



Rattan Creek Neighborhood News

Serving Milwood at North Austin MUD # 1 since 1983

Distributed Monthly By The Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association, Vol. 16, No. 2

March 2001

Neighborhood Clean-Up

RATTAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE / CLEAN UP

Sat March 31 & Sun April 1

Garage Sale

ad will be placed in several local papers. Garage sales to be held at each individuals home.

**Saturday, March 31st
(8:00 – 1:00)**

**Clean-up will be
March 31 & April 1
at the Tamayo Bridge**

****Remember when the dumpsters are full
on Sunday - That's it!!***

**A separate chipping site will be available. Limbs
and bushes will be directed to the chipper site.**

***Please do not bring any hazardous materials to the
neighborhood clean up. This includes old
motor oil.***

**** The Boy Scouts will be directing the drop offs.
You will need your ECO Resources (MUD) bill.**

EVENTS

March

Mar 5 Advertiser Deadline (April)

Mar 12 - 16 **SPRING
BREAK**



Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day

Mar 19 RRISD Staff

Development

Mar 21 MUD Meeting, 6pm

100 Congress Ave, ste 1300

Mar 22 RCNA Meeting, 7pm

13205 Jenner Lane

Mar 23 Easter Meeting

Mar 31 **Neighborhood Wide**

Garage Sale

Mar 31 **Neighborhood Cleanup**

April

Apr 1 **Neighborhood
Cleanup**

Apr 1 **TIME CHANGE**
"Spring Ahead"



Apr 5 Advertiser

Deadline (May)

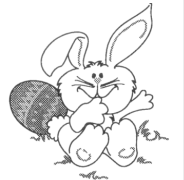
Apr 6 Easter Meeting

Apr 13, 16 **RRISD Spring Holiday**

Apr 14 **Easter**

Egg Hunt

Apr 15 **EASTER**



Apr 18 MUD

Meeting, 6pm

100 Congress Ave, ste 1300

Apr 19 RCNA Meeting, 7pm

13205 Jenner Lane

Apr 24-27 TAAS testing

RCNA Board of Directors
 P.O. Box 200584
 Austin, Tx 78720-0584

Website: www.rattancreek.org

RCNA Board of Directors:

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Deborah Avalos 219-1027
 Email: debje@swbell.net

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Hutch Gregg 335-0455
 Email: hutchg@austin.rr.com

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Membership: OPEN

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Terri Olsem 219-7931
 Email: terriolsem@aol.com

Recipe Corner:

Stephanie Doherty 249-0253

Yard of the Month:

Jon and Gina Martin 331-1109

The Rattan Creek Neighborhood News welcomes your letters and guest columns. Letters must have a verifiable signature. Guest columns and letters will be printed on as space available basis. Neither the Rattan Creek Neighborhood News nor the Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association accept responsibility for the opinions expressed in editorials, letters or guest columns. The Rattan Creek Neighborhood News reserves the right not to publish any submissions and the right to edit all submissions. Mail to the following address: Jo Jones, RCNA Editor, 13119 Green River Trail, Austin, Tx 78729. 512-335-1805.

Around the Neighborhood

Scholarship Information:

Attention Seniors:

Watch for more info. this spring in the newsletter and at www.rattancreek.org about the Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association Scholarship.

Selection will be based on the following four criterion:

- RCNA family members only
- Community involvement
- Academic achievement and/or economic need
- A written essay presented at the May RCNA meeting.

New Newsletter Volunteers!!!

Thank you to our new newsletter block captains:

*Michael Gardner
 Pam Rassaele
 Belinda Balettie*

And a special thank you to *Chuck Sorkin* for arranging the delivery of newsletters to all of Tamayo!

Thank you to our new *Vice President, Kevin Stotz*, for starting the delivery of our newsletters in the Bluffs.

Our newsletter team is growing quite rapidly. If you would like to become a member of our team, give me a call.

Thank you,
 Dallas Hall
 257-3494

President's Notes

“Am I not speeding fast enough for ya!”

After school on Ground Hog's Day, I was traveling up Hunters Chase Drive when I noticed a car getting larger in my rear view mirror. I glanced at the speedometer, 35mph, yet I was being tailgated ...while speeding! A thought raced through my head ***“I'm still a baby-boomer, surely I'm not becoming the stereotypical elderly driver am I?...”*** (Not likely, my Dad is 82, has a hot-rod Lincoln, and drives fast. It's genetic.)

I put my right blinker on to turn onto Cahill as the person behind me whipped around on my left, rolled through the stop sign, and sped onward toward 183. I am an aggressive driver and found it odd that suddenly I was “the *slower* driver” while *speeding* on a residential street.

So for the month of February, I decided to obey all the posted speed limits and stop signs on our streets (It's been hard!). Here are the results. Dallas Dr. is 1.1 miles end to end, Tamayo Dr. is .8 mi. long, and I live a half mile from Parmer Lane. Driving the speed limit cost me 30 seconds per day getting in and out of the neighborhood. That's all.

Don't believe me? Make your kids do the math – I'm sure this word problem wasn't on the TAAS test...”An SUV leaves Tudor Time Day Care at 5:23 and heads down Dallas drive to the park traveling at the rate of 43 mph. At the same time, a sports car leaves the Motorola parking lot traveling at 30mph. Which one gets to the pool first? (Bonus questions: how many stop signs were run and how many cellular phone calls were made during that travel time?)

Let's be careful out there. ***Drive Safely!!***

I hope to see you the Easter Egg Hunt and have a great spring break.

R Miller,
President RCNA

RCNA Membership

Membership in the RCNA runs on the calendar year system. It is now time to renew!!!

What do I get for my \$ 20 a year?

Your annual dues help pay for events like: **Easter Egg Hunt**. If you have never gone to one, come out and see what joy is brought to all the boys and girls!

Annual “Members Only” Pool Party to start off the summer swim season. Catered lunch.

Teen Nights – throughout the summer.

Rattan Fest – This will be our 10th year. This one will be special! 5K run, booths, entertainment and more.

Caroling in the Park / Holiday Lights– We gather around a Bon Fire and sing Christmas Carols. Santa arrives to hear any little boy or girl's wish list.

Neighbors get together and vote for the best decorated homes in the neighborhood.

Scholarship Fund given to community minded students preparing for college. The family must be an RCNA member..

And Much More....

See Page 17 for form!

We need volunteers for all the planned events.

Please contact a board member for more information or watch the newsletter for the chairperson to contact for a specific event.

