

### nwacanews

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**AUGUST, 2015** 

**VOLUME 6, ISSUE 8** 

### A Message from the NWACA President

Joyce Statz

Good things are happening in NWACA these days! Read the article about the wonderful 4th of July events we had, and take a look at the pictures of the day in our web site gallery. Check out the news about the Murchison Pool Project – we've met the fundraising goal, months ahead of our target! Thanks to the neighbors who pitched in on this effort and to the Austin Parks Foundation for its leadership gift. As the Parks article points out, the new shade structure should be in place by the time you get this newsletter.

A brief update on the Austin Oaks PUD: hearing the zoning case by the Zoning and Platting Commission is delayed until September 15th, and the Environmental Board review is anticipated on August 19th. We have not yet heard back from the City or the developer regarding our request for a community discussion and input opportunity.

We have two articles on short-term rental (STR), one providing background and a discussion of compliance issues. The other gives a brief description of issues with an STR on Cat Mountain Drive. There are dozens of STRs in the NWACA area, as you can see by checking web sites such as homeaway.com or vrbo.com. Many operate without issues, but if you encounter issues with an STR near you, please call 311. If problems persist, email Councilmember Sheri Gallo's office; she is gathering neighborhood input as she works on this issue. Feel

free to copy nwacainfo@gmail.com on your email, if you want us to be aware as well.

This month's article from the Wildlife Committee describes the role of a wildlife biologist. The wildlife biologist who works with the City on wildlife concerns, Stefan Hunt, is happy to answer questions about any wildlife. If you have a topic for him to address in a future newsletter, let us know. (In the article about a neighbor's experience with a "freeloading fox," you'll see guidance he got from Stefan.)

Other items this month: In our series on wildfire risk, you learn about protecting valuables with a fire-resistant safe. We are seeking nominations for the NWACA Board for the upcoming 2-year term, and we have opportunities to serve on the Tree and Environment Committee, as well as on the Events Committee as mentioned last month.

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.

Enjoy the issue!

### What is NWACA?



The Northwest Austin Civic Association (NWACA) serves about 4150 homes in the area bounded by Spicewood Springs Road 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 for a group to act as a voice for the neighborhood. 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 of 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 performed by an elected volunteer board and a dozen committees of volunteers. NWACA is always looking for additional volunteers to give generously of their time and talents to help their neighborhood. Our website has a wealth of information on how you can get involved (click on the Get Involved section).

"NEIGHBORS SERVING NEIGHBORS. THE NWACA LEGACY"

Copyright © 2015 Peel, Inc.

NWACA News - August 2015 1

### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

#### 2015 NWACA Board of Directors

Joyce Statz, President Robert Thomas, Vice-President Stacey Brewer, Secretary Rebecca Leightman, Treasurer Caroline Alexander

Kirk Ashy

Stephannie Behrens

Debra Danziger

Jen Despins

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).



### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 3 NWACA and Neighborhood Events
- 4 July 4th Thank You
- 5 Our Freeloading Fox
- 6 Wildlife Biologists Welcome Questions
- 7 Short Trem Rental Enforcements
- 7 New Hotel In Cat Mountain
- 7 Caring For Our Trees
- 8 Protecting Your Vaulables
- 8 NWACA Board Nominations
- 8 Special Thanks to Members
- 9 Accessory Dwelling Rules
- 9 Fundraising Campaign
- 10 Lawn Sprinkler Systems
- 11 Why Join NWACA, Membership Form, Mailing List

#### **ADVERTISING INFO**

Please support the advertisers that make the NWACA News possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or <u>advertising@peelinc.com</u>. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

#### **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 <code>nwacainfo@gmail.com</code> 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.





