



What is NWACA?

The Northwest Austin Civic Association (NWACA) serves a neighborhood of about 4150 homes, covering the area bounded by Spicewood Springs on the north, RM 2222 on the south, Mopac on the east, and Loop 360 on the west. NWACA was formed in 1970, responding to a request from the City Planning Department to have a group to act as a voice for the neighborhood for City issues. Unlike homeowner’s associations, a civic association does not enforce deed restrictions or monitor landscaping at individual homes, but it helps to foster communication and discussion regarding broad concerns that span the whole neighborhood, such as crime prevention, traffic safety, wildfire prevention, elections, and zoning matters.

NWACA has a focused mission: to preserve, promote, and enhance the exceptional and unique character of the neighborhood. That mission is carried out through a wide range of activities and services that are performed by an elected volunteer board and a dozen committees of volunteers, including:

- Monitoring key municipal and county issues and advocating for the neighborhood;
- Addressing fire safety, parks, transportation, crime prevention, oak wilt and other environmental concerns, wildlife management, zoning and planning, and other matters pertinent to the neighborhood;
- Keeping residents informed of relevant news and happenings; and
- Sponsoring neighborhood events and working to build a strong sense of community.

The strength of NWACA comes from neighbors who are willing to put in time and effort to maintain this great neighborhood.



Because of the volunteers on the board and various committees, NWACA is able to accomplish its mission and provide a voice for the community that is unlike any other in Austin. NWACA is always looking for additional volunteers to give generously of their time and talents to help their neighborhood. Our newly redesigned website has a great wealth of information for ways you can get involved (click on the Get Involved section).

Message from the NWACA President

Joyce Statz



It’s July and time for the neighborhood’s favorite annual event – the 4th of July Parade! We hope you are able to join us this year for our 43rd NWACA Parade. Maybe you’re part of a group with a float in this year’s contest? Maybe you have kids in the parade with their bicycles

or sitting on the sidelines waiting for some candy to come their way? The annual gathering along Far West Boulevard is a family tradition for hundreds of neighbors, seeing the parade start at Waterline Road and following it to the party at the Doss Elementary School parking lot. We look forward to seeing you there!

As usual, our monthly newsletter includes an update on a big concern of the neighborhood, the proposed rezoning of the Austin Oaks property as a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The update includes the text of the resolution passed by the NWACA Board at its June meeting, opposing the PUD and proposing a collaborative charrette process for neighborhood input on what could be developed at Austin Oaks. Another article provides background on the charrette process. This issue goes to production just prior to a meeting of the Zoning and Platting Commission, where there is a public hearing on the case. Please go to our web site for the latest information, www.nwaca.org

Another key issue that we’re monitoring is that of short-term rentals. Several areas throughout the City, including Cat Mountain Drive in our neighborhood, are working with our Council members to get problems addressed. We will cover this in a future newsletter issue.

- Other items in this month’s newsletter include these and more:
- Parks Activities – events at Murchison Pool Park and Bull Creek Park; updates on projects underway

(Continued on Page 9)

“NEIGHBORS SERVING NEIGHBORS. THE NWACA LEGACY”

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Austin Citywide Information Center.....512-974-2000 or 311
 Emergency, Police..... 911
 Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) 311
 APD District Representative, Officer Gary Griffin 512-974-8392

2015 NWACA Board of Directors

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 Robert Thomas, Vice-President
 Stacey Brewer, Secretary
 Rebecca Leightman, Treasurer
 Caroline Alexander
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 Stephannie Behrens
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 Carol Dochen
 Bridget Glaser
 Matthew Grant
 Cuatro Groos
 Chris Hajdu
 Carol Jones
 Shannon Meroney
 Miguel Romano
 Ernie Saulmon
 John Sepehri
 Jack Skaggs

Each of the Board members can be reached at: nwacainfo@gmail.com

The NWACA Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except December. Please visit our calendar at www.nwaca.org to see the specific time and location. If you wish to speak at a Board meeting, please send email a week before the meeting, so that we can get you on the agenda.

NWACA is bordered on the north by Spicewood Springs Road, on the west by Loop 360, on the south by RM 2222, and on the east by Mopac (Loop 1).

