

Neighborhood Compassion Watch!



Alert! We have some compassion sightings!!

We recognize Linda Sorrells and Lou Navarro who work at the West Austin Post Office on Spring Lane. A neighbor submitted a photo of the two of them along with the following comments, "I have seen Linda and Lou take extra time to be helpful and courteous to customers. One day when I was waiting in line, I observed Linda providing essential mailing details and taking great care to be sure that a customer understood all the mailing options. When it was my turn, I was greeted with a smile and given the same attention. Lou is always patient, knowledgeable, and ready to help. It's wonderful to experience such upbeat and caring attitudes and diligence in providing good service. Thank you Linda and Lou!!" [use attached photo #1]

We recognize Randall's grocery stores. A neighbor submitted a photo and says, "Thank you to Randall's grocery stores for promoting the Animal Kingdom books and trading cards to help children and all of us appreciate nature and the importance of caring for animals and the Earth." [use attached photo #2]

We recognize neighborhood compassionate action. A neighbor says, "It was brought to the residents of Tarrytown's attention on a neighborhood app that

a family with a child on a feeding tube had an a/c go out and needed a new or used window unit. The neighborhood quickly rallied and not only did the family receive a brand new window unit, but they also received other financial assistance, i.e. cash. I think this is a good example of a compassionate neighborhood."

**Let's keep the Compassion Watch going! Tarrytown is off to a good start. Let's all get involved!! Calling all neighborhoods in Austin! Be on the lookout! Send in your discoveries of compassion (caring for others, self, and the Earth) to compassionateaustin@gmail.com.

Learn more about Compassionate Austin and the Neighborhood Compassion Watch at www.compassionateaustin.org.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

NOW's the time to sign up for the Global Unity Games! <http://compassiongames.org/global-unity-games/>. The Games are September 11 through September 21st! You can join in any time during this period. It's simple to do, free, and online. During the Games, pay extra attention to discover and appreciate acts that show caring for others, self, and the Earth (either those you do yourself or those being done by others). Use the Neighborhood Compassion Watch to inspire you! Then post about your experience on the global Compassion Report Map to motivate people around the world. Be an "Agent of Compassion"! Participate as an individual or sign up as a team with your family, neighbors, and community. It's especially important to engage our youth. We grow stronger in what we practice. Let's strengthen compassion in ourselves and our neighborhood!



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Police Department	512-975-5000
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
Animal Services Office.....	311

SCHOOLS

Austin ISD	512-533-6000
Casis Elementary School	512-414-2062
O. Henry Middle School.....	512-414-3229
Austin High School.....	512-414-2505

UTILITIES

City of Austin.....	512-494-9400
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Billing.....	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service.....	512-485-5555
Repairs.....	512-485-5080
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste	512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Austin City Hall.....	512-974-7849
Austin City Manager.....	512-974-2200
Austin Police Dept (Non Emergency).....	512-974-5000
Austin Fire Dept (Non Emergency).....	512-974-0130
Austin Parks and Recreation Dept.....	512-974-6700
Austin Resources Recovery	512-494-9400
Austin Transportation Dept.....	512-974-1150
Municipal Court	512-974-4800
Post Office.....	512-2478-7043
City of Austin.....	www.AustinTexas.gov

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POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

National Night Out 2016

National Night Out is a great opportunity for citizens and law enforcement to partner up against crime.

This year, National Night Out is Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016, from 7 to 9 p.m.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support and participation in crime efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations
- Let criminals know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

During the event, residents in neighborhoods throughout Austin and across the nation are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, firefighters and EMS paramedics. Events such as cookouts, block parties and neighborhood walks will all occur simultaneously throughout the city and nationwide.

