



President's Message

—Chris Hajdu

It's December, and another year is almost in the books. With the new year comes change and that change includes the end of my term as the President of NWACA. I have truly enjoyed serving this community that my family loves and cherishes so much. Through the family friendly events, 4th of July Parades, recycling events, and information meetings, I have met a wide array of people across our community. I am blown away by the service and dedication I have seen from our board, our committees, our volunteers, and our residents. I really do believe Northwest Hills is the best community in Austin.

So, what's next for me? Well, I'm not straying too far, as I'm staying on the board in an officer role to assist with the transition to our newly elected President and board members. The new board, which was elected in early November, includes some old faces and some new ones. I encourage you to look at the list of incoming board members for the next two-year term (see the article in this newsletter) to familiarize yourself with the newly elected NWACA board.

Okay, so now that the goodbyes are out of the way, if you haven't heard already, the AISD Bond passed in the November election. With its passage, a number of changes are in store for local schools. Please read the article this month for the latest (as of press time) details related to planned construction at Doss and Murchison over

the next few years and what it might mean to those with and without school age children in our area.

And of course, even my last column will include the favorite topic du jour in our 'hood, Speed Cushions. I'd like to address a few areas of confusion among some of our residents regarding the speed cushions installed this year on Far West and on Mesa.

- First, many people have assumed that the devices were installed at the request of NWACA; not true. They were installed by the City of Austin through the LATM (Local Area Traffic Management) program, which is a program that allows residents to request traffic calming devices in areas with demonstrated high average speeds.

- Secondly, in August, the city put speed mitigation device installations on hold for streets like Far West and Mesa (roads that double as residential and major transit avenues) while they test alternative designs. This was based on initial negative feedback on the chosen designs. These alternative designs are currently in place on Far West and Mesa, and we'd like to encourage everyone to provide feedback to the Austin Transportation Department (transportation@austintexas.gov) regarding their thoughts on the new installations which include a flat profile section between the rising and falling sections. Our feedback is very important to help guide the response

(Continued on Page 4)

Am I a Member?

You receive the newsletter every month, so you think you're a NWACA member, right? Not necessarily! Thanks to our advertisers, every single-family household in NWACA receives the monthly newsletter.

Members pay annual dues of only \$25 ensuring that NWACA special events such as the Fourth of July parade, fall garage sales, recycling events, and summer pool parties continue. NWACA committees such as Wildfire Prevention, Crime and Safety, and Tree and Environment depend on your donations to produce educational materials and programs. And, the Special Projects Fund helps to beautify and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. Want to get more involved with NWACA? Members are also eligible to run for the NWACA board.

So, while, "Am I a member?" is a question we hear often, we're happy to answer! Email us at: nwacainfo@gmail.com with your name and home address, and we'll let you know. Thanks from all your neighbors!

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 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.

Welcome to NWACA!

NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

Dec 3, 2 PM

Kneaded Pleasures
Parks Committee

Dec 12, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Communications Committee

Dec 17, 2 PM

Kneaded Pleasures
Tree and Environmental Stewardship Committee

Jan 7, 2 PM

Kneaded Pleasures
Parks Committee

Jan 9, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Communications Committee

Jan 10, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Mangia Pizza
NWACA Board Meeting

Jan 23, 5 PM

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

AISS Bond Passes Now What?

—Lauren Ward

Voters overwhelmingly approved the Austin district's \$1.1 billion bond, the largest bond package to pass in Central Texas history on November 8th.

As you may remember, our NWACA area schools stand to gain over \$60M in improvements from this bond: Doss Elementary will construct a new two-story building, Murchison Middle and Hill Elementary will both add wings to reduce overcrowding and upgrade their campuses. All three - along with Anderson High School - will have overall facilities upgrades including technology, updated wiring/plumbing/HVAC as needed, and more.

On November 8th, Doss and Murchison administrators met with the district's construction management team and they confirmed that the Doss / Murchison project is in the first group of projects for this bond. All of the pre-planning and design work will continue to be pressed forward quickly.

