

Westcreek Neighborhood

ASSOCIATION

September, 2003 — Published Quarterly for our Westcreek Neighbors

Log on at westcreekna.org

The 4th Annual WNA Picnic is Coming!!!

Are You Ready For Some Fun?

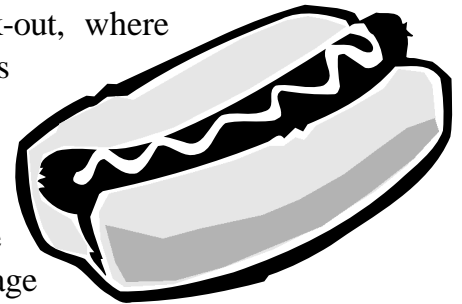
Get your party hats on, because this year's WNA Picnic will be filled plenty of activities and enjoyment for everyone in your family!

The picnic will be held on SUNDAY, October 5th, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Dick Nichols Park Pavillion, 8011 Beckett Lane.

The WNA has arranged for several new and exciting things to do. We're having a **Moonwalk** for the kids, plus **piñatas** for both the little ones and the adults. We'll have some prizes to give away, and contests to be won. And don't forget, we'll have our



wonderful cook-out, where WNA volunteers cook up ham-burgers and hot dogs on the grill. As in the past, we encourage



you to bring your favorite side dish or dessert for everyone's enjoyment. The WNA will provide soft drinks, ice, cups, plates, plasticwear, napkins and condiments as well. Mark it on your calendar, and we'll see you there for a wonderful afternoon of fun!

NO, THIS ISN'T A MISTAKE!

It's our "Second-of-the-Year Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale", Scheduled for Saturday, November 8th

Some of you said, "Once is not enough!" As a result, Westcreek will host another Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale on Saturday, November 8, 2003. Start setting back all those goodies you don't use anymore from your garage, shed, closets and attic, and get ready to make some cold, hard cash!



If you have not yet participated in one of our neighborhood-wide garage sales, there are (of course) some rules. There will **NOT** be a central location for the garage sale; just your own front yard or driveway. You are responsible for any signs announcing your own participation (and please remember to remove them at the end of the day).

The WNA will place advertisements in the garage sale section of the *Austin American-Statesman* and *Oak Hill Gazette* announcing the location and date of the Westcreek neighborhood-wide garage sale. These ads have generated lots of lookers and buyers in the past. Good luck to everyone who participates!

COME ONE, COME ALL!

The next WNA Quarterly Meeting will be held on **Monday, September 15th, at the Will Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill, from 7 p.m. 'til 8:30 p.m.** Our meeting will cover items such as the picnic, zoning changes, amendment to the by-laws, mobile home park status and more.

As always, a door prize will be given away at the meeting. Please mark this event on your calendar and plan to attend. We need to hear from you, our residents!

Look inside for photos of the WNA National Night Out Celebration!



FORMER "FORUM" LAND NOW UNDER CONTRACT WITH NEW DEVELOPER

You may have noticed the new SC Company's sign on the property located on the southwest corner of Wm. Cannon and South MoPac. This land was once part of the Forum Development. Your WNA Executive Committee has contacted SC Company to find out the status of the proposed development. Grey Stogner with SC Company confirmed that the land was currently under contract with SC as the buyer.

Mr. Stogner stated that the land was being considered for retail development, but did not offer any details as to what types of stores might become tenants to the development.

Any large-scale retail development plans will need to be first approved for re-zoning by the City of Austin. Lowe's owns six acres attached to the 77-acre tract.

You may also recall that back in 1998, the owners of the property applied to the City for re-zoning to make the

land a Planned Unit Development (PUD), which was then named The Forum. The PUD would allow for mixed use of offices, restaurants, medical offices, a clubhouse and a golf driving range, and only 115,100 square feet of retail space. In order for SC Development to bring in a larger retailer, it must first apply to the City for a re-zoning of the tract.

The development of this property will directly affect the Westcreek neighborhood. Your Executive Committee is making sure that Westcreek is kept apprised of any proposed zoning changes.

You can help by becoming an active Westcreek Neighborhood Association member, joining in discussions on our Yahoo e-Group and attending the Quarterly Meetings. The next scheduled Quarterly Meeting is September 15, 7 p.m. at the Will Hampton Library on Convict Hill Road.

TAN IT ALL

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\$5 To JOIN!

Month to Month

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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a man and a woman in swimwear. The man is shirtless and has a tattoo on his chest, while the woman is wearing a bikini. The background is a light, textured grey.

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W A C

We live in Westcreek, and would like to serve everyone in our community. If you have questions or need service, feel free to call us. If we don't do it, we can refer you to someone who does!

Boats a real problem this summer in Westcreek

A significant number of Westcreek residents violated the law this summer by storing their boats and trailers on the streets or in their driveways. A neighborhood association survey conducted in July identified 11 locations in non-compliance with City of Austin zoning regulations for boats and recreational vehicles.

