



## New to the Neighborhood?

If this is the first time you're seeing our newsletter, welcome to the NWACA neighborhood! This map shows our boundaries – Mopac, RM 2222, Loop 360, and Spicewood Springs Road. There are about 4100 other households who are your neighbors and are happy you're here!

This newsletter is one way to keep up with what's happening here, but there's a lot more available, too. Check out the quick link For New Neighbors on our web site at [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) Then, please join us as a dues-paying member; there's a form you can use at the end of the newsletter, or you can join online.

## President's Message

*Chris Hajdu*

We recently completed our annual neighborhood survey and I wanted to bring a few things to your attention regarding the survey results.

One thing that many of you indicated in the survey was that you are not aware of NextDoor, so I wanted to let you know a little about it. NWACA uses our monthly newsletter, email list, and Facebook pages to update the neighborhood, but there is also another communications vehicle, called NextDoor, which we use as well. NextDoor is a website that is not run by NWACA, but we find extremely useful for keeping up with local information but also city wide events as well. Austin City Government uses NextDoor to communicate Emergency and general notifications as well. If you are interested, please go sign up and join NextDoor. The site can be reached at <http://www.nextdoor.com> Many of our residents are already members on NextDoor.

The use of public transit inspired several survey questions from the Transportation Committee, as they work with CapMetro to understand how best to serve our neighborhood. Bus ridership is quite low, with the #19 bus having the most use; about 13% of the respondents use it. Neighbors had a variety of reasons they don't ride the bus, and this information will be helpful in discussions with CapMetro. Speaking of bus ridership, NWACA will be hosting a bus adventure on April 30th, where we will gather at Walmart on Anderson Lane and take the bus as a group to Peter Pan mini golf. Bus fare and mini-golf fees will be included. This will be a fun way for folks to experience our local transit offerings and have some fun as well.

Other questions in the survey asked about neighbor experience with NWACA recycling events. More than half the respondents had used these events to recycle batteries, oil, paint, antifreeze, and broken electronics. In response to the question about what they have difficulty recycling, the top responses were Styrofoam and electronics (phones, computer, printers, etc.). We are pleased to say our next recycling event will be for just these items. On Saturday, April 22, from 8 to 10 AM, NWACA members can bring electronics and Styrofoam to the Doss Elementary School

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

**Apr 2, 2 PM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Parks Committee

**Apr 4, 8 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Communications Committee

**Apr 5, 8:30 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Crime and Safety Committee

**Apr 6, 8 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Sponsorship Committee

**Apr 8, 2-4 PM**

*Anderson High School*  
City of Austin Presentations and Open House on CodeNEXT

**Apr 8, All Day**

*Throughout City of Austin*  
Clean Sweep 2017 - see [www.keepaustinbeautiful.org](http://www.keepaustinbeautiful.org)

**Apr 11, 6:30 - 8:00 PM**

*McCallum High School, 5600 Sunshine Dive*  
Second Quarter APD Commander's Forum for Region 1

**Apr 12, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

*Mangia Pizza*  
NWACA Board Meeting

**April 22 8-10 AM**

*Doss Elementary Parking Lot*  
Electronics and Styrofoam Recycling - Be Kind to Mother Earth on Earth Day!

**Apr 25, 5 PM**

*Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane*  
NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committee

**Apr 30, 1 - 5 PM**

*Northcross Mall Parking Lot - spot TBD*  
Transit Adventure - take the bus down to Peter Pan mini-golf; bus fare and golf fees will be provided free of charge (see article for more details)

**May 2, 8 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Communications Committee

**May 3, 8:30 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Crime and Safety Committee

**May 4, 8 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Sponsorship Committee

**May 6, 9 AM to 1 PM**

*Canyon View Event Center, 4800 Spicewood Springs Rd.*  
Austin Wildfire Symposium - presentations and discussion on wildfire prevention; to register go to:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2017AusWildfire>

**May 7, 2 PM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Parks Committee

**May 11, 7:00-9:00**

*JCC - Community Room*  
NWACA Annual Meeting - All neighbors invited

**May 23, 5 PM**

*Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane*  
NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committee

**May -TBD - before pool opening**

*Murchison Pool Park 3700 North Hills Dr.*  
Cleanup at Murchison Pool



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 APD District Representative, Office Darrell Grayson...512-974-5242  
 District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter.....512-978-2110  
 Contact to enroll in the District 10 weekly newsletter: .....  
 .....district10@austintexas.gov  
 .....www.district10austin.com

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**Each of the Board members can be reached at:**  
**[nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com)**

The NWACA Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except December. Please visit our calendar at [www.nwaca.org](http://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).

