

NCTONA NOTES



North Central Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association

Published by Neighborhood News, Inc.

WWW.NCTONA.COM

December 2024/ January 2025

HERE'S TO OUR HEROES

Here's to the heroes. Those few who dare.
Heading for glory. Living a prayer.
Here's to the heroes who change our lives.
Thanks to the heroes, freedom survives!
Here's to the heroes, who never rest.
They are the chosen, we are the blessed
Here's to the heroes who aim so high.
Here's to the heroes who do or die.

On November 11, our country celebrated Veterans Day. In 1918 on Nov. 11, the signing of an armistice marked the end of hostilities and the end of World War I. In 1919 this day became known as Armistice Day. In 1926 Congress passed a resolution declaring it an annual observance. In 1954, the holiday was renamed Veterans Day to recognize and honor all military personnel and their service. Parades are held, wreaths are laid, and moments of silence are held throughout the day. NCTONA has MANY Veterans living among us. We thank each of you for your service to our country. Bless each of you.



NORTH CENTRAL THOUSAND OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors and Officers

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	John Algeo 210-365-2722 jalgeo2030@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 14 Free Shipping Day
 Dec. 16 Chocolate-covered Anything Day
 Dec. 20 Ugly Sweater Day
 Dec. 25 Christmas
 Dec. 31 New Year's Eve
 Jan. 1 New Year's Day
 Jan. 4 1st Saturday of the Month
 Neighborhood clean-up trash day for 1000 Oaks and Henderson Pass.
 Watch for an eblast of information – or check the Web page before
 Saturday for time.

January 6 – SAPD Citizens on Patrol classes are one-time, 4 hr. classes.
 13030 Jones Maltsberger, 6 PM – 9 PM. To register or for further
 information contact Officer Cathalina Schneider at [210-207-5182](tel:210-207-5182) or
Chathalina.schneider@sanantonio.gov

Jan. 8 Clean off Your Desk Day
 Jan. 13 NCTONA Board Meeting
 Jan. 15 Strawberry Ice Cream Day
 Jan. 24 Compliment Day
 Feb. 1 1st Saturday of the Month
 Neighborhood clean-up trash day for 1000 Oaks and Henderson Pass.
 Watch for an eblast of information – or check the Web page before
 Saturday for time.

February 3 - SAPD Citizens on Patrol classes are one-time, 4 hr. classes.
 13030 Jones Maltsberger, 6PM – 9PM. To register or for further
 information contact Officer Cathalina Schneider at [210-207-5182](tel:210-207-5182) or
Chathalina.schneider@sanantonio.gov

Feb. 10 NCTONA Board Meeting

COMMITTEES

Block Captain Liaison Ray Altman
 Security Carlos Garcia, Jr.
 Web page Karen O'Brien
 Newsletter Linda Nolder & Lisa Janaky
 Special Events Christine Denney
 Garage Sale Linda Nolder
 Code Enforcement Kim Pettit
 Facebook Ray Altman & Jessica Smith-Perry
 NextDoor Lead Alex Shapovalov
 SAFFE Officer Jack Bass

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MCALLISTER PARK NEWS

By Gerry Schwab
gschwab@satx.rr.com

The Friends of McAllister Park met at Brook Hollow Library on Thursday, November 18, 2024, for the final scheduled meeting of the year. Approximately two dozen people attended. The agenda included information and updates of which I can only highlight a few. The complete minutes will be forthcoming and will be available in your inbox, if a member, or on the FOMP webpage.

The Fest of Tails (held in October) signed up fifteen new members and one renewing member. The Friends Group uses every opportunity to get our message and presence out to the public.

Tony Forshage, from the City of San Antonio, gave an update on the bicycle pump track expansion. Part of the bond and additional city money will be used to build a flow track. This is an inclined start point that allows the riders to use gravity or peddling to maneuver through a winding course. This will be located next to the pump track and will require the removal of some trees and vegetation. Tony assured the group that only invasive and "trash trees" will be removed. Persimmon trees will be planted to provide a shaded, natural space for riders and viewers. If you have questions about the tree removal or other concerns, please contact Tony at tonyforshage@sanantonio.gov. He is calling this the Persimmon Grove Flow Track.

The Mud Creek trail expansion is again in the forefront. The city is committed to building this trail. A committee of FOMP members has been formed to oversee this project, since halting or relocating the trail is no longer an alternative. We are committed to keeping McAllister a natural area and the best we can do is to have sharp eyes and loud voices available when trail construction seems to violate this priority. Whether this will make any difference, only time will tell.