The Murchison and Doss projects will be combined into one project for efficiency purposes. They will share one contractor and construction will advance simultaneously.

The Project Overview for Doss is:

- Comprehensive re-build to a modernized school
- Right-size Doss to meet the enrollment needs

The Project Overview for Murchison Middle School is:

- Build a 6th grade center to relieve the overcrowded building (phase 1 of this bond)
- Relocation of administrative offices and library (phase 2 of this bond)

Surveyors and soil borings (soil samples) will begin within weeks. This data will be used to inform the design decision. The administrators will meet with the Pre-Design Architect in mid-November to progress the concepts for the Design-Build Team. The Design-Build Team selection process will start mid-November and continue through January with Principal inclusion.

(Continued on Page 4)


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NWACA News

President's Message (Continued from Cover)

from the City as they move forward.

- Thirdly, the installation of the speed cushions and the implementation of the Constable pilot program are two separate things that happen to have coincided at about the same time and are not related at all. One was brought about by the City; the other was a special project funded by a combination of some concerned residents and the NWACA project reserves.

One thing that we are looking at is whether traffic patterns in the near term are affected at all by the completion of the Mopac express lanes. Many in our area are hopeful that we will see fewer instances of "Waze" or "Google Maps" routing people through our arterials if better options exist.

Speaking of traffic, please read the articles in this month's newsletter about the recent survey we ran regarding our pilot constable program and the update on what the constable has been doing while on patrol. You'll see how to contact us if you have problems areas or concerns you'd like the constable to be aware of.

And as always, if you are not sure if you are a current member, remember that you can check online at <http://www.nwaca.org>. Look under Quick Links for "Check if I'm a NWACA Member." If you are not, we'd appreciate your support with an annual membership.

(Continued from Page 2)

During the renovation, which is expected to take three school semesters, Doss Pre-K through 3rd grade students will be housed at the Lucy Read Pre-Kindergarten Campus (located at 2608 Richcreek Rd.) while 4th and 5th grades will be in portables at Murchison Middle School. This would begin in the fall of 2018. The Doss 4th and 5th graders will be completely separated from the rest of Murchison. They will have their own portable cafeteria, gym, and library. Doss students will not be intermingled with the Murchison students.

The \$1,050,984,000 bond proposition was shaped by the district's Facility Master Plan, which serves as a guideline for all AISD facilities over the next 25 years. The bond package was the culmination of almost two years of intensive work by an 18-member committee called the "FABPAC" — Facilities and Bond Planning Advisory Committee — who studied the district's facility needs.

Kendall Pace, board president, spoke the night of the bond's passage and said "I feel like it says that people don't just like their public schools, they love their public schools." Referencing the fact that a 2013 bond measure failed in the district, she also said "This process was better devised and more transparent."

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Bull Creek's Pleasant Valley School

—Richard Denney

Barkley's History of Travis County and Austin notes that schools and churches were the centers of communities during the years of the Texas Republic and early statehood. In a previous article I wrote about Esperanza School, a one-room log cabin that was located at Spicewood Springs.

West of Spicewood Springs, two schools served the valley of Bull Creek, one, Oak Grove School, started ca. 1864 located on what is today Old Lampasas Trail, then relocated near today's Oak Grove Cemetery. Another, the topic of this post, was located west along today's FM 2222. The Defender 1936, a book about Travis County rural schools published in 1936 for Texas' centennial, provides this history for what was known as Pleasant Valley School ; brackets are mine:

"The first school at Pleasant Valley was established sixty-nine years ago [1867]. It was a private school in a log house on the old Walden place. This was during the time when Indians were prevalent ... Three years later there was a public school built on what is known [in 1936] as the School Flat. The land, about one and one-half acres, was given by Ewan Williams. The first trustees were Hugh Walden [of Walden's mill], Ewan Williams and Fendrick Smith. This school burned in 1885. After some dispute over land titles, the building was rebuilt, but it [too] burned in 1931. It was re-built the following year [1932] ... It was during that year that the school was standardized."

