gal. trees and 5 gal. shrubs planted on the North bank of Rattan Creek upstream of the

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 on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Tamayo Bridge are species native to our neighborhood.

The planting strips include different types of plants to simulate a natural grove and provide the wildlife needed cover and food. The planting has been designed to meet the criteria for the Best of Texas Backyard Habitat described below. The work of planting the trees and shrubs, building mulching rings, and installing the irrigation, water and electrical systems was completed in late January. As the area grows, we will add plants and wildflowers at the proper time of the year. The long-term maintenance schedule and a border marking system will be developed in February.

The Best of Texas Backyard Habitat certification process work by aci Consulting continues. The project also includes the manufacture and placement of 2 educational signs for each of the 3 natural areas in the greenbelts of Rattan Creek and Robinson parks. The certification program is a merging of the National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Wildscapes designation for backyards, parks, and natural areas that meet the requirement

of providing food, water, and protection for birds and other wildlife. The two programs have been merged in Texas under the Best of Texas Backyard Habitats program.

In our District, the 3 areas initially to be certified are:

(1) The Rattan Creek Recharge Habitat Area that is marked by the white poles marked as Nature Area where we stopped all maintenance several years ago (saving money). This area is a now a habitat for the Great Blue Heron that dines on crawdads, and occasional egrets, red tailed hawks, and many other wildlife creatures. Some of them are especially visible during high aquifer levels with standing water in much of the area.

(2) The Robinson Park Gypsy Oak Wildlife Habitat Area is located North of the Gypsy oak and the trail between Anderson Mill Road and the Northern soccer field.. This area contains springs and the East Tributary of Lake Creek runs through it so it is a true natural area already. And, I've been told that it has a herd of 8 deer living in it. I have seen 3 of them running behind the playscape, jumping our fence, high tailing it across Anderson

(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 (5/06)
dconklin@northaustinmud1.org

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

Place Four - **Alan McNeil,** 219-8719
Vice President (5/06)
amcneil@northaustinmud1.org

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

Website: www.northaustinmud1.org

(Continued from page 18)

Mill Road, and leaping down into the creek bed.

(3) The new Rattan Creek Groves Wildlife Habitat Area where the tree planting mitigation area is being designed as a natural area with native trees and shrubs to be planted, and of course the creek and existing riparian vegetation already provide wildlife cover, food, and water. Planting was completed in January.

The Board is working with Eagle Scouts from Boy Scout troops 169 and 259 to develop projects that will benefit our community. Director Don Conklin is coordinating these projects. A picnic and nature observation platform near the Gypsy Oak may be designed and installed as one project.

Robinson Park Soccer Fields: The Fall top dressing and grass overseeding have been completed on both soccer fields.

Rattan Creek Park: The Board approved additional concrete channels to extend the drainage ditch West of the sand volleyball court A new water fountain is on order for tennis courts 3 and 4.

Easement along Lake Creek behind the Bluffs sections 40A and 40B: As a part of the Board's goal of getting all property ownership transferred from Milburn Company and the Joint Venture to our District, the parcel of 21 acres of greenbelt of the East Tributary of Lake creek from the Anderson Mill bridge that goes West and then North to under Parmer Lane is to be transferred to the District. The main channel of Lake Creek will continue to be controlled by Williamson County and possibly in the future after our area is annexed, transferred to the COA.

The District's easement will not allow Williamson County to change this about 100 foot deep strip of land adjacent to homeowners property lines without District approval. The Board's goal is to protect the trees and wetland and to preserve the property values of the adjacent homeowners. Final agreement signing is close. Milburn/Continental Homes has hired an engineering company to clear up the final details for closing out all Milburn debt and activities in NAMUD#1.

Robinson Park Humphrey Drive access road is in place: No change. The final payment is being held until repairs are made and the project is given final approval by our District Engineer David Malish. The contractor has agreed to honor the warranty and will repair or replace the material.

The Board requested a letter from our Lawyer Sharlene Collins requesting timely repairs. The contractor confirmed his intention to repair the road.

Wastewater Lines Inspection; The TV inspection of sewer lines has been completed, and the needed repair of 3 areas was approved by the Board.