Because evenings are getting darker earlier, the San Antonio Sidewalk Astronomers group is back. Weather permitted, every Wednesday the group will meet at the multi-purpose field (where the Fest of Tails is held). Telescopes will be available. If you have never seen a neighboring planet, the moon, or other celestial body using a telescope, you are in for a special, and rather humbling experience.

"To feed, or not to feed. That is the question." Many patrons feed the park wildlife, especially the deer. There is no law against this. However, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission strongly argues against this practice. If the park is to remain natural, then we should follow Mother Nature and NOT feed the wildlife human or non-species food.

The next FOMP meeting will be held at Brook Hollow Library on January 7, 2025. So, on that note, Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!



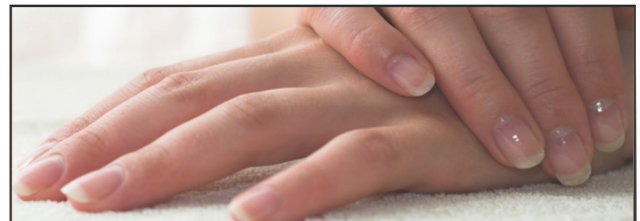
BRADLEY STUDENTS AND VOTING

A group of Bradley students from Mrs. Chestnut's class took on an amazing project during the recent election. Principal Mrs. Torey Leitzke made the school's cafetorium available for use as a polling station on Election Day. She allowed the students to make posters to aid voters during the November General Election. The posters served to inform voters, many from NCTONA, where to park, where to enter the vote center, where elderly and disabled might receive curbside assistance, or simply thanking people for voting. Our future leaders out there setting perfect examples of the "importance" of voting in our country. A big thank you to Mrs. Chestnut for heading this up and for those Bradley students.



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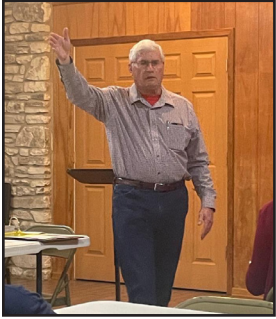
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FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



NCTONA met on November 14 at 7 PM at our new location of Faith Lutheran Church on Nacogdoches for our annual fall general membership meeting. The business meeting was opened with the introduction of guests and board members. Our block connectors who were in attendance were recognized and thanked for their continued support of making sure our members are connected to the happenings of our neighborhood. The minutes from the May General Meeting were read and approved. The treasurer gave his report and the upcoming budget report. It also was approved. Ray Altman discussed the block connectors program. He encouraged all to think about possible Holiday events they could have in their area. Karen O'Brien gave an update on the website and reminded everyone that current events are always listed. Linda Nolder reported that the October garage sale had 20 participants that were listed on the map. Denise Richter reported on the Yard of the Month program. She reminded everyone that December is the Holiday decorating and January and February are Porches of the Months. Karen reported on the Wine Down Wednesdays that happen the first Wednesday of the month. All you need to do is check the website for the when and where and sign up to attend that month. President Kim Pettit discussed the number of present members in 2024 and what our goal is for 2025. We need at least 400 members or MORE to maintain the list of things that we do for our neighborhood. Discussion was carried on as to the several things that have been cut back on this year (NEISD rental of Bradley for our general meetings, lawn maintenance and landscaping being done by the board and other members, among other things) to help meet the budget. Discussion was then continued about the \$25 dues currently being paid once a year by members. A dues increase to \$35 has been discussed several times at the general meetings. Increase in dues is needed and recommended by the board due to the increase in costs of: postage for the mailing of these newsletters, insurance costs increase, replacement of very old accounting software, & cost of mowing grassy borders of NCTONA. By laws read: Annual membership dues of the association may be changed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those active members present at the annual meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to raise the dues to \$35 a year starting January 1, 2025. A list of all the things your dues contribute to that has appeared in the newsletter several times in the past years was requested by a member in attendance. You will find this list here in the newsletter. The business meeting was closed and our guest speaker was introduced.