Around Rattan Creek

New Neighbors and Babies:

New Neighbors:

Elizabeth Dickson and Brandon Mathis
12801 Modena Trail

Regina and David Siddall and their
children Jake, Kameron and Kristopher
12918 Humphrey

New Babies:

Kristopher Logan Siddall
Born January 22, 2001, to Regina and David Siddall
12918 Humphrey

Wilson Dean Jackson
Born January 19, 2001, to Wendi and Jarrod Jackson
and big brother, Preston
6405 Crowley



Milwood Parent Activities

Newborn: (newborn-12 mo) Call Brian Sargent at
336-7518.

Young Toddlers: (1 1/2 to 2 years) Call Mike or
Melissa Harvey at 918-1912.

Young Toddlers: (2 to 2 1/2 years) Call Kim
Cotton at 257-1238.

Toddlers: (3 years) Call Dallas Hall at 257-3494.

Toddlers: (3 1/2 year olds) Call Candance Kreiling
at 331-9773.

Toddlers: (4 year olds) Nancy Salter 219-5216.
Meets every Wednesday at various homes, call
Nancy for locations.

Children: (7 yrs plus) Mary Jane Tagtow 219-6780.
Meeting several times a week for coffee, swimming,
lunch, etc. Calendar available.

Home schooling Group: (all ages) Annette
Anderson 250-5137.

*If you know someone has just
moved into the neighborhood,
or just had a baby,
help us to welcome the new folks
and/or congratulate our neighbors
on their special event.*

*Please contact Terri Olsem
at 219-7931,
Or email to her at
terriolsem@aol.com.*

LOTS OF MOMS LOOKING FOR GROUPS:

*If you are interested in starting a group,
please call Karen Memrick at
258-1370*

*** Milwood Mom leaders.....
Please call Karen Memrick at
258-1370 for updates, changes or
reports on activities.
Thanks.**

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RCNA Member/Milwood Resident RCNA Event Sponsor
RCNA Scholarship Fund Donation for each sale I make in Milwood!

Recipe Corner

Happy St. Patty's Day!! And here's an authentic dish to get the festivities started: Shepherd's Pie. This recipe is from Chef Mauro Djalma from Matt Murphy's Pub in Boston, MA. If you're wondering why his name sounds more Brazilian than Irish, it is simply because this Brazilian's shepherd's pie wins the popularity contest! Irish or not, Chef Mauro makes the tastiest shepherd's pie around. What makes it so good is the lamb shanks. This month's website features "Star Chefs": <http://www.starchefs.com/>

SHEPHERD'S PIE

Yield: 8 servings

- 2 lamb shanks (about 1/2 lb. each)
- 1/2 cup of tomato paste
- 1 cup red wine (Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot)
- 2 onions, sliced
- 4 boiling onions, chopped
- 8 peeled and chopped plum tomatoes
- 4 chopped carrots
- 3 chopped parsnips
- 2 chopped rutabagas or turnips
- 3 bay leaves
- 2 Tablespoons of chopped fresh Rosemary
- 3 Tablespoons of minced garlic
- 4 Tablespoons of olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Chopped parsley for garnish

For the mashed potato topping, use your favorite recipe:

Take the Lamb shanks and chop them into pieces. Marinate it with garlic and rosemary. Salt and pepper the pieces to taste. Let it sit in the refrigerator overnight.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Then place the lamb shanks in a large roasting pan into the preheated oven. Let the lamb brown in the oven for

about 20 minutes. Using a different pan, sauté the sliced onions in 1 tablespoon of olive oil for about five minutes. Add the plum tomatoes, bay leaves, and tomato paste to the onions and let simmer for about 3 minutes. Add the cup of wine and bring to a boil, salt and pepper to taste. The liquid should cook for about 20 minutes over a low flame.

Remove the lamb from the oven and set aside to cool. Add the sauce to the roasting pan. Then add the chopped carrots, parsnips, turnips, onions, 1 teaspoon each of minced garlic and rosemary and salt and pepper to taste. Add veal stock to cover and place the roasting pan back into the oven and cook for 1 hour. After an hour's time, check the meat for doneness. The meat should fall off of the bone. When the stew has cooled off, remove the bones from it. Empty the stew into a large casserole dish. Cover the stew with mashed potatoes and put it back in the oven for another 15 minutes in order to get a crispy crust. Remove the casserole from the oven and add a little chopped parsley to garnish.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Please send all your recipes, ideas for the column, website links, and any other comments on Recipe Corner to Stephanie Doherty, 7832 Portland Trail, Austin, Tx 78729.

The Children's Hospital of Austin - NWA Circle of Friends chapter presents:

Joe Scruggs in Concert!

April 22nd, 4:00 p.m.

RRISD Performing Arts Center

(located at McNeil High School on McNeil Rd.)

Tickets are on sale beginning March 12 through UTTM outlets (area HEBs) or by calling 477-6060. All proceeds benefit The Children's Hospital of Austin.

Join us to support this worthy cause and for a great show!

EASTER WISH LIST

Every year our Easter Hunt gets larger and larger. It is wonderful, but costly. We always appreciate donations from local businesses and people in our community. This is our wish list for this year's Easter Event.

Candy for the older children:

Jolly Ranchers
Bubble gum
Starbursts
Dum Dum Pops
Hershey Nuggets
Candy Eggs

M&M Easter eggs
Snickers pieces
Tootsie Pops
Kisses
Tootsie Roles
Marshmallow Bunnies



For the little ones:

Zoo Animal Cookies
Candy Eggs
Gummies
Mimi Chips Ahoy cookies
Stickers

Peanut Butter Crackers
Marshmallow Bunnies
Dum Dum Pops
Starburst Jelly Bean Eggs



Both age groups need *PLASTIC EGGS*.

******Please remember All candy must be individually wrapped.***

Anyone interested in helping with this year's Easter Egg Hunt this year should contact Dallas Hall at 257-3494. Several additional meetings are already scheduled. They are set for March 23 at 7pm at the Rattan Creek Park, and April 6 at 7pm at the Rattan Creek Park.

This event grows every year in size and popularity. We need as many volunteers as possible. Please help!

Please call Dallas Hall at 257-3494 if you would like to donate items, time or just help.

Thank you again,
Dallas Hall, 257-3494

MOTHER'S HELPERS WANTED FOR SUMMER!!!

What is a mother's helper?

- A mother's helper is a girl or boy, at least 10 years of age, that the parents feel are to old for day care, but to young to stay at home alone in the summer.
- They help moms in the summer take care of their children;

Example: Going to the pool with two children can be nerve racking when one child is ready, or so they think, to swim in the big pool and the other is still in the baby pool or to young to swim at all.

- These girls and boys are not "lone" babysitters. An adult must always be present.

I have had a mother's helper the past two years. And I will be having another young girl come and help me this year. It has been a wonderful experience. I actually manage to keep the house picked up, get the washing done, go places and have someone else to go up in the tubes at Burger King, that enjoys doing it and doesn't have to say, "That kills my knees"!

