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WNA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, June 11

at 7:00 p.m.

Will Hampton Branch Library

5125 Convict Hill Road

•

Guest Speaker:

Sam Archer, Capital Metro —

**Five-year plan with emphasis on
SW Austin.**

Special Guests:

Mario Renteria, APD

will answer questions about
Neighborhood Watch Program.

**Also, an officer from the APD
District Representative Program
will discuss crime in our area.**

What's Going On With Mopac?



Well, ready or not, here it comes! The expansion of South Mopac has officially begun...sort of.

In its March 12 Quarterly Meeting, the WNA learned that the initial stages of the improvements planned for South Mopac were going to be initiated this spring.

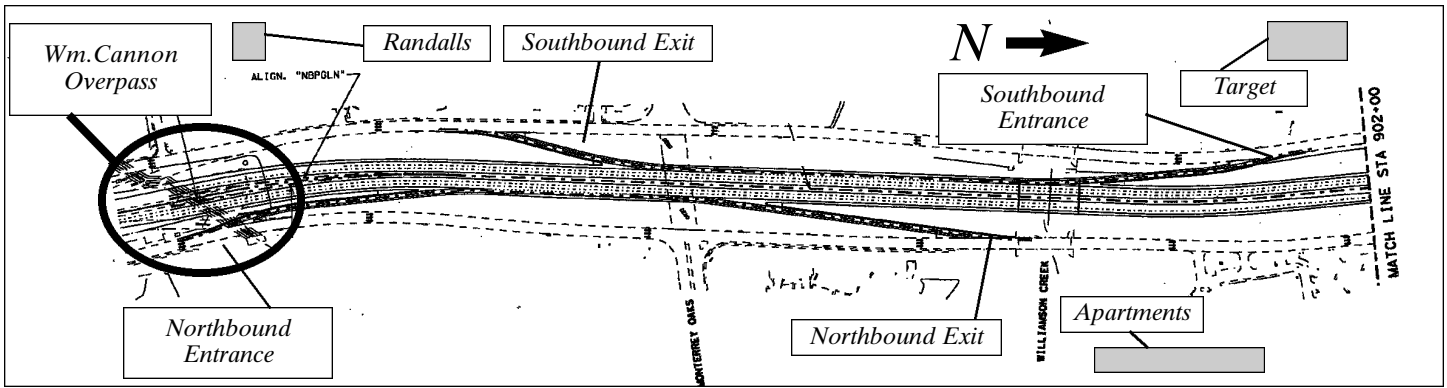
Some of the first steps in these improvements are the clearing of plant life and drainage work, then the transporting and dumping of dirt, or "fill", before the construction of the actual freeway begins. TxDOT engineer Don Nyland



Scenes from Mopac: Large photo above: a grader has finished its job; Small photo above: some of the vegetation that has been removed to start drainage work.

also noted that the department will eventually clear most of the live oaks, cedar and other trees that are in the center "median" area between the existing north and southbound lanes of Mopac.

Mopac Improvements, continued on page 2



Above is the schematic of the new and improved South Mopac route. EXIT RAMPS: the southbound exit ramp is after Monterrey Oaks and before Randalls; the northbound exit ramp is just before the apartments. ENTRANCE RAMPS: the northbound entrance ramp is just past the Wm. Cannon overpass and the southbound entrance ramp is across from Target.

Mr. Nyland stated that they would try to save as many trees as they could on the very edges of the property being developed. The trees around the Monterrey Oak crossover and over Williamson Creek have been cleared entirely and the crews have already begun drainage work in that area.

Don also said that because there will be a 25-foot slope constructed on each side of the new multi-lane freeway for drainage, there will not be a huge area left for full-grown trees to remain.

The clearing of the first of the trees and vegetation began May 22.

The actual building of the new freeway is not slated to begin until 2002, however, Mr. Nyland said that schedule could be moved up to as soon as Fall, 2001. Once the actual freeway construction begins, the project will take about a year and

a half to complete.

The freeway improvements, when completed, will start at the intersection of 290/71 and go south over the William Cannon Drive intersection. There will be an overpass built over William Cannon Drive. That is scheduled to be built in Summer of 2002.