### NWACA AND NEIGHBORHOOD

# **EVENTS**

JULY 29, 8 PM

Cornerstone Church, 1101 Reinli St.
Region 1 APD Commander's Forum for third quarter

AUG 2, 2 PM

**Kneaded Pleasures** 

**NWACA Parks Committee** 

AUG 3, 5 PM

Mangia Pizza

**NWACA** Zoning Committee

AUG 5, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures

**NWACA** Communications Committee

AUG 6. 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures

Membership and Sponsorship Committee

AUG 11, 7 PM

5305 Valburn Circle

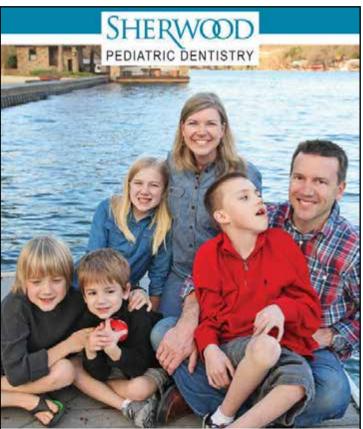
Wildlife Committee Bi-monthly Meeting

AUG 12, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Mangia Pizza

NWACA Monthly Board Meeting

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



# HEALTHY SMILES ARE OUR SPECIALTY

#### WHY OUR PATIENTS LOVE US:

Empowering you to play an active role in your child's dental health.

Compassionate, individual patient care for your child's needs.

Enjoy a dental team focused on creating a positive dental experience for you and your child.

Utilitzation of the most recent technology.

You are invited to stay with your child through the entire appointment.

Monthly payment options available, including no interest financing.



Mention this and receive \$50 off New Patient cleaning, fluoride and exam. they page to only the offer carrotte contend wit other offer, maniform apply



Call today! (512) 454-6936

Visit www.DrSherwood.net

Copyright © 2015 Peel, Inc. NWACA News - August 2015 3

### **NWACA** News

### **JULY 4 THANK YOU**

Julie DePalma







We hope you made it to the fabulous 43rd Annual 4th of July Parade and Freedom Fest! Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the incredible Parade Committee and neighborhood volunteers, this year's NWACA 4th of July celebration was absolutely outstanding!

- Julie DePalma, Chair
- Chris Hajdu, Sponsorships
- Lisa Thompson, Volunteers
- Shannon Meroney, Communication
- Mandy Niles, T-shirts
- Amy Hajdu and Marietta McElwee, Logistics
- Erin Brooks, Float Contest
- Ashley Sarver and Mirna Bowman, Post-Party
- Tom Arbuckle, Parade Marshall

A special thank you to the NWACA Board members and volunteers for helping with signs, communication, t-shirt sales, bunting/flag placement, setup, games, booths, cleanup, and countless other tiny details. Opening ceremony thank you's to Stanley Cavitt for the continued use of his yard, Master of Ceremonies Judge Amy Meachum, the Boy Scouts and the Girardot family. Thank you to Engine 21 and Constable Adam Ballesteros for clearing the path and joining our parade every year! Thank you to our float contest judges: Rev. Merrill Wade (St. Matthew's), Sheri Gallo, and Julie Cowan.

And who can forget our fantastic sponsors that make the parade possible every year! Let's support these local businesses as a thank you for their support for our neighborhood!

#### PLATINUM SPONSORS:

Austin Terrier | Ashley Sarver of Blakefield Realty | Carol Dochen Realtors | AvenueHrealestate.com/Casa Grande Realty | Coach Mo's Elite Fitness | Engel & Volkers | Idee Kwak | JCC Austin | Journey Martial Arts | Krumholz Siegel Group of Wells Fargo Advisors | Mangia Pizza |

Native Edge Landscape | PostNet-Far West | PSW | School of Rock | Skinny Limits | St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School | Studio Mantra | Trevor Ray Thompson Photography | Walter Payne Properties

Women Partners in Health Obstetrics & Gynecology GOLD SPONSORS:

12 Oaks Dental | Asterisk Group Design | Austin Emergency | Delaney's | Ferguson Automotive | HEB-Far West | Mauldin Henrich Chiropractic, LLC | McMinn Land Surveying

SILVER SPONSORS:

Judge John Lipscombe and Judge Jan Breland | Just for Pets | Richard Anton

This year was the second year for the Float Contest, complete with celebrity judges, fancy new banners and a big 'ol trophy to display until next year's parade! Congratulations to this year's winners:

- Grand Champion: Girl Scout Troops 1357 & 2225
- Most Patriotic: BSA Troop 511 with the WWII Veterans Float
- Best Team Spirit: We Are Murchison

A fun time was had by all and we can't wait to see everyone again for next year's July 4th festivities!