Water and Wastewater service for the #620 Turnpike: Approval for the connections and relocated master meter for the water service for the Turnpike tollbooth area is close. Negotiations with the COA and Williamson County and Turnpike Authority, and the State Farm Insurance property owner continue.

Toll Road Turnpike activity for #183 and #183A are creating questions: The Neighborhood Association of Southwestern Williamson County (NASWC) has been very active lately working against the proposed plan by the CTRMA (Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority) to and TXDOT to change the status of #183 from McNeil and #620 to a toll road. The Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association president Erick Freeman has been following this issue. In this situation, the MUD Board of Directors has no special standing.

For more information about this subject, and the large area neighborhood association see <http://www.naswc.org> and for information about the Regional Mobility Authority see <http://www.ctrma.org> .

If you work or do shopping to the West of McNeil along U.S. 183, this could effect your travel costs and time greatly. Again these changes to toll roads are in the early discussion stage, but could become reality without some dissenting input from those of us that will be affected.

Anderson Mill M.U.D annexation: is planned now for December 31 of 2008. The process will include the annexation to the City of Austin of the residential area of A. M. MUD. The Municipal Utility District will no longer exist, with services provided by the City of Austin.

Then there will be a vote by the District to create a Limited Purpose District to manage the greenbelts, drainage channels, and recreational parks facilities and swimming pools. The best guess now is that

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

our NAMUD#1 will be annexed several years later using the same process that will continue to allow our local management and control of our greenbelts, trails, parks and pool.

A NAMUD #1 Recreation Center building: We have stopped trying to get the COA approval of a building to house a community center and a Williamson County EMS substation on the “fire station designated” lot on Dallas Drive between the dental office and Tutor Time buildings.

We are now discussing the remodeling of the Rattan Creek Pool operation building to include a small meeting room, a large recreation room, a kitchen, and storage spaces for Scout troops, and the Hurricanes Swim Team.

Director’s Keith Collins and Chuck Simms are the Board Recreation Center committee and we are looking for suggestions.

What type of a facility would be a real asset to our neighborhood? Please go to the NAMUD#1 web site to e-mail your thoughts to us, or give us a call.

Chuck Simms, Secretary,
NAMUD #1 Board of Directors. Phone: 331-9630

Website: www.northaustinmd1.org

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**Call Jo at 335-1805
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* price based off a year contract of 6 issues.



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Your Neighborhood Church

5703 McNeil Drive

(Across the street from McNeil High School)

CrossPointeAustin.org 249-1006

Important Numbers

Ambulance 9 - 1 - 1

Fire: Jollyville Fire Department
Emergency 9 - 1 - 1
 Administrative 258-1038

Sheriff: Emergency 9 - 1 - 1
 Williamson County
 Administrative 943-1300
 Travis County
 Administrative 854-9285

Crime Stoppers 1-800-253-STOP

County Commissioner
 Williamson, Precinct 1
 Mike Heiligenstein 248-3238
 Travis, Precinct 2
 Karen Sonleitner 854-9222

Dept of Homeland Security 1-800-BEREDAY

Poison Control 1-800-POISON 1
 (1-800-764-7661)

Mail: Balcones Post Office
 11900 Jollyville Rd. 331-9802

Schools: RRISD 464-5000
 Elementary
 Jollyville 428-2200
 Pond Spring 464-4200
 Live Oak 428-3800
 Middle School
 Deer Park 464-6600
 High School
 McNeil 464-6300

Utilities:
 Electric
 City of Austin 494-9400
 Gas
 Southern Union 1-800-700-2443
 Water/Wastewater: NA MUD #1
 Eco Resources 335-7580
 Phone
 SBC 1-800-464-7928
 Trash/Recycling/Large Item Pickup
 Waste Management 272-4341
Before U Dig: (call 48 hrs before you dig)
 Texas One Call 1-800-545-6005

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(Continued from page 16)

General guidelines for fertilizer use are: Do not apply a weed and feed product, it may kill other plants and trees. Use slow-release granular organic or chemical fertilizers; Top-dress with compost or Dillo Dirt. Apply a slow-release blood, fish, and bone meal in early spring. Avoid more than 1 lb. Nitrogen per 1000 sq. feet. per application. The first number, like 15) .means a 40 pound bag with 15% nitrogen contains 6 pounds of nitrogen. That would be enough for 6000 sq. ft. larger than our average yard planted area. Use a broadcast spreader and try to not drop piles of fertilizer every time you stop or turn around which can kill the soil in that area for several years.