A new right-hand turn lane is also planned for the Mopac/Slaughter intersection to ease the traffic congestion and help the residents of Circle C be able to get into their subdivision more easily.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor

The SW Austin Preschool Mothers Club is a support group for moms of children under 6 yrs. of age. It meets the 4th Tuesday of each month during the Austin school year at Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 5211 McCarty Lane (not church-affiliated) from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. There are field trips, holiday parties, and events that occur throughout the entire year.

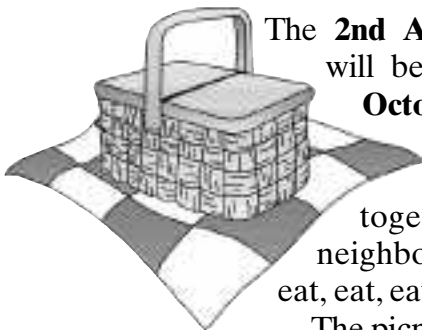
Call Elizabeth Jackson for more information at 891-9645 or check out their website:

<http://www.swapmc.com>

The Heart of Texas Scrapbook Club brings family historians together for the purpose of preserving their memories in archival photo albums. Founded in October 1999, the club has grown to over 175 members. The club sponsors regional retreats that serve as fund raisers for local and national charities. Call Lizanne McClenon for more information at 892-4734 or visit their website:

<http://sites.netscape.net/hotsclub/home>

Mark Your Calendars for the 2nd Annual WNA Picnic!



The **2nd Annual WNA Picnic** will be held on **Saturday, October 6th**. We had lots of fun last year — it's a chance to get together with your neighbors, visit, play, and eat, eat, eat!!!

The picnic will be held at the same location as last year's: Dick Nichols Park. If you have suggestions or are willing to help out with this event, please contact Ben Coughran at 892-5364 or email him at bcoughra@inetport.com.

Spotlight on our Neighbors

Doug and Anne Huber have lived in Westcreek for the past ten years at 6024 Morning Dew Drive. They have contributed to this neighborhood in many positive ways.

Most recently, Doug had a major role in the WNA Transportation Committee, spearheading the push to get TxDOT to modify their 290 West extension plan to include an entrance to Mopac. The result is the braided entry/exit we now enjoy. Both Anne and Doug have represented Westcreek at the Oak Hill Assoc. Of Neighborhoods (OHAN) meetings for the past seven years, and have kept the WNA Executive Committee informed of area concerns. During this time, the Small Middle School was won for our neighborhood, the Dick Nichols Pool and Park were finally opened and the Will Hampton Library constructed.

Doug and Anne met in Alaska at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, from which they both graduated. Doug received his Masters Degree in Mining Engineering at Stanford in 1962. They returned to Alaska for Doug to take a position as Chief Engineer at a coal mine. After a long career in the U.S. coal mining industry, he joined the faculty at Texas A&M as a Visiting Professor in 1982.

In 1985, Doug became Mining Advisor to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and two Pakistan Ministries, while Anne worked as part of a USAID - funded Advanced Scholarship Selection Team. They traveled extensively for five years before returning to Texas. Anne, with degrees in science and music, has had several careers — mainly as a music teacher & real estate broker. The Hubers spend as much time as possible with their three children and three grandchildren.



The Hubers also do volunteer work. Anne helps out at the Will Hampton library. Doug, a private pilot, is active with the EAA Chapter 187. He keeps local high school ROTC students supplied with donated aviation materials and assists the Young Eagles program, which introduces children to the joys of flying.

Both enjoy living in Westcreek with its terrific location and the great neighbors, and think it's one of Austin's "best-kept secrets".

They also firmly believe the only way to improve the neighborhood — as has been done in past years — is to have the majority of residents belong to the Westcreek Neighborhood Association, and to pitch in to support the Executive Committee with their improvement plans.