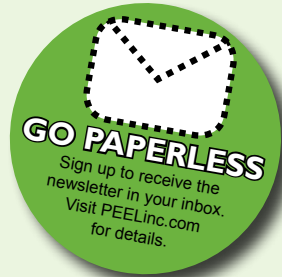


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ADVERTISING INFO

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ARTICLE INFO

The NWACA News is mailed monthly to all NWACA-area residents. Input for newsletter articles is welcome at any time. Please submit your ideas and suggestions to us at nwacainfo@gmail.com or send it to our U.S. mail address: NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755. The deadline for input is the 10th of the month, so that we can get it to the printer by the 15th of the month.

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NWACA AND NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

JULY 1, 8 AM
Kneaded Pleasures
NWACA Communications Committee

JULY 2, 8 AM
Kneaded Pleasures
Membership and Sponsorship Committee

JULY 4, 9 - 11:30 AM
Far West Blvd/ Doss Elementary
43rd Annual 4th of July Parade

JULY 5, 2 PM
Kneaded Pleasures
NWACA Parks Committee

JULY 6, 5 PM
Mangia Pizza
NWACA Zoning Committee

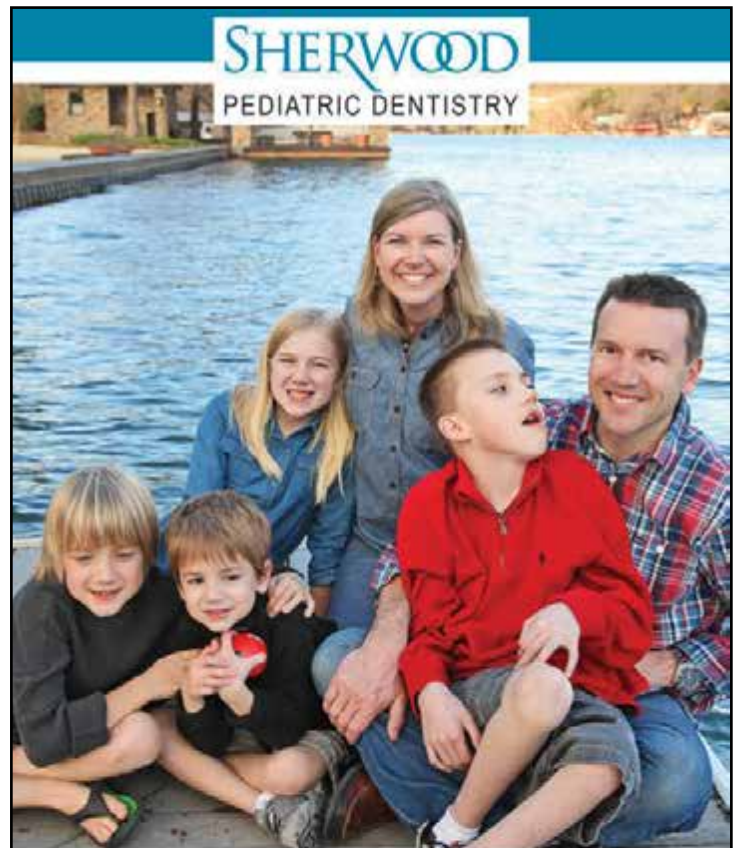
JULY 7 - 6:30 - 8 PM
Cornerstone Church, 1101 Reinli St.
Region 1 APD Commander's Forum for third quarter

JULY 8, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Mangia Pizza
NWACA Monthly Board Meeting

JULY 17, 5:30 - 8:00 PM
Murchison Pool Park
Food Truck Friday - Hat Creek Burgers

JULY 18, 9 - 11 AM
Bull Creek Park
Cleanup Day at the Park

Note: For each of these events, please check our web site for the latest information, since meetings may be rescheduled because of other conflicts.



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AUSTIN OAKS UPDATE: JUNE NWACA BOARD RESOLUTION

By Joyce Statz

At its June 10, 2015 meeting, the NWACA Board of Directors reviewed the status of the rezoning request for the Austin Oaks property at Spicewood Springs Road and Mopac, considered input from the neighborhood, and discussed next steps the Board and neighborhood might take. The Board agreed to issue the resolution below, and is sharing it with the NWACA neighborhood, surrounding neighborhood association leaders, Councilmember Sheri Gallo and all other Council members, City Staff in the Planning and Zoning Department, and the Zoning and Platting Commissioners.

