



# Anderson Mill

## Limited District

*Where Community Matters*

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2009

### Welcome to a New Chapter in the Community

As of January 1st the Anderson Mill Limited District was formed. On May 9th an election will be held and residents will have the opportunity to vote to keep the Limited District or not. Early voting will be held Monday, April 27th through Tuesday, May 5th at locations within Williamson and Travis counties; when locations are set, they will be publicized.

As some residents may be aware, there has been some opposition that does not see the value in forming the Limited District and retaining the local control over our neighborhood parks and amenities. On their web site [www.nolimiteddistrict.org](http://www.nolimiteddistrict.org), it appears that some untruths and misinformation are being disseminated.

While district employees and directors cannot promote or campaign in favor or against the approval of the Limited District it is our obligation to ensure that residents and voters have accurate information with which to make an informed decision. The issues located in the yellow box are some that have been presented with misinformation; the information we have printed here is accurate and there is documentation to back it up.

If anyone has questions regarding information around the annexation, operations, budgets, staff positions or any other topics related to Anderson Mill and the Limited District, please feel free to contact the Limited District Manager, Mark Maxwell, any of the Board Members (see contact info on back page), or come to any of the Board meetings, the next is March 12th. The Anderson Mill Neighborhood Association will also be holding forums to discuss the issues.

As soon as a schedule of these meetings is set, they will be posted on the web sites: [www.ammud.org](http://www.ammud.org) and [www.andersonmill-limited.org](http://www.andersonmill-limited.org), and they will be posted on the community sign board on Lake Creek Parkway.

#### KNOWING ABOUT THE LIMITED DISTRICT

The roles/responsibilities of the Anderson Mill Limited District are: Park & Pool Programming and Maintenance, Trash Contract Oversight, and Deed Restriction Enforcement. These are under the local control of the Limited District, if there is a problem call the office here in the neighborhood, or talk to the directors who are all your neighbors. For quickest response on trash service, call Allied Waste directly at (512)247-5647.

The Limited District's 2009-2010 personnel budget includes wages and salaries for 7 full time employees and a range of 36 to 70 hourly or seasonal employees depending on the season. Most of these are the lifeguards and instructors at the pools which are open all year.

- The opposition is making claims that the budgeted payroll of \$569,480 covers only the salaries of 7 people (their web site "Quiz" page); this is untrue, it covers all 70+ employees for the budget year.
- Can the Limited District make neighborhood improvements? Per the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA), **Sec 5.03, Paragraph f**, "*The Limited District may not acquire, purchase or lease additional amenities or expand any existing amenities. However, the Limited District may purchase necessary equipment, materials and facilities necessary to maintain, replace or upgrade the level of amenities available at the time of this agreement.*"

Improvements to the neighborhood come in many forms. Capital improvements are but a fraction of what constitutes an improvement. Neighborhood improvements happen on a daily basis throughout Anderson Mill. The parks and operations department is constantly implementing renovation projects at the pools, providing community programs (see Spring Speaker Series on page 2 & Recreation Guide), and an increase in public service and outreach through more Red Cross trainings, wellness class offerings and employment opportunities.

In anticipation of the Austin annexation, since 1992, the board of directors has responded to community needs in parks by making annual improvements based on their recommendations. A small sample of the laundry list of improvements includes:

Expanding hike and bikes trails, replacing the Anderson Mill bathhouse in 1995, Updating and improving filtration standards at both pools, adding shade structures at pools, adding park pavilions in El Salido Park and Harper Park, expanding El Salido facilities to include a fitness center and play feature pool, rebuilt tennis courts at Pecan Creek Park and Anderson Mill Park, updated playgrounds with contemporary designs and features, etc.— the list goes on.

With annexation in mind, all our available parkland has been built-out. Citizen input on the amenities desired by the residents was the guide for the capital improvements made over the years. The AMLD is at a point where building new facilities is not needed. But "**maintaining, replacing and upgrading**" the existing amenities for the residents is the responsibility of the Limited District, which is exactly in compliance with the Strategic Partnership Agreement.