From this description we see there were four buildings in which school was held. Barkley notes, sometime during this period the school came to be located on land owned by the Champion family and donated for the school; the descendants of the Champions still own large tracts of land along 2222. Barkley says "[the school] was later consolidated with Summitt (sic) and later was in the Austin Independent School District, when the school site reverted by sale to Mrs. C.C. Champion, as provided in the original deed."

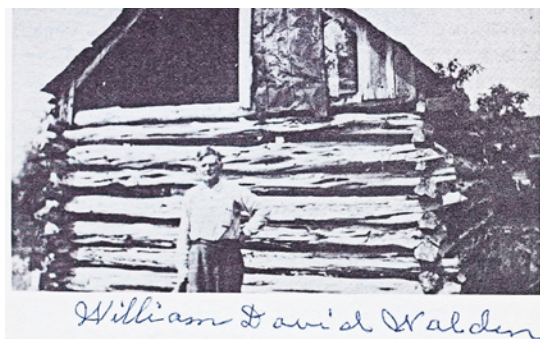
Travis County maps show the school near the intersection of today's 2222 (which used to be called Bull Creek Road), and Loop 360. On the Travis County Roads Map of 1898-1902 the school is shown as Bull Creek School; on the 1932 Topographic and Road Map of Travis County (the year the final building was constructed) the school appears as Pleasant Valley School.

This also appears to be the location of the very first log cabin version of the school built in 1867. In 1966 The Austin American ran an article about Clementine Walden Jackson, 75 at the time, titled "She recalls Bull Creek, Oak Grove of long ago!" In the article is a photo of her father, W.D. Walden, son of Hughell Walden who settled along Bull Creek in the 1850s, building Walden mill. Her father is standing in front of the old log cabin school he attended in the 19th century with a caption that says "It [the log cabin] was where the Pleasant Valley School is located today [1966], beside Bull Creek Road (FM 2222)". William David Walden was born 1859, died 1939. In the photo he is obviously not a young man. Of the four school buildings discussed by Defender 1936, there is only one that would have been there when he was school age, and was still around later in his life for the photo:

the first log cabin school. All other buildings either were built after he past school age, or burned before he the photo could have been taken later in his life. That tells us the log cabin in front of which W.D. Walden is standing was located on 2222 where the final Pleasant Valley School would later be built in 1932, near the intersection with today's Loop 360.

As you well know, today the intersection of FM 2222 and Loop 360 is just one big mixmaster of a road system. So, what happened to that old log cabin, and to the final building built in 1932, both of which were located there? That is a good question ... to be continued!

For more on this topic and other local history, visit Richard Denney's blog at <http://txcompost.blogspot.com/>



NWACA Board Elected for 2018-2019 Term

—NWACA Board

During the last two weeks of October, NWACA conducted its biennial election of NWACA Board members. Congratulations to these neighbors, who will start their two-year term as the NWACA Board on January 1: Caroline Alexander, Joanie Arrott, Brad Banister, Mehram Bhiwandiwalla, Roger Bolick, Ruven Brooks, Aaron Daniels, Julie DePalma, Vicki DeWeese, Tracey Fine, Charlie Galvin, Chris Hajdu, Louri O'Leary, Mike Polston, Chris Roddy, Micah Sagebiel, and Lauren Ward.



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Business Spotlight: Austin Terrier

—Janice Green



The Austin Terrier – a favorite Northwest Hills neighborhood oasis for humans and canines alike – has a new owner, Sanjay Rana. His journey is fascinating, beginning with his departure from Kenya, graduation from Austin's U.T., then a career managing IT projects. His dual joys for cooking and home-brewing, plus the diversity of Northwest Hills, bolstered his decision to shift gears and acquire Austin Terrier on Greystone.