Lawn weeds: If you have rampant annual weeds growing from seeds, a weed-and-feed fertilizer can help. See the cautions about it's use, If you use one be sure it is approved for your variety of grass. You may need to use it sparingly both in spring and fall for several years to eliminate these annual grasses. Weed-and-Feed products applied anywhere near the root zones of trees can cause irreparable damage to those trees, *be careful*. Also it is more expensive than needed and runoff from your yard can kill other plants and pollute the creeks. The safest solution to eliminating weeds is removal of individual plants by digging or spraying carefully to not kill other plants. Consistent mowing of the fast-growing weeds also weakens them and encourages grass growth.

Mowing Grass Height; If your grass is grown at an appropriate height and not cut too low to the ground, weeds will have little chance to become established. Cut St. Augustine grass and Bermuda grass at 3-1/2 inches. In the spring lower the setting to 2" for a few mowings to encourage root growth. Then set the mower to the highest setting (usually about 3-1/2 inches) and leave it there. Grass cut longer provides additional shade for the roots and minimizes water loss from the soil.

The mowing rules are:

- Mow often enough to only cut 1/3 of the existing green foliage at any one mowing to maintain its ability to collect oxygen and sun and make food for the plant. Never shave the lawn too close, it encourages bare spots, weed invasions, and destroys the food-producing leaf blade.
- Lawn clippings are free food, do not cart them away. Mow with a mulch type mower blade to return the nutrients to the soil. This will return the equivalent of one fertilizer application per year. Replacement mulching blades or multiple blades can make your mower into a mulcher.
- Sharp blades make clean cuts, the grass looks better and less plant food reserves are needed to repair and heal the clean cut. Buy a large file and learn to file or grind the blade to sharpen it.

Frost damaged or dead foliage should be cut back to good wood after March 1st to encourage new growth after the late frost date.

Prune brown looking perennials like the Lantanna and some native grasses down to 1" from the ground, they will come back from the roots. Prune early flowering plants like the Salvias after the spring flush of blooms by cutting the tips off and shaping the plants to prepare for a second flush of blooms in late summer.

Due to space availability, a shorten version of this month's gardening article was placed in the newsletter. To get the remainder of March's Gardening article - by Chuck Simms, please go to www.rattancreek.org.

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Rattan Creek Resident 10 Years Experience—Work Guaranteed

Happy New Year Milwood!

This should be another exciting year. I am looking for volunteers to head or help in our up coming events. You can volunteer for one or more of these events.

With the start of the new year, we are looking for folks who can donate some of their time to help with the planning or the running of these events:

- April Easter Hunt
- May Pool Party
- July 4th of July parade
- September Rattan Fest and 5K run
- December Caroling in the park

It's a great way to meet your Milwood neighbors. Please come join in the fun!

Thank you,
Dallas Hall
257-3494

TRASH DISPOSAL INFORMATION:

FOR BULK PICKUP:

That means large items like old sofas, washers, dryers, etc.

Call Waste Management at 272-4341

FOR LIMB AND BRUSH PICKUP:

All tree limbs and brush must be cut into 3' to 4' lengths, tied and bundled together, and placed at curbside for pickup by Waste Management on your regular garbage pickup day.

Call Waste Management at 272-4341

HOME CHEMICAL WASTE COLLECTION:

Call City of Austin at 974-4343

Say Si to Spanish

Say YES to early advantage



Spanish classes for children

- Day Care Center Playgroups
- Preschools After School
- Elementary Schools Home School
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(512) 657-9817

Email: odilia_alvaredo@saysitospanish.com

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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**

Ashley Foust, 16 – I'm a certified and experienced babysitter! I'm wonderful with kids, and I'm available 7 days a week. I'm very responsible and trustworthy. So if you need some extra time away from the little ones feel free to call anytime. 809-9535. (2/04)

Fernanda Cardoso, 14 – Looking to spend some time with your husband or wife this weekend? Need somebody to watch the kids? I'm who you're looking for. I love playing games, watching movies and best of all I love kids. I'm responsible, experienced and bilingual (Portuguese and English). Call 219-8305. I'll be waiting for your call. (2/04)