## ADVERTISING INFO

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# NWACA News

*President's Message(Continued from Cover)*

parking lot, and a team of volunteers will get them to the City's recycling center in south Austin. In future newsletters, we will provide guidance on how to recycle many of the other things that were identified as hard to recycle.

Also, in the survey, the 4th of July Committee asked which parade route was preferred by neighbors: the path down Far West which had been used for many years, or the one down North Hills Drive that was used last year when construction was expected on Far West. Responses favored the North Hills Drive route, so the committee will use that route again this year. Speaking of the parade, if you or anyone else you know of is interested in volunteering to help with the parade, please visit our website and fill out a volunteer form and write in that you want to help with the parade at <http://nwaca.org/join-a-committeevolunteer/> or email us at [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com).

If you'd like to see more on the survey, take a look at the article in this newsletter, which contains more information and a pointer to the full survey results online.



## Talking about School Finance

— Julie Cowan

Sometimes it's good to be unique, but NOT when it comes to school finance. Austin ISD is what you call an outlier. So is Ft. Elliott CISD.

While AISD is set to finance the state's budget to the tune of \$406 million this year, 38% of our total Maintenance and Operations (M&O) school property tax collections and the most dollars from any one school district, a district in the Texas Panhandle with 161 students over 500 square miles is threatened with bankruptcy as it sends to the state 90% of its M&O collections due to Texas' complicated, "byzantine" school finance system. As I was quoted recently in the Statesman, "The system is just so, so wrong."

On March 7, the House Public Education Committee heard testimony on HB 21, Chairman Dan Huberty's school finance bill. It does not rewrite the state's school finance system, as the Supreme Court suggested ought to be done in its ruling last spring. It does, however, among other things, roll the transportation and high school allotments into the basic allotment and it adds an additional \$1.6 B into the public education budget, which the Senate's budget does not.

In general, AISD supports HB 21 because it does raise the basic allotment: AISD is set to see a small increase of \$98 per weighted average daily attendance (WADA) in 2018 and \$105 in 2019, adding about \$10 M to our revenue each year of the biennium. This is not as much as Round Rock ISD, but slightly more than Pflugerville ISD. While AISD staff and trustees will continue doing our part to share relevant information with legislators, now is the time for the public to step up and speak out.

Inform yourself by visiting the following websites to learn more. Send emails to legislators who serve on the House Public Education and Appropriations Committees and the Senate Education and Finance Committees. Our local legislators are with us for the most part on these issues.

[Austinisd.org/legislature](http://Austinisd.org/legislature) (AISD's informative one-pagers on education issues and weekly updated bill filing information.)

[Acptaadvocacy.org](http://Acptaadvocacy.org) (Austin ISD and local PTAs advocate for our own school children with targeted calls to action.)

[Taxparencytexas.org](http://Taxparencytexas.org) (Learn how Texas budget writers supplant their portion of school funding with YOUR tax dollars.)

[Texansforstrongpublicschools.org](http://Texansforstrongpublicschools.org) (A statewide coalition of support for public schools.)

[www.Capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.Capitol.state.tx.us) (Access to legislators, bill look-up, committee meetings, committee membership, etc.)

Feel free to email me with questions at [juliecowan4@yahoo.com](mailto:juliecowan4@yahoo.com)



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# An Interview with Mrs. Margaret Knox

- Luci Thompson

I interviewed longtime Northwest Hills (NWH) resident and neighbor Mrs. Margaret Knox about what it was like to live in NWH before the area was developed. You maybe familiar with the street called Running Rope, but did you know it was a boy's summer day camp called Running Rope Ranch?

Running Rope Ranch was started by Warren and Mary Lou Knox and ran for 10 years. Warren came to Texas from Vermont after World War I. He was in the Cavalry during the war. Warren was a fan of film star Will Rogers, and he proposed to Mary Lou on horseback. Warren and Mary Lou decided to settle down in Austin and he bought 250 acres here in NWH in the 1930's for \$15 per acre. It was a large ranch that went from the corner of Far West and Chimney Corners to West Rim and along Greystone Drive that backs up to Running Rope.