Sgt. Kent Novak from Bexar County Constable's Office, Pct. 3 was introduced. Kent currently oversees Traffic Operation and the Comal ISD SRO program (which is 6 Comal schools located in Bexar County) with his 13 years of service. He received his license in 2011 and was promoted to Corporal in 2015. From 2012 to 2016 he was assigned to the Traffic Safety division and DWI taskforce. In 2016 he was assigned over Civil process and administrative duties. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2022. Sgt. Novak holds many

certifications: Advanced Peace Officer License with over 2000 credit hours of training; SFST Practitioner since 2014 and Intoxilyzer Operator since 2015; Certified Field Training Officer and Police Instructor; ALERRT Instructor/ALERRT Active Shooter Response Incident Management / TEEX Active Attack Even Response. As you can see, he was a extremely knowledgeable speaker. One of the first things he shared with us

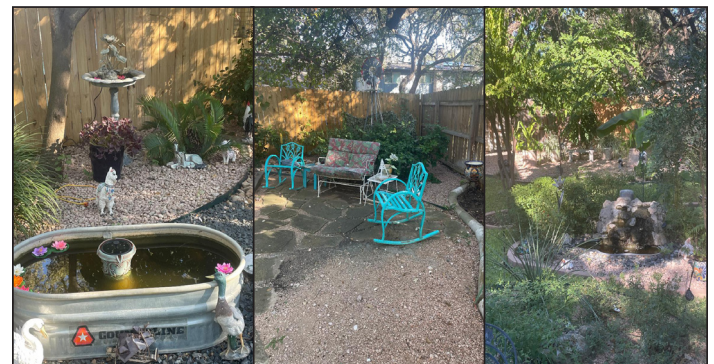


is this web site: communitycrimemap.com. Zoom into our own area to see crimes that are happening. We have had 28 burglaries (these are both home and vehicles) reported for NCTONA. Out of 969 calls that have come in – 1 out of every 5 needed follow ups. He gave us a great list of suggestions on how to keep our homes safer.

- Secure your front door bolts
- Remove the ball that is hanging from your garage door opener as they slide something in your garage door and use the ball to pop it unlocked and are then able to open your garage door and get in.
- Get some kind of "ring" door bell. Not only is it good for your to watch what is happening on your front porch, but it is quite often helpful to the police in investigations.
- Always lock your car and never leave valuables in it, ESPECIALLY FIRE ARMS!
- And most importantly – if you see something call 210-207-SAPD. It is always most helpful to have a description and especially license plates.
- We are so grateful and learned so much from Sgt. Novak. We thank him for giving of his time and information.

ANOTHER OUTSTANDING BACKYARD

This backyard is on Sun Trail. Backyard gardens - it's almost the only way to keep flowers away from the deer. Remember – you too can submit pictures of your backyards. Just send pictures to lnolder@aol.com



BLOCK CONNECTOR TIP OF THE MONTH

Check On a Neighbor This Holiday Season

Our goal as Block Connectors is to have every street or block in our neighborhood become a place where neighbors know and care about one another. So many of you reading this already know and stay connected to neighbors. If you have new neighbors move in and you'd like a NCTONA Welcome Packet I'd (Ray) be happy to bring you one so you can share it with them! You can find my contact information in this Newsletter along with the other NCTONA Board Members.

Loneliness and Isolation continue to be major challenges that many of our neighbors are facing. Older adults as well as teenagers are especially vulnerable. An Ohio State University survey even found that 65% of parents, especially moms, are experiencing loneliness and isolation. The Holidays, as busy as they may seem, can actually be one of the loneliest times. So what can you do? The answer is simple and natural - stay connected. Here are some ways you can do that:

1. Organize a Holiday Gathering, one that is very simple. Hot Chocolate or Cider in the Driveway works!
2. Go Caroling with neighbors along your street. All you need to start is a song sheet with words and 3 voices!
3. Make home-made Christmas Cards and share them with neighbors.
4. Make a favorite treat or snack and share it with your neighbors.
5. Go out on a walk around your neighborhood, by yourself, with a neighbor, or with a pet. When you pass other neighbors, be open to stopping for a conversation.

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SAN ANTONIO NEIGHBORS TOGETHER



San Antonio Neighbors Together is an annual event held on the first Tuesday of October. The event focuses on strengthening relationships between local police and the communities they serve. At these events, neighborhoods

connect with City departments, and learn tips on crime prevention. Residents are often unaware of the variety of services and events that the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) offers to help educate communities. This event can help the police inform communities of what's going on in their neighborhoods.

We had six groups in NCTONA we know of meet up to share. It was a great evening for neighbors! Hope you were able to join one and meet at least one new neighbor.