Conserve Water — Collect It From Mother Nature

City of Austin utility customers can purchase a 75 gallon rainwater collection barrel for \$20. Rain water can be used to water plants in order to conserve tap water. This information is from an article in the Life and Arts Section of the *Austin American-Statesman*. According to the article, the \$20 you pay is a significant costs savings if you were to purchase the barrel elsewhere. The photo accompanying the article showed an attractive

barrel with a screen filter for the top of the barrel and a short hose. Non-toxic tablets are available from Home Depot or other hardware stores that can be placed in the water to kill any mosquito larvae. To order, you need to apply at 625 E. 10th St. with cash or check, along with a copy of your water bill and a photo ID. After your request is processed, you will be instructed where to pick up your barrel. Quantities may be limited.

Start Cleaning Out That "Junk" — It's Time for Our First Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale!

Westcreek will have its first *Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale* on **June 16, 2001**. Mark your calendars! Just think: now is your chance to rid yourself of that old broken bicycle or that set of left handed golf clubs! Clean out that garage and made room for (gasp) your car! Clean out that attic and make room for even more "stuff"!

There will NOT be a central location for this Garage Sale; just your own front yard or driveway.

The WNA will place an advertisement in the garage sale section of the *Austin American-Statesman*. We hope that this ad will guarantee plenty of patrons.

If rain forecasted, the rain date is June 23, 2001. WNA hopes that many of our residents will participate. If this event is a success, this may be the First Annual Westcreek Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale!

Plan Your Party for National Night Out 2001!

The 18th National Night Out is scheduled for August 7th, 2001, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Westcreek has been most supportive of this program in past years with lots of neighbors sponsoring block parties, cookouts and having lots of fun. It really is a great feeling to be able to walk around our neighborhood and just stop by to meet and visit with so many of our neighbors when we're all outdoors.

The purpose of the National Night Out program is to *show neighborhood strength and help make our community a safer place to live*. In light of some of the recent e-mails WNA has been seeing, we should all rally together and



participate in this program.

If you have not already received a 2001 registration form, contact the Austin Police Department at 459-1554 and leave a message with your name and mailing address. You may also visit the Austin Police Department's web site, www.ci.austin.tx.us/police, to download a registration form. When you register, it lets the Austin Police Department know that Westcreek cares. Also, the APD and Fire Dept. always try to have someone visit with everyone that is registered. It's always fun to have them turn on the siren or let us play with the fire hose!

Free Hose Timers Conserve Water

Up to 50% of the water you use during the summer is outdoors, and some is wasted by poor watering practices: usually watering too much too often. A timer you attach between your water hose and faucet helps soak the lawn and then shuts off automatically, eliminating water waste. And it's free.

The City of Austin's Water Conservation division will give the Melnor Mechanical Aqua Timer

to any City of Austin water customer who asks, until supplies run out. Stop by the Water Conservation office at 625 E. 10th St., Suite 615, M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. or call 499-2199.

LIBERTY BANK

6132 Hwy. 290 West • Phone 472-5433

WNA APPRECIATES ALL YOUR HELP

Cementing A Friendship

Ask Lizzie Wright what she thinks is a true friend. She'll tell you about her friend Alana, and she'll tell you that true friendship is all about being able to tell your best friend anything.

Lizzie and her friend Alana have been doing just that by leaving each other "secret" messages on their driveways for over four years.

The story is this: when something good happens to one friend, the other writes a message in chalk on the other's driveway.

Lizzie is a sophomore at Austin High. Her friend is a junior and also lives in Westcreek. This particular message was just about congratulating Lizzie on getting

through another year of high school — and every teenager knows how tough that can be.

Lizzie's dad, WNA member John Wright, says he thinks the messages are a great way to communicate, although a bit unusual in the age of telephones and e-mail. He thinks it's "kind of cool" and "different".

Lizzie also said when she and her friend really need to talk, they leave messages about getting "Slurpe...", oops, maybe this editor is giving too much away. After all, these are best friends with a secret code, and everyone needs that at least once in their life.

Good luck, Lizzie. And thanks, Alana, for your intriguing message — we think you're both pretty "cool".



Above: Lizzie stands next to her message. Right: the secret message up close.



Cokie seems pretty happy about her roof view. Just look at that tail.

loves to go up, and she has taken advantage of the addition of a new balcony to test her talents.