Warren was a Silver Eagle Scout and enjoyed teaching what Scouts needed to know. He loved doing rope tricks and he often showed them to the boys. The boys learned to ride horses, tie knots, and start fires. They were fed a hot meal for lunch cooked by an African American cook named Ulah.

Margaret Thomas met James W. Knox at a church picnic at Barton Springs. James brought Margaret out to the ranch for picnics while they were courting. James joined the Army Air Corps the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked, and he married Margaret soon afterward.

James and Margaret Knox spent many years traveling with the military, but settled down in NWH in 1966. I asked Mrs. Knox what it was like when they moved back here in 1966, and she said it was beautiful open country with lots of deer. The gate to their property used to be at the corner of Far West and Chimney Corners. They had a peach orchard where the GW Boutique is now located. They also had a herd of goats, a few white-faced cattle, and horses. Their daughter Patricia was in college, and their son James Christopher (Chris) was in high school at McCallum.

I asked Mrs. Knox, "What types of animals would you see on the ranch?" She said there were deer, red and silver foxes, raccoons, herons, armadillos, rabbits, possums, and occasionally skunks. Coyotes weren't around back then, and there used to be more rabbits. Her son Chris had a love of nature. He raised a Red Tail Hawk named "Lots" for Lord of the Sky and a baby raccoon name "Loki." But his most surprising pet was an American alligator named Harvey, who used to live in their natural spring pool. Harvey was donated to the San Antonio Zoo years later.

There is even a threatened animal species, the Jollyville Plateau salamander, that lives in the largest of their seven natural springs. The salamander is brown with pink ruffles for gills. Close to the water spring was an old Native American Indian mound, too. I



asked Mrs. Knox what her favorite memories were about Running Rope Ranch and she said coming out to the ranch for picnics and family get togethers at the pool.

I want to thank Mrs. Knox for letting me interview her while I work toward my Girl Scout Bronze Award.



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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: We're Going on a Transit Adventure to Peter Pan Miniature Golf

— Ruven Brooks

Cap Metro would like to give us an opportunity to ride on a Metro Rapid bus. They're giving us tickets and a guide to ride the 803 bus down to Peter Pan Miniature Golf. NWACA is paying for our admissions! For children, the bus ride might be the best part of the trip. All you need to do is sign up and come.

Date: Sunday, April 30

Departure time: 1 p.m. (Try and be on time but if you miss the first bus, another one will be along in 20 minutes.) Return whenever you'd like; the bus runs until 10 p.m.

Departure point: Metro Rapid stop on Burnet Road (7712 Burnet Road, on the Burnet side of Northcross Mall near the Panda Express). We suggest you park on the side of the Mall nearest Burnet Road.

Keep an eye on the NWACA web site; as we get closer to the date, there'll be a link to a signup site.

## NWACA Project Reserve Fund Inviting Applications

— Vicki DeWeese and Joyce Statz

The Project Reserve Fund was established by the NWACA Board to help fund special projects in our neighborhood. Projects must have a community benefit for NWACA residents and be publicly accessible.



During the past year, NWACA funded the purchase of five recycling containers for use at: Bull Creek District Park, Murchison Pool and Lakewood Park (Old Spicewood Springs Road at Loop 360). NWACA has also contributed funds for the development of a new soccer field behind Doss Elementary, which will be open to the neighborhood after school hours.

Any group or individual can apply for Project Reserve funds; just download an application online at [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org). Go to the Get Involved tab and look for Project Reserve Fund.

Project applications for spring/summer grants will be accepted

(Continued on Page 7)

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(Continued from Page 6)

until May 31, 2017, and selected applicants will be encouraged to present their projects at the June 7, 2017 NWACA Board meeting. Submit applications, drawings, pictures, and estimated project costs to: [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com), or by mail to: NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance and funds can be distributed as early as July following project selection. The number of projects funded is at the discretion of the Board. If you have questions about the program, email [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com).

Some applicants may choose to submit an idea in concert with the City of Austin Neighborhood Partnering Program (see details at: <http://www.austintexas.gov/neighborhoodpartnering>). Applications must be submitted by October 1st or June 1st for their cost-sharing funding cycle. Other applicants may choose to team with the Austin Parks Foundation (see details at: <http://austinparks.org/tag/grants/>). Applications for different types of grants have different deadlines.