Chlorosis

[abnormal reduction or loss of the normal green coloration of leaves]



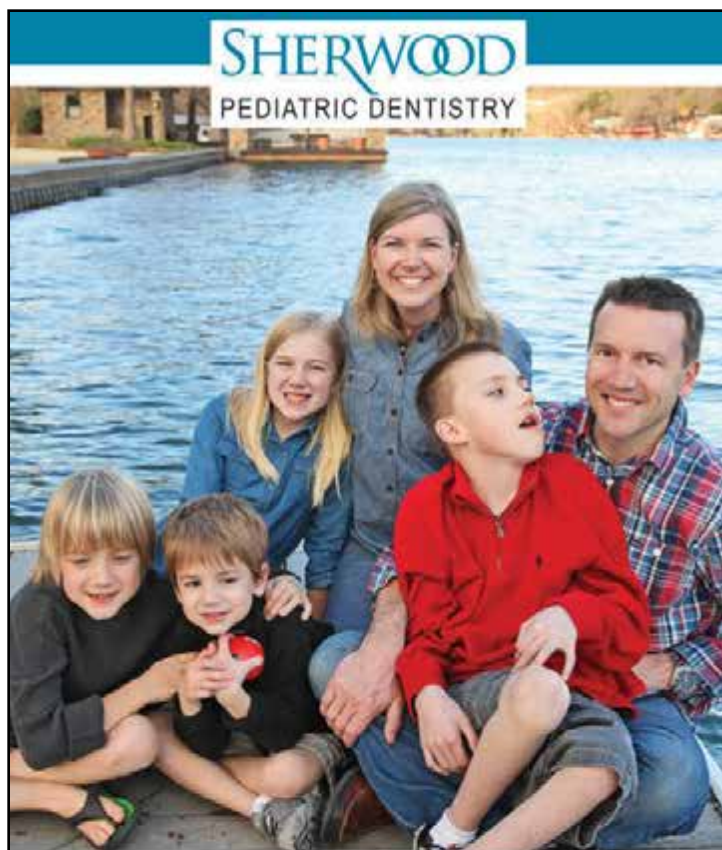
Late summer too early fall is the time when this particular tree malady becomes most pronounced. The species of trees most commonly chlorotic are: Shumard Red Oak, Silver Maple, Chinese Tallow, Bald Cypress, and Live Oaks. Except for the Chinese Tallow and Silver Maple – the other species are most likely from seed stock or cuttings of parent plants that were not local and have no acclimation to our alkaline clay soil. Knowledgeable local nurseries

do not sell you trees that are meant to grow in acidic, peat moss soil. In the early stages the tree's leaves will turn from green in the spring to a lime or yellow and finally have some leaf margin death and then curl up and fall off the tree. The later stages of this malady is characterized by the severe deformation and stunting of tree leaf size as well as new spring leaves start out the year yellow. Chlorosis can and usually does start a tree into a downward mortality spiral. Without a healthy capacity for producing food, a tree will become weak and often will succumb to minor pest or disease issues a healthy tree could survive without treatment.

What causes this condition is a deficiency of one or more nutrients. Often times in central Texas, it is usually the micronutrients: iron and manganese; yet it can be caused also by the deficiency of the other 20+ nutrients. Fixing the problem is not as simple as putting out fertilizer. First off, the most frequently used fertilizers have little or no micronutrients present. Second, the deficient nutrient may be present in the soil but because of the soil polarity of our calciferous clay soil – the tree is not able to extract the nutrient. Third, if it is a tree with genetic incapacity to obtain certain nutrients present in soil, a fertilizer can just be bound up by soil after application.

Can anything be done? Yes, there are sure methods of successfully providing your tree the missing nutrients. One way is to prepare soil drenches with fertilizers containing humic acid, chelated iron and various other nutrients in a soluble form. Another method is to do a foliar spray – basically give the tree a fertilizer shower. Yet another, and most effective, is to inject the nutrients directly into the cambium tissue of the tree. Lastly, one method of "treatment" is to dig up tree and replace it during the fall or winter season.