## Limited District Finances

### How will the Limited District be Funded?

The Limited District was first planned in 1997. Anderson Mill residents did not want to be annexed by the City of Austin, and were looking for ways to stop it from happening. Unfortunately, Texas state law gives all the power to cities with regard to annexation, but in an effort to make annexation transition more smooth, the Texas legislature allowed Strategic Partnership Agreements (SPA) to be made between cities and Municipal Utility Districts and it allowed the conversion of MUDs into Limited Districts as part of the SPA's. In 1998, Anderson Mill MUD signed an SPA (amended in 2004) with the City of Austin, which called for annexation to be held off until December 31, 2008 at which time the MUD would become a Limited District. In 1998, only one other limited district had been formed in the Austin area—Tanglewood Forest. Their SPA and the subsequent forming of their limited district happened in a matter of months. They had no funds on hand to maintain their facilities, and had to set a fairly high property tax rate. Even as late as 2005 it was still over \$0.35 per \$100 valuation. Won't Anderson Mill

have the same problem? No. The Anderson Mill MUD Board of Directors lead by David Harper got the City of Austin to allow the MUD to set aside a "special" fund that would be passed on to the Limited District to supplement its budget and keep the property tax rate low. This fund had reached a level of just over \$10,000,000 at the end of 2008.

So Anderson Mill is in a much stronger financial position than Tanglewood Forest was when it was formed. The life span of a Limited District is ten (10) years, and it can be extended an additional ten years with the City of Austin's approval. Will they approve an extension to 20 years total? We don't know, and the City probably can't even tell you right now, but in 2008, they extended Tanglewood Forest Limited District for another 10 years. So Anderson Mill Limited District, if the residents approve it, could last 20 years, if they don't approve it in May or November—the City of Austin gets the \$10 million, and the residents get the City's promises to keep everything the way it is now, with no way to go back if they don't.

So, back to the question! How will the Lim-

ited District be funded? Well, it is a little like saving for your retirement. You save up your nest egg, and then hope you can make it last the rest of your life. The Limited District will definitely live 10 years (if approved), and maybe 20 years. It costs about \$1.5 million a year to run our parks and pools, they bring in revenue of about \$145,000, and interest on the Special Fund (not good right now) is maybe \$150,000. That leaves about \$1.2 million to make up - if we take it all out of the Special Fund it will not last the life of the District. If the board of directors set a tax rate of 10¢, over \$700,000 per year would have to be taken from the Fund to make ends meet, and the Fund would last about 14 years. At a 15¢ tax rate, less than \$500,000 would come out of the fund and it would last just over 20 years.

So the goal is to maintain local control over all the wonderful parks, pools and facilities we have come to enjoy. And then to keep the tax rate as low as possible while making the Special Fund last the lifetime of the District—and most importantly that it be spent in Anderson Mill not someplace in the General Fund of the City of Austin.

## Recreation Update

### Spring Speaker Series Line-Up

We had a wonderful turn out of 42 people for Karen Thompson's presentation on the History of Anderson Mill and surrounding areas at the Community Center on February 5th. Thanks to Jim's Pizza for donating amazing pizza for our snack! The next topics to be presented are as follows— hope to see you there!!!

**March 5th, 7 PM - Arborist Roundtable**  
Trugreen presents a discussion on Oak Wilt and how it could impact the neighborhood trees.

**April 2nd, 7 PM— Safe Kids Austin**  
Dell Children's Center's Tareka Wheeler presents a review on car seat and bicycle safety.

**May 7th, 7 PM – Swimming the English Channel**  
AMLD's very own Jamee Stewart will discuss her adventures while swimming across the English channel—TWICE!