The Project Reserve Fund is just one of many ways that NWACA serves our community. Funds in this account are available because of the careful management of NWACA funds over the past several years. Please help us to continue our work by joining NWACA or renewing your membership today.

## Business Spotlight: Biderman's Deli

— Janice Green



Manhattan's Carnegie Deli may have closed, but Biderman's Deli is now open in Northwest Hills – thanks to the enthusiasm and talent of two enterprising fellows, Zach Biderman and Gabe Sims.

Zach grew up on Austin's Northwest Austin turf and contributes his sound business judgment, honed in his successful venture, Seventh Flag Coffee located in south Austin. Gabe, Biderman's general manager, brings to Austin his experience operating a deli in Cleveland and his penchant for creating the perfect bagel.

When I met them, they were still in their “soft opening,” juggling customers and plumbers with humor and attention while we chatted. Nevertheless, they oozed enthusiasm about their decision to create a Jewish-style deli experience that not only meets their high culinary standards but also those of discriminating patrons who know a superb bagel at first bite. I swear, these guys were having fun even while dealing with the trials of opening a new seven-day-a-week establishment.

The pride behind Biderman's Deli is rooted in their house-made items – from the bagels and creative shmears to the corned beef and Russian dressing piled on the house Reuben. But don't think you can pry their recipes from them. When I asked if they were importing NYC water for the bagels, Zach just chuckled and smiled without giving me a hint of the details behind their old-school recipes. I asked because when I bit into one of their bagels, it was the closest I've tasted to my Manhattan favorites.

Biderman's offers a range of salads (egg, chicken, chopped liver, to name a few), matzo ball soup, hot and cold sandwich classics including pastrami, corned beef, tuna salad, BLT, grilled cheese, and French dip, plus those with the monikers like the Little Italy, the Molinari, and the Clevelander. They expect to have a full coffee/espresso bar up and running by early April. And you won't have to wait until summer to taste divine deviled eggs. Their vegetarian options include the incredible Austin Splendor sandwich decked with roasted sweet potato, goat cheese, arugula, blood orange glaze, tomatoes, etc.

Zach and Gabe are not just about good food. They also want their deli to be a respectful work environment, as well as an inviting hangout for the 'hood regulars where they can debate the latest zoning issues and plan the next July 4th Parade. Zach's and Gabe's warm and congenial personalities will go a long way toward setting that stage. Already there were repeat customers, greeted by their first names.

**Check out their website for hours and menus:**  
[www.bidermansdeli.com](http://www.bidermansdeli.com)

## 2017 NWACA Neighborhood Interest Survey

— Joyce Statz

Between February 8 and March 5, NWACA conducted its annual survey of the neighborhood to provide direction to its committees and the NWACA Board. There were 267 responses.

The President's Message on the cover page described some of the survey results; here we describe other information gleaned from the survey.

The survey found that among the neighborhood issues considered most crucial for NWACA to work on, these are the top five:

- Zoning/planning
- Traffic speed reduction
- Crime Prevention/ Neighborhood Watch
- Recycling
- Parks development and maintenance

Among the city-wide issues, neighbors identified these as the top five on which NWACA should inform the neighborhood and advocate for the neighborhood with the City:

- School overcrowding
- Property tax rates
- CodeNEXT implementation
- Transportation issues
- Affordable housing in Austin

The NWACA Board reviewed the ratings at its March meeting and agreed that these issues will drive their efforts for the year, as speakers are arranged for the May Annual Meeting, Town Hall events, and other activities. Newsletter articles will also target these topics.

A complete summary of the results of the survey can be found on the NWACA web site, [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) in an article under the News and Announcements section.



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## CodeNEXT Update

– David Whitworth

The Zoning and Platting Commission and the Planning Commission have been meeting jointly in work sessions to discuss the new draft Land Development Code (CodeNEXT). There have been several key concerns stated. Is it too complicated? Why are there two sets of zones (transect and non-transect)? Will CodeNEXT protect neighborhoods? Will it truly usher in more affordable housing options and better transit, as Austin is expected to double in population in the next 30 years? These are followed by a multitude of more detailed observations, both positive and negative about the mechanics of the Code and how it would work. On April 18th, the city plans to release a draft of the map of where the new zones will apply. At that point, citizens will be able to see what land use entitlements will be located where.

The City will host an open house to explain the new code at Anderson High School on April 8th, 2pm-4pm.