The resolution reaffirms the NWACA Board opposition to the current PUD rezoning proposal, reflecting the results of neighborhood surveys and other neighborhood feedback. Neighbors overwhelmingly oppose the current rezoning request. The resolution also requests that the City host and the developer fund a charrette process, recognizing the interest expressed in the surveys and in community discussion about working together to ensure there is responsible development of this property that is consistent with neighborhood character and needs. The community would like a say in how that development is done. The requested charrette process has been used successfully for collaboration on other land use projects in the City of Austin and throughout the country.

Briefly, a charrette is a multi-day collaborative design and planning process that includes all affected stakeholders. It includes a preparation and planning phase with informational events, a facilitated workshop to create a feasible plan that satisfies participants, and an implementation phase that uses the workshop output as input to the next steps of the land use efforts.

We will keep you updated as recipients respond to the resolution.

For more detail on charrettes, see the article [What is a Charrette Process](#) elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please also monitor our web page on the Austin Oaks PUD for the latest news, events, and articles related to this case at: <http://nwaca.org/austin-oaks-pud-information/>

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD RESOLUTION

June 10, 2015

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE AUSTIN OAKS PUD APPLICATION (Case Number C814-2014-0120) AND REQUEST FOR A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FOR ALL COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS AND THE DEVELOPER

WHEREAS, the developer of the Austin Oaks property (AO) located at Executive Center Drive and Wood Hollow Drive, has submitted modifications to its Planned Unit Development district (PUD) application for AO; and,

WHEREAS, the Northwest Austin Civic Association (NWACA)

Board has received and extensively reviewed all of the developer's submissions, including the April 2015 proposal modification; and,

WHEREAS, the NWACA Board has conducted online and written surveys of its residents seeking input related to the AO PUD application; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the first survey, 81.8% of respondents to the last survey voted in opposition to the December 2014 version of the Rezoning Application, 4.6% voted in support, and 13.6% voted neutral; and,

WHEREAS, the April 2015 modifications do not adequately address the concerns of NWACA residents regarding (in alphabetic order):

- Building height
- Consistency with Imagine Austin
- Density
- Impact on schools
- Impact on trees/environment
- Traffic impact; and,

WHEREAS, the community has specifically and clearly asked for a credible, inclusive and meaningful way to get specific, detailed questions answered regarding the redevelopment of AO; and,

WHEREAS, the NWACA Board has specifically asked both the developer and Council Member Sheri Gallo to host a collaborative and inclusive model of community engagement and input as has been used successfully by prior city council members and other developers of properties in other parts of Austin; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NWACA BOARD OF DIRECTORS that the NWACA Board of Directors reaffirm its opposition to the Rezoning Application Case Number C814-2014-0120, with current modifications; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWACA Board of Directors requests that the City of Austin host and the developer fund a charrette process designed to:

- bring together all stakeholder groups to have a meaningful and impactful discussion regarding the Austin Oaks property;
- educate the neighborhood about the zoning and development process and what is possible at the Austin Oaks site;
- provide for facilitated working sessions to discuss ideas and review design proposals, to develop consensus on a workable approach, and to document a proposed design; and,
- provide input for moving forward with the formal City review process.

ADOPTED: June 10, 2015

NWACA Board

What is a Charrette Process?