### 2009 Annual Pool & Fitness Pass Fees

(Please take your completed application to the Anderson Mill Community Center for purchase. A photo will be taken of each pass holder and pool passes printed)

Pool Pass Fees				
(Pool passes are good for one year from date of purchase)				
Type of Pass	Qty	Number of Passes per person	Resident Child/Youth/Adult	Non-Resident Child/Youth/Adult
Daily Entrance Fee	1	1	\$3/\$3/\$5	\$3/\$3/\$5
Individual Pass	1	1	\$10/\$14/\$15	\$60/120/\$180
Guest Passes (for residents only)	1	1 per household @ a time	\$20 for 10 punches	n/a
Family 4 Pass	1	1	\$30	\$360
Fitness Center Pass Fees				
(Passes are good for one year from date of purchase)				
Type of Pass	Qty	Number of Passes per person	Resident Youth/Adult	Non-Resident Youth/Adult
One Month Pass	1	1	\$10	\$15
Three Month Pass	1	1	\$25	\$37.50
Six Month	1	1	\$50	\$75
Annual Pass	1	1	\$90	\$135



# Annual Pool Pass Application



**Anderson Mill  
Parks & Recreation**

Receipt Number # \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Pool / Fitness Center Pass Application

Adult Last Name (Primary Contact)	Adult First Name	D.O.B / /	M / F	Pass #	Fee	Pic
Adult Last Name (Secondary Contact)	Adult First Name	D. O. B / /	M / F	Pass #	Fee	Pic
Residential Address		Primary E-mail				
City/State/ Zip		Secondary E-mail				
Day/Work Phone	Home Phone	Emergency Phone				
Other Adult (in household) Last Name	First Name	D. O. B / /	M / F	Pass #	Fee	Pic
Child Last Name	First Name	D. O. B / /	M / F	Pass #	Fee	Pic
Child Last Name	First Name	D. O. B / /	M / F	Pass #	Fee	Pic
Child Last Name	First Name	D. O. B / /	M / F	Pass #	Fee	Pic
Child Last Name	First Name	D. O. B / /	M / F	Pass #	Fee	Pic
Child Last Name	First Name	D. O. B / /	M / F	Pass #	Fee	Pic
Child Last Name	First Name	D. O. B / /	M / F	Pass #	Fee	Pic
Child Last Name	First Name	D. O. B / /	M / F	Pass #	Fee	Pic

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK**  
**PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING BELOW**

It is understood that some recreational activities including but not limited to, swimming, aerobic exercise, running, and exposure to sunlight involve an element of risk or danger of accidents, skin cancer and/or drowning, and knowing those risks, I hereby assume those risks. It is further understood and agreed that this assumption of risk is to be binding on my heirs, assigns and all persons living in my household. I have also read and understand the pool and fitness center rules.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only	Date Processed	Registrar Name	Application Comp. YES/NO	Total Amt Paid
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## February 2009 Newsletter

Anderson Mill Limited District

11500 El Salido Parkway

Austin, TX 78750

[www.andersonmill-limited.org](http://www.andersonmill-limited.org)

### **Calling All Entertainers!!!**

Anderson Mill Limited District is looking for talented musicians to perform at our Concerts in the Park series that begins June 4th and runs through September 3rd. The concerts will be held on the 1st Thursday of each month.

**Please contact**  
[marcotte@amld.org](mailto:marcotte@amld.org)

Regular Board of Director Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Community Center on El Salido Parkway. In addition, an agenda is posted at the Community Center and on the website 72 hours in advance of the meetings. Board meetings are open to the public. It is highly encouraged that all Anderson Mill Limited District residents attend and actively assist the Board of Directors in keeping Anderson Mill Limited District the best of Austin's area neighborhoods.

## Anderson Mill Limited District Newsletter

February ~ 2009

# Board of Directors

John T. Kiracofe, President.....(512)258-9058.....kiracofe@amld.org  
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C. Fred Grampp, Secretary.....(512)258-1576.....grampp@amld.org  
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Fred Morgan, Asst. Sec/Treas.....(512)335-7613.....morgan@amld.org

### **Anderson Mill Limited District Administrative Staff ~ (512) 258-4104**

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