But don't worry. Our dogs are still welcomed with bowls of water on the tree-shaded patio. The funny Boston Terrier art still dons the walls. And the Trio of Fries, craft beers on tap, and the medley of sandwiches, salads, soups, and pizzas are still on the menu, but with Sanjay's personal touches to our laid-back local haunt. Let's call it Austin Terrier 2.0.

Austin Terrier now offers a Reverse Happy Hour from 8 un til 10 Monday-Thursday for those needing a study break or a break from the national news. Also, there's a new brunch menu on Saturdays and Sundays featuring gourmet omelets and breakfast tacos with an original habanero sauce (served on the side!). In the future Sanjay plans to expand the dinner menu to include small plates for sharing.

Sanjay continues the original vision of Austin Terrier – the family-pet-friendly atmosphere that caters to a variety of palates: Those eager to try one of the dozen rotating craft beers (such as Punkin Ale and Texas Honey Cider for this time of year); customers whose diet may be gluten-free or vegetarian; folks wanting a burger plus the truffle-parmesan fries; pizza lovers with adventuresome appetites for Zilker Love or Lockhart Pie or The Greenbelt and other imaginative combos mounded on thin, soft crust. Sandwiches come in an assortment of breads with a host of unique ingredients that

spin your appetite into high gear – pesto mayo, dijon horseradish, garlic mayo, marinated tomatoes, to name a few. Also, there are the amped up versions of peanut butter and grilled cheese sandwiches that will delight any parent sharing one with a kiddo.

Austin Terrier will continue being a meeting hub for small groups and events. Just contact Sanjay to work out the details.

Whenever a successful hangout changes hands, we often fear the loss of our favorite menu items or the atmospheric quirks that make us smile. Sanjay appreciates those concerns and wants to build on the Austin Terrier's unique contribution to our NW Hills dining options.

By the way, Pasha, my beloved rescue dog, is thrilled that he hasn't lost his favorite watering hole! He enjoys flirting with the canine-attentive waitstaff.

Menus and hours are at www.austinterrier.com; 3435 Greystone Dr.; 512-369-3751



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Be a Part of History!

—Stacey Brewer

The NWACA History Committee is charged with researching and documenting the history of our area, keeping records and collecting photos of civic association activities and neighborhood events for future generations to study and enjoy. Some topics for research include but are not limited to early people and settlers, neighborhood development, schools, historic events, homes and buildings, social groups, zoning issues, disasters, streets and roads, and businesses.

Activities of the committee may include copying records, searching for information, interviewing residents and others with important information, writing articles for the NWACA newsletter or web site, organizing records for preservation, and meeting with the History Committee. If you have information to contribute, or you'd like to get involved with the committee, please send an email to nwacainfo@gmail.com.

CodeNEXT Update

—David Whitworth

City Staff spent October hosting outreach meetings and taking feedback. Public engagement and online comments concluded on October 31. Draft 3 will be released November 28. The NWACA area is almost entirely zoned for R2C in the residential areas. R2C has the same lot sizes as before (5,750sf for a house and 7,000sf for a duplex). An accessory dwelling unit is allowed, but not in conjunction with a duplex. There are various minor issues with this zoning category such as the single-story limit 80ft beyond the front lot line. Hopefully, some of these minor items will be cleaned up in draft 3 and before adoption. The commercial up-zones taking place in NWACA generally occur along Far West, Mesa, and Spicewood Springs Road where commercial property currently exists. The apartments around Wood Hollow Drive convert to new versions of multifamily housing.

Through November and December, the Planning Commission is meeting almost weekly, using each meeting to focus on a different key issue. Typically, a citizen communication period is included at the beginning of each meeting.

Just before we went to press with this issue, the schedule for Draft 3 was changed; it has been pushed from November, 2017 to February, 2018. Check for the latest information on the schedule and related activities regarding this draft and the City process at <https://www.austintexas.gov/codenext>



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Constable Pilot Activity Update

—Joyce Statz

We now have data from about 4 months of the constable pilot, with most of the activity focused on handling traffic issues in our neighborhood. As of the first week of November, the constable has issued 131 citations (tickets), which covered 164 violations; most of these were for speeding or for running a stop sign.