Questions or comments this article or previous articles have generated, may be directed to me at: kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com



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TARRYTOWN REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT UPDATE

September 2016

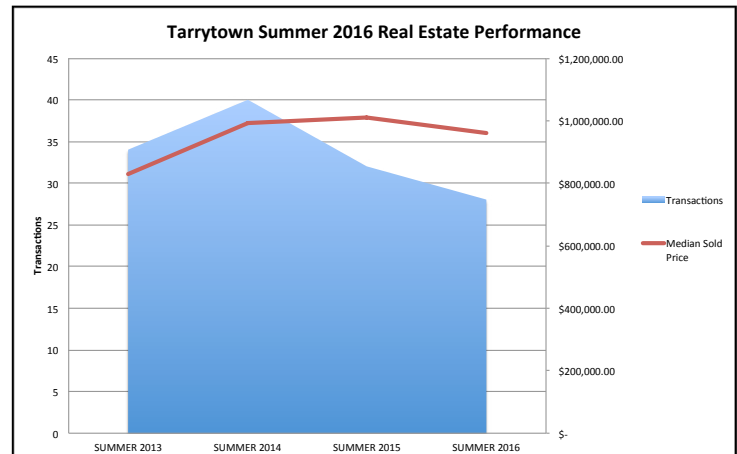
by **Trey McWhorter**

Since summertime is typically a time of increased real estate activity, I thought I would compare this summer against the last few summers for context. I am defining summer according to the AISD calendar, and pulling MLS data for the summer dates for 2013–2016 (2016 data is incomplete because this article was due on August 15th, and the AISD summer break does not end until August 22nd).

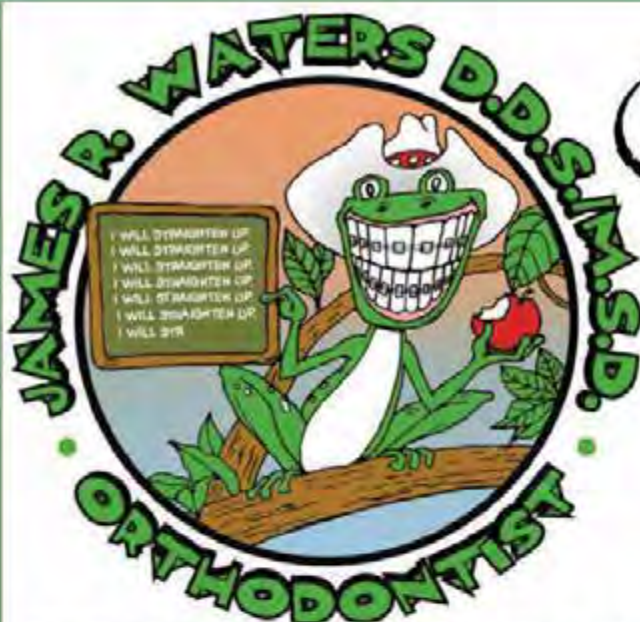
		SUMMER 2013	SUMMER 2014	SUMMER 2015	SUMMER 2016
		June 6 - August 25	June 6 - August 24	June 6 - August 24	June 2 - August 22
Single Family Homes		80 days	79 days	79 days	81 days
SOLD	Single Family Homes Sold	34	40	32	28
List Price					
	Avg List Price	\$1,086,461.76	\$1,212,302.48	\$1,176,370.31	\$1,287,810.71
	Median List Price	\$844,450.00	\$981,800.00	\$1,085,000.00	\$1,044,500.00
Sold Price					
	Average Net Sold Price	\$1,049,434.56	\$1,169,377.60	\$1,147,384.28	\$1,244,625.82
	Median Net Sold Price	\$829,500.00	\$991,080.00	\$1,010,000.00	\$959,000.00
"List Price \$ / Sq Ft"					
	Average List Price / Sq Ft	\$342.48	\$397.00	\$418.16	\$422.36
	Median List Price / Sq Ft	\$348.78	\$397.17	\$414.70	\$410.18
"Sold Price \$ / Sq Ft"					
	Average Net Sold Price / Sq Ft	\$333.85	\$385.77	\$410.14	\$408.68
	Median Net Sold Price / Sq Ft	\$343.09	\$382.79	\$408.86	\$406.84
Net Sold Price					
	Net Sold Price Range	\$350,000 - \$3,150,000	\$491,000 - \$6,750,000	\$471,000 - \$3,250,000	\$581,000 - \$3,225,000
Net Sold Price \$/Sq Ft					
	Net Sold Price Range / Sq Ft	\$171.23 - \$469.20	\$194.68 - \$864.94	\$210.65 - \$886.04	\$212.14 - \$588.83
Days on Market					
	Average Days on Market	24	41	54	46
	Median Days on Market	16	27	21	22