I realized last summer, when all of my friends were saying, "I wish I had a mothers helper", that

our community needs a program like this.

It is great for the girls and boys that can't be left alone and wonderful for the mom who is seven months pregnant and has one or two other children; or the mom who is wanting to retille their kitchen floor this summer.

I have had a wonderful experience, and I think this would be wonderful for our neighborhood. I am starting by asking **PARENTS OF 10 YEAR OLDS AND UP** to contact me and I will make a running list of Mother's Helpers. If there is a desire on the youths part, I will start taking names of Moms and Dads.

Parents of small children will have to meet with the helper before the summer to see if the helper, the parent and their children are compatible.

There are still many things to work out for this project, but I think it would be worth the work.

Thank you,
Dallas Hall 257-3494

Ramsey & Phillips, P.C.
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Jaime Phillips, CPA
RCNA Member & Milwood Resident

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Don't Let Volatility Keep You Out of the Market

If you invest in stocks, you know that the market has been taking investors for a bumpy ride lately. How bumpy? Take a look:

The Nasdaq composite index, home to many technology stocks, gained 85.6 percent in 1999. For the first two months of 2000, the Nasdaq continued to roar ahead, reaching its peak on March 10. But from that high point, the index fell nearly 54 percent by late December 2000.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, largely composed of blue chips, "old economy" stocks, gained more than 25 percent in 1999. But in 2000, the Dow went through a series of sharp ups and downs and in late December, the index was down by 10 percent for the year.

What's going on here? In a word: volatility. And it can be unnerving. How can you avoid the type of "reactive" investing that is caused by market volatility? Consider the following ideas:

Give Diversification a Chance to Succeed

Diversification is essential to investment success. But it is not a "get-rich-quick" strategy. In a well-diversified portfolio, some of your holdings will be going up, while at the same time others may

be going down. This may not lead to sustained periods of tremendous growth, but, over time, you could be protected from downturns that affect just one area, and you'll give yourself a wider range of opportunities for success.

Don't Overreact to Temporary Setbacks

Different sectors go through periods of ups and downs. For example, the current market environment has been difficult in general for financial

services, retailers, health care companies and consumer goods. Should you sell your holdings in these areas? Before you do, you should realize that these sectors experienced a similar downturn in the early 1990s – and investors who pulled out then eventually missed a period of tremendous growth. Today's long-term outlook for these sectors remains attractive.

Seek Good Companies at Attractive Prices

It sounds simple, but too many people ignore this basic axiom of investing. Try to find those companies whose management is strong and whose products are well-positioned for the future. And

(Continued on page 13)



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email: culinarycreations@prodigy.net

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
BEFORE COMPLETING APPLICATION**

- All Members receiving badges must be listed, with birthdates, for the application to be considered complete
- Guest passes can only be purchased by a member of the pool. All guests must be accompanied by a pool member.
- One complimentary pass, which can be used three (3) times, is issued with each badge purchased. (Two (2) passes will be issued with each annual pass.)
- A packet of ten (10) guest passes consist of four (4) cards totaling ten (10) uses.
- A check made payable to North Austin MUD #1 (NAM1) Pool must accompany the application to be processed.
- The check for the pool, tennis key and the RCNA **must be mailed separately** from the payment for the NAM1 water bill.
- Replacement fees for lost or stolen badges are as follows:
Summer/Winter Badge \$5.00each Annual Badge \$10.00 each
- If purchasing a combination of summer only / winter only and annual badges, please specify for whom the annual badges are to be assigned to.
- Annual badges are good from the beginning of the summer session until the end of the winter session of the same year and not necessarily a year from the date of purchase. (i.e. Valid from May 2001 to April 2002)
- Tennis court keys are good from (approximately) the first of May until the end of April of the following year. New keys will need to be purchased at this time every year.
- Please make sure you are filling out the appropriate application for the tags, etc., that you are requesting. (the application should state the year and session being registered for above the listing of fees.)

**ALL INCOMPLETE OR INCORRECT APPLICATIONS WILL BE
RETURNED WITHOUT PROCESSING.**

PLEASE ALLOW TWO (2) WEEKS FOR PROCESSING.

RATTAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NORTH AUSTIN MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 - RATTAN CREEK PARK POOL

Application to Use Recreational Facilities and Release of Liability

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING – INCOMPLETE APPS. WILL BE RETURNED

Applications Due To ECO Resources, Inc., By April 10, 2001 To Guarantee Badges For Opening Day

NAMUD #1 Water Bill Account No. _____ Home Telephone Number _____
 (Application will be considered incomplete without account number)

Name: _____
 (As it appears on NAM1 bill)

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ Telephone Number: _____

I have made application for use of the District's recreational facilities on behalf of myself and the listed members of my family and our guests. I understand that the District's recreational facilities are for use of authorized persons only, and agree that all use by me, my family and our guests shall be in accordance with the District's "Rattan Creek Park Pool, Court Rules and Regulations." I agree that the District does not, by the providing of recreational facilities, assume any responsibility or liability to our guests or us. We assume all responsibility for, and waive any claim against the District for accidental injury, property damage or death arising out of the use of these facilities by any of our guests or us. We agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its directors, agents, employees and consultants whether paid or volunteer, from any and all claims by us or our guests which may arise out of use of the District's recreational facilities. If this application is on behalf of any minor children, the application represents that the applicant is the legal guardian of said children and fully responsible for such children, and authorized to execute this application and release on their behalf. **I understand that the children, if under ten (10) years of age, must be accompanied by a person fourteen (14) years of age or older when using the District's facilities.** I further understand that I am responsible for any damage to District facilities caused by my family, my guests or myself.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____
 (Application will be considered incomplete without signature)

Household Members Attending Pool: (All members receiving badges must be listed)
 (Badges required for ages 3 and up)

	Date of Birth	Tag I.D. Number (To be filled in by NAM1)
_____	____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____	_____
_____	____/____/____	_____

NO REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE TAKEN AT THE POOL.

