

T · H · E  
**Bryker Woods**  
 H · E · R · A · L · D

Newsletter of the BrykerWoods Neighborhood Association

Summer 2003 Vol. 21

**Old West Austin Historic District**

Historic District Nomination Sent to Washington, D.C. On May 3, 2003, the effort to create the Old West Austin Historic District (OWAHD) achieved a major victory when its nomination for admission to the National Register of Historic Places was unanimously approved by the Texas Historical Commission. The OWAHD nomination, which includes most homes in the Bryker Woods, Pemberton Heights and Old Enfield neighborhoods, will now be sent to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. for review and probable final approval.

The OWAHD's final approval should help preserve the character of our neighborhood and protect it against inappropriate development. While National Register of Historic Places designation would not impose any restrictions on homeowners in the OWAHD, homeowners seeking building permits would become eligible for free, non-obligatory consultations by the City of Austin on maintaining historic architectural qualities in renovated properties and the district will get extra consideration before any federally funded projects, such as highway construction, are undertaken. The Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association (BWNA) has fully supported the OWAHD project and has begun an amendment project to add homes along our western boundary (the west side of Funston St., the south side of the 1900 block of west 30th St. and the 2800 and 2900 blocks of Oakmont Blvd.) which were not part of the original OWAHD nomination. Additionally, homes of the late 1950's and early 1960's within our neighborhood may be added to the district as they come of age and become eligible for inclusion.

*More information regarding the OWAHD may be found at the [www.owahd.org](http://www.owahd.org) website!*

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**Bryker Woods  
 4th of July  
 Celebration**

**9:30 a.m.  
 Bryker Woods Elementary**

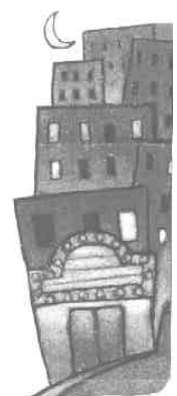
Refreshments served after a traditional walk through the neighborhood.

BWNA members will be available to accept membership forms and dues.

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**Annual National Night Out**

Join your Bryker Woods neighbors on Tuesday evening at 7pm August 5th for the 20th Annual Night Out! Take this chance to visit with neighbors both new and old. We are counting on the fire engine from Station #30 to make a repeat visit this year. Refreshments will be provided and we hope to offer everyone treats courtesy of our local TCBY.



☆ A special thanks Eldarose Cardenas, Joyce Basciano, Bill Woods and a resident arborist for their contributions to this edition of the BrykerWoods Herald Newsletter.

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## **President's Message**

Several of you provided feedback during the "Envision Bryker Woods 2005 and Beyond" exercise at our annual meeting last November. You identified its close-in convenient location, friendly neighbors, small older homes, mature trees and proximity to a greenbelt as the greatest benefits of living in Bryker Woods. You are most concerned about cut-through traffic, inappropriate development and infrastructure problems such as, lack of sidewalks, blind corners, drainage problems, inadequate bus service and bus stop facilities, MoPAC noise and, of course, higher property taxes. You want, a more pedestrian/child/bike rider-friendly environment on our streets, greater neighborhood access to the greenbelt and bikeways, and to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood.

Since November, the City of Austin (COA) has continued working on waterline improvement projects north of Bryker Woods. Soon, more fire hydrants and water main valves will be installed within Bryker Woods. This will improve safety and water pressure for some of us. The nomination for the Old West Austin Historic District has advanced to Washington, D.C. for final approval. The OWAHD includes most of Bryker Woods and should help us maintain the character of the neighborhood against inappropriate development. BWNA is in the process of adding the homes (which were excluded) along our western boundary, to the OWAHD.

You see BWNA as the voice of the people who live here, but we need your help. We are just beginning to get the consensus we will need by the time Bryker Woods participates with Pemberton Heights, Old Enfield and the business district dominated by Seton Hospital, in a joint, official COA neighborhood plan (Windsor Road Planning Area). The COA is considering working on the Tarrytown and Rosedale Neighborhood Planning areas at the same time they will be working with us. If we make our voices heard in this process, we will be able to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of life in Bryker Woods.

*Joyce Basciano (BWNA President)*

## **BrykerWoods.org Website**

Did you know that BrykerWoods has its very own website? At the website learn of the latest news and neighborhood issues. More detailed information on MoPac, neighborhood "cut through" traffic and the Old West Austin Historic District initiative may be found at the website. Historical information accompanied with maps & photographs of BrykerWoods may also be found at the website! The website features a neighborhood discussion group or "forum" made available to promote communication of neighborhood issues between BrykerWoods residents. Membership forms to the BrykerWoods Neighborhood Association may be found at the website too. So create a browser bookmark today at [www.brykerwoods.org](http://www.brykerwoods.org) for the latest neighborhood news and listings of relevant neighborhood and city hyperlinks!