Susan Clarke, owner of the home, says Cokie is normally a very sedate pup. However, with the addition a new second-story balcony (complete with

IT'S PERCHED ON YOUR ROOF: IS IT A BIRD? A CAT? A . . . DOG???

Okay, a DOG on the roof???. This editor thought she was seeing things. But, believe it or not, she wasn't.

Meet Cokie, the "climbing dog extraordinaire". She

stairs from the ground floor), Cokie has made it her mission to climb to the roof peak as often as possible. "I've heard squirrels in the attic, but it doesn't come close to the sound of a dog

running across your roof," says Susan.

She added that some sort of blockade will be added soon to prevent Cokie from continuing her roof adventures.

Cokie's owner, Susan's daughter, Karen, is amused by it all. Susan's son, Bobby, walks Cokie regularly. The Clarke's live on Langtry Lane.



Here we see Cokie perched on top of the world (as she sees it).



Susan, Karen and Bobby Clarke laugh about Cokie's strange roof-climbing habit.

Are you being a good neighbor? Check it out with Bouquets and Brickbats!

Bouquets to all those considerate drivers that consistently observe speed limits and stop signs in our neighborhood.

Bouquets to Ricardo Campean for volunteering to be the Westcreek Neighborhood Association Secretary!!! (Thanks, Richard!)

BRICKBATS to the soccer participants and all those spectators that do NOT use the crosswalk on Westcreek Drive!

Bouquets to our yard of the month co-sponsors Gary Rossman, Century 21 Ripley and Randalls.

Bouquets to the neighborhood volunteers that cleaned up all the debris and junk from the green-belt in Westcreek (the actual creek).

BRICKBATS to the resident that trimmed their ash tree, then dumped the limbs in city right-of-way on Brush Country.

Bouquets to all of the neighborhood volunteers that cut up those limbs (see previous Brickbat) into three foot lengths, tied them into bundles, and placed them in an area to be picked up by the City Solid Waste Department.

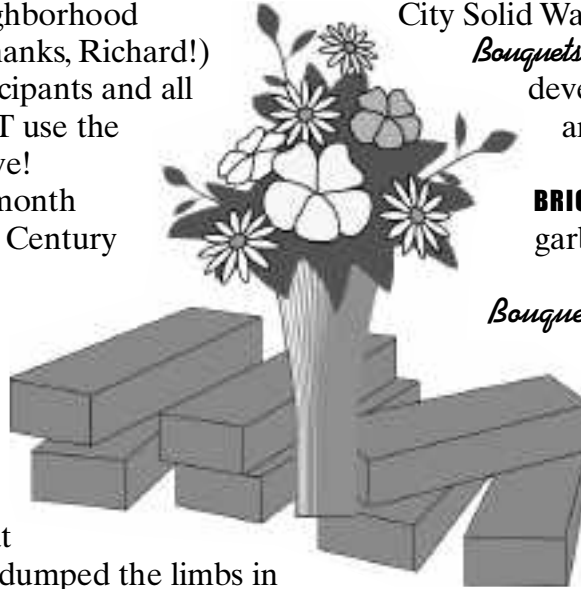
Bouquets to Mr. Lou Williams, World Gym developer, for having the grassmowed and edged on Brush Country at the first of the Spring season.

BRICKBATS to residents that store their garbage containers and recycling bins on their driveway.

Bouquets to the neighborhood volunteers that keep Brush Country cleaned and mowed.

BRICKBATS to residents that keep a car on jacks, or keep their boats or trailers parked in their driveways. This is illegal.

Bouquets to all the neighbors that have replaced aging fences!



Yard of the Month for May, 2001



The May 2001 Yard of the Month winners are **Kim and Todd Sherman** who reside at **4801 Somerset Trail**.

Kim and Todd were presented with a \$50.00 cash award, courtesy of our yard of the month sponsors **Gary Rossman, Century 21 Ripley** and a \$25.00 gift certificate from **Randalls**.

Please take the opportunity to view the Sherman's yard. You will be impressed by the attention to every little detail.