2001 Summer Fees:

Make Checks Payable To North Austin M.U.D. #1 Pool

<i>Quantity</i>		\$ _____
_____	In District Badges @ \$20 per badge	\$ _____
_____	Out of District Membership @ \$200 per household (Up to 4 Badges if needed)	\$ _____
_____	Additional O.D. Badges @ \$20 each additional badge	\$ _____
_____	Guest Passes (only w/ badges) @ \$2 each (one time use)	\$ _____
_____	10 Guest Passes (only w/ badges) @ \$15	\$ _____
_____	Tennis Court Key (In District Only) @ \$15 each	\$ _____
_____	RCNA Membership (In District Only) @ \$20 per household	\$ _____
_____	Annual In-District Badges @ \$40 per badge	\$ _____
Check MUST accompany this registration form to be processed.		Total \$ _____

Mail or Deliver to ECO Resources, 9511 Ranch Road 620 N., Austin, Texas 78726

Rattan Creek Park, Pool and Court Rules and Regulations

Rules are established and adopted by the North Austin Municipal Utility District #1 Board of Directors
Pool Identification tags and tennis court keys must be purchased through the District Manager
ECO Resources 9511 RR 620 N, Austin, Texas 78726-2908

Pool Rules and Regulations

Identification

1. Pool is available to District residents who have paid tag fees and their guests. Out of District memberships are available. Only individuals with tags may enter pool area.
2. Identification tags must be worn by swimmers at all times.
3. Report lost or stolen I.D. tags to the pool manager. Replacement tags can be purchased through ECO Resources for a \$5.00 fee.
4. Use of pool I.D. tags by any one other than the swimmer listed on the current year's registration form will lead to forfeiture of that I.D.

General Requirements and Conduct

1. Conduct by any person deemed to be dangerous, unwarranted, or offensive is grounds for discipline by the lifeguards. Offensive behavior in particular, will be dealt with on an individual basis and could result in suspension from the pool. Any individual suspended three times may also lose all pool privileges for the season.
2. Running, jumping, skipping, or any activity other than ordinary walking in the pool area is strictly prohibited.
3. Bicycles and skateboards must be walked in front of the pool entrance for safety. No motorized vehicles are permitted in the park. No pets are allowed in the fenced pool area. Pets must be on a leash while in the park.
4. Pool may close for five (5) minutes each hour as a safety precaution
5. Floating devices are not allowed in the pool. Water wings or swim rings for non-swimming children may be used if accompanied by parent or approved baby-sitter.
6. Glass containers of any type are not allowed inside the fenced area or in the bath house area.
7. No cutoffs or street clothes are allowed in the pool.
8. Only lifeguards are to be on the lifeguard stands.
9. No person shall talk to, shout at, or in any manner distract a lifeguard while on the lifeguard stand except in the case of an emergency.
10. Only masks approved by the Pool Manager will be allowed in the pool.
11. One lane will normally be designated for lap swimming at all times, additional lanes may be added at the discretion of the Pool Manager.
12. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed in the fenced pool area.

Adult Supervision

1. Children under ten (10) years of age must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or authorized baby-sitter at all times while inside the fenced pool area, unless approved by Pool Manager.
2. Parents are required to provide written authorization naming a specific approved baby-sitter to attend their children under 10 years old at the pool. The baby-sitter must be fourteen (14) years of age or older and be a pool member or have a valid guest pass.

Guest Policy

1. Guest(s) must be accompanied by a registered pool member and submit a valid guest pass for admission. Pool members must accept responsibility for their guests.
2. Guest(s) must register with the gate keeper upon admission to the pool facility and sign a waiver of liability.

Private Parties

1. Adults eighteen (18) years and older holding a pool I.D. may make reservations to use the pool for a private party when the pool is not open for regular operating hours. All parties must terminate (all participants departing the facility) by 11:30 p.m.
2. Reservations must be made at least four (4) days in advance with the Pool Manager. Reservations are confirmed by a \$50.00 deposit. A reservation is not confirmed until the Pool Manager receives the deposit. The cost for rental of the pool is \$10.00 per hour

plus lifeguard fees.

3. Persons responsible for any parties must hire lifeguards. Lifeguards must be those guards that are under contract with the District.

4. Any damages resulting from a private party will be the responsibility of the lessee.

Wading Pool

1. Children taller than a height set by the Pool Manager will not be allowed in the wading pool.
2. Lifeguards will not monitor the wading pool. Children in the wading pool must have a parent or baby-sitter present at all times.

Pool Hours (as posted at the pool)

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Weekday hours are 11 a. m. to 9 p.m. Saturday hours are 11 a. m. to 9 p. m.; and Sunday hours are 12 Noon to 9 p. m..

WINTER SCHEDULE

Weekday hours are 12 noon to 1 pm and 4:30 to 8:00 pm. Saturday Sunday and Holidays 12:00 to 8 pm. Winter Maintenance closing will be posted at the pool.

General Information

1. At the discretion of the Pool Manager and as approved by the District Manager, certain periods of the normal open hours may be set aside for specialized activities such as, adults only swim, swim lessons, swim meets, and other special events.
2. Hours may be shortened before and after school starts, and during swim team season. Check the Pool Bulletin Board for scheduled events and scheduling changes.

Tennis/Sports Court Rules and Regulations

(In District Members Only)

1. No dangerous or offensive conduct will be allowed on the courts.
2. No pets, bicycles, skateboards, or motorized vehicles allowed on the courts
3. No alcoholic beverages are allowed inside the fenced court area.
4. No glass containers are allowed inside the fenced court areas.
5. A playing time limit of one hour (60 minutes) will be observed when other members are waiting to use the facilities.
6. Tennis courts one and two are subject to reservation by tennis leagues, not to exceed five (5) hours a week as posted at the courts.
7. A member may have a maximum of four (4) guests at a time on the sports courts.
8. At the discretion of the District Manager, certain specialized activities on the courts may be arranged.
9. A maximum of (4) players are allowed per tennis court at any time.
10. Soccer tennis is strictly prohibited.

Questions or Problems

Contact the Pool Manager or
Bill Burke at 331-7066.

**North Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1
Rattan Creek Pool Winter 2000 / Summer 2001 Schedule**

March 2001

March 1 - 31: Pool Open - Winter Swim

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

12:00 - 1:30 PM, and
4:30 to 8:00 PM.

Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 8:00 PM

March 12 - 16: Spring Break

Pool hours : 12:00 to 8:00 PM

*Time to get in shape for the Summer
join the Rattan Creek Masters
Swim Club*

Contact John at maggio@texas.net

April 2001

April 1 - 30: Pool Open - Winter Swim

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

12:00 - 1:30 PM, and 4:30 to 8:00 PM.

Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM

April 13 & 16: Spring Holiday

Pool Open: 12:00 to 8:00 PM

Pool closed: April 23 (Sunday)

April 30 Winter Swim Schedule Closed

May 2001

Summer Schedule Begins

May 2 - 4 Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM

**May 5 - 6, Open swimming for ALL
Residents and Guests**

Friday - Saturday
12:00 - 8:00 PM.

May 12 RCNA Pool Party ,
Pool is open for RCNA Members only.

May 7 - 24: Monday - Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30 PM

Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 8:00 PM

May 25 School is out

Pool is open:

Monday - Saturday 11:00 to 9:00

Sunday 12:00 to 9:00

McNeil High Swim Team is swimming
at the Rattan Creek Pool.

MHS practice:

Monday - Friday 7:00 - 9:00 AM

*Swim Meets will be posted but usually
occur on*

Saturday mornings.

