



Photo by: @photobybirchy on Instagram

Dear Neighbors,

I am honored to introduce myself as the new President of the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA). It's a privilege to serve this vibrant community, and I am excited to work with all of you to ensure our neighborhood continues to thrive and grow.

As we look ahead, we have so much to look forward to, from strengthening our local partnerships to creating new opportunities for neighbors to connect and make a positive impact. But none of this is possible without the involvement and support of YOU—our residents.

Whether you've lived here for years or are new to the area, I invite you to become an active member of the BCNA. By joining, you'll be helping shape the future of Bouldin Creek while also building stronger relationships with those who share your commitment.

Growing our membership base is critical to the continued success of this neighborhood association. It's a big ask, but I would like to challenge you all to be involved and participate in the many committees and meetings that are held during the year. Membership is donation-based, and signing up

is simple—just send an email to Treasurer@bouldincreek.org. Joining the Association gives you a voice in neighborhood decisions, keeps you informed with important updates, and provides opportunities to participate in events, initiatives, and projects that make Bouldin Creek such a unique and vibrant community. We encourage you to attend meetings, contribute to discussions, and volunteer for the causes you care about most.

For those of you that are current members, thank you! I encourage you to attend General Association meetings as your time permits. Your participation is critical to the Bouldin Creek voice. Times and locations will be posted in the newsletter as well as the website. Together, we can make a difference. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and working together to ensure Bouldin Creek remains a welcoming, inclusive, and thriving neighborhood for all.



Greg Smith
 President, BCNA
president@bouldincreek.org
www.bouldin.org



**BCNA GENERAL
 ASSEMBLY MEETING**

Tuesday

Feb 11th, 6:45 pm

Texas School for the Deaf

Administration & Welcome Center
 2nd Floor Conference Center
 Use the Elizabeth St Entrance



IT'S MY PARKS DAY

Saturday

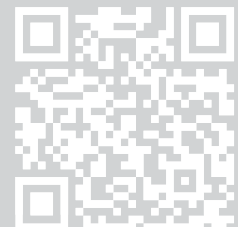
March 1st, 8:30 am

Nicolas Dawson Park
 South 1st & Gibson Entrance

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Meet the Communications Dir.

**BCNA MEMBERSHIP
 IS FREE, SCAN NOW**





The Power Grid is Safe

- At the Ricky Guerrero Park

Electricians worked for two weeks pulling and replacing all the wiring for the Ricky Guerrero Splash Pad. Wires were strewn all the way to the parking lot. They said we should not have any more problems with the splash pad - with power. Also, new bark, pad the playscape and regular raking should keep it fluffy to protect the wee ones.

- Cynthia Pierce
Green Sector Rep

The 32nd Annual BCNA Creek & Park Maintenance Party- March 1

Please mark your calendar for our annual creek and green space maintenance day.

We plan to work in both East and West Bouldin Creek areas - weed beds and trim bushes in our parks and remove invasive plants from the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt. There might even be some trash to pick up, though Make Austin Clean, the non-profit organization founded by our neighbor Cary Capece, has done a wonderful job throughout the year keeping up with debris.

We have not, however, kept up with removing invasive plants from the greenbelt. Nandina and Cat's Claw have thrived during the last few years while encampments prevented us from working there; even some ligustrum has come back. We are hoping to make progress on March 1st, not only by removing these plants but also by educating neighbors about simple steps to take while they are out walking

or biking. Just freeing a single tree from Cats' Claw on each visit would have a big impact over time.

We will meet at 8:30 am at the South 1st and Gibson Street entrance to Nicholas Dawson Park, adjacent to the El Mercado parking lot. After coffee, we will disperse to various locations along the creeks and in the greenbelt. At 11:30 am, we will meet again to enjoy refreshments provided by area restaurants.

Cotton gloves, trash bags and some weed wrenches will be provided. Please be sure to wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts to guard against poison ivy, as well as sturdy shoes. If you plan to work in flower beds or remove invasives, please bring small gardening tools such as loppers and trowels.

- Ingrid Weigand
Parks Committee

Roundabout Love: Adopt Your Own Little Slice of Green

Members of the Parks Committee have maintained our area roundabouts and medians for decades. We do need a new volunteer to take over the South 5th & James median which is currently unadopted; likewise, the Mary & South 3rd Roundabout. If interested please email Ingrid at parks@bouldincreek.org.

SoCo & PTMD

The SoCo PTMD Oversight Committee will soon review the draft application to access the stakeholder funds accumulated during the first year of PTMD operations. These funds can be used for improving pedestrian and traffic safety in and around the neighborhood. The BCNA Traffic and Safety Committee will meet in February to prioritize safety projects and begin the application process by working with the City of Austin and the Transportation and Public Works Department.