The web site below has other dates for open houses if you can't attend the Anderson event. Also on this site is a link to the "Code Comment Tool" where you can read the code and make comments after creating a log in account.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/codenext-community-engagement>

## Dance Invitation for Seniors

– Kay Sousares

Come and enjoy a special dancing experience at the Parks and Recreation Senior Activity Center at 2874 Shoal Crest Avenue, at the corner of 29th and Lamar. Dancing is fun, and it's also good exercise. We do some line dancing and lots of ballroom dancing.

We currently have two great bands that play all types of music from big band swing to rock and roll. We have experienced dancers who enjoy showing you the dance steps to certain types of music. Our special dance floor has a one and one half- inch cushion under a beautiful hardwood floor that is easy on the feet.

Dances are held on most Fridays. A schedule is available at the door. Members pay \$5 per person and non-members pay \$7 per person. Come and have a great time with us!

For more information, call Kay Sousares, president of the Friday night "Let's Dance Club" at 512-453-7978.



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# Watch Out for Wildlife with Their Young Ones

— Wildlife Management Committee

It's springtime in Northwest Austin, so we'll soon be seeing deer families of young fawns and their mothers in the neighborhood. Please be careful as you drive through the neighborhood, since the young ones move a bit unpredictably. In addition, be wary of getting near the mother deer while out walking or running, since they may become defensive to defend their babies. Also, if a deer leaves a fawn in your yard, please don't touch or move the fawn. The mother deer will be back to retrieve it.

If you find a fawn that is sick, injured, or in an unsafe area, call Austin Wildlife Rescue at 472-WILD (471-9453)

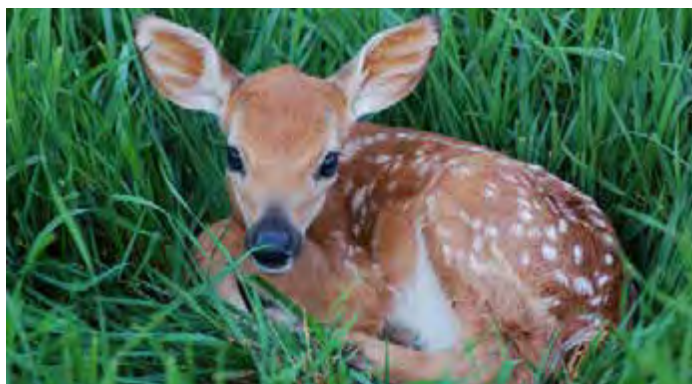
Now is also the time to be aware of coyote pup rearing season.

- Coyotes breed in February and March; pups are born about 60 days later.
- During this time, territorial male coyotes do not tolerate other canines in their territory; many conflicts between coyotes and domestic dogs result from this territorial behavior.
- An average coyote litter contains 4 or 5 pups, born in dens. In urban environments, dens can be in storm drains, under storage drains, in holes dug in vacant lots, parks, golf courses or any other dark, dry place.
- Coyote pups are cared for, fed, and protected by both parents. The pups mature quickly and can eat meat and move about well by the time they are a month old.
- Food requirements of the nursing females and the growing young remain high until late summer. As people and their pets spend more time outdoors during this time, the possibility of a coyote encounter increases.
- It is not unusual to observe a family of coyotes traveling through urbanized areas.
- If food is deliberately or inadvertently provided by people, the pups quickly learn not to fear humans and develop a dependency on easy food sources.

As a reminder, evaluate what food attractants you may be inadvertently providing. Pick ripe fruit from trees and off the ground, secure garbage and compost bins, don't feed pets outdoors, don't throw food scraps for wildlife, keep bird feeders from overflowing, eliminate artificial water sources. Additionally, close off crawl spaces under porches, decks, and sheds!



*Coyote With Pup*



*Fawn*

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## Conserving the Valley While Saving Endangered Birds and Plants

— Al Simmons

Last month's Firewise article concentrated on the impact of terrain and the elements on urban wildfires. We used the 105-acre valley between the Meadow Mountain developments on the north and Cat Mountain on the south. The prevailing winds are generally from the southwest to the northeast of the valley, up very steep inclines on the north face to where many of the homes are built along and cantilevered over the edge of the valley. It appears that when the builders/developers built the homes, they cut a large number of trees on the home sites and pushed the tree slash over the edge into the valley. This occurred in the late 1980's, and the majority of that slash is still rotting in the valley, making perfect wildfire fuel.