Congratulations, Todd and Kim, for doing such hard work to create a beautiful yard we can all enjoy.

Kim Sherman is being presented the Yard of the Month Award by Chris Schexnayder, who heads up the WNA Enhancement Committee.

It's Summer Vacation — Protect Your Home!

Because the Austin Police Department has assigned higher priority to other parts of the City of Austin, and with the recent burglary incidents here, it's important for Westcreek residents to take extra precautions to protect property while away on summer vacation.

Here are some crime prevention tips from law enforcement agencies:

- Strive to make your home look as lived-in as possible while you're away.
 - Don't broadcast your plans, but do let your neighbors know that you'll be gone.
 - Give a spare key to your neighbors and give them an emergency telephone number to reach you.
 - Arrange to have your mail and newspapers picked up daily (preferred) or have delivery stopped while you're away.
 - Use automatic timers to turn on a radio, lights, etc., at different intervals.
 - Turn down the ringer on your telephone. An unanswered telephone is a dead give-away.
- Leave your blinds as you normally would if you were home.
 - Be sure to lock the garage as well as any storage sheds, gates, etc. It's also a good idea to disconnect your garage door opener if you have one.
 - Ask your neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway and put out your garbage cans if you have curbside pick-up. A neighbor can throw in a bag of trash.
 - Be sure someone knows your itinerary and estimated time of return.
 - If you get lost while traveling, get directions from local law enforcement, not complete strangers.
 - Do not carry large amounts of cash. Always use travelers' check or credit cards.
 - Have a good time on your trip!!!

Following these common sense rules can go a long way toward providing peace of mind while you're away and prevent a big surprise when you return.

It's ALL About Color!

*From Nature's subtle earth tones
to the brightest hue created
by man . . . we have them all.*

*Please ask to see the newest collections
of custom frames and mats to
coordinate with your home decor.*

Quality Frames & Art
Custom Framing and Art Gallery



SUNDAYS-TUESDAYS

Kids Eat Free!

One child's meal for each adult entree.
Age 12 and under

WEDNESDAYS

\$10.99 Sirloin Night

Complete one pound sirloin dinner,
includes salad, potato bar & Texas Toast

FRIDAYS

Seafood Night

Choose from our special expanded
seafood menu every Friday after 5pm!

New Specials!

U.R. Cooks
STEAKHOUSE

SOUTH: Monterey Oaks at Hwy 290 West
Ph. 899-0022

NORTH: Burnet Rd. at Research
Ph. 453-8350

50% Off Any Appetizer

With this coupon and the purchase
of two adult entrees. Valid at
U.R. Cooks-South location only



U.R. Cooks
STEAKHOUSE

Dumping trash is illegal

Westcreek is a beautiful, attractive place to live and raise our families. However, dumping of trash in the subdivision can add visual blight and create health problems. Recently, someone dumped three loads of trash at the end of Sanderson Avenue and vandals stole one of the "No Dumping" signs posted along the street. Because of its remote location, the cul-de-sac at the end of Sanderson Avenue has become an attractive dumping location in our area.

The trash has been removed, and the area now looks cleaner than it has in several years. Help us keep it that way.

Dumping trash on private property or public property is illegal. Please don't dump trash in Westcreek. Report any illegal dumping to the police department immediately.



Nancy Callahan, Agent
3500 Jefferson Suite 313
Austin, TX
512-451-7573

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HELPFUL CITY NUMBERS

Animal Control (loose dogs).....	472-7387
Dumping violations.....	469-2015
Forester.....	440-5154
Garbage collection.....	499-2111
Graffiti Hot Line.....	473-4125
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.