Zoning Committee

The BCNA Zoning Committee now has two Co-Chairs. Jody Zemel and Thom Parker will split duties. Our Zoning Committee is currently reviewing projects that are advancing applications thru the City of Austin. The recent inclusion of new city zoning categories (ETOD-Equitable Transit Oriented Development, HOME, and DB90-Density Bonus 90ft) are expected to increase density and local transportation concerns within our neighborhood. The Zoning Committee is working to understand these new changes and their impact on Bouldin Creek.

- **200 & 204 W Mary St. (Herb Bar)** Property was upzoned by the City Council from single-family use to light retail, with both Limited and General Restaurant Use as Conditional Use.

- **700 Dawson Rd. (The High Road)** The applicant is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to allow for a Lodge or Club use of 6,856 SF. *Note: A conditional use permit (CUP) is a discretionary permit that allows a use on a property not otherwise permitted by the zoning classification.*

- **1207 S. 1st St. (food trailer lot)** Rezoning application filed 9-23-24 for DB90(Density Bonus 90 feet) zoning. The plan is for residential use only.

- **2001 S. 1st St. (fka Bruno StoryBuilt)** Building permits have been reactivated by new owners for the construction of a 3-story Mixed Use Multi-Family Bldg.

South Austin Community Acupuncture



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Special Event Restricted Parking and Neighborhood Access

The City of Austin Center for Events (A.C.E.) Office has begun looking at alternatives to the traditional Neighborhood Access Passes used for large events such as SXSW and ACL.

The BCNA Traffic and Safety Committee will

be working with Austin Special Event Center and Transportation Department to encourage Event Sponsors and the City to protect Neighborhood parking, pedestrian safety and Emergency Services access during the large special events.

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January 2025



As you'll see from the photo, his hair is growing back in nicely. Once we get out of the freezing temps, he'll be moved to an outdoor cage where he can start acclimating to the outside temperatures while continuing to grow his coat of hair back. He'll have plenty of shelter outside, but we didn't want to put him out right into freezing weather! He's eating lots of good food and is a healthy weight."

Once fully recovered, the coyote will be released onto private land, giving him a second chance to thrive in the wild.

While coyote sightings in Bouldin Creek are not unusual, the collective effort by neighbors in Bouldin Creek, Galindo, and Travis Heights to rescue this particular coyote is truly remarkable. It's a testament to the compassion and collaboration that defines our community.

For those inspired to support this important work, consider donating to **Austin Wildlife Rescue** at www.austinwildliferescue.org/waystogive. Finally, a thought to ponder: For years, there have been reports of a rare melanistic (black-coated) coyote roaming South Austin, even featured in a 2019 local news story. Could this rescued coyote be the same one? Perhaps. Sometimes, "maybe" is all we need to feel hopeful.

**-Mike Crucosa
West Annie**

A Second Chance for the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Coyote Who United Our Community

Coyote sightings are nothing new in the Bouldin Creek neighborhood, but one particular coyote caught the community's attention last summer. With an advanced case of mange and signs of malnourishment, this coyote became a frequent topic of conversation and concern. Reports to 311 increased, and sightings poured in from across the area. The small photo above, taken near Elizabeth Street and Bouldin Avenue on September 24, 2024, shows the coyote in its severely debilitated state.

despite its poor condition, the coyote traveled extensively, roaming across West Bouldin Creek, East Bouldin Creek, and Blunn Creek.

The coyote was finally captured in late October in Travis Heights by Austin Animal Protection and transported to Austin Wildlife Rescue for treatment. Jules Maron, Executive Director of Austin Wildlife Rescue, provided this update last week:

"The coyote is very much on the mend."

In late September, a group of Bouldin Creek neighbors came together to document sightings, share photos, and track the coyote's movements. Their collective effort led to collaboration with Austin Animal Protection and Prickly Pear, an animal rescue organization. The project soon grew to include neighbors from Travis Heights and Galindo. Through shared data, the group discovered that

To Donate or for more information

Austin Wildlife Rescue

www.austinwildliferescue.org/waystogive



Content Love Knowles

Harlequin Pet Services

harlequinpetservices.com
512-945-9816

Happy Hour: A Bouldin Creek Tradition

Over the last few decades, since at least the late 1990's, there has been a tradition of "Last Friday" happy hour gatherings. On the last Friday of each month, several current and former neighbors, and other friends meet at El Mercado restaurant, at Gibson and S. 1st St, often in the outdoor patio area in the back, around 5 pm for drinks and food.



The tradition has waxed and waned over the years, but in the last year or two, depending on the season and how well it is publicized, the monthly event usually attracts 15 to 30 people.