There are several very similar valleys located in the NWACA, making our area a beautiful place to live. However, if there is slash left by the builders/developers in the same manner as in our valley, we all have the same danger. In our valley, we have tried to remove as much of the rotting wood as we can, but it is an immense effort and we have found we do not have enough manpower to meet the task. In addition, our valley was controlled by an owner who wouldn't let us into the valley, and the local authorities who control endangered species in the valley have been very reluctant to let us into the valley

as well. However, it appears that our 30-year efforts may be paying off, as the valley has been sold to a new owner who appreciates the wildfire danger and is trying to work with us on these issues.

We also believe that the authorities who control endangered species may let us work in the valley during the "non-nesting" periods for the endangered Golden Cheeked Warblers, if we can stay away from the protected bracted twistflower plants.

Our approach is to use the old wood to create water control devices to slow water flow to the central gully in the center of the valley. Doing so saves the soil and rock formations in the course of the water's travel to the gully. The proposed solution is to use the tree slash, cutting the lumber into lengths that can be stacked perpendicular to the hillside (placed horizontally), to significantly reduce the natural slope of the canyon walls. The stacks will essentially be a series of semi-permanent, low dams staggered so that the flow of water is slowed to eliminate erosion.

The intent of this effort is to save the character of the valley while doing away with flammable wildfire materials. If you are interested in knowing more about this approach or want to participate in the initial implementations, please send email to [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com)




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## Special Thanks to Members

- Membership Committee

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the Oak Wilt Fund, the 4th of July Parade Fund, and the Park Fund, between February 15, 2017 and March 13, 2017.

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.

- Ed and Kathy Burshnick
- John and Cynthia Everist
- Louis and JoAnn Hornung
- J. Edward Jones
- Cindy and Michael Marks
- Jerry and Susan Mitchell

## Live Long and Prosper!

- Public Service Announcement

Neighbors who have reached age 65 have a number of financial benefits to take advantage of, in addition to the retirement and medical support we often think about. Here are a few to check on:

- City of Austin Transportation User Fee – monthly fee charged to utility bills that varies between \$8.76 and \$11.52, depending on the type of housing; those 65 and older are exempt. See this web site for details <https://www.austintexas.gov/faq/what-transportation-user-fee>

- AISD taxes – for homeowners, the assessed value used for computing AISD taxes can be frozen at the value when the homeowner turned 65. See the Tax Breaks for Seniors section at this web site: <https://tax-office.traviscountytx.gov/seniors>

- If you ride the bus, Cap Metro has a deal for you! With the Senior Pass, you can ride any buses all day long for just \$1.25. An application is available here: <https://www.capmetro.org/RFID/> After you complete the application, take it in person to the Capital Metro Transit Store at 209 West 9th St. It's open 8:30 to 4:30 on week days. You can take either the 19 bus or the 661 shuttle and then change at UT for an 801/803.

## NWACA Window Decals

Debra Danziger



NWACA window decals are now available for \$3. Show your neighborhood pride and spirit with an official NWACA membership window decal, perfect for your vehicle.

The decal measures 3"x3" and sells for \$3 online at: <http://nwaca.org/donations/>  
Order yours today!

## Assassin and Ambush Bugs

—Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension service



Assassin and ambush bugs are predators and are considered beneficial insects. They are generalists that attack a variety of caterpillars, flies, and other bugs. These predators either stalk their prey or wait to ambush prey when they come to a plant. Prey is stabbed with tube-like mouthparts, paralyzed with a toxin, and body fluids sucked up.

Assassin and ambush bugs have 3 segmented piercing-sucking mouthparts. These bugs come in a variety of colors with assassin

bugs usually being darker in color than ambush bugs. Assassin bugs also have a more elongated head compared to ambush bugs. Ambush bugs have thickened front legs used to capture and hold prey. Immatures, or nymphs, look similar to the adults but do not have fully developed wings. Eggs are usually deposited in masses and are cylindrical in shape.

While most assassin bugs are beneficial, the kissing bug or cone-nose bug is considered a pest. Kissing bugs feed on blood of mammals, including humans.

For assassin bugs that are feeding on insects, control is not required. For more information on kissing bugs see this site <https://kissingbug.tamu.edu/>

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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)







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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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(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 going to [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org),  
 selecting the Get Involved Tab, and choosing Join/Renew*

**Volunteers are always needed on our committees.**

**Please mark those on which you'd like to actively participate.**

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



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