WNA Executive Board Members

Ben Coughran, <i>President</i>	892-5364
email.....	bcoughra@inetport.com
Brett Pavey, <i>Vice President</i>	495-6085
email.....	bpavey@austin.rr.com
Ricardo Campean, <i>Secretary</i>	891-9775
email.....	rcompan@austin.rr.com
Eric Marquez, <i>Treasurer</i>	891-7943
email.....	ejdiablo@swbell.net
Bob Shrader, <i>Immediate Past President</i>	892-1768
email.....	bshrader@swbell.net
Jim Stutsman, <i>Member-at-Large</i>	891-9345
email.....	jstuts@inetport.com
Connie Casanova, <i>Member-at-Large</i>	892-0011
email.....	ec436a@swbell.net
Frank Glover, <i>Member-at-Large</i>	892-5726
email.....	fbg4901@hotmail.com
Dorothy Wingard, <i>Member-at-Large</i>	892-5957
Karen Gregory, <i>Newsletter Editor</i>	899-1292
email.....	kgregory1@austin.rr.com

Find the WNA at:
http://www.geocities.com/westcreek_na/

School Crossing signs to be replaced at Patton Elementary

The school crossing signs at Patton will soon be replaced with highly visible neon yellow/green signs. Westcreek Neighborhood Association complained to the city about the condition of the current crossing signs and the response was that they would be replaced with updated versions of school crossing signs. The City Sign Shop will complete the replacement no later than the beginning of the next school term.

WNA DUES INCREASE

The Westcreek Neighborhood Association Executive Committee voted to increase the annual dues to \$25.00 at the February 20, 2001 Executive Committee meeting. The increase is effective June 13, 2001.

In accordance with WNA bylaws, dues are reduced by one-half after the second WNA Quarterly meeting of the year. Beginning June 13, 2001, new participating member dues will become \$12.50 through the end of the year. Annual dues for calendar year 2002 will be \$25.00.

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 \$12.50 for the remainder of the calendar year 2001 to:

Eric Marquez, Treasurer, WNA, 5508 Porsche Lane, 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)

Have You Seen Us?



These signs were posted at five locations by the Westcreek Neighborhood Association on May 22nd.

Four of the signs were stolen one week later.

The WNA purchased the signs to remind motorists that this is a residential area and to please drive carefully. The signs seem to have been stolen during the afternoon of May 29th. The WNA reported his theft to the Austin Police Department. If you saw or heard anything connected to these missing signs, please contact Ben Coughran at 892-5364 or email him at bcoughra@inetport.com.

The WNA feels that this vandalism is but one more symptom of inadequate police surveillance in our neighborhood. At the end of April, we were informed that the Police Department District Representative program was being scaled down to two officers for the entire city: one officer for north of Town Lake and one officer for south of Town Lake. It is anticipated that this situation will exist

for the entire summer. The WNA has written the Mayor and City Council members expressing our concern over this shortfall. Their response has been that the District Representative Program is alive and well. WNA does not agree.

So, what can *you* do? Call, write, or email the Mayor and City Council members, expressing your alarm that our neighborhood is not being adequately patrolled. Daytime burglaries, thefts, and speeding motorists in our own neighborhood justify our concern. **If we do nothing, nothing will change. Help our neighborhood by contacting one (or all) of our City representatives listed below!**

The mailing address for the Mayor and all of the City Council members is:
P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767

Individual email addresses and phone numbers:

Mayor Kirk Watson

E-mail: kirk.watson@ci.austin.tx.us

Phone: (512) 499-2250

Fax: (512) 499-2337

Place 1 - Council Member Daryl Slusher

E-mail: daryl.slusher@ci.austin.tx.us

Phone: (512) 499-2260

Fax: (512) 499-3212

Place 2 - Council Member Raul Alvarez

E-mail: raul.alvarez@ci.austin.tx.us

Phone: (512) 499-2264

Fax: (512) 499-1887

Place 3 - Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Goodman

E-mail: jackie.goodman@ci.austin.tx.us

Phone: (512) 499-2255

Fax: (512) 499-1888

Place 4 - Council Member Beverly Griffith

E-mail: beverly.griffith@ci.austin.tx.us

Phone: (512) 499-2258

Fax: (512) 499-1886

Place 5 - Council Member Will Wynn

E-mail: will.wynn@ci.austin.tx.us

Phone: (512) 499-2256

Fax: (512) 499-1884

Place 6 - Council Member Danny Thomas

E-mail: danny.thomas@ci.austin.tx.us

Phone: (512) 499-2266

Fax: (512) 499-1890