Amanda Sampson, 15 - Wishing for a night out on the town, but not sure what to do with the little ones? Or maybe you're just looking for a few hours to yourself. Whatever it is you need, I'll be happy to help! I'm a sophomore in high school who loves children. I'm certified in Babysitting and I look forward to spending time with your kids. Call my home phone, 258-5481 or my cell phone, 627-1501. (2/04)

Keely Lallier, 13 - I am a girl scout and an experienced babysitter, certified at Seton Northwest hospital. Rates: \$4.00 a hour; \$6.00 a hour for two. Available for weekends and nighttime sitting. Call 335-5365. (2/04)

Sean Brown, Alec Vantilburg, and Adam Ranallo, 15 - Does your lawn need some work? Asleecn Lawn Services offers quality lawn management that won't empty your wallet! We will mow, edge, and weed-eat your front and back lawns for only \$20, regardless of size. Or, we will mow, edge, and weed-eat one side of your lawn for just \$15. Call 335-0207 (Sean), 762-57370 (Adam). You can also email us at asleecn@excite.com. (2/04)

Melanie Bivone, 11 - I love animals! I will check on your pets every day. I will make sure to have fun with them. They will be very happy when you get back! I will check the mail for you and bring in the newspaper. I will also water your plants. I was

voted Student Council President of my school. I am very responsible. I made this promise to you and I will keep it! Ask for Melanie at 331-5240. (4/04)

Stacy Baker, 14 – Certified, experienced babysitter. I'm great with kids! I'm responsible, dependable and hard working. I love to play games with kids. I know CPR and the Heimlich maneuver. I can baby-sit in both Milwood and Forest North subdivisions. I can also watch your pets while you are away. I will walk your dog, bring in the newspaper, the mail and water your plants. References available. 918-0201. (4/04)

Tyler Ray, 16 - Babysitter and Tutor 632-1781 I love working with kids, whether it's watching them, helping them with any core class, or even both. I can tutor in math, reading, writing, history, science and French; from 1st grade to 8th grade. (4/04)

Rebecca Thomson, 15 - Need a babysitter? I'm certified, responsible, experienced, and great with kids of all ages, as well as children with special disabilities. References upon request. Call 249-9633. (6/04)

Teens.... Want to earn some extra money this spring and summer?

Place your ad in the RCNA newsletter for summer jobs like lawn care, baby sitting, pet sitting, or car washing. Tell us what kind of work you are looking for!

Your ad will run for 6 months at no cost!

All you have to do is write to us at

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

***Be sure to include your name, age, and what you do and how we can reach you.*

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

Need a Diamond Ring for Valentine's Day? Don't forget your sweetie! Call me:423-0250(2/04)
Custom Sewing For Your Home-Window coverings and decorating items made the way you want them for a great price! Call Betty - 249-7088.(2/04)

MANICURES, PEDICURES, WAXING, THREADING - licensed beautician Milwood resident. Very reasonable rates. By appointment only. Call Sonu's Beauty Corner 336-7478, pherwani@juno.com (6/04)

Too tired to clean your house? Got better things to do? Got a life! Let me do your dirty work! For meticulous house-cleaning, call Donna at 331-0973. (2/04)

Home Childcare – individual, loving care in family setting for infants and preschoolers. (Drop-ins welcome). Call Betty 249-7088. (2/04)

Valentine Massage Special – February only. \$35 for 1 hour massage. \$55 for 1 ½ hours. Gift certificates available. Barbara Miles RMT 918-1824 / 336-1350. (2/04)

Mary Kay – Julia Hall 257-1067 or 796-7718, email: juliah@marykay.com website: www.marykay.com/juliah. Milwood Resident discount. (2/04)

A Royal Musician - Piano Lessons and Music Coaching - Near Park - All ages and abilities welcome. A professional educator, over 20 years experience teaching piano, Elementary and Middle School. Also, contest coach/accompanist for other instruments and vocalists. Call Jagjit Khalsa: (512) 921-9899. (2/04)

