

Westcreek Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

December, 2000

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Oaks/2377/>

The Westcreek Annual Picnic:

Our neighborhood really cooks!



With the generous help of Randalls and WNA Executive Committee members Jim Stutsman, Member at Large, and Bob Shrader, current President of Westcreek Neighborhood Association, we really cooked up a storm at our Annual WNA Picnic (literally)!!!



A few kids from the Westcreek neighborhood make a dash for the covered pavillion when we experienced a 15-minute cloudburst.

The WNA Annual Picnic was held October 28th with much success. Many residents and their families showed up for a day of food and fun in the sun (except for a quick shower). The hamburger meat, hotdogs, buns, and drinks were donated by Randalls.

Picnic story continues on page 2, along with lots of photos

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Westcreek Neighborhood Association
Monday, December 10
at 7:00 p.m.

Will Hampton Branch Library
5125 Convict Hill Road

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**Annual Association Report
Election of Officers for 2001**

Picnic Pictures! See if you can find your neighbors in these photographs!



Picnic, continued from page one

Our own Westcreek neighbors brought lots and lots of tasty side dishes and desserts, which were heartily eaten by all. For all interested, the recipe for the hamburgers is available by emailing Karen at kgregory1@austin.rr.com.

We look forward to seeing you all again at next year's festivities!





President's Corner

Within the next few weeks, I'll be wrapping up the final year of my two-year term as president of the Westcreek Neighborhood Association.

This year, at the direction of the supporting membership, we continued a program to stop practices which were contributing to the degeneration of the neighborhood and threatening our property values. We have made tremendous progress, and there's a big difference in the appearance of the subdivision.

Our successes were due to the hard work of the other members of the executive committee and your neighbors who volunteered their time to work for the WNA. These folks attended meetings, served on committees, organized block parties and picnics, mowed grass along the right-of-way, wrote letters, delivered newsletters and lobbied city hall. All of these activities and many others contributed to making Westcreek a better place to live. Thanks to you all!

We have ongoing problems which are being addressed. Speeding traffic at the curve on Yellow Rose Trail and on the Brush Country-Summerset Trail-Hill Forest Drive route to Patton Elementary remain top priorities. Still unresolved is the dangerous situation for pedestrians created by soccer parking on Westcreek Drive.

We have learned that dealing with the city to get problems addressed demands constant attention and pressure. Elected city officials tend to refer complaints to bureaucrats, who in turn follow often complicated and inefficient procedures on the road to resolution.

Within the next few weeks, all homeowners in Westcreek will receive a brief questionnaire in the mail to get your feedback about the work and direction of



the neighborhood association. We urge you to take the time to fill out the survey and return it to the WNA.

The mailing will include a supporting membership application for the calendar year 2001. Please fill out and return the membership form. We also need you to volunteer to help the neighborhood association. In addition to the committees listed on the form, we're looking for a couple of people to sell ads in the newsletter. Editor Karen Gregory has produced a professional looking newsletter with lots of valuable information and pictures, but production of the expanded newsletter is costly. The right volunteers to sell ads could eliminate that cost entirely.

Finally, a big thank you to Randalls, Home Depot and Life Savings. These area businesses have provided support for special projects or continuous operations of the neighborhood association. They have been good neighbors to Westcreek.



Bob Shrader

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LIBERTY BANK

6132 Hwy. 290 West • Phone 472-5433

WNA APPRECIATES ALL YOUR HELP

Westcreek gets new police district representative

A 16-year veteran of the Austin Police Department, Alma Murray, has been appointed the new district representative for our area of the city. Officer Murray currently is attending orientation and training sessions but is also on the job, dealing with problem situations in Southwest Austin.

The DRs for this area work out of a police department office in the shopping center at Wm Cannon and Westgate. Officer Murray will be available to handle complaints during her regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. If she is out of the office, please leave a phone message. The phone number for Officer Murray is 445-5263. Her email address is alma.murray@ci.austin.tx.us

Officer Murray replaces Officer Andy Anderson, who retired in September.

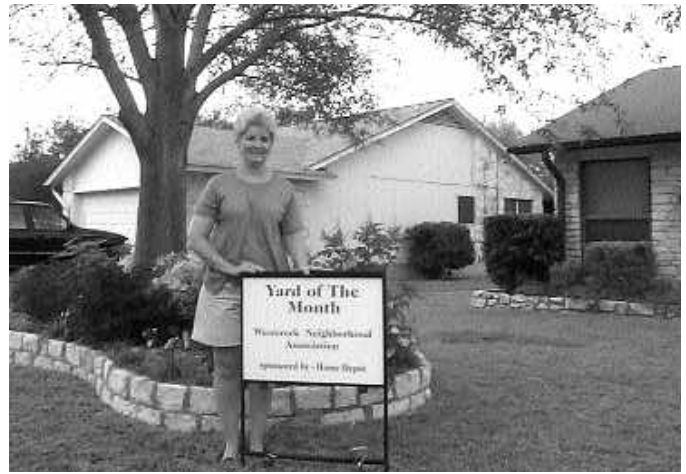
Your Ad Could Be Here — Reaching 750 Households!

Only \$25 for this space.
Call Ben Coughran at 892-5364 or Karen
Gregory at 899-1292 to place an ad.

