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Bryker Woods

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BRYKER WOODS
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter of the Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association, Austin, Texas.

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Lee Jones, Editor

IMMUNIZATION ACCESS

An estimated 60 per cent of children are not fully immunized, and are at risk of contracting any of a variety of highly contagious, vaccine-preventable diseases that may result in serious injury, hospitalization, or even death.

Working to address the problem locally is the Immunization/Wellness Task Force, a coalition for Austin/ Travis County composed of volunteers, community organizations, private health care providers, local hospitals, and the Austin/ Travis County Health Department.

April 23-30 is Austin Infant Immunization Week. For free public immunization clinic sites and schedules, call 469-3559.

BWNA CO-SPONSORS CANDIDATE FORUM

A group of Neighborhood Associations in north and central Austin are hosting a forum of candidates for city office on Monday, April 25, at 7 PM at the McCallum High School Theater Center on Sunshine Drive, just south of Koenig Lane.

Eric Blumberg will introduce candidates for the Austin Community College Board of Trustees first, followed by mayoral candidates at 7:15, Place 2 candidates at 8 PM and Place 6 candidates at 8:30 PM.

Candidates for mayor include Ray Blanchette, James Cooley, John Johnson, Brian Kline, Daryl Slusher, and incumbent Bruce Todd. Place 2 candidates are Mary Arnold, Mark Lee, incumbent Ronney Reynolds, Richard Shield, and Eric Silvernale. Gus Garcia is unopposed for Place 5, but Place 6 has drawn a number of candidates anxious to replace Charles Urdy, including Ira Calkins, Martin Cave, Ron Davis, Della Green, Randy "Travis" Henning, Carl Hickerson, Eric Mitchell, and Harriet Murphy.

Neighborhood Associations sponsoring this event are Allandale, Brentwood, Bryker Woods, Highland Park, Hyde Park, North University, Ridgetop, and Rosedale.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK FEATURES ROSEDALE NEIGHBORHOOD

History and preservation enthusiasts who wish to gain a kaleidoscopic view of Austin's history will be delighted by Historic Preservation Week '94, scheduled for May 7-15. Events focusing on the Republic Era, the opulent Victorian Age, and the picturesque cottage gardens of the 1920s will show some of the facets that have shaped the changing patterns of life in this city.

Saturday, May 14th, will offer an opportunity to visit the 1849 Moore-Hancock Farmstead at 4811 Sinclair Avenue between 10 AM and 3 PM, as part of the 1994 Rosedale Ramble, and to learn all kinds of historical information about Rosedale Neighborhood buildings and builders, trees, bridges, early residents, and even bomb shelters. A collection of notes and a map of the area will be available for \$2.00 at Ramsey Park, 43rd and Rosedale Ave.

MOPAC NOISE ABATEMENT CONCERNS RECEIVING NEW ATTENTION

by Bill Woods

About a year and a half ago, Frances Allen (Highland Park West Neighborhood Association) got tired of the noise from MoPac drowning out conversation in her backyard. Today, MoNAC (the MoPac Noise Abatement Neighborhood Coalition) has Austin, Travis County, and State of Texas officials listening.

MoNAC includes representatives from all Neighborhood Associations bordering MoPac, from Anderson Lane to Lake Austin. We have met with Texas Department of Transportation (DOT), Brentwood Neighborhood Association, Concrete Solutions, and persons from the Austin Transportation Study (ATS) in an effort to have a noise abatement wall installed along MoPac.

I am happy to report that we have met with some initial success. Most recently, the DOT requested that \$50,000 be allotted for a 1995 study of noise along MoPac. This will establish officially the need for noise reduction. Also, a request for 1997 funding for the first section of the wall to be built from Northland Drive to 45th Street has been made.

MoNAC meetings are open to interested neighbors. At one meeting, there were five or six persons from BWNA. Also attending was the Legislative Aide to State Representative Elliott Naishtat, who has joined us in our appeal. At that meeting we were shown noise abatement wall samples and given information on how such a wall might look.

As well as noise from vehicular traffic, part of our concern lies with the actual noise from the train which passes through our neighborhoods. I have placed several calls to Felix Lopez, the Missouri-Pacific Area Superintendent in San Antonio, and he assured me that he will enforce the "no whistle blowing" rules already in place. Concrete Solutions has suggested a plan to install a second, low wall nearer the rails, which would muffle the wheel sounds of the train.

MoPac traffic counts between Westover and 45th in 1975 = 36,700
by 1993 = 128,340 -
an increase of 350%.

MoPac noise levels east of MoPac on residence side of wooden fence measured on Wednesday, March 16:

7 - 9 AM = 71 decibels
(140% of federal and state guidelines); 12 - 1 PM = 68 decibels (110%);
2 - 3 PM = 69 decibels (120%);
4:30 - 5:30 PM = 71 decibels;
8 - 9 PM = 67 decibels (finally reduced to maximum acceptable level by midevening.)

An ATS public hearing was held on Monday, April 11th at the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center on the University of Texas campus. MoNAC representatives Ian Inglis, Leslie Ashton, and Elizabeth Willis addressed the committee, educating them on the dramatic growth of noise and environmental pollution associated with the rise in vehicle counts on MoPac over the last 18 years. [See inset box, with figures pertinent to Bryker Woods Neighborhood.]

On May 9th, ATS will vote on future funding for many projects, including ours. The Texas DOT has already requested \$1,037,253 for initial construction of a wall on part of Loop 1 (MoPac), to begin in 1997.

I am pleased to represent BWNA as a member of the MoNAC Steering Committee. BWNA was the first Association to vote in favor of a noise abatement wall! Since that time, all Neighborhood Associations bordering MoPac have passed resolutions in favor of noise abatement along this corridor.