## OUR FREELOADING FOX



"Shatzi! Come quickly and look!" shouted my wife. I ran from my office to the family room, unsure of what I would find. And there he was, clearly feeling no stress whatsoever, curled up for a nice noon-day nap. This was our first view of our new boarder, our very own

clearly an equal-opportunity eater who is happy with a Mediterranean diet, as he loves our figs.

Just yesterday, as we were eating lunch with a guest, "our" fox calmly walked through the bars of our front gate and sauntered around the back of the house and



on to the fig tree once again. He disappeared under some large, dense bushes which flank our compost heap, then reappeared, walking daintily along the top of our fence (maybe he thinks he's a squirrel?), with a large fig in his mouth, before jumping into our neighbors yard to enjoy his lunch.

A six-foot privacy fence is nothing to this guy, who leaps to the top as effortlessly as if he were a cat. One day Ellen watched him as he surveyed the array of figs, all hanging tantalizingly just out of his reach. He looked at them so intently that she could almost see his little brain chugging away, calculating distances and opportunities. Then he

made up his mind and, quick as a flash, climbed right up the Mountain Laurel tree which is across the walk from the fig tree. In two seconds he was 15 feet up, looking now right at his prospective lunch. Alas, it was not to be, for the branches at the top of the Mt. Laurel were too



small to support a leap across to the figs.

He's quite blasé around people. Ellen has been no more than three or four feet from him, inviting him rather rudely to visit the neighbors, and he just yawns and keeps looking for lunch. At first we didn't know whether there might be some danger from disease, so we contacted the city (a 311 call). They told us not to worry about the fox as he was harmless to humans and would probably move on after the rains stop.

To learn more, I also contacted NWACA, and Joyce put me in touch with Stefan Hunt, Wildlife Biologist with the Texas Wildlife Services. According to Stefan, "the only reason to be concerned about diseases is if the animal is acting abnormally in some way. They would be very lethargic and would just about let you pet them. If they do not act like that, they probably do not have any diseases.....foxes carry a very low percentage of the Rabies virus. Our most common animals with Rabies are bats, skunks, and raccoons".

He continued, "foxes.....are not very bold/aggressive toward anything. They are pretty docile animals. They tend to eat small rodents and insects. Every now and then they will take a chicken or two. Very

(Continued on Page 6)

Freeloading Fox.

Then, as we watched, the little guy slowly woke up, stood and engaged in a full-body stretch and a huge yawn. He took no notice of us as he surveyed our back yard, then turned and sauntered off behind our tool shed, presumably to see if he could find a nice Norway rat or some juicy cockroaches for lunch.

That was in early June. Since then we have seen him every day or two, usually in the afternoon. With a visitor like this, one doesn't need daytime TV to stay fully entertained! In a typical visit, he will check out our huge fig tree, currently full of fruit in varied stages of ripeness. He is



Copyright © 2015 Peel, Inc. NWACA News - August 2015 5

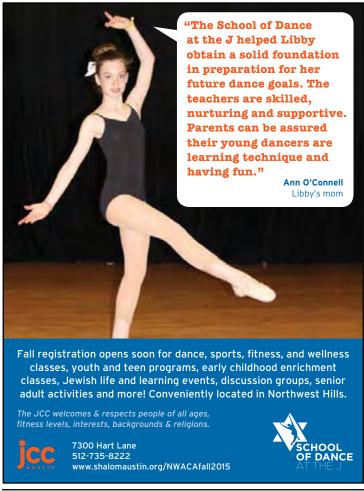
### **NWACA** News

(Continued from Page 5)

rarely do they even attack cats." Stefan concurred that "foxes love to climb things...I would call them part cat and part canine. I have seen them walking on top of wooden privacy fences. It is pretty neat to see. They are very good climbers and the fruit in the tree is probably a big reason why he is hanging around.

He concluded by advising that our Freeloading Fox (so called by me, as he continues to enjoy our property and figs but has not offered to share the burden of our TCAD property taxes) "will probably move on, but a little help wouldn't hurt. Any kind of 'harassment' will help speed up the process. Spray him with the water hose if you have to. He will get the point sooner or later."

We've lived here 30 years or so and have previously only seen one fox, which was making an early morning crossing of Valburn Drive from the green belt, many years ago. So instead of harassment, we have opted for Détente, having gotten quite attached to the little guy and his wonderful antics. Our theory is that he may find residence around people much more appealing than life in the cedar brakes, among the coyotes. Should he choose to move on, we will miss him.