Joyce Statz and Ben Luckens

A charrette is a design approach to collaborative planning of land use. A charrette reaches consensus through a feedback-driven design process that includes all of the affected stakeholders working together on a collaborative basis. Established and supported by a project sponsor who is working with participants on a land use project, the charrette includes these key phases:

- Preparation – stakeholder identification, research, informational events, planning logistics
- Design phase – multi-day, facilitated design workshop focused on land use, resulting in a feasible plan that meets the stated goals of the stakeholders
- Implementation – refinement of workshop output into presentation-quality drawings and documents, presentation of final materials, use of the results for project development purposes as agreed to by the participants

During the preparation phase, these are some typical activities:

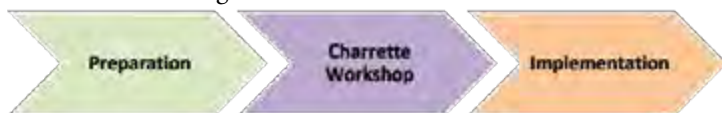
- Identify stakeholders – all interested parties – neighborhood residents, property owners, developers, City staff, elected and appointed officials; engage those needed for a successful process throughout
- Identify and prepare base information needed for the charrette
- Inform stakeholders about the process, the base information, and other helpful background
- Plan the physical arrangements for the charrette workshop

The multi-day charrette with feedback loops has these characteristics:

- Starts with an open public meeting to gather vision and goals of the stakeholders
- Proceeds over several days to develop and examine plan alternatives, discussing and testing them for feasibility against
 - Market constraints
 - Neighborhood constraints
 - Physical and environmental constraints
 - Financial constraints
 - Other constraints identified by the stakeholders
- Is supported by a multidisciplinary team that develops, refines, and tests the plans on or near the proposed development site in a compressed timeframe
- Stakeholders and the public review the alternatives daily and that input is the feedback that informs the next design iteration; all comments are addressed
- Generally at least 4 days is needed for a relatively small project.

The implementation phase of the process involves getting the final plan from the charrette into a form that can be used to move the project forward. That may mean it is used for adoption and construction, or it may just be a record of the participants' consensus.

For more information about charrettes, please see this web site www.charretteinstitute.org



Watershed Protection -Drainage Charge Revision

Jack Skaggs and Robert Thomas

The City of Austin will soon roll out a revised method for calculating the storm water drainage charge on your monthly utility bill. This fee is used to protect lives, property, and the environment by reducing the impacts of flooding, erosion and water pollution. Records show that the fee was approximately \$9.20 per month for most residential customers.

In 2009, the City was sued by a group of Austinites who challenged how much they were being charged, and the fairness of the fee. In 2014, a Travis County District Court judge ruled that the City of Austin's previous method for calculating monthly drainage fees was "invalid." The invalid fee calculation method was challenged because it resulted in the billing of the same flat rate to all customers, regardless of the size of the dwelling or impervious cover occupied by the improvements on each property. Since that ruling, the City has been working on a new method for calculating the drainage charge, which does take impervious cover into account for each property. For multi-family properties, the new charge will be billed to the property owner, and not to each individual unit.

The City expects to roll out the revised billing method October 1, 2015, advising that the new fee will:

- Be calculated the same way for all properties and eliminate the distinction between commercial, residential and high-rise residential properties.
- Be calculated for each property based on the amount and percentage of impervious area - rooftops, patios, driveways, parking lots, and other surfaces that do not absorb rainfall.
- Take into account the impact of each property on the City's storm water drainage system.

To learn more about this significant change to your utility bill, to see an estimator you can use to estimate the new fee for your property, and to watch a video with additional information, please go to www.austintexas.gov/drainagecharge. To see the handout provided to residents at the 2015 NWACA Annual Meeting, please go to <http://nwaca.org/awd/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2015-05-14-NWACA-Annual-Meeting-handouts.pdf>



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Special Thanks to Members

Membership Committee

NWACA thanks our members who have so generously contributed to the Oak Wilt Fund, the 4th of July Parade Fund, or the Park Fund, between May 11, 2015 and June 14, 2015.

Donations to the Oak Wilt Fund provide financial assistance to property owners dealing with oak wilt.

Donations to the 4th of July Parade Fund help NWACA to host the best 4th of July parade in Austin!

The Park Fund helps us revitalize parks in NWACA with projects such as cleanup days.

- Brian Ballanger
- Carol and Lee Blanchard
- Catheran Burnett
- Robert and Ellen Fenwick
- Nan Hampton
- J. Edward Jones
- Lynn Katz and Scott Hinz
- Jane Kovacs
- Babette and Robert Laibovitz
- Myra and Harold Laves
- Marta and Charles Meyer
- Ellen and Alan Muskin
- LaVonne and Tom Rogers
- Julia Sargent and Bruce Turner
- Matthew Steinberg
- Mary Ellen Sullivan
- Nancy and Richard Tallman
- Cindy and Nathan Thane
- Valerie Tyler
- Phyllis and David Warner
- Edward Weeren
- Stacy and Ed White!