Manager - Raine Maggio

Assistant Manager - Tony Watt

**Rattan Creek Pool is
Managed by
Clearwater Management
Phone - 331-7066**

Pool phone - 257-8175

(Continued from page 8)

look for companies that are reasonably priced, as measured by their price-to-earnings ratio and other factors. Remember, the higher a company's P/E, the more you are paying for its expected growth—and the greater the downside potential.

Look Beyond the "Hype"

Sometimes, one particular market sector will seize most of the investing public's attention. Right now, it's technology. Unfortunately, attention isn't always knowledge. The truth is that many areas of technology do offer tremendous promise for investors in the long term. Yet, over the next several years, there also may be a shake-up in some segments, particularly among those companies on the front end of the Internet. As an informed investor, you should think about the entire story—not just the headlines.

By following these few basic guidelines, you'll go a long way toward reducing the jitters that can accompany the stock market's volatility. And the calmer you are, the better your decision will be.

**From the office of Todd Holubec -
Edward Jones Investments**

Brownie Troop #1428

will be collecting new and gently used children's books to donate to the Children's Hospital from March 1 through March 21, 2001

Books may be dropped off at either
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or
8105 Hendricks Drive.

*Questions?
Call Leslie at 336-5283
Thanks!*

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RCNA Event Sponsor

It's Finally March and Almost Planting Time!

If the soil is wet enough to stick to your shoes, better wait for a while to do the lawn and bed clean up. Working wet heavy clay soil like ours creates many problems. Wait to rake lawns also so you do not pull up all the growing roots with the dead leaves. Most yards in Austin should not be scalp mowed and have the grass thatch removed because the dead grass thatch will naturally compost in place with our spring rains. If you have a heavy grass thatch build-up, you are over fertilizing and watering. Save time and money by reducing both fertilizer and water next summer. No grass or other plants grow much until the soil temperature is into the 70's, so be patient in the shady areas.

A Reminder about Oak Wilt: To avoid infecting your oak trees with the deadly oak wilt fungus, you should postpone pruning them until summer. The fungus is most likely to produce spores from now through the end of May, and the insects that carry the spores to fresh wounds on oak trees are most active in spring. If you must prune, or if one of your oaks is injured, you should coat the wound with a commercially available protectant as soon as possible – by nightfall at the latest. (The

insects that carry spores are most active at night.) For more information about oak wilt, visit the Oak Wilt Suppression Project Web at <www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt>. Or call the oak wilt hotline at 473-3517. You may also contact the Austin office of the Texas Forest Service at 512-451-2178 or tfaus@swbell.net. Our thanks to Bill Reiner and the Travis Audubon Society February 2001 newsletter Signal Smoke for this information.

We are not in a drought condition this year yet, however, when we are again, and always look at your plants and water when they look wilted and leaves begin to curl up to minimize water loss. Watering then will restore them to looking fresh. Withholding water may let your plants die and you will have to pay for very expensive replacement work and new plants. Protect your investment in your landscape by smart watering. Planting smart means creating small beds or pots with attractive flowers and shrubs that are easy and cheap to water enough to look good. Keep these plants near walkways or decks where they are very visible for more beauty in your life and also for easier

(Continued on page 15)



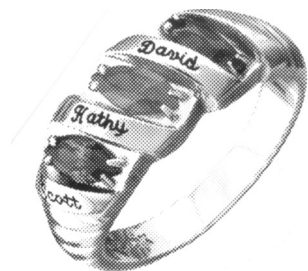
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- 3/11: How Could God Allow Suffering & Evil?
- 3/18: Is There Really an Afterlife?
- 3/25: Why Become a Christian?

North Hills Community Church
is currently meeting in the
Jollyville Elementary Cafetorium at
6720 Corpus Christi
Service begins @ 10:30 AM

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Find us on the web at: www.nhconline.org

(Planting Continued from page 14)

reminder that they need a bit of dead heading and watering. Then the larger less visible grass areas can be managed for less cost, labor, and water use.

Brown Patch in St. Augustine Grass is the wet soil condition where you have circles of fungal brown patch. Rake the dead grass thatch off and compost or throw away. Add live compost and the microbes will eat the fungus. If you water by sprinkling lightly to encourage grass spreading and then let the grass dry in between waterings you will reduce the fungus growth. Replacement sod is easy, just buy a few squares, rake or dig up the soil and dead grass, work in some compost or a little fertilizer or root stimulant, lay down the sod, press down well and water. Keep the new sod moist enough so the roots do not dry out for several months until the roots grow down into the soil .

Thin St. Augustine grass and Live Oak leaves. If you have thin spots in St. Augustine grass, in early spring and fall, overseed with Fescue grass seed now while it is cool to thicken the turf and let the St. Augustine re grow. Aerating the soil will help the roots grow. A large machine can be rented to do the entire yard. It punches holes and pulls out the plugs of soil. For small areas and along sidewalks and driveways which have been

tamped down, apply some clean masonry sand and then poke holes with a garden fork or an aerator tool.

In Austin, most leaves will naturally compost in place and provide fertilizer to the soil and can be left in place, especially if you have a mulching mower. Live oak leaves and some other leather-like leaves do need to be raked up because they will make thatch-like layers and not let the water and air through. Live oak leaves do not compost easily either, so bag them and put out for the solid waste disposal pickup.

Plant and fertilize now. Finish planting roses, fruit trees, and vines and then feed all perennials by mulching with compost to control fungi and to slowly feed the plants. There are many granular fertilizers (organic or non-organic) which will build up the strength of perennials now early in the spring. Follow the directions on the package and spread well and water in well to make the fertilizer available to the plants.

A light dressing with fertilizer every 6 weeks will keep plants blooming and growing well all summer. A weekly or so foliar feeding of liquid fertilizer, liquid sea weed and fish emulsion will keep the blooming plants doing well. If you want

(Continued on page 16)

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| 13348 Tamayo Dr | 7606 Windrush Dr |
| 13516 Bolivia Dr | 8212 Amasia Cv |
| 7917 Snook Hook Trl | 7804 Jenner Cv |
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(Planting Continued from page 15)

additional growth on trees apply a double coverage of fertilizer under and around the trees to 1-1/2 times the drip zone. Water well two or three times in the next few days to really dissolve the fertilizer and take it down 8 inches to the Live Oak tree roots. This is especially helpful for live oaks in February and March when they are growing fast and losing leaves, flowering, re-growing leaves and generally creating a mess in our yards.