There is no agenda or suggested topics for discussion. It's just a friendly meet up of neighbors to check in on each other, talk about their lives and neighborhood issues, and generally

have a nice hour or two of food, drink, and fellowship. I invite you to join us. Watch for reminders on the BCNAForum@groups.io listserv.

The Last Fridays for the first half of 2025 are Jan 31, Feb 28, March 28, April 25, May 30, June 27.

- Ronnie Dittmar
BCNA Treasurer



General Assembly Meetings 2025

1. February 11, 2025
2. April 8, 2025
3. June 10, 2025
4. August 12, 2025
5. October 14, 2025
6. December 9, 2025

- PARKS • ZONING • EVENTS
- NEIGHBORHOOD SOLUTIONS
- COMMUNITY

www.bouldincreek.org

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Texas School for the Deaf
Administration & Welcome Center
2nd Floor Conference Center
Use the Elizabeth St Entrance



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Meet Your New Communications Director: Desirae Pierce

Hello, neighbors! My name is Desirae Pierce, and I'm honored to step into the role of Communications Director for our incredible Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association. You may have already noticed the *Bouldin Bulletin* has a fresh new look and exciting content, and I couldn't be more thrilled to share it with you.

Our neighborhood is vibrant, diverse, and full of stories waiting to be told. That's why I want to invite every resident to take an active part in shaping the Bouldin Bulletin. If you have an idea for an article, a story to tell, or a unique perspective, I'd love to hear from you! Together, we can make this publication a reflection of all that makes Bouldin Creek special.

Each issue will feature content inspired by our new tagline: People. Parks Peacocks. Purpose. Proximity. These themes capture the heart of who we are as a community, and I'm excited to explore them with your help.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have some exciting events and initiatives planned. If you have an idea for a neighborhood event, I would love to hear it. This is your community, and your voice matters!

Let's make this a year to celebrate all that makes Bouldin Creek an extraordinary place to live. You can reach me with your ideas, suggestions, or just to say hello—I look forward to connecting with each of you!

Warm regards,
Desirae Pierce
communications@bouldincreek.org

WELCOME NEW OFFICERS, SECTOR REPS, COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS

Officers

- President: Greg Smith
- VP - Internal: Isaac Cohen
- VP - External: Will Stewart
- Communications Director: Desirae Pierce
- Treasurer: Ronnie Dittmar
- Secretary: Jesse Moore

Sector Reps

- Brown: Sandy Lopez
- Blue: Terri St. Arnould
- Green: Cynthia Pierce
- Purple: Chris Burchsted
- Orange: Patty McNew/Paul Strange
- Pink: Lisa Arteaga
- Yellow: Kym Olson

Committees & Appointments

- Elections: Ingrid Weigand
- Community Engagement: Desirae Pierce
- Parks & Green Space: Ingrid Weigand
- PTMD: Thom Parker
- Zoning Committee: Jody Zemel & Thom Parker
- Unhoused Working Group: Ingrid Weigand & Thom Parker

Hey, Neighbor!

- * Born and Raised in Austin
- * University of Texas Alumni
- * Austin High School Alumni (Loyal Forever)
- * Bouldin Creek Resident since 1998

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pediatric speech-language
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Bouldin Creek 1978. Can you guess where in this neighborhood this is located?

Email: communications@bouldincreek.org

Inside the Music and Neighborhood: An Interview with Guitarist and Bouldin Creek Resident Chris Bell

- Interview by Desirae Pierce

1. What's your favorite part of the hood?

Great question! I love the trees, the quiet streets, the little pier and beam houses, the peacocks.. too much to list here.

2. How long have you lived in Bouldin? - 23 years

3. What inspired your guitar building?

The main thing is that I have been a player for nearly 40 years, and I have taught guitar for 25. So, it's my experience playing and teaching the music I love that is the main driving force behind my designs. My guitars are meant to be played. I actually got into it because one of the premiere luthiers here in town told me I was too good a player to have other people set up my guitars. He showed me the basics and I caught the fever. I then worked for Tom Ellis at Ellis Mandolins for over two years. That experience gave me the foundation in instrument building. The final piece was a local luthier named Ed Schaefer. He taught me how to use what I learned at Ellis and make guitars by hand.. which is what I do. No computers!

4. How does the neighborhood inspire your work?

We are dog owners and I have spent years walking them through the hood and it's during those walks that I kind of meditate about designs or how to solve certain obstacles in my building process.