A Royal Massage - Gift certificates. Therapeutic Massage, sports, pre/post natal, massage care. JK and SP Khalsa, RMT. 921-9899. (2/04)

Camping Store HQ - For all your camping needs! <http://www.campingstorehq.com> - (6/04)

MASSAGE EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST. 10 year anniversary special. 1 1/2 hours, \$65 office @ Duval & 183 Anita Rodman 343-7878

(10/04)

True Grit Painting (Low Cost House Painting) – Reasonable and Reliable. Milwood Resident/RCNA Member. 218-1445. (12/04)

Montessori School – Outstanding Montessori Program Licensed child care home. Ages 18 months and up. For More Information call 250-0280. (12/04)

Valentine's Day Gift?

Surprise your loved one with the gift of pampering. Give her handmade soaps made with 100% natural ingredients.



Soaps include clove, cinnamon orange, patchouli, espresso, oatmeal honey, goat's milk, and more.



Gift baskets made to order.

Soapkarma@yahoo.com, 219-0709.

www.soapkarma.com

Milwood residents get **Free Valentine's Day delivery!**

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- Sandblasting
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- Painting

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Milwood Resident RCNA Member

**Honey Do's** - Does your list look like this?

1. Plant new Bushes, Trees and Flowers, Trim hedges
2. Assemble the new Bookcase, Bicycle, and Bed
3. Install that new Ceiling Fan with the light kit
4. Repair the Deck, Fence, and Holes in the drywall
5. Add Shelves and storage to the Kids Room

**Small jobs that need doing:
call Jeff Fanta at 801-0526**

\$20.00 hr and it is off your mind, and your List!

Easter Planning Meeting

Our next event will be our annual
Easter Egg Hunt in the park.

We will be meeting on the **6th of
March** and the **3rd of April**.

It's a lot of fun. Come and join us.
Please feel free to bring the kids.
We will be meeting at my house.

Where: 13201 Kepler Cove
Time: 4:00pm

Thank you,
Dallas Hall
257-3494

Items needed:

Plastic Eggs - *We are in need of plastic eggs- we
stuff about 6000 Easter eggs every year. Over half
don't make it back after the Easter hunt.*

**All candy, cookies, crackers.....must be
individually wrapped.**

***Tots area: ages 0-4**

Dum-dums, suckers, chocolate candy (without
nuts), kisses, animal cracker, crackers,
cookies...

***Older ages: 4-10**

Dum-dums, suckers, chocolate candy, hard
candy, tootsie roles, variety bags...

*Buying in bulk is wonderful. With bulk you can
get double the candy for about half the price. We
buy our candy at SAMS. Please remember that
ALL candy MUST be individually wrapped.*



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Second 6 inch sub free

Offer good at 8701 W. Parmer Lane only



RATTAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE / CLEAN UP

Sat April 3 & Sun April 4

Garage Sale - Saturday Only,

For the **Garage Sale**, the RCNA runs ads for a neighborhood wide Garage Sale; giving the boundaries of our neighborhood. There are a few signs to get folks into the neighborhood, but from there it is up to you, to bring the folks to your home. Each person has the garage sale at their own home, or with a neighbor who is planning to have one. If you want to do one, but do not want to do it alone, talk to your neighbors!

Saturday, April 3: 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Neighborhood Clean-Up - Sat & Sun

For the **neighborhood clean-up**; the rules are simple:

The MUD district arranges with the disposal company to start bringing dumpsters to the area by the Tamayo bridge on Friday the 2nd of April and last until the dumpsters are full on Sunday April 4th.

However, you can not start dumping until after the Boy scouts have setup camp - usually about 5pm.

The Boy Scouts man the dumpsters, as part of their community service.



Please remember to bring a copy of your MUD bill to show that you do actually belong in the neighborhood.

April 3 & April 4 at the Tamayo Bridge

Please remember to be courteous to our Boy Scouts, as they are doing us a favor in directing this event.

****Remember when the dumpsters are full
on Sunday - That's It!!***

A separate chipping site will be available. Limbs and bushes will be directed to the chipper site.

Please do not bring any hazardous materials to the neighborhood clean up. This includes old motor oil.

REMEMBER:

**** The Boy Scouts will be directing the drop offs.
You will need your ECO Resources (MUD) bill.**