A few takeaways:

- Summer 2016 numbers are fairly consistent with Summer 2015, and I expect that the number of transactions will ultimately be revised for this summer up to very close to, or slightly above 2015. That shouldn't impact median numbers though, so the table nearby offers a good overview of how Summer 2016 compares to the last few summers.
- Looking at median values, sold prices are down slightly from Summer 2015 (-3.7%), and median sold \$/sq ft basically flat with 2015 (-0.5%) and up 6% vs. 2014 and more than 18% vs. 2013.
- The number of transactions during the summer season was low at 28, but if some of the pending transactions close prior to the end of the 2016 summer, we are likely to be roughly flat with the summer of 2015.
- Median Days on Market indicate a still very brisk market at 22 days, which is consistent with last summer and only 2013 had a lower median days on market for the summer season (16).
- Home sizes were only slightly smaller than the previous 2 summers, with a median size of 2674. For the last 3 summers now there has been little variation in home sizes.



Note: All data comes from the Austin Board of Realtors' MLS report, reflecting activity through August 15, 2016.



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NatureWatch Sun Trackers

by Jim and Lynne Weber



Common Sunflower



Maximilian Sunflower

This time of year, the most notable family of plants are the Helianthus, or sunflowers. From the Greek 'helios' or sun and 'anthos' or flower, these plants are usually tall annuals or perennials that during their growth phase exhibit a subtle behavior in the daylight hours. This behavior, called heliotropism, is the ability for the young flower buds and leaves to gently tilt toward the sun, tracking it as it moves across the sky. By the time the flower heads mature, they are stationary but generally facing east to greet the rising sun.

Sunflowers are typically tall plants with one to multiple flower heads, consisting of bright yellow ray florets or flowers,

surrounding yellow or maroon disc florets. In wild or native species, the rough and hairy stems are normally branched, and the leaves are often sticky and lance or heart-shaped. Sunflowers also exhibit phyllotaxis, or the arrangement of leaves on a stem that forms a distinct pattern, in this case a repeating spiral. Additionally, the disc florets also display a phyllotactic pattern, one that creates the optical effect of criss-crossing spirals in the flower's center.

In our area, the two most abundant sunflowers are the Common Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) and the Maximilian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*). Blooming from May to October, the Common Sunflower grows on dry soils, especially in disturbed areas. It can reach 1.5 to 8 feet tall, and various parts of the branched stems can be either green or dark purple. The heart-shaped leaves are coarse and covered in rough hairs, and grow from 2.5 to 10 inches long. Up to 4 inches across, the flower heads have yellow ray flowers and reddish brown disc flowers. As their scientific name suggests, these plants are annuals.

Maximilian Sunflowers, on the other hand, are perennials that bloom in September and October. They grow 1 to 6 feet tall in colonies on both the dry ground of prairies and the moist ground of roadside ditches and other low places. Shorter, rough hairs cover the narrow lance-shaped leaves, which average 2 to 4 inches long. The 1.5 to 3 inch wide flower heads have yellow ray flowers surrounding

yellow disc flowers, with numerous flower heads growing along the unbranched stems.

Aside from their aesthetic value to humans, sunflowers are generally palatable to deer and numerous species of birds eat their seeds. Their flower heads support nectaring bees, and they are the food plants for several butterfly species such as the Bordered Patch and Silvery Checkerspot. When mixed with other native annuals, these sun trackers provide good cover for many species of wildlife, and would be a great addition to your native wildscape.

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin*, published by Texas A&M University Press, and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com if you enjoy reading these articles!