Dillo Dirt works well as a general top dressing (1/8 to 1/4 inch) for the grass and the beds. It works slowly, dissolving over 6 months and is will not be too strong and burn plants. The Home Depot store has it in small bags and AAA Grass on McNeil road has it in bulk for your pickup load or will deliver for a charge. A commercial composted product available in bags called Back To Earth (BTE) works well around plants to fertilize slowly and also keep weeds down . Use 3 to 4 inches of BTE or other coarser mulch under plants and trees for weed control. The larger nurseries have bulk compost that is cheaper and works well for a top-dressing on grass and for thicker mulching of plants in beds.

Lawn Fertilizers: Do not apply lawn fertilizer until after two mowings to reduce weed growth and

strengthen the grass. To be precise about the nutrition need of your soil, go to a nursery or contact Texas A&M for a soil sample kit. You will get back a report on your soil conditions and recommendations of the amount of Nitrogen and other nutrients that are needed for your soil.

General guidelines for fertilizer use are: Do not apply a weed and feed product, see below for the exceptions. Use slow-release granular organic or chemical fertilizers; Top-dress with compost or Dillo Dirt. Apply a slow-release blood, fish, and bone meal in early spring. Avoid more than 1 lb. Nitrogen per 1000 sq. feet. per application. Look at the percentage of nitrogen on the bag (the first number, like 15) .means a 40 pound bag with 15% nitrogen contains 6 pounds of nitrogen. That would be enough for 6000 sq. ft. which is much larger than our average yard planted area. Watch the application rate carefully, more is not better. Using a broadcast spreader seems safer, you are not dropping piles of fertilizer every time you stop or turn around. A pile of fertilizer can kill the plants and the soil in that area for several years. Stop by and see my dead spot ;-)

Lawn weeds: If you have rampant annual weeds growing from seeds a weed-and-feed

(Continued on page 17)

jdsummers

(Continued from page 16)

fertilizer can help . See the cautions about it's use below. These pre-emergents can kill certain types of seed before they can germinate. If you use one be sure it is approved for your variety of grass. You may need to use it both in spring and fall for several years to eliminate these annual grasses. Weed-and-Feed products applied anywhere near the root zones of trees can cause irreparable damage to those trees, *be careful*. Also it is more expensive than needed and runoff from your yard can kill other plants and pollute the creeks. The safest solution to eliminating weeds is removal of individual plants by digging or spraying carefully to not kill other plants. Consistent mowing of the fast-growing weeds also weakens them and encourages grass growth. Do not use a weed killer in a garden hose end sprayer because the overspray can kill all near plants and trees: yours and your neighbors.

Mowing Grass Height; If your grass is grown at an appropriate height and not cut too low to the ground, weeds will have little chance to become established. Cutting St. Augustine grass and Bermuda grass at 3-1/2 inches works well with our climate. Start mowing in the spring by lowering the setting to 2" for a few mowings to encourage root growth. Then raise the mower to the highest setting and leave it there until next spring. Because Bermuda grass grows well in full sun, this longer cut grass provides additional shade for the roots which minimizes water loss from the soil.

The mowing rules are:

- Mow often enough to only cut 1/3 of the existing green foliage at any one mowing. Any more than that weakens the plants by requiring food reserves to heal the cuts.
- Never shave the lawn too close, it encourages bare spots, weed invasions, and destroys the food producing leaf blade.
- Mow before grass gets too high because then you will cut off more than 1/3 of the plant reducing its ability to collect oxygen and sun and make food for the plant.
- Lawn clippings are free food, do not cart them away. Mow with a mulch type mower blade so the small clippings will return the nutrients to the soil. Mulching mowers return the equivalent of one fertilizer application per year. Replacement mulching blades or multiple blades can make your mower into a mulcher.
- Sharp blades make clean cuts, the grass looks better and less plant food reserves are needed to repair and heal the clean cut. Buy a large file and

learn to file or grind the blade to sharpen it.

Frost damaged or dead foliage should be cut back to good wood after March 1st to encourage new growth after the late frost date.

Prune brown looking perennials like the Lantanna and some native grasses down to 1" from the ground, they will come back from the roots. Prune early flowering plants like the Salvias after the spring flush of blooms by cutting the tips off and shaping the plants to prepare for a second flush of blooms in late summer.

Now is the time to prune the Nandinas: the birds have eaten the red berries by now. If the size is OK, trim a bit off to encourage fullness and blooming and berries next year. To reduce the size of the plants, cut the tall canes clear down to the ground. To improve the look of older plants, cut 1/3 of the canes to the ground each year leaving a well shaped plant.

Prune Crepe Myrtles early to hold the size of the plants and encourage multiple stems. They bloom on new wood, so cut away. .

Do Not prune live oak trees after February 15 until May to minimize the spread of Oak Wilt

(Continued on page 18)



Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association
 P.O. Box 200584 – Austin, Tx 78720-0584
Annual Membership Dues – \$20
 (January – December 2001)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail: _____

Membership: Renewal New

I would like to volunteer to assist with:

Activities Committees Newsletter

Thank You For Your Continued Support!!



We Depend On It!!

(Continued from page 17)

disease. If pruning is essential, hire a professional who knows how to properly sterilize tools, paint wounds, and dispose of cut limbs.

If caterpillars ate leaves of your plants last year, now is the time to buy some *Bacillus thuringiensis* (called BT, Bio-Worm killer, Thuricide, et al). Look at your plants often and when you see some worms, mix up some (just as much as you can use, it does not last) and spray the plants with caterpillars, they like the tender tips so get the ends especially. Watch your Texas Mountain Laurel trees, the tips are especially tender and that is where the fragrant purple blooms will appear if you spray a few times so the worms don't spoil the blooms.

For the mealy bugs and anything else soft bodied, including fleas, scatter sharp (not from the pool supply store) diatomaceous earth (DE) around the plants on dry days. There are commercial products with DE and pyrethrum which are especially effective. If you have cats or dogs, scatter some DE where they roll in the dirt and you may not have any fleas on the pets this year. You must repeat every few weeks as it washes into the soil.

Only spray the plants effected by worms and scatter DE where you are losing plants to bugs. It really is a waste of money and it damages the environment to go over the entire yard with a general purpose bug killer. Take the time to see what the problems are and take care of those, you will enjoy the walking around also. I have found that spreading a general purpose insecticide around the foundation and in beds near the house in spring and fall when the bugs are trying to move inside provides a barrier for the critical few weeks. Much more effective and cheaper than covering all the yard.