### Wildlife Biologists Welcome Questions

Wildlife Committee

Throughout the past year, there have been a variety of postings to the NWACA Facebook page regarding wildlife encounters: turkeys sighted inside a garage and occupying a back patio, bucks fighting in a yard, the raid of a chicken coop by an unknown predator, and multiple fox sightings and encounters. In many cases, urban residents are unsure how to react or respond when encountering wildlife unexpectedly near their homes. The best source of information regarding any wildlife encounters comes from a wildlife biologist.

A wildlife biologist is a college graduate with at least a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology, general biology, zoology, or ecology. They are scientists who observe and study the behavior of animals as well as their habitats. A wildlife biologist may specialize in physiology, genetics, ecology, behavior, disease, nutrition, population dynamics, land use and/or pollution. "They collect, analyze and interpret facts objectively and skillfully, and they can report them clearly to other people." This statement accurately reflects the experience of NWACA wildlife committee members.

How do you locate a wildlife biologist? Travis County maintains a contract with Texas Wildlife Services (TWS), a cooperative program between USDA-APHIS, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and private/public funding partners. TWS professional wildlife biologists provide education, technical assistance, and wildlife management. Stefan Hunt is the TWS professional wildlife biologist serving Travis County and the City of Austin, and he will respond to your questions regarding any wildlife you may be encountering. He is at Stefan. J. Hunt@aphis.usda.gov.

In addition, state wildlife biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provide their expertise and advice to residents of all counties in Texs. These biologists have a varying range of specialties depending on the region, population, and natural resources particular to each county. A listing by county can be found at https://tpwd.texas.gov/ Other resources are available online but are not specific to our urban area.

If you have an encounter with wildlife that leaves you with questions or concerns, it's good to post on Facebook! Also know you may reach out to a wildlife biologist and share with us what you learn. Wildlife biologists have the knowledge and expertise that most of us don't!



#### Short Term Rental Enforcement Concerns NWACA

David Whitworth

Since January of 2014, homeowners in Austin have been able to register their homes with the City of Austin and rent them out for short terms (less than 30 consecutive days) on various vacation rental websites. There are 3 types of licenses:

- Type 1 owner-occupied
- Type 2 not owner-occupied
- Type 3 not owner-occupied (allowed in multi-family dwellings) License fees are \$285, with \$235 renewals. There is a requirement for hotel tax payment when renting an STR. A limit of 3% of the single-family homes within a census tract can be licensed as Type 2 STRs. The Austin Code Department manages the licensing process and enforcement of the codes related to STRs.

The practice of renting properties as STRs has increased throughout the City of Austin, and recently interest has risen in the NWACA neighborhood as neighbors have encountered problems with Type 2 rentals. (See related article in this issue.) NWACA advises neighbors to call 311 about issues with compliance (refer to the same service request number if making multiple calls), to review the City's web site (https://www.austintexas.gov/str), and to communicate unresolved issues to Councilmember Gallo's office.

Responding to complaints within NWACA and elsewhere, Councilmember Gallo sponsored a Council resolution directing the city manager to look into the adequacy of code enforcement and report back with findings to Council at the August 13th meeting. On August 17th the Planning and Neighborhoods subcommittee will review the findings and discuss possible recommendations to be sent back to Council.

In the meantime a pilot program has begun with a PACE (Public Assembly Code Enforcement) team of two code enforcement officers, one police officer, and one fire department officer. They are actively monitoring and responding to STR complaints Fridays and Saturdays from 10 PM to 4 AM during the month of July regarding the 4 unrelated persons occupancy limit, noise, trash, illegal parking, or operation without a license. NWACA residents are advised to call 311 with any STR complaints during this period for most impact. This evaluation of code enforcement applicable to STRs is not intended to disrupt the operation of STRs that are practicing within compliance, but rather to ensure adequate enforcement of codes related to STRs.

Code enforcement officers have encountered difficulties enforcing the STR ordinance. For example, the occupancy limit on unrelated persons is almost impossible to enforce. Other infractions can be fleeting, difficult to prove, or the code enforcement officer may lack authority to take certain actions to verify the violation. Code enforcement infractions also funnel through the court system which adds to the level of difficulty.

