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# West Austin News

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## Bryker Woods Celebrates Community at Picnic on the Parkway

By Molly Kendrick

On Sunday, April 23 Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association held its annual Picnic on the Parkway gathering. Dads Martin Hubert and Tray Graves manned the grill while kids played games and grownups caught up. Wade Williams, neighborhood musician, provided live music.

Resident Celeste Hubert points out the kids from all over the neighborhood are welcome to play kickball in one of the spacious front yards. It's not the home of any of the children, but the owner is happy to have them there. "That's just what happens here," Hubert says. "This is how we represent community."

Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association came about through careful planning and consideration. It started as part of the West Austin Neighborhood Plan. During the boom period of the 1980s, the neighborhood association worked to stymie overdevelopment.

Throughout its history Bryker Woods has had its fair share of locally famous residents, including Carol Barrett, the executive director of Texas Exes. University of Texas football greats Darry Royal and Mike Cotton have also called this neighborhood home.

Conrad Deisler of the Austin Lounge Lizards joined Williams for the performance. They played rock and roll covers from the 1960s and 70s.



Anette Graves and Celeste Hubert



Carroll Barrett and Courtney Rutherford



Patrick and Martin Hubert

Wade says of his neighborhood, "It's a perfect place to live. And I've traveled around, and lived a lot of different places." After growing up moving as his father's air force job demanded, Wade is glad have found his neighborhood niche, and has called Bryker Woods home for 34 years.



Bryker Woods Kids

## Westminster Presbyterian Day School Celebrates 40th Anniversary

PHOTOS BY KASSANDRA KEYES

By Molly Kendrick

Past and present Westminster Presbyterian Day School students celebrated the school's 40th Anniversary on April 23. Attendees gathered in the courtyard to snack on cookies in the shape of the number 40, and chat about how the school has changed over the years. This school serves children ages 15 months to 5 years of age.

Founding director Ouida Wright praised parents, saying "Parents are the backbone of this school, and we celebrate their support over the years." Some things have changed since 1977, while others haven't. That last category includes the green workbenches that volunteers use to complete maintenance projects for the school. A new fellowship hall and an updated playground are on the list of major improvements.

Ouida also acknowledged Janet Maxon, a member of Westminster Presbyterian who first had the idea for a day school. When the school started, the founders knew that "parental involvement is very important, and children want to play."

Those principles have served the school well. Ouida told the crowd, "Over these 40 years we have maintained the 'Learning through Play' philosophy, and continue to educate parents on the value of play. We



Ouida Wright, Kate, Russell and Bridey Dunnam



Markley and Amy Ehrlich

have expanded and improved our campus and curriculum, but kept our school small enough to still feel like a family."

Ouida broke down the school's history in numbers. "There have been over 1,000 families registered during the past 40 years... This school has seen over 2,000 children come



Surrenden Gillespie, Amy Morran

through our doors. We currently have 77 families, with 91 children attending." Generations of children who attended the school when it first opened now have children of their own enrolled at the school.

Displays showed surveys taken by teachers, asking what



Janet Howard Maxim

each child wanted to be when they grew up. Answers ran the gamut from "The kind of doctor my dad is," to "Pizza man," and "Horse rider." Parents also had the option to order a decorative paver to commemorate their children's time at the school.



Kim Welborn, Stacey Trulove, Lori Lucas



Kitt Richter, Terry Mitchell, John Booth, Patricia Mitchell



Terry Roberts Trotter, Sharon Callison, Trisha Davis



Cari Ezell, Nick, Christi and Joe Malvezzi



Sharon Callison, Kathy Taylor, Ruth Ann Trulove



Trisha Davis, Ruth Ann Lostracco, Julie Pastor

## CommUnityCare Receives Ed Wendler Award For Outstanding Service to the Immigrant Community

In 1986, Casa Marianella, an emergency homeless shelter in East Austin for immigrants fleeing war and oppression, was donated by Ed Wendler to the Diocese of Austin for use as a shelter. Each year, the Ed Wendler Award for Outstanding Service to the Immigrant Community is presented to an organization that goes above and beyond to care for the immigrant community.

This year, the Ed Wendler award was presented to Dr. Nicholas Yagoda representing CommUnityCare, a medical organization that serves the Austin community with unparalleled compassion to improve the health of the community by increasing access to the best care possible—turning no patients away.

CommUnityCare's vision is to improve the health of the

community by increasing access to the best care possible, working with the community as "peers with open eyes and a responsive attitude to provide the right care, at the right time, at the right place."

Dr. Yagoda on providing medical assistance to our community: "Any hope of improving the health of our community, including immigrants, depends on stepping out of the clinical setting and addressing the social determinants of health, the conditions in which we live, and the fundamental drivers of these conditions."

Casa Marianella residents are fortunate to be able to obtain the Medical Assistance Program (MAP) cards which provide them with free access to clinics, Brackenridge Hospital, and prescription medicines. Casa Marianella case managers have been able to help residents manage a full range of health concerns by working with the providers at



Dr. Nicholas Yagoda accepts the Ed Wendler Award on behalf of CommUnityCare

CommUnityCare. This includes cases of advanced diabetes, cancer, and blindness.

CommUnityCare has treated the residents of Casa Marianella and the immigrant community in general with respect and excellent professional attention.



Elizabeth Schmelzel, Melissa Buhr, Eliza Weeks, Lupita Dominguez

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