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<p>Cleve Wilson Real Estate Sales Agent 210-393-8835</p> <p>Liz De La Rosa, Broker and Cleve Wilson, Sales Agent have each lived in GSV for 40 years and have extensive knowledge of the area. We know how to sell GSV as a perfect place to raise a family.</p> <p>When choosing a Real Estate Broker to sell or lease your HOME, professional experience with comprehensive procedures, are the difference between your HOME sitting on the market OR receiving quick interest in your most valuable investment.</p>		

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If your house is priced fairly, they will make or take the offer quickly. Once they are gone, it will be harder to get new buyers that are just starting to look. De La Rosa Realty's broker and agent would love to discuss all "our professional procedures" that maximize your chance of selling your HOME quickly and to a buyer that is truly interested in owning YOUR HOME. We take pride in working with our GSV clients!

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Yards of the Month



Our Yards of the Month in this edition are the last two of the year 2024. December will be our winners of our Holiday Lighting Contest, and January and February are “Porches of the Month”. So get your thinking caps on and get those porches showing off some wonderful stuff. YOM will start back up with our Spring weather in March. Congratulations to our October and November winners!

October 2024



North 2414 Crow Valley



South 2111 Chittim Trail



Central 2523 Cedar Glen

November 2024



Central 2519 Chestnut Bend



North 15207 Arroyo Moss



South 2034 Oak Crown

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

By the time you receive your Newsletter this time, the Holiday Decorating Contest may already be under way or completed. But just in case, here is the info! The neighborhood is divided into the 3 sections that we use for YOM: North, Central, & South. Each section will be judged for 4 categories: House with the “Best Theme”, House with the most “Original Lighting”, House with the “Best Lighting”, and then the “Best GROUP” lighting. The judging will, or did, take place ****December 15-18th****. Good luck!

WINE DOWN

In the month of October, our Wine Down ladies took a new turn on their monthly night out. One of our board members hosted Wednesday in her own home with a catered dinner and wine. There were 18 in attendance. The month of November took us to Julian's for a great meal and once again with 18 wonderful friends. We meet the FIRST Wednesday of each month and if you haven't joined us yet – you should! We have great fun as well as making new NCTONA friends. All you have to do is go onto the website, click on events – Wine Down Wednesday – and sign up. Hope to see you soon.



What's Cookin'

As the holiday season begins, here are a couple of recipes for entertaining guests or families. One is an appetizer and then you always need a dessert! Enjoy!

Zucchini Sticks

Ingredients:

- 3 zucchinis cut into sticks;
- 1 cup breadcrumbs;
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese;
- 2 eggs beaten;
- 1 tsp garlic powder;
- 1 tsp dried oregano; 1/2 tsp salt;
- 1/4 tsp black pepper.

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425° In a bowl, mix breadcrumbs, Parmesan, garlic powder, oregano, salt, and pepper. Dip zucchini sticks in eggs, then coat with breadcrumb mixture. Place on a baking sheet. Bake for 20-25 mins.

Avocado Brownies

Ingredients:

1 large avocado, 1/2 c. Extra Fine Granulated Sugar, 1/2 c. light brown sugar, 2 large eggs, 1 tsp. vanilla extract, 1/2 c. all-purpose flour, 1/2 c. unsweetened cocoa powder, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. baking powder, 1 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and line an 8-inch square pan with parchment paper. Start by mashing your avocado until it is super smooth. Mix in sugar, brown sugar, eggs, & vanilla. Beat until eggs are fully incorporated and everything is well combined. Add flour, cocoa powder, salt, & baking powder. Stir until just combined, careful not to overmix. Add in most of the chocolate chips (reserving about 1/4 c. for top) until just incorporated. Pour batter into prepared pan and sprinkle remaining chips over top. Bake for 25 minutes.



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☐ I am a New Member

☐ I am renewing my membership

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Give payments to Block Captain

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Please Check any areas of NCTONA operations that you would be interested in helping with.

- ☐ Block Connector
- ☐ Neighborhood Appearance
- ☐ Communication
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Welcoming and Membership
- ☐ Zoning
- ☐ Neighborhood Safety
- ☐ Special Events
- ☐ Preschool Play Groups
- ☐ Lunch Bunch
- ☐ Community Gardening
- ☐ Yard Sale
- ☐ Book Club
- ☐ Yard of the month
- ☐ Star Watching
- ☐ Quilting/Knitting
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Other: _____



Published and distributed by:
Neighborhood News, Inc.
3740 Colony Drive Suite LL100
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 558-3160 * (210) 558-3163 fax

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