City ordinances require that boats stored on residential property be hidden from street view by placing them in a building or behind a solid fence six feet high. Addresses identified in violation of that requirement in the July survey were reported to the City of Austin by the Westcreek Neighborhood Association.

Supporting members of the WNA several years ago voted to seek vigorous enforcement of this and other zoning regulations to maintain both the beauty of the neighborhood and individual property values.

Experts often tell us that Westcreek remains much

more attractive as a place to live than many other subdivisions in the city that were built about the same time. Part of the reason for that status is the insistence of homeowners here that their neighbors comply with the law.

The July survey also identified 14 Westcreek locations with sign problems, including missing and faded signs. It seems that Westcreek has had a major outbreak of street-sign theft in the subdivision. The WNA reported several missing signs to the city in July, and also identified two new locations with missing signs since then — Sanderson Avenue at Yellow Rose Trail and Steele Run at Honey Dew Terrace. Because of city budget cuts, however, repair or replacement of signs may take longer than in previous years.

Missing street signs can be a safety problem — emergency vehicles might have difficulty locating the source of a call. If you find a street sign is suddenly missing in your neighborhood, please report the theft to the police at 311.



National Night Out — New Lessons Learned

The National Night Out Celebration was held on August 5th, one of the hottest days of the year. Always a valuable education on crime, the WNA was concerned that there were not as many participants in Westcreek as in recent years. The residents who did throw parties reported that they did not have as high an attendance to their block parties as in the past.

The good news is that the people who did attend had a great time, and it looks like the kids (and adults) learned a lot about neighborhood safety and crime prevention. As always, our trusty firemen and police showed up to educate our residents.

So settle in a chair, get a cool refreshment ('cause it's still hot) and enjoy some photos of your neighbors gettin' down on NNO Night!





Patton and Small School Calendars

As a service to our neighbors with school children, the WNA attempts to run school news and calendars whenever possible. Here are the main events scheduled for Patton Elementary and Small Middle School through the end of this semester.

Patton Elementary

Sept 29 - Oct 3: Book Fair

Thursday night will be family night until 9:00 p.m.

Sept 29 - Oct 3: Clothing Drive for disadvantaged children in our community

Small Middle School

SPORTS:

FOOTBALL

- 9/9 Bailey vs Small - scrimmage at Burger Baseball
- 9/17 Small vs Porter - scrimmage at Burger Baseball
- 9/24 Small vs Bedichek at Burger Baseball
- 10/1 O.Henry vs Small at Burger Baseball
- 10/8 Small vs Covington at Garrison Park
- 10/14 Paredes vs Small at Burger Baseball
- 10/21 Small vs Murchison at Nelson Baseball
- 10/29 Small vs Bailey at Burger Baseball
(Homecoming game)
- 11/04 Porter vs Small at Garrison Baseball

VOLLEYBALL

	7th	8th
9/4 O.Henry vs Small	O.Henry	Small
9/11 Small vs Covington	Small	Covington
9/13 Bailey/Covington/Porter/Small	Covington	Bailey
9/18 Paredes vs Small	Paredes	Small
9/25 Small vs Murchison	Small	Murchison
10/2 Small vs Bailey	Small	Bailey
10/9 Porter vs Small	Porter	Small

FINE ARTS:

- 10/16 Fall Concert (7th & 8th grade) with Austin HS Choir at Austin HS PAC
- 10/21 6th Grade Fall Choir Concert — Small Cafeteria
- 10/23 Fall Band Concert at Austin High School at 7:00 p.m.
- 10/27 Fall Concert (7th & 8th grade) with Bowie HS Choir at Bowie HS PAC
- 10/28 Austin HS Monster Concert at Austin — Orchestra
- 10/29 Pep Band Plays at Football Game
- 11/4 Beginner Festival at Zilker Park
- 12/2 Winter Choir Concert at First Evangelical Free Church
- 12/11 Orchestra Winter Concert - 7:00 p.m. — Small Cafeteria
- 12/16 Winter Band Concert - 7:30 p.m. at Burger Gym

HOLIDAYS:

- 9/1 Holiday
- 10/13 Student Holiday
- 11/11 Student Holiday
- 11/26 28 Holidays
- 12/19 Student Holiday
- 12/22 1-2 Holidays



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Freeway improvements at Wm. Cannon and MoPac begin soon

Construction of long-awaited improvements at the intersection of Wm. Cannon and Loop 1 are expected to begin in December or January, according to officials of the Texas Department of Transportation.

Awarding of the \$8.2 million contract to Abrams Construction Company was scheduled at the August 28th meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission. (Editor's note: Because of newsletter deadlines, this story was written before that commission meeting.)

The project will extend the MoPac freeway from U.S. 290 to just south of the Wm. Cannon - Loop 1 intersection.

Plans include three lanes both north and south and construction of an overpass.



Westcreek residents using that intersection can expect to deal with construction detours for an estimated 15 months, according to officials.

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Public Transportation? Yuk!!! But Wait A Minute...