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## **BWNA Board Membership**

President: Joyce Basciano (454-0207)  
Vice President: Edward Tasch (478-1337)  
Secretary: Jimmy McWilliams (458-4333)  
Treasurer: David Boenisch (453-0304)

### **Members at Large**

Jerry Balaka (453-1072)  
Greg Chico (482-8755)  
Michael Curry (453-7512)  
Eldarose Cardenas (477-2178)  
Joan Hyde (708-8405)  
Barbara Kelly (380-9922)  
Scott Page (478-7870)  
Irene Pickhardt (451-6820)  
Randy Schreengost (472-7952)  
Tom Shefelman (477-9176)  
Margaret Tenney (236-8356)  
Bill Woods (454-9180)  
Donald Zappone (477-4395)

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The The BrykerWoods Neighborhood Association (BWNA) is 20 years old and served as an advocate for maintaining the quality of life within the BrykerWoods neighborhood.

**What the BWNA does:** The BWNA follows city issues affecting the neighborhood and transmits information to residents (e.g. MoPac, commercial development, zoning, transportation, utilities ect.) . Some other activities include:

- Represents the neighborhood in city policy decisions
- Publishes and distributes biannual newsletters
- Conducts at least one annual meeting
- Helps maintain greenspaces within the neighborhood
- Hosts annual 4th of July Parade
- Maintains a website for the neighborhood

### **Historic and recent calls to action:**

- ✓ Limited encroaching commercial development in sections of the neighborhood bordering the 35th street corridor
- ✓ Fought to keep a 6th grade class at BrykerWoods Elementary
- ✓ Had installed neighborhood traffic calming devices on Jefferson to help reduce cut-through traffic speed
- ✓ Defend the neighborhood from the inappropriate expansion of MoPAC and the 35th street corridor
- ✓ Contributed and help achieve historic status for the neighborhood
- ✓ Created a city wide respected website for the neighborhood rich in content
- ✓ Cleaned and help maintain greenspaces within the neighborhood

### **Why the BWNA needs annual dues from members:**

- production and distribution of biannual newsletters
- webserver fees and diskspace
- meeting refreshments

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BRYKER WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
2003 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes! I want to join the BWNA       I want to renew my BWNA membership

I have enclosed my 2003 annual dues for:

\$10 regular household membership       \$5 retiree household membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which topic or topics are of interest to you:

Communications/Newsletter     Trees     Neighborhood social gatherings

Traffic/Safety     Neighborhood parks & greenspaces     Zoning Issues

Neighborhood Liason     Transportation & Sidewalks     Neighborhood Plan

Mail this form along with  
a check to the following  
address:

**Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association (BWNA)**  
c/o David Boenisch  
1804 W. 34th Street  
Austin, Texas 78703

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AMERICAN & EUROPEAN  
FINE ART



*Gallery at Shoal Creek*

**MoPac Update**

MONAC (MoPac Neighborhood Associations Coalition) has been very active since my last report. Although TxDOT pulled out of its plans to destroy MoPac with 33' high elevated HOV lanes, we are still keeping a watchful eye on developments which could impact MoPac in any way. In January we had a very interesting presentation by a company which builds walls along such corridors all over the US. At this same meeting were two candidates who were later elected to City Council. Both of them told us that they were in favor of constructing a more durable and adequate wall. We describe "adequate" to mean that they are effective as both noise barriers and which offer a greater degree of safety from speeding cars entering resident's backyards. I am happy to report that City Council placed this issue on their Agenda for discussion, and it appears that this City Council is looking for the financial means necessary to fund the erection of such a wall.

*Bill Woods (BrykerWoods MONAC Representative)*

## **Change to APD's Central West Command**

Our Austin Police Department, Central West Command District Representative (DR), Senior Officer Steve Fleming, has been promoted to Detective and will no longer be our DR. We thank him for all his assistance and wish him well in his new position.

In addition, there is a proposal to change the boundaries of the Central West Command, sometime in September 2003, so that two new Commands can be made in relatively high crime areas in north and south central Austin. Bryker Woods will likely remain in the Central West Command. The current Downtown Command may be expanded west to MoPac, and north to Windsor Road.

Bryker Woods is considered a low crime area. One thing we as residents can do to maintain this status is to participate in the Neighborhood Watch or the Citizens on Patrol (COPS) programs. If you are interested in participating call Joyce Basciano 454-0207.

### **Annual Meeting of the BrykerWoods Neighborhood Association**

**Fall 2003  
BrykerWoods Elementary School**

visit [BrykerWoods.org](http://BrykerWoods.org) for more details as the fall meeting date approaches!