Helpful City Numbers

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Animal Control (loose dogs)..... | 472-7387 |
| Dumping violations..... | 469-2015 |
| Forester..... | 440-5154 |
| Garbage collection..... | 499-2111 |
| Junked and abandoned cars..... | 280-5121 |
| Mosquito control..... | 469-2015 |
| Police Dept. District Rep..... | 445-5263 |
| Recycling information..... | 499-2111 |
| Street sign maintenance..... | 457-4850 |
| Swimming pool information..... | 480-3030 |
| Weed & litter control..... | 469-2015 |

The procedure for reporting zoning violations is to call 499-2875, select option 5, then select option 1 and you'll actually get to speak to a live human being.
The Graffiti Hot Line number is 473-4125.



*Yard of the Month Winner:
Carol Saucier, 4003 Wing Road, was the winner of
Yard of the Month for September/October, 2000.*

WNA Executive Board Members

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bob Shrader, President..... | 892-1768 |
| email..... | bshrader@swbell.net |
| Brett Pavay, Vice President..... | 495-6085 |
| email..... | kbpavay@concentric.net |
| Karen Gregory, Secretary..... | 899-1292 |
| email..... | kgregory1@austin.rr.com |
| Ben Coughran, Treasurer..... | 892-5364 |
| email..... | bcoughra@inetport.com |
| Jim Stutsman, Member-at-Large..... | 891-9345 |
| email..... | jstuts@inetport.com |
| Connie Casanova..... | 892-0011 |
| Doug Huber, OHAN Liaison..... | 892-5570 |
| email..... | DHuber6024@cs.com |

Find the WNA at:
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Oaks/2377/>

2000/2001 WNA Membership Enrollment Form

Help protect the value of your property and your neighborhood. Join the Westcreek Neighborhood Association today. Just mail your check made out to WNA in the amount of \$7.50 for the remainder of the calendar year 2000 (or \$15.00 for the calendar year 2001) to:

Ben Coughran, Treasurer, WNA, 6206 Myra Court, Austin, TX 78749.

Date _____

Name(s) _____
please print

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

I (we) have access to the Internet

I (we) are willing to serve on a committee

I (we) want to be added to the WNA eGroup list
(you will receive updates on the WNA and can participate in neighborhood discussions automatically by email if you check this box)

Monarchs stop off for a rest in Westcreek



A small tree on the vacant lot on Sanderson Avenue served as a rest area for Monarch butterflies migrating south to Mexico October 15th. The butterflies appeared to cluster in pairs (see inset) on the branches. The photographer counted about 30 pairs of butterflies at the time this picture was taken. Throughout the day, Monarchs could be seen flying high above the Westcreek area.

Next bulky item pickup scheduled for December 18

Austin Solid Waste Services will begin picking up bulky items in the Westcreek area on December 18th. Bulky items should be at the curb by 7:30 a.m. and should be at least five feet from your garbage cart.

Solid Waste Services says the bulky items should be separated into three piles:

- Metal (Appliances, mowers, water heaters and rolled fencing. Doors should be removed from appliances and gas and oil should be removed from mowers.)
- Tires (Up to eight passenger tires with the rims removed.)
- Other: furniture, carpeting, nail-free lumber, railroad ties, tree trunks 8" in diameter or larger.)

Solid waste pickup does not include brush or limbs, cardboard boxes, household garbage or hazardous household chemicals. Do not block your mailbox or cover your water meter, do not stack or lean items against a fence or telephone connection box.

Pickup in the area could take up to a week, depending on the volume of bulky items. More information may be obtained by calling Solid Waste Services at 494-9400 or by logging onto the web at www.austinrecycles.com.

Executive committee rejects new rezoning application

The Executive Committee of the Westcreek Neighborhood Association has voted to oppose an application to rezone a piece of property adjacent to the greenbelt behind Yellow Rose Trail.

The developer for the property at 4501 Monterey Oaks Boulevard has asked the city to change the zoning from the present zoning of LO to a designation of LI. LO is limited office, intended for offices predominately serving neighborhood or community needs. LI is limited industrial, intended as an area primarily for commercial services and limited manufacturing uses.

The developer is Office Partners ILP. No hearing dates for the application before the planning commission and the city council have been set.

A letter from the executive committee will be sent to the Development Review and Inspection Department to be added to the case file. No plans for further action were made, pending reaction from the developer.

Tips for planting trees in Westcreek

With the cooler weather, from now through the winter is the best time to plant trees on your property. This gives time for the root system of the trees to become established before the start of the spring growing season and the hot temperatures of summer. Austin Energy offers these tips for tree planting:

- When in your yard, look up and down to determine where the tree will be situated in relation to overhead and underground utility lines. Allow enough space away from the lines for the tree to grow to its mature size.
- Plant trees that are expected to be tall away from overhead lines.
- Plant deciduous trees on the west and southwest side of your home to block the sun's most intense heat during the summer months and help decrease energy costs. These trees will lose their leaves in the fall, allowing the sun to help warm your home in the winter.
- Dig the planting hole the same depth as the container, but two to six times the width. Backfill the planting hole with loose removed soil. Cover the entire loosened area of soil with a three-inch layer of organic mulch and water gently. Water regularly in the first few growing seasons to help establish the tree.

Also remember that certain type oak trees are not recommended because of their vulnerability to oak wilt.