We've all heard stories about public transportation. It takes forever to get there, you have to ride on four buses just to get where you want to go, etc. But did you know there's an easy way to use our METRO bus system to get downtown and to UT, and it's just around the corner from Westcreek? Yes, it's true! It's called **"Park and Ride"**, and using this service can get you quickly and easily downtown.

Just drive over to the Oak Hill Plaza Shopping Center at Highway 290 W. and Hwy. 71. Park your car, get on the bus, and go!

Okay, maybe it's not quite that easy. But close. First, log on to www.capmetro.org and click on "Services" in the menu, then the "Park and Ride" bullet. Click on our route, #171, the *Oak Hill Flyer*. This page gives you all the schedule departure and arrival times. You can pay for a pass in advance by clicking on the main menu on "Buy Passes Online". You can purchase a pass for one month (unlimited rides) for just \$10. Or ride the Flyer for just 50¢ each way by paying at the Park and Ride lot. The main number for Capitol Metro is 389-7400, and the number for specific route information is 474-1200.

And just a few tidbits on who really uses public transportation: it's quite a diverse crowd. People aged 65 or older represent 7% of riders, 10% are 18 years and younger, and 52% of riders are women. Race-wise, 45% are White, 31% are African-American, 18% are Hispanic and 6% are Asian and Native Americans. And where are all these riders going? 54% are going to work, 15% to school, 9% to go shopping or on social visits, and 5.5% are going to medical appointments.

So get on-line, check it out, and help our Austin environment by riding the bus to work!

Emerald Garden

Nursery And Water Gardens

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Statuary		Mon-Sat 8:--5:30
Landscape Supply	<i>Manager</i>	Sunday 10:--4:00

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WNA APPRECIATES ALL YOUR HELP

Yards of the Month(s)!

Although our summer has been dry and hot, we've got three Westcreek families who still rose above and beyond when it came to beautiful yards. So, our congratulations go to our **June Winner of Yard of the Month, Michael Mahon and his wife, Josephine, at 6512 Fair Valley Trail.** And kudos to **Hank and Judy Jefferson, Westcreek's July Yard of the Month winners at 6103 Jay's Lane.** And last, but definitely not least, we congratulate our **August Yard of the Month winners, Kathy O'Bryan and Robert Jacobs, tenders of the beautiful yard at 4506 Grider Pass.**

Each of our winners receives a \$50 gift certificate from *Emerald Garden* and a \$25 gift certificate from *Randalls*. Please patronize these supporters of our neighborhood!



August Yard of the Month Winners, Kathy O'Bryan and Robert Jacobs at 4506 Grider Pass.

Also please take time to drive by and enjoy all of these beautiful yards. Thanks to all of you for helping make Westcreek a beautiful place to call home!



June Yard of the Month Winners, Michael Mahon (and his wife, Josephine, not pictured) at 6512 Fair Valley Trail.



July Yard of the Month Winners, Hank and Judy Jefferson at 6103 Jay's Lane.

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Remember to VOTE — and have a say in our laws

The State of Texas 78th Regular Legislative Session passed 22 Constitutional Amendments that **must be approved by the citizens of Texas before they become law.** That's a lot of amendments. An excellent explanation of each amendment with the pros and cons of each is available online at the Austin League of Women Voters website: <http://www.leaguewv.austin.tx.us/>

This Voters Guide may downloaded (pdf document), printed out, and taken into the voting booth.

Early voting began on August 27th and ran through September 9th. For future reference, a complete list of early voting locations and early voting information can be found at the Travis County Voter Registration website:

<http://www.state.tx.us/travisco/voter/earlyvotingstations.htm>

There are two types of early voting in Texas. You can vote in person at any voting site convenient to you, regardless of your precinct. You may also vote early by mail by requesting an application to be mailed to you from your county clerk, or by filling out a form online at:

www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqabbm.shtml

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqabbm.shtml>

The Constitutional Amendment Election Day (if you didn't vote early) is September 13th. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on that day.

Please participate in democracy and GO VOTE!!!

Support Your Advertisers

We want to remind all of our Westcreek neighbors that the advertising in this newsletter helps pay for it...and bring it to your doorstep (along with some generous volunteers). Please make sure to patronize these advertisers, as they are supporting our neighborhood by keeping communication coming and also being great neighbors themselves. Mention the ad you saw in this newsletter to make sure they know that's where you spotted them. And if you see another business you think would benefit our Westcreek area, let our newsletter editor know, and she will follow up with a phone call to them (call 899-1292, and talk with Karen). Thanks again. Now go out and support our area businesses!

DID YOU FORGET? HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN

Mail your check (make check payable to "WNA") for \$12.50 for the remainder of the calendar year of 2003 to:
SANDRA BALDRIGE, 4505 Grider Pass, Austin, TX 78749

Name(s): _____
please print

Address: _____

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Home & Office Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ I (we) are willing to serve on a committee (see descriptions of committees on our website at westcreekna.org)

_____ I (we) want to be added to the WNA Yahoo eGroup list
(you will receive updates on the WNA and can participate in neighborhood discussions with other Westcreek residents automatically via email if you check this box)

What could improve in our Westcreek Neighborhood during 2003?: _____

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