Update on Loop 360 Study

Robert Thomas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) continues its studies to identify the needs and gather ideas and feedback about potential safety and mobility improvements on Loop 360. The online survey is well underway. If you have not yet taken the online survey, NWACA encourages you to do so (and to ask your neighbors to do so as well). You can access the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Loop360>.

TxDOT is also dividing Loop 360 into six distinct sections in order to organize stakeholder working groups. NWACA's Transportation Committee is participating in one of these working groups, and will continue to report back to the community as new information arises. Until then, NWACA encourages our neighbors to get involved in shaping these critical Loop 360 discussions. In addition to taking the survey, you can provide public comment and sign up for the email list here at <http://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html?id=loop360-email>

More information on the 360 improvement study can also be found on the NWACA web site, in a file provided at our May 14, 2015 Annual Meeting at this link

<http://nwaca.org/awd/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2015-05-14-NWACA-Annual-Meeting-Loop-360-Info.pdf>



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Upcoming Park Activities

Caroline Alexander



EVENT: Friday, July 17 – 5:30 to 8:00 PM – We'll have Food Truck Friday at Murchison Pool Park, with food from Hat Creek Burgers. Check our web site, www.nwaca.org for the latest information on other offerings we have in the works for that night. If you

plan to come, please RSVP at: <http://whoozin.com/CDK-V9Q-QUD7> so we know how much food will be needed. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Murchison Pool Project fund.

Speaking of that, fundraising for the project is coming along nicely, thanks to the hard work of many of our neighbors. Our star fundraisers include Cecelia Burke and Amy Hajdu as well as a number of families and groups who have supported us through activities such as Lemonade Day Stands and Front Yard Fridays - the Thompsons, the Banisters, the Hajdus, the Sagebiels, the Johnsons, the Murchison Man O'Wars, and Murchison Middle School's Girl Scout Cadette Troop 1550 with the help of their sister troop Junior Troop 786. Together, their hard work has yielded more than \$10,000 in donations!

Bull Creek District Park

EVENT: Saturday, July 18 – 9 AM to 11 AM - If you'd like to lend a hand to provide some care to a much-loved park, Bull Creek Park would love your help! The floods left their mark, and a team is gathering to do some cleanup. Please join them at the park at 6701 Lakewood Drive. To get there, head south on Loop 360 from the Arboretum until you come to Lakewood Drive. Turn left onto Lakewood Drive. On the left will be a paved parking lot with some restrooms. We will meet in the parking lot and disperse from there. There are multiple project activities to take on, depending on how many volunteers are scheduled, so there should be something for everyone. Please register at this link: <http://whoozin.com/F94-KAY-6HXQ>

Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve

We had a very nice turnout for the nature hike for National Trails Day on June 6th at Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve. More than 20 people were treated to a guided hike in the preserve to see birds, the coterrell cave, and a wide variety of flora and fauna.

Janelle Medrano provided an update on the projects afoot at the preserve. The City has received the bids for construction of the deck to replace the one that burned in the fire last summer. However, work on the deck is on hold until the end of nesting season in September. In addition to the deck project, the Friends of Stillhouse Hollow received a grant from Austin Parks Foundation to fund an information kiosk, a new sign at the entry, and two benches along the trail. Fundraising for this project is just over half way complete. If you'd like to lend a hand, send us a message at nwacainfo@gmail.com

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

FOUR-LINED PLANT BUGS



Four-lined plant bugs are brightly colored. Nymphs (immatures) are red while older nymphs start to have wing pads with yellow and black stripes. Adults have fully developed wings that are yellow and black striped. Adults look similar to, and may be mistaken for, striped cucumber beetles.

These insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts which they use to suck out plant juices. The plant bugs suck out chlorophyll and leave a "window" between the upper and lower epidermis of the leaf. Damage appears as white, dark or translucent spots of foliage and is sometimes mistaken for fungal damage. Feeding may also cause curling and browning. Fortunately, damage is mostly cosmetic, but if you are trying to eat the foliage of the damaged plant it may become a problem.

The insects feed on a wide variety of hosts, including fruits and vegetables, annuals and perennials and woody plants. When disturbed, the insects are fairly good at hiding. They either crawl to the underside of the leaves or drop to the ground to hide among foliage.

If you feel the need to manage these insects, try insecticidal soap. If that doesn't work, you can try azadirachtin (neem- concentrate, not oil; it's getting too hot to use oil formulations) or pyrethrins. If that doesn't work then try a residual contact product.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com.

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2015 NWACA Volunteer Award

NWACA Board



The NWACA Board is pleased to honor Parker Blevins with our 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Award. Parker was given his award at the NWACA Annual Meeting on May 14th. Many neighbors know him from his many years as the “go to” guy for information about oak wilt. He knows how to prevent it, how to spot it, and how to treat it! Because it’s such an expensive disease to manage, Parker has spent hundreds of hours advocating for good prevention practices, distributing flyers, talking with neighbors, and educating tree trimmers. The “Do Not Prune” signs that you see each year are part of the education effort.

Parker has handed off the role of tree advocate to others now, and he’s focusing his attention on crime prevention. He’s the Neighborhood Watch Captain for his street, one of the first to be organized in our current Neighborhood Watch program. So, the next time you see him, ask for the latest tip on crime prevention!

WILDFIRE PREVENTION TIP: WATER IS CRITICAL

Al Simmons

In the Sunday June 7, 2015 Austin American-Statesman, there was a front-page article entitled “Will Quenching Last?” It spoke in-depth to the rainfall and floods of the month of May, asking if those had stopped the drought. The short answer is “No!” Another article in the same issue described the “The Bastrop Inferno” and the losses of that horrific wildfire event.

A lesson we take from these two articles is that having adequate water is absolutely essential to fighting urban wildfires, particularly in an urban environment like NWACA, where there is abundant vegetation in multiple, steep-sloped, heavily tree-lined interconnecting valleys. Our valleys are basically on a south-north orientation with the predominant wind direction from the southwest, right up those valleys...an ideal natural fire alley if we don’t have the tools to fight it! And water is essential to that battle!

Even though our lakes are approximately two-thirds full, we are not out of the drought yet, and we can’t be cavalier about our enhanced water supply. Several communities around Austin are immediately reducing their water restrictions. We can’t afford that luxury, and the LCRA has strongly recommended that Austin not reduce our water-savings restrictions. To have the water we need for overall use and for emergencies like wildfires, we are well-advised to continue to constrain our use of water and continue to make our yards less water needy. While a conservative approach, it could be the wise choice.

CodeNEXT Update

David Whitworth

Recent changes to the City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department have split the organization into two departments: Planning and Zoning, and Development Services. The staff working on the CodeNEXT initiative, revising the City’s land development code, is in the Planning and Zoning department, led by the new Assistant Director, Matthew Lewis.

With appointments now being made by the new City Council, the CodeNEXT Citizen’s Advisory Group (CAG) membership is also changing. Currently no CAG members live in districts 2, 3, or 4. The Council has approved adding four new members along with an appointment by the Mayor. This will result in a committee of 17 CAG members. However, just over the horizon, the CAG will expire on September 30th. It is yet to be determined if the CAG positions will then be re-appointed from scratch or if existing members will remain, or if there will be a mix of these.

The code approach (level of revision) will be addressed at an upcoming City Council meeting. Last year’s Council adopted code approach 2 (the middle level revision) with some additional requirements, but it asked that the approach be revisited by the new Council. The current schedule also shows that there will be charrettes held in October and November this year to gather public input on the new code, and an administrative draft should be completed by April 16, 2016. Once the draft is approved by City staff it will go out to the public, anticipated to be during the summer of 2016. Then the mapping process will happen in 2017, with final adoption of the new land development code anticipated for late 2017. While this schedule appears simple and straightforward, the work behind it is extremely complex.