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THE HEART GALLERY
OF CENTRAL TEXAS

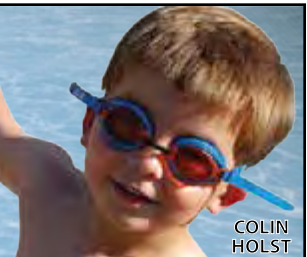


The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a portrait exhibit and community education/outreach initiative featuring children who are waiting for adoption right here in our community. More than 50 professional photographers in our community are donating their time and talents to this project. We are always looking for professional

photographers to join our team of volunteers. Donate as much or as little time as you'd like, we have photography needs all throughout Central Texas. Learn more about becoming a Heart Gallery of Central Texas Volunteer here: <http://www.heartgallerytexas.com/>.



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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional - Owner, Manager and
Director of Tennis
Grey Rock Tennis Club, Austin, TX



STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

STEP 4

How to execute The Backhand Service Return

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand, forehand volley, the two handed backhand volley, the serve, the forehand half-volley, the one-handed backhand volley, the overhead “smash” and the forehand service return.

In this issue, I will offer you instructions on how to execute the second most important shot in the game of tennis: The Service Return, since it is the response to the first most important shot of the game: The Serve. In the illustrations, Susan Herb, player at the Grey Rock Tennis Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke.

Step 1: The Ready Position: When Susan is getting ready to return the serve, her eyes are focused on the tennis ball held by the opponent. Knees are relaxed and the hands are holding the racket with a relaxed grip.

Step 2: The Back Swing: Once Susan realizes that the ball has been directed to her forehand, she will turn her upper body and will take the racket back. Notice that the left hand is up in front to allow her to keep her center of gravity in the center. She has loaded her weight on her left foot and will be ready to step forward to meet the ball.

Step 3: The Point of Contact: Susan now is ready to step into the ball. She has kept her eye on the ball and her center of gravity now is shifted to the point of contact. Notice the right knee being slightly bent and the right foot is pointing to the ball meeting the racket.

Step 5: The Follow Through: Once Susan has finished her stroke, the momentum of the racket continues to move almost to a point behind her neck. Her left hand is next to her body and her left elbow is pointing toward her target. Her body is now ready to take the “split step” with both feet in order to prepare for the opponent’s returned shot.

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Texas Association of Sports Officials

In the late 1930s, the Southwest Conference (SWC) recognized the need for training sports officials and developing local officials associations under the umbrella of the Southwest Officials Association (SOA) throughout the state. While the SWC was motivated by a commitment to improving officiating and athletics, the overriding belief was that such a structure would result in better trained officials for SWC competition. As a result, the Southwest Conference Official's Association (SWOA) was formed to handle football and basketball officiating duties.

Though originally formed to train collegiate officials, many high school officials joined the SWOA ranks. In 1977, the Texas football, basketball, and baseball officiating associations recognized the need to form a statewide governing body for high school officials. As a result, the Southwest Officials Association (SOA) was formed, with an office based in Dallas. Since the formation of the SOA in 1977, the volleyball, softball, and soccer divisions were added under the SOA umbrella.

In 1999 the SOA changed its name to the Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO). After a brief tenure in Mesquite and Austin, The TASO office relocated to its current location in Richardson.

With the University Interscholastic League (UIL) governing high school athletics in Texas, and the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS), the largest organization of private schools in Texas, TASO provides officials for UIL and TAPPS contests. Though independent of both organizations, TASO works closely with the UIL and TAPPS in providing officials for sports contests.

Unlike most every other state, TASO is an independent organization of sports officials governed by sports officials. Each of the six divisions is individually governed by a board of directors comprised of officers and regional directors elected

by the membership throughout the state. Overall TASO policy is set by the TASO board of directors. The TASO board of directors is comprised of the president and president-elect (or vice president), of each of the six sports.

Current TASO membership is approximately 14,000 members in 155 local chapter throughout the state.

For more information, or if becoming a sports official interests you, please refer to <http://www.taso.org>.





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