

Habitat Challenge 2012: Deadline to register is November 15th

City of Austin and the National Wildlife Federation challenge our Neighborhood to create homes for wildlife by taking the HABITAT CHALLENGE! Take the Challenge, it's easy ...

- 1. Provide these habitat basics:
Food: Native plants provide a buffet of nectar, pollen, seeds, berries and more
Water: A key element for a variety of wildlife
Cover: Evergreen shrubs and rock walls offer wildlife shelter from predators and bad weather
Places to raise young: Dense shrubs, a nesting box or pond are examples of places wildlife need to mate and raise their young
- 2. Neighborhood participates in a community habitat project such as removing invasive plants, planting trees, restoring a creek area, or planting a neighborhood butterfly garden. (Our April 9th Creek Cleanup counts.)
- 3. An article about the habitat challenge is published in neighborhood newsletter and/or website.
- 4. Neighbors certify their properties with the National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife or with a COA pre-paid application by November 14, 2012.
- 5. Celebrate! The top three neighborhoods that complete all the requirements and certify the most new habitats between April 15th and November 14th 2012 will be recognized by the City of Austin and eligible for prizes.

To request a pre-paid habitat certification application or for contest details:
512-978-2606 or www.keeptaustinwild.com

Garden Development at Trinity Abundant Life Church

The church on Cumberland Road has a small unused creek-side area at the bridge that Pastor Mike proposes to be utilized for the neighborhood. The initial aim is to develop a community garden. We have set up a steering committee to collect information, define the project and see the idea through to completion. We are looking for volunteers to join in occasionally to make the project a reality.

Please contact me at design4spirit@earthlink.net or (512) 693 2532, if you are interested in joining in with your neighbors occasionally to make this a reality.

Dawson Neighborhood Association Meeting (DNA) Draft Minutes – August 13, 2012

Minutes from the June meeting were approved.

New Business: **A)** District Representative, Officer Robert Barboza attended the meeting and discussed the status of neighborhood issues related to prostitution and vagrancy. Efforts have been made by the APD to get documented permission from business owners to give out criminal trespass warnings to vagrants located on their property. A shortage of available officers was also noted, especially when accidents occur and during event weekends. He suggested that Dawson and the surrounding neighborhood associations get together to petition City Council to help do something about these problems. He also noted that burglaries in the neighborhood are down, citing only 8 since the beginning of 2012. He again encouraged everyone to call 311 when problems are noticed. To communicate with him personally at 974-8246 or robert.barboza@austintexas.gov. **B)** Lieutenant Robert Kimmons with the Fire Department distributed fire safety information and addressed attendees regarding kitchen fires, backyards containing large amounts of debris, and related safety concerns. **C)** Sandy McMillan was nominated to replace Myron as the DNA representative on the Community Development Commission. The change was approved by a vote of 18 to 0. **D)** Discussion was held regarding new renters in the neighborhood that received a letter signed by the DNA threatening to contact the homeowner if a sofa was not removed from underneath their carport. This letter was not sent on behalf of the organization, and the young ladies were welcomed into the neighborhood and the DNA. **E)** A guest from the Austin Civic Club addressed the Association regarding the Club's desire to place a statue of Stephen F. Austin in one of the City's public spaces. Presentations are being made to local neighborhood associations in order to gain support. A formal presentation will be made at the next meeting. **F)** Questions were raised regarding whether or not there is documentation related to a potential increase in traffic accidents due to construction on Oltorf and whether or not the DNA has discussed the new ordinance related to short-term rentals. **G)** Those impacted by the recent waterspout incident were encouraged to submit a claim to the City. **H)** The church on Cumberland would like to build a small community garden. A steering committee will be needed in order to assist on this project.

Old Business: The canoe trip received from the Habitat Challenge has been donated to the Boys and Girls Club.

Dawson Neighborhood Planning Contact Team (DNPCT) Draft Minutes – August 13, 2012

Minutes: Minutes were approved as written in the newsletter.

Membership Report: new members were added to the list: Carmen Hernandez, Kasey Borger, Angela Yocum, Marisa Fushille, Ted Finkbeiner and Colleen Nance.

Old Business: **A)** Bylaws Amendment required by the city of Austin; need us to add specific language and fix a typo, as described in the June newsletter. Myron moved to accept the amendments; Mike seconded; the amendment carried unanimously. **B)** Regarding the variance for the 3900 block of Wadford: a developer proposed a new medical office and requested a variance to extend parking lot near property line next to residential property; the city determined that a variance not required and issued and property is now being cleared.

New Business: **A)** property on Pickle Road has been sold, might be developed by Ruta Maya or another commercial purpose; this area is behind the gas station that has auto repair shops. **B)** Regarding a lot at Dunlap and S. Congress, which is owned by the Ng family: it will be a used car lot; also a lot at Wadford and Dunlap now has a for lease sign on the lot and they are putting down some kind of road base around some large pecan trees. **C)** Discussion of the city rule regarding front yard parking; if the neighborhood adopts the rule banning front yard parking, old uses will be grandfathered (a concern in previous votes against adopting the rule); complaints can also be handled by a landlord.