NWACA Board Nominations Underway

NWACA Board

The NWACA Nomination Committee is now gathering nominees for the NWACA Board for 2016-2017. The Committee includes both members of the current Board and NWACA members at large:

- Kirk Ashy, NWACA Board Member
- Stacey Brewer, NWACA Board Member
- Vicki DeWeese, NWACA Member
- Rebecca Leightman, NWACA Board Member
- Shannon Meroney, NWACA Board Member
- Tim Pham, NWACA Member
- Joyce Statz, NWACA Board Member
- Robert Thomas, NWACA Board Member and Chair

Everyone is invited to identify candidates for the NWACA Board, sending email to nwacainfo@gmail.com or sending a letter to NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755.

(Continued from Cover)

- Coyote versus Fox – how to tell a coyote from a red fox; not many coyote sightings recently, but people are reporting foxes in their back yards.
- Water is Critical – another of our wildfire prevention tips, this one speaking to the need to continue to conserve water for our general use, and for use in fighting fire
- NWACA Board Nominations – the Nomination Committee is seeking candidates for the next 2-year term of the NWACA Board (2016-2017)
- Events committee opportunities – This month we're especially looking for people who like to organize events – like Movie Night at Murchison Pool.

The activities and services of NWACA are possible because of the neighbors who join as members. See the information at the back of the newsletter about how you can become a member. Your modest \$25/year helps make big things happen – like our 4th of July Parade!

If you have any questions or comments about NWACA, please contact us at nwacainfo@gmail.com or at our postal address: P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755.

Is the Events Committee for You?

NWACA Board

Enjoy seeing people have fun? Like planning a big party? We have just the spot for you! The NWACA Events Committee coordinates our various neighborhood events, including family-friendly events like summertime movies at the pool. We're looking for interested players to join us right now to put together this year's movie nights, and we're always looking for creative people who want to develop new adventures for our neighborhood.

Many hands make light work, so we want to build a large committee where each participant can be in charge of a small piece, so no one individual is overwhelmed. Send us a note at nwacainfo@gmail.com and let's talk!

COYOTE OR FOX?


By Wildlife Committee

Coyotes and foxes are both opportunistic and they can thrive in urban and suburban areas by feasting on a variety of natural and human-supplied foods. They are both successful urban mammals, so it is no surprise that we are seeing them both in our neighborhoods and even our own backyards.

Keep foxes and coyote at bay by securing your garbage, feed pets indoors, do not feed other wildlife (such as deer, bunnies, squirrels), and if you are comfortable doing so, use hazing to help re-instill fear of humans.

The chart shows ways to tell a coyote from a red fox.

Source: <https://www.auroragov.org/cs/groups/public/documents/document/012561.pdf>

VARIABLE	Coyote	Red Fox
MARKINGS	- Body color more tan, gray and brown than red - Ear tips, legs and paws are same color as body - White neck, chest and belly	- Body color more red than brown - Ear tips, legs and paws are a contrasting black or dark shade - White neck, chest and belly
BODY MASS	- Heavier build than a fox - Average weight 22-33 lbs - Proportionally longer legs than a fox	- Slighter build than a coyote - Average weight 9 - 13 lbs - Proportionally shorter legs than a coyote
TAIL	- Tip often black or dark - Much shorter than body length	- Tip is white - Nearly body length
TAIL POSITION [WHEN RUNNING]	Down; tip is held lower than the level of the spine.	Straight out; tip is held about level with spine
VOCALIZATIONS	- Best known for the group yip-howl; a high intensity, long distance greeting, contact or reunion of group members that is most often initiated by the alpha male.	- Best known for a single, repeated and throaty call. Lacks the chaotic complexity and social nature of the coyote yip-howl
SAMPLE PHOTOS	 <small>photo credit: Aurora Weber</small>	 <small>photo credit: Niji Kizawa</small>

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Melanie Loftin-Smith, Communications Coordinator, Melanie.smith@austintexas.gov

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month
Council Work Sessions: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of the month
Council Zoning Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month
Austin Energy Council Committee Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month (Entire Council)

Council meetings schedule details: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/council-meetings>

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CALL 3-1-1

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ANY NON-EMERGENCY ACTION BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN

The City of Austin provides one number, 3-1-1, that citizens may call for things like the following:

- Coyote sightings near people or pets, with bold or aggressive behavior; or coyotes unresponsive to hazing; or coyotes seen after dawn and before dusk
- Reporting trees that have fallen and block roadways or sidewalks, or those that drag on power lines
- Reporting dead animals for pickup; they must be placed at the curb, though; City personnel are not allowed to enter our yards to gather them
- Problems with loose dogs or traffic signals not working
- Reporting instances of people feeding deer
- And more.