Fire ant control I do not know if we will be able to buy Logic again this year, a carcinogen was found in it and it was taken off the market last fall. The ranch supply stores may have it under the name Award. The only alternative product for full yard coverage I know about is Amdro. There are some new products coming out. Give them a try and call me with the results. Happy hunting

If you still have some Logic, start with spreading the Logic (Award) when the dew has dried, soil temperature is above 60 degrees, and it is 2 to 3 hours before the rain. Sprinkle everywhere

(Continued on page 23)

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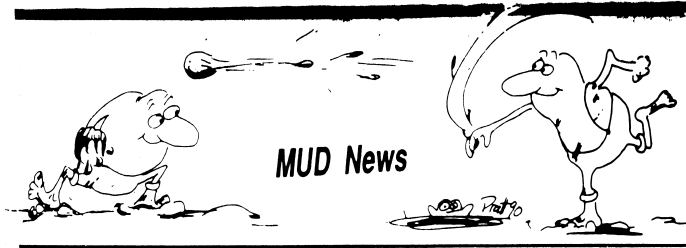
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North Austin Municipal Utility District Board of Directors Report on Commercial Development, Parks, and Pool Activities:

North Austin Municipal Utility District Board of Directors Report on Commercial Development, Parks, and Pool Activities:

Longhorn/Waste Management Company.

Continues to provide Gary Spoons a weekly report with the requests for service and their response times so the Board agreed to make the partial payment which had been held pending contract compliance.

Spring Neighborhood Cleanup: will be March 31 along with the Neighborhood Garage Sale. Until then, put your yard waste in front of the house, cut it into 3-4 foot lengths and bundle or tie it so the drivers can easily pick it up. It will be picked up on the normal pickup days Monday or Thursday.

Boy Scout Troop 259 and Landscape Specialties of Texas are again scheduled to help with the Spring Neighborhood Cleanup on the 31st.

When you have large items like a dishwasher: call Longhorn / Waste Management at 272-6260 and ask for the residential dispatcher. Tell them you live in North Austin MUD at (your address), and you have large items for pickup. They will schedule the pickup. .

If there has been no pickup in 10-14 days, call Longhorn again and also call ECO with the times of your requests. They will follow up and make it happen. Thanks for your help keeping our neighborhood looking good.

We have had another rash of vandalism so if you see someone breaking or trashing something in the neighborhood, remember that we have a **\$200.00 reward** for information leading to the prosecution and conviction of a crime. Call Gary Spoons with the information. Your name will be held confidential and you can do your part to help us control this senseless action.

Robinson Park Playground cleanup finished. . The mulch from all the winter chipped trees was spread in the Robinson Park playground area at the

(Continued on page 20)



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NA MUD #1 Board of Directors:

Place One - **Keith Collins,** 258-6244
Ass't Secretary/Treasurer (5/04)
kcollins@northaustinmud1.org

Place Two - **Don Conklin,** 331-7669
Treasurer (5/02)
dconklin@northaustinmud1.org

Place Three - **Terry Ripperda,** 512-793-2160
President (5/04)
tripperda@northaustinmud1.org

Place Four - **Alan McNeil,** 219-8719
Vice President (5/02)
amcneil@northaustinmud1.org

Place Five - **Chuck Simms,** 331-9630
Secretary (5/04)
csimms@northaustinmud1.org

Website: www.northaustinmud1.org

(Continued from page 19)

corner of Amasia and Humphrey Drive. The rocks were removed and tree stumps ground down before the mulching.

In the new area between the playscape and the soccer fields, the trees and brush are being pruned, and some juniper trees removed to let the live oaks get some sun and grow. The rocks and stumps will be removed from that end of the park and the mulch spread. The Cedar tree trunks will continue to be saved to use as fencing.

The Anderson Mill Road construction is progressing and the bridge over the East Tributary of Lake Creek now has water flowing under the bridge. The sign on Anderson Mill Road says completion in 2002 but I've heard that a more realistic finish date for the road will be in '04.

Robinson Park Soccer Fields: The construction in the Stanzel tract upstream of our park caused some flooding of the soccer fields. Our District Engineer David Malish is working with the construction company to cleanup the damage and possibly build some earth berms to better protect the soccer fields from flooding in the future. There is also a City of Austin and Springwoods MUD project to channelize this East Tributary of Lake Creek. It

will go all the way from Hunters Chase (where the new residential construction is in work), through this Stanzel Tract, and through Robinson Park between the soccer fields and under the new Anderson Mill Road bridge.

It will be a challenge to get the fields back to the good condition the players have enjoyed for the last few years. District Engineer David Malish, Gary Spoons, and TexaScapes are working together to repair the damage and protect the fields from flooding as much as possible within the constraints that the fields are within the 100 year flood plain.

Robinson Park Trail project: work will begin when it dries up.

Rattan Creek Park plants damaged last summer will be replaced by TexaScapes this month. The planned irrigation system audit should help identify changes needed to assure adequate water for all the plants even during drought times. The tree pruning continues as weather and park activity allows.

Rattan Creek Trail Exercise areas: project by Clearwater Management has the equipment in and

(Continued on page 21)

Remember

**Winter Water Averaging
Begins November 20, 2000
Through February 19, 2001
NA MUD #1**

Deed Restriction Violations:

Deed restriction violations must be submitted in writing to:

**Senior Citizens Center
408 Ridgewood
Cedar Park, Tx 78613**

Be sure to include the address in question, nature of your concern and your name and address.

Tutor Time

(Continued from page 20)

construction timing will depend on the weather. There will be 15 stations at 8 or 9 locations along the trail. Now what will be my excuse to not exercise?

Rattan Creek Trail: There were many Live Oak trees with the tops broken by the ice storm which now have broken branches hanging by the bark. To minimize the Live Oak Wilt infection problem, the Davey Tree crews will be cutting out damaged limbs. We will get a budgetary estimate for a pruning of all the trees in the greenbelts to work it into the budget planning just starting.

Rattan Creek Pool: the project to expand the pool deck area to the west – Tamayo side of the pool. Will be done during the pool closing in March by Clearwater Management as requested by the Hurricane swim team.

Rattan Creek Pool chemical building truck turnaround area had some more rock and soil spread and was seeded with grass again.

The Tutor Time Childcare: the building is progressing well and the business should be a welcome addition to our neighborhood.

The Reserve at Rattan Creek (Alexan Rattan Creek) apartment project on Parmer Lane at Dallas have placed a trash container on their side of the fence along the trail and cleaned up the construction material that spilled over onto our side of the fence. TexaScapes is maintaining the area and also are clearing some brush to widen the trail shoulders and improve visibility in this area. .

The apartment dwellers are MUD residents also and we are getting inquires about using the pool and tennis courts so you will see some new folks around, welcome them. The Rattan Creek Neighborhood Association provides them with newsletters also.

The JPI Apartment Development: The first multifamily project infrastructure work of sewer, stormwater, and water pipes has started. This first section is being built along Parmer Lane south/east of State Farm Insurance close to Lake Creek. In a later group of apartments there will be 11.5 acres of office buildings also. This Smart Growth plan should make it a very attractive area to live, work, and shop. Our goal is to connect the Rattan Creek Trail and Robinson Park Trail to a new trail along Lake Creek providing trail access through all parts of the District.