5. Who is your favorite band? Favorite player?

Wow! That's impossible to answer.. Locally, I really love the playing of Chuck Anastasiou, Josh Fulero, and David Hamburger. These guys are all amazing local guitar players. I love a lot of American roots music, so the jazz guys from the 50's and 60's like Wes Montgomery, Kenny Burrell and Grant Green. I love the blues guys from that era as well- BB King and Albert Collins.. I love Ry Cooder and the stuff he did in the 70's, The music of New Orleans, the list goes on and on.

6. What's my superpower?

Well,... My super power is connected to my teaching. I was self taught, and became a professional guitarist before I studied formally, so I can relate to all kinds of students and meet them wherever they are in their musical/ guitar journey.

7. What ages do I teach?

I teach students in High school and up.. I have had several students that have come to me in their 60's saying they always wanted to learn to play. If they want to do it, I am happy to share whatever knowledge/ advice I can give.

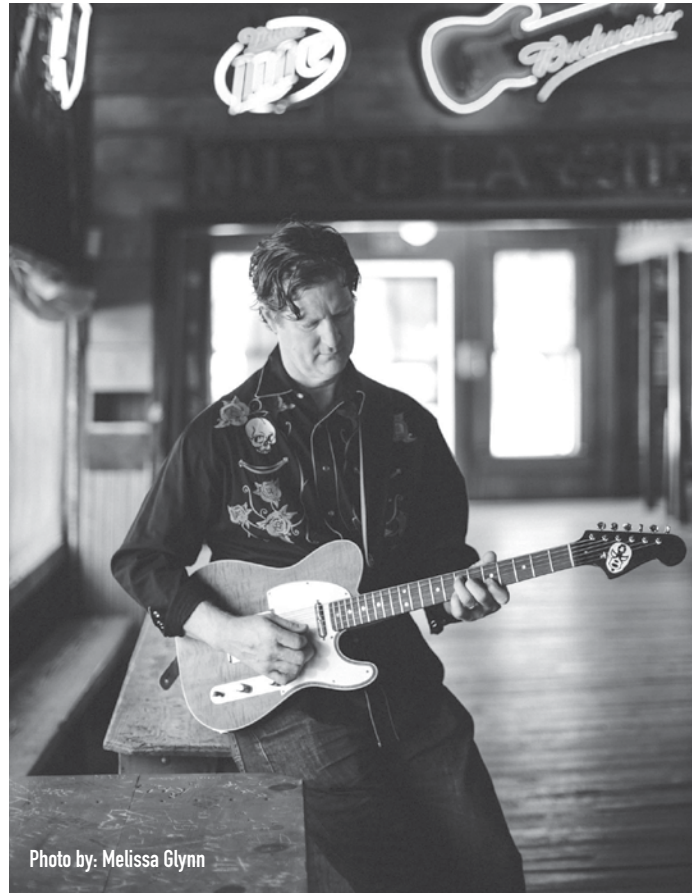


Photo by: Melissa Glynn

For More Information and to connect:

<https://www.instagram.com/belltowerguitars/>



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Austin Fire Department Encourages Fire Safety in Bouldin Creek

The Austin Fire Department (AFD) is encouraging our community to take proactive steps to protect families, homes, and properties from potential wildfire risks. To support this effort, AFD is offering to meet with BCNA property owners, either individually or as a group, to share valuable fire protection strategies tailored to your property's needs.

One key resource available is the **Structural Ignition Zone Evaluation (SIZE) program**. This program provides personalized recommendations to help reduce fire risks and improve the safety of your home and surrounding property. To learn more about the SIZE program or to request a personal evaluation, visit <https://wildfire-austin.hub.arcgis.com/>.

Additionally, AFD's Wildfire Division, in partnership with BCNA, is planning an informational session about the **Firewise USA® Program**. This nationally recognized initiative empowers neighborhoods to take precautions and safeguard homes against wildfires. With 22 other Austin communities already completing the program, and three others in the process, its effectiveness in enhancing neighborhood safety has been proven.

"We're not currently in a bad situation, but with dry fronts expected in February, the risk could increase," said Chris Dibrell from AFD's Wildfire Division. Recent



tragedies in California and Hawaii have highlighted the devastating potential of wildfires, underscoring the importance of preparing our community now.

Let's work together to make Bouldin Creek a Firewise community and ensure the safety of our homes and loved ones. Stay tuned for updates on the upcoming informational session, including the date and further details.

For additional information, visit <https://wildfire-austin.hub.arcgis.com/> or download the **Ready, Set, Go Action Guide** to take action today.

We're not currently in a bad situation, but with dry fronts expected in February, the risk could increase,"
 -Chris Dibrell from the Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division.

The Bouldin Bulletin is a community newsletter published by the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association.

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Bouldin Avenue, Jan 21, 2025
 Photo by Ronnie Dittmar