### Experience with an STR on Cat Mountain

Mike Polston

A new STR Type 2 Commercial Hotel property located on Cat Mountain Drive officially opened for business on May 21, 2015. For the last seven weeks, I have seen eight groups use the STR. All but one group used the facility for a three-day weekend.

My immediate neighbors and I found four of these groups (mostly young men) to be offensive and disruptive. These groups appeared to include 14 to 20 residents, with 4 to 9 vehicles in the driveway. My immediate neighbors and I have been busy calling both 311 and 911 to report city code violations. The typical response from the police is "We cannot enter the residence without a warrant." The typical response from the 311 code staff is "We cannot enter the residence until 3-4 days from now," (after the customers leave the STR and go home).

### Caring for our Trees and Environment

NWACA Board

We live within a wonderful canopy of trees and green spaces, and we treasure the vibrancy of that habitat. There are occasional threats to the trees, though, so NWACA has a Tree and Environment Committee which educates the neighborhood about threats from drought and from the Oak Wilt disease. This committee also helps the neighborhood deal with disposal of household waste that can't go into the weekly trash pickup, and it occasionally hosts events about other environment topics.

We're looking for people to join the Tree and Environment Committee, to help with activities like the annual BOPA (Batteries-Oil-Paint-Antifreeze) waste disposal event, yard sign placement during the season when Oak Wilt is a threat (Feb-June), and occasional informative articles online and in our various media. If any of those match your interests, please send us a note at nwacainfo@gmail.com and let's talk!



Vivia Robertson
Realtor, GRI, ABR, ALHS

Kuper Sotheby's International Realty 512.695.8981

Viva.Robertson@SothebysRealty.com ViviaRobertson.KuperRealty.com 8008 Spicewood Lane Austin,Texas 78759

Kuper Kuper

Sotheby's International realty

Copyright © 2015 Peel, Inc.

NWACA News - August 2015

### Protecting Your Valuables from Urban Wildfires

Al Simmons

The NWACA Newsletter has provided articles for about two years on how to protect your home and property from urban wildfires... however, there are times when you can't stop fate and your home is destroyed by fire. So how do you protect your most valuable belongings?

One way is to insure your valuables to the maximum (jewelry, cameras, electronics, furs, important papers, etc.). However, many insurance companies have jewelry and other valuables separated within the homeowner policy, or they cover them in a separate policy. Also, they may require that you have an appraisal of these items, after which they charge a special, higher price to insure the items.

In my profession as an Architect over the years I have worked with the people at Cothron's Security Professionals on building security issues. I recently approached them about the Bastrop wildfire of 2011 and found that Cothron's had helped several of those residents open their safes after the fire to retrieve their valuables. Apparently, many of those safes were built to stop burglars but were not firerated. Of all of the safes they inspected, only one had protected its valuable contents, and it was a safe inside of another larger safe. The remainder had significant fire damage to both the safes and the contents, or the safes had experienced high enough temperatures to cause the contents to ignite and/or melt within the safe.

Most security and locksmith companies carry UL fire-rated and factory fire-test-certified safes that should keep valuables safe during urban wildfires as well as other types of fires. They also protect valuables from common thieves and burglars, of course. You might want to compare the insurance up-charge to cover your valuables with the cost and installation of a fire-rated safe. I will be doing just that!

### NWACA Board Nominations Underway

NWACA Board

The NWACA Nomination Committee is now gathering nominees for the NWAC 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 by August 10th, sending email to nwacainfo@gmail.com or sending a letter to NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755.

#### 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 June 15, 2015 and July 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.

- Linda Aaker
- Jean and Otto Bohls
- Kristen Casaubon
- Stacey Daniels
- Linda and Chris Dimick
- Cathy and Robert Howell
- Adrienne and Ed Lallo
- Catherine Mann
- Michele Meadows
- Eva and Raymond Orbach

- Janice Pierce
- Phyllis and Wayne Prescott
- Nancy and Larry Richards
- Sonny Rhodes
- Sandy and Marshall Sack
- Elin and David Sorensen
- Roberta Starbird
- Tana and Bill Taylor
- Carol Wood



### Changes to Rules for Accessory Dwelling Units Being Considered

David Whitworth

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), also known as "granny flats" or "garage apartments" are allowed to be developed on residential properties that are zoned Single Family-3 (SF-3) on lots larger than 7,000 square feet. Many homes in the NWACA area meet this criterion. However, in some cases, there are private deed restrictions within the local subdivision that prohibit such changes. If you plan to build an ADU, check for any subdivision restrictions.