Call 3-1-1 or file a request at <http://austin-p1csrprodciw.motorolasolutions.com/Home.mvc/Index>. The City also has a smartphone 311 app now. See this link for more information: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/311/smart-phone-app>

CALL 9-1-1

FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The 9-1-1 emergency number gets you a response for a wide variety of issues:

- Life-threatening issues – house on fire, person having a heart attack, burglary in progress, etc.
- Health-related crises – someone can't catch their breath, incapacitated person needs a lift out of the bathtub, and more.
- If you're unsure, err on the side of caution!

Call 9-1-1 and you will get a quick and kind response from EMS, APD, and Austin Fire Department personnel.

Respect Your Neighbors



Traffic Awareness Program – TAP Your Brakes
NWACA.ORG

TAP SIGNS AVAILABLE

The Traffic Awareness Program (TAP) signs are a very visible way for you to raise awareness about the excessive speeds on our residential streets, cautioning drivers to slow down. To show your support, place a free "Please Slow Down" sign in your front yard! If you would like a sign, please contact us at nwacainfo@gmail.com.

NWACA MAILING LIST

IT'S FAST AND FRIENDLY

If you're among the NWACA members getting this newsletter by U.S. mail, but you also have an email address, feel free to sign up online to receive the newsletter via email. Visit www.PEELinc.com, click 'Residents', then click 'Receive Your Newsletter.' You can customize your newsletter subscription at that page.

You can also read your newsletter on the Peel, Inc. iPhone and iPad app. Search the AppStore for 'Peel, Inc.' Download the App, then subscribe to this newsletter on the App.

CITY OF AUSTIN "SCOOP THE POOP" SIGNS AVAILABLE

Some of our neighbors have expressed an interest in yard signs that remind dog-walkers to pick up after their dogs. The City of Austin has provided us small free yard signs that can be used to remind our friends to 'scoop the poop' as they walk their dogs. We have a batch of those signs for distribution to anyone who'd like one. If you would like one, please let us know at nwacainfo@gmail.com or send us a message via U.S. mail.



WHY JOIN NWACA?

The Northwest Austin Civic Association is your neighborhood association! NWACA represents YOU on issues like:

- Crime (how to prevent car and home break-ins, interacting with APD on issues)
- Transportation (raising awareness about excessive vehicle speeds, congestion, etc.)
- Zoning concerns
- Wildfire Prevention (helping homeowners harden their homes against wildfire)

NWACA plans the annual 4th of July Parade (43rd Annual in 2015!), organizes election and issues forums, sponsors an annual neighborhood garage sale, publishes this newsletter and much, much more!

NWACA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Send annual dues of \$25 with this form to:
NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

Homeowner Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

Email #1 (kept private; print): _____

Email #2 (kept private; print): _____

Phone (with area code): _____

Date: _____

ANNUAL DUES: \$25

(Optional) 4th of July Parade Contribution:

\$10___ \$20___ Other ___

(Optional) Oak Wilt Fund Contribution:

\$10___ \$20___ Other ___

(Optional) Parks Fund Contribution:

\$10___ \$20___ Other ___

You can also pay via PayPal by following this link on our web site: [Join NWACA](#). If you've already paid your dues for this year, please pass this on to a neighbor who is not yet a member.

Volunteers are always needed on our committees. Please mark those you'd like to know more about, and a Committee Chair will contact you. Thanks very much!

- Civic Engagement
- Sponsorship
- Communications
- Transportation
- Crime and Safety/Neighborhood Watch
- Tree and Environment
- Events/ 4th of July
- Wildfire Prevention
- History
- Wildlife Management
- Membership
- Zoning



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