Indian Oaks Neighborhood wastewater connection: The City has yet to put in the telemetering station on the flowmeter so the data


can be automatically read but our District Engineer is getting monthly data to monitor the flow as more Indian Oaks homes switch from septic systems to our sewer connection.

The Indian Oaks Neighborhood Association president Linda Jaspersen continues working on zoning situations along McNeil Road. She is very well known now at the City of Austin Zoning Commission and City Council meetings as she continues to try to control the types of zoning and thus types of businesses which will be allowed along McNeil. If you see her working as an election official at the polling place at the next election , thank her for working so hard to maintain the look of that edge of our neighborhood.

A NAMUD #1 Community Center building: is being discussed by the Board. We met with the Jollyville fire department and are continuing discussions with the city. Keith Collins and Chuck Simms are the Board committee and are looking for suggestions so go to the NAMUD#1 web site to e-mail your thoughts to them.

Chuck Simms Secretary,
NAMUD #1 Board of Directors.
(Website: www.northaustinmud1.org)

**Soccer Field Information
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A&A Carpets: 249-0060. (4/01)

All American Coatings: Specialized in quick, neat, quality interior/exterior painting/remodeling. 249-0060. (4/01)

Self-Improvement Through Hypnosis: Experience this gentle and effective way to help change your life, emotionally and spiritually: Set and achieve goals, improve concentration, study skills, relaxation and stress reduction, weight control, stop smoking. Milwood resident. A New Beginning Hypnosis Center. 331-1300. (04/01)

PIANO LESSONS – DEGREED and experienced instructor, Milwood resident. All ages and levels welcomed. 331-2856 (04/01)

CLASSICAL GUITAR LESSONS – DEGREED and experienced instructor. Milwood resident. Call 331-2856. (04/01)

DISCOVERY TOYS- Educational toys, books, and software for ALL ages. Great products, great job opportunities! Home parties and personal shopping appointments. Peggy Tomchek, Educational Consultant. 335-2717, or email: ptomchek@yahoo.com (05/01)

MaryKay - Julia Hall 257-1067 or 796-7718, email: juliahall@mail.utexas.edu. Website: <http://www.mymk.com/jhall5>. *Milwood Resident discount.* (8/01)

BeautiControl Cosmetics-Julie Lucas. 331-9531. New Clients Welcome. (12/01)

TEEN SERVICES

ATTENTION TEENAGERS: Your ads run free but **must be renewed once every 6 months.** The date at the end of your ad indicates the last month your ad will run. All ads must be submitted in writing and mailed to:

**RCNA, c/o Francis Mitchell,
12912 Margit, Austin Tx, 78729.**

Sade Chambers, 14. Extremely responsible and experienced babysitter. I work well with children and babies. Reasonable rates. I also pet sit in your home. Call 335-0177. (3/01)

Gasbrielle Schram, 14. Responsible babysitter who works great with children of all ages. I'm experienced and certified. Will also pet sit. Call 918-9149. (3/01)

Anna Sturza, 14. I'm a very responsible 14 year old girl that has alot of babysitting experience. I live in the Bluffs. 335-3005. (05/01)

TEENS-

***BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR ADS,
AFTER 6 MONTHS
THEY COME OUT!***

(Continued from page 18)

except within 4 feet of mounds. These principles apply to any insecticide, the idea is to spread it when the bugs are active and foraging for food and will pick it up and take it down to the queen.

For fast control of fire ant mounds where you walk or play, sprinkle 2 teaspoonfuls of Orthene powder on each mound. It smells bad so the cats, dogs, and kids will leave it alone and it will kill that hill of ants.

Plant some annuals for summer color. Plant mums in well prepared soil 1 to 1-1/2 feet apart. Plant ageratum, marigold, begonia, portulaca, salvia, or zinnias. A few table spoons of fertilizer (especially phosphorus) will stimulate root growth if watered in well to dissolve the fertilizer. Mulch under and around plants to prevent weeds, conserve water, and control soil temperature. A few large pots placed in visible area in front of the house and off of patio/deck areas are a beautiful addition and easy to maintain. Buy large pots with drain holes and then foliar feed every week or so with liquid fertilizer, or liquid seaweed and fish emulsion to promote blooms and growth. Water when they begin to droop and move the plants in or out of the shade to allow watering and fertilizing all on the same schedule for easier maintenance. Deadhead periodically for a quiet, restful task and to assure long lasting blooming.

Plant fall blooming perennials: alyssum, dianthus, lobelia, phlox, verbena, geranium, aster, petunias, and mums. Some larger mainstay plants are the rosemary and the plants which attract humming birds and butterflies include the: Texas Gold or Blazing Star columbine, Lantanas in full sun, or a firebush which requires a bit more water and should be planted with others which need this environment. Shade tolerant summer plants include the firespike, shrimp plant and Turk's cap.

Water Be sure to water new small plants especially well and soak new larger shrubs and trees well also. New plantings have damaged roots that must be kept damp and need water every day for a week, every 2-3 days for a month, and then weekly to twice a month during spring through fall if there is no rainfall. When they really start growing they NEED water and sparing it for the first 2 years is false economy. Replacing plants is expensive. To minimize water needs, spread 3 to 4 inches of mulch in the beds under all flowers, shrubs and trees to cool the soil and hold in the moisture. I especially like cypress mulch because it is stringy and heavy and stays in place when watering. If you have acid loving plants like the azaleas use hard wood mulch and fertilize heavily.

The wood mulch not only looks good but it is helping your plants survive the heat. Note the way the trees, shrubs, and beds are mulched at the Rattan Creek Park, Our maintenance company TexaScapes does an excellent job of mulching to keep the weeds away from plants and to minimize water needs.

Happy gardening, Chuck Simms



Upcoming Events:

Neighborhood Wide Garage Sale Sat, March 31

Garage Sale ad will be placed in several local papers. Garage sales to be held at each individuals home.

Saturday, March 31st
(8:00 – 1:00)

Neighborhood Clean-up Sat/Sun, Mar 31/Apr 1

Clean-up will be March 31 & April 1 (only) at the Tamayo Bridge
Do not dump at this site any other time!

**Remember when the dumpsters are full on Sunday - That's it!!*

A separate chipping site will be available.

Limbs and bushes will be directed to the chipper site.

** Please remember that the Boy Scouts will be directing the drop offs.
You will need your Water (NAMUD #1/Eco Resources) bill.

*Do not bring any hazardous materials to the neighborhood clean up.
This includes old motor oil.*

Annual RCNA Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 14

10:00 am at the Rattan Creek Park



*Parade with the
Easter Bunny and Fire Engine
Will start at 10:00 am*



Decorate Your Wheels and Join In The Fun!

The Hunt will begin AFTER the Parade!!