## **Tenney Construction**

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*dinner*

MONDAY - SATURDAY  
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### **Interested in becoming a BWNA member?**

Complete the membership form today! Membership to the BrykerWoods Neighborhood Association (BWNA) is \$10.00 per year, \$5.00 for retirees. Membership forms can also be found at <http://www.brykerwoods.org>. Help preserve the quality of life within our neighborhood.

### **Interested in advertising in the Fall Bryker Woods Herald Newsletter?**

Contact Joyce Basciano (454-0207) for pricing and ad space availability. The next BWNA Herald Newsletter is scheduled for delivery in Fall 2003.

## **Sewer System Improvements Scheduled for Bryker Woods Area**

As part of the \$150M Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP), the City of Austin is inspecting, repairing and replacing older sewer lines in our area to prevent overflows. The ACWP meets a mandate by the Environmental Protection Agency to stop all sewer line overflows in Austin by December 2007, or face fines of \$27,500 per incident per day. Some causes of sewer line overflows include grease and root blockages, lack of capacity, vandalism and broken pipes.

Engineering design work for the proposed projects is underway for areas along Shoal Creek, between 25th Street and 34th Street. The main project will be for Shoal Creek, where a new tunnel will allow the City to bypass the current main sewer tunnel which has been exposed by erosion. The new tunnel's alignment will follow the creek and existing wastewater line easements. The impacts from this tunnel will primarily be the work shaft to be located on the south side of the 29th St bridge and the exit shaft north of the 34th St bridge. The tunnel project will probably begin in March of 2004 and be completed in the fall of 2005.

Smaller projects will involve improvements to sewer lines connecting Bryker Woods to the main sewer tunnel. A 60 year old sewer line in the Churchill/Kerbey/33rd Street area will be replaced. Since the majority of the work will be in the streets, there will be a limited impact to homeowners. An 8" line south of the 29th Street bridge, which serves residents to the west, will also be replaced. The 34th Street sewer line will be extended to accommodate Seton hospital's new surgical center. This line will connect to the sewer main on Shoal Creek Blvd. just north of St. Andrews school.

All ACWP related impacts to the park lands, streets and other properties will be repaired or mitigated. Few, if any, trees will be removed by this project. The ACWP will stay in touch with the neighborhood on these issues. Residents with questions or comments are invited to call the ACWP hotline, 684-3204. The official ACWP Web site is [www.ci.austin.tx.us/acwp](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/acwp).

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## Blind Corners and Low Limbs

The City of Austin has set the maximum height of 2 feet above the curb, and the distance of 40 feet from the corner (in both directions) for vegetation in intersection right-of-ways. On steep-sloped right-of-ways grass and ground cover may be the only vegetation allowed. (See Ordinance #16-7-40 Intersection Clearance.)

To accommodate the newer automated trash trucks, the COA requires the area 14 feet above the curb, in the right-of-way, to be cleared of low hanging tree limbs (See Ordinance. #16-7-43 Minimum Clearance Above the Street.)

There is some flexibility in these rules. City maintenance crews do consider the esthetics of the vegetation, removing only what they feel is necessary. Therefore the entire right-of-way may not be trimmed. However, please note that the City is not a landscaping company and will cut shrubs, for example, to the maximum 2-foot height.

Many residents consider the right-of-way to be part of their property and will plant shrubs and trees there. If you are bothered by a blind corner or low lying limb, speak to the adjacent homeowner first to allow that person to take care of the problem. If that doesn't work, then call 440-5150, the Parks and Recreation Dept. (PARD) dispatcher, who will send an inspector out to assess what needs to be done and to speak to the homeowner. PARD will give the homeowner 10 days to resolve the problem before city staff returns to do the work.





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## Magnolia Grandiflora

Austin has been the meeting place of the South and the West for over a century with the best traditions and attitudes of both regions. One of the most beautiful symbols of the Southern part of this equation is the magnolia tree, or as the genus and specie are known: Magnolia Grandiflora. The magnolia is also the State Tree of Mississippi.

Bryker Woods is home for many of these grand trees. A cursory review of the trees visible from the streets of the traditional Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association yields the following\*: a) there are a total of 82 of these beauties in Bryker Woods, b) the street with the most magnolias: Mohle with 9, c) the block with the most magnolias: tie of the 3200 block of Beverly and the 3300 block of Bryker with 5 each, and d) the house with the most: houses in the 2800 block of Glenview, 1100 block of Belmont Parkway, the 1500 block of W. 30th and the 1400 block of Westover: 2 each. If you are really into this, the BWNA could have a contest for the second most beautiful. I own the first. \* MoPac to 35th Street to Shoal Creek to (and including) the houses on the south side of Westover back to MoPac. These numbers may be off somewhat because some neighbors may have these magnificent trees in places not readily visible from the front street.

*This article submitted a neighborhood arborist*