



Allandale Neighbor

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Tree Planting at Burnet and 2222

Steven Zettner

There is a newly-planted grove of trees on the campus of Lamar Middle School at the northwest corner of the Burnet and 2222 intersection, thanks to volunteer efforts of Sustainable Neighborhoods and area residents. The grove consists of 3 live oaks, 2 Mexican plums, and 6 tree yaupons that have been planted along the fence. It does not look all that impressive right now, and

probably won't next year either. Over time, however, this grove of trees will cool the intersection, shade the sidewalks that students use to get to school, buffer athletes from traffic, beautify a part of our neighborhood that many of us pass by every day, and make a statement that our community is an interested and credible stakeholder in the discussion of what happens along our commercial streets. Beyond all of that, they're trees. Most of

us appreciate living in the urban forest that is North Central Austin.

The project has been in my mind for 10 years – since the first time I drove through that intersection and saw how ugly it was. I thought, “Somebody should plant some trees there.”

The man helming the project is Jody Jarrett, a licensed landscape architect and member of the Sustainable Neighbor-

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The next ANA EC Meeting is October 28, 6:30 p.m., Covenant Hall, Covenant Presbyterian Church. The meeting is open to the public. The remaining EC meetings in 2010 are November 18 and December 16.



October 2, 2010 Tree Planting at Lamar Middle School

The Amazing, Unforgettable, Mixed-up Adventures of Hansel and Gretel

Free Children's Theater! Violet Crown Community Theater presents its third production *The Amazing, Unforgettable, Mixed-up Adventures of Hansel and Gretel*. This family-friendly production is free, fun, and interactive. Please bring blankets, food, and drink and watch actors from

the neighborhood amaze and entertain.

November 7, 4 p.m., Brentwood Elementary Outdoor Amphitheater (performance will be held in the gym in the event of rain).

Please bring a canned good donation!

For more information, contact Nancy Mohn Barnard at 512.914.2917 or violetcrownct@gmail.com. <http://violetcrownct.blogspot.com>

If you have an announcement you would like to share, please forward it along to the Allandale Neighbor: allandaleneighbor@gmail.com. We are looking for news on Allandale births, deaths, and celebrations (marriages, awards, distinctions, etc.) that have occurred since the previous newsletter. Also, if you just moved into the neighborhood, please send along an introduction. ❖

Sustainable Living in Allandale

Are you modifying your daily habits to reduce your carbon footprint? Do you find yourself rethinking how you get around, considering resources spent and the source of the food you eat, or changing habits that lower your energy consumption? This column is designed for neighbors to share their sustainable living practices. What follows are two articles from neighbors doing that very thing. The first, by Jim Roberts-Miller, is about their 1,480 gallon rain tank. The second article is from Steven Zettner about his weekly trip to the store by bike. He's having fun doing it. Submit your story: allandaleneighbor@gmail.com.

The Water Tank

Jim Roberts-Miller

Even before it was fully installed, we had people stopping by our house to ask about our rainwater tank. It's rather striking and surprisingly attractive for such a utilitarian object. About 6 1/2 feet high, and made of galvanized metal, it holds 1,480 gallons of water runoff gathered from approximately one-third of our roof area. We're pleased to tell some of our story in the newsletter.

Trish turned fifty in the summer of 2009, and instead of jewelry or fancy clothes decided she wanted a rainwater tank. We chose the largest size that would fit under the eaves of the house, 1) because we could afford it, and 2) because we wanted to store as much water as we could, assuming it ever rained again. Our rain barrels (we had three) did not last through that hot dry summer, even just for watering our potted plants.

We also included an electrical pump to ensure good pressure and flow rates even at low water levels.

The first thing that one has to recognize when looking at these rainwater storage systems is that you aren't likely to get your money back, except in the very long term. Don't look at this as a way of saving money. Look at it as a way of saving water, and a way to help keep your vegetable and rose gardens going if we have another drought and go back on water rationing. And note that rainwater is better for plants than chlorinated city water (which we should save for drinking and bathing) anyway! There are city rebates, but they are not as generous as the ones related to electricity.

We haven't timed things, but a substantial rain—say 1 inch per hour—will fill our tank up in a little over an hour. Similarly, it will empty out a lot faster than you might think. It's not the sort of thing that will preserve your entire lawn through a drought. We use ours to water our flower and vegetable beds and to fill our water features.

Our system is really quite simple, and fairly typical of how most residential systems operate (ours is just bigger than most). Once the placement of the tank is selected, one or more downspouts from the gutter system are replaced with PVC



Roberts-Miller water tank at corner of Silverleaf and Shoal Creek

pipe, which is run underground and then up into the tank. Depending on the location and size/type of tank, sometimes the pipe can be run down directly into the tank, or run at a slight angle from the spout along the outer wall.

The cost was \$6,100, fully installed. That included the tank, the electrical pump and extra wiring, plus all the piping and connections to our existing gutters. The job was done by the good folks over at Innovative Water Solutions (<http://www.watercache.com>).

We have been very happy with the tank, and would encourage anyone who can to try one for themselves.

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