Last year, Austin City Council passed a resolution to make development of ADUs less restrictive, because they represent a source of revenue for homeowners, represent an affordable housing option, and they create an opportunity to provide affordable housing for aging family members, with a balance of independence and nearby support. On June 18th City council approved on first reading these proposed changes that would apply to SF-3 lots over 7,000sf in our neighborhood:

- Reduce building separation from 15 feet to 10 feet.
- Allow an entrance within 10 feet of a property line.
- Remove driveway placement requirement.
- Change parking requirement to 1 off street space for all secondary units.
  - Prohibit use as Type 2 Short Term Rental
- Apply the ordinance citywide, i.e., to all properties throughout the city that can currently build an ADU

Action items as described by the office of District 10 Councilmember Sheri Gallo:

In August and September, the Planning and Neighborhoods Council Committee will discuss other components of the ADU regulations. Public input will be most effective during these two committee meetings and we encourage anyone interested in participating in the conversation to attend one or both.

Check the agendas on the Planning and Neighborhoods Council Committee website to verify which topics will be discussed in a specific meeting.

## **Knox Tract Development Plans**

David Whitworth

The Knox Tract, a 5.8 acre homestead tucked away between Running Rope and Greystone Drive, is being considered for development. More detail and a conceptual site map for the proposed development of 11 homes can be found on our web site www.nwaca. org Go to the Resources tab, and look for the information about the Knox Tract in the Library under Zoning.

# Murchison Pool Fundraising Campaign is Done!

Caroline Alexander

We were pleased to receive the wonderful news that we were awarded a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation to help fund the improvements at Murchison Pool. This grant was instrumental in helping us reach our \$30,000 fundraising goal in July. A hearty thank you to all of the donors! (see www.nwaca.org for a list)

So what is next?

In July, the two cantilevered umbrellas were installed over the existing three picnic tables. Once the pool closes, the picnic pavilion will be installed, and the accessibility features will be added. In mid to late fall, we will plan a work day to put the picnic tables and the benches together. At this point, our lovely neighborhood pool project will be complete.

Stay tuned for the invitation to the fall work day!



# Your Community at Your Fingertips

Download the Peel, Inc. iPhone App



Search "Peel, Inc." in the the AppStore



Copyright © 2015 Peel, Inc. NWACA News - August 2015

### **NWACA** News

The NWACA News is a publication of the Northwest Austin Civic Association, produced and distributed by Peel, Inc. At no time will anyone be allowed to use the NWACA News content, or loan said content, to others in any way, shape, or form, nor in any media, web site, print, film, email, electronic copy, fax, or other means, for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any other use for profit, political campaigns, or other self-amplification, under penalty of law, without written or expressed permission from the Northwest Austin Civic Association.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

- \* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such
- \* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.
- \* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

### **Adjusting Lawn Sprinkler Systems**

Public Service Announcement

Learn how you can save water and money by keeping your automatic sprinkler system in tip top shape.

In celebration of July being "Smart Irrigation Month," Austin Water is sharing this video series with quick water conservation tips: http://t.co/Nafily7fu2

If you have questions, contact Austin Water Conservation at 512-974-2199.



### NOBODY IS DROWNPROOF

**WATCH & KEEP KIDS IN ARM'S REACH** 

www.colinshope.org





COLIN'S HOPE





**MULTIPLE BARRIERS** 





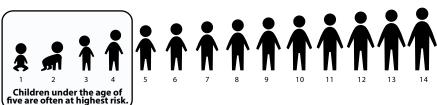




**COLIN HOLST** 

LEARN MORE: www.colinshope.org/RESOURCES

DROWNING IS THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE, AND A LEADING CAUSE FOR CHILDREN AGES 1 - 14.



43 Texas children have already lost their lives to drowning in 2015 **DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE** 

### **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 newsltter 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 newseltter 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 (43nd Annual in 2015!), organizes election and issues forums, sponsors an annual neighborhood garage sale, publishes this newsletter and much, much more!

### **NWACA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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):
r none (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

Copyright © 2015 Peel, Inc. NWACA News - August 2015



NAC