Tickets issued by the Constable are Travis County tickets, and fees go to the Travis County Justice of the Peace Court for the precinct in which the offense occurs; for most of the NWACA area, this is Precinct 2, while parts of the neighborhood are in Precinct 5.

In addition to handling traffic issues, the Constable is also available to deal with crime and safety issues in our neighborhood that have been reported to the Austin Police Department. Since he checks in with APD when going on and off patrol, the APD dispatcher knows when the Constable is in our neighborhood and can ask him for assistance.

In the period of the pilot thus far, the Constable has assisted the Austin Fire Department in a response to a house fire and has helped APD with a domestic violence incident. Among the traffic stops, he found two instances of marijuana and drug use, and issued citations for those.

The Constable has also supported the neighborhood by being in our area for National Night Out, patrolling on Halloween, and roaming the neighborhood watching for a suspicious vehicle that had been reported. In response to several individual emails requesting information or assistance, the Constable has also reached out to those neighbors. If there are trouble spots you would like to have the Constable focus on, or issues you would like to discuss with the Constable, he is very willing to do that. Just send us your email request at nwacainfo@gmail.com or send a letter to our postal address.

October 2017 Constable Pilot Survey Results

—Joyce Statz

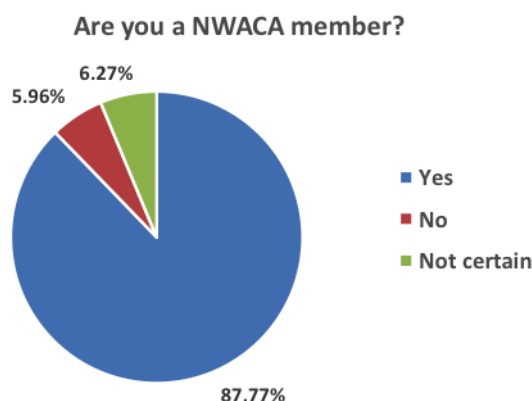
During the month of October 2017, NWACA conducted a survey of the neighborhood to get their reactions to a pilot program that employs a Travis County Constable to patrol the NWACA area, focusing on traffic violations – mostly speeding and running of stop signs. The areas of focus were chosen from the results of a survey conducted in May, where respondents identified streets and intersections of most concern to them. The Constable has been patrolling in the neighborhood since mid-July, 2017, about 6 hours per week.

This mid-pilot survey was available online via Survey Monkey to the whole NWACA neighborhood, and a paper copy was sent to NWACA members who are not internet-enabled. There were 319 responses, 7 by paper copy.

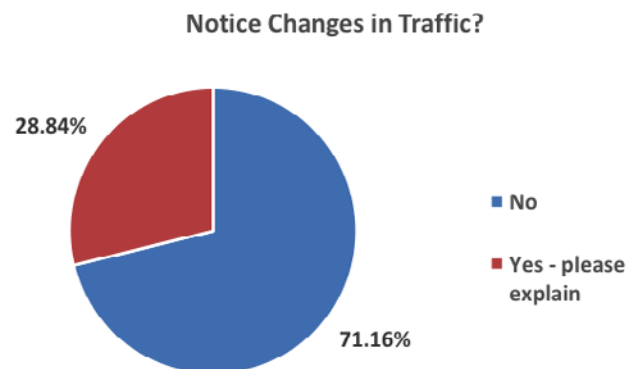
Here are results of the survey.

The first two questions asked for a street address, which is not summarized here. All respondents were from the NWACA area.

Q3: Are you a NWACA Member? (319 responses)



Q4: Since the start of the pilot in mid-July, have you noticed any changes in the traffic in our neighborhood? (319 responses)



Among the 92 Yes explanations, these were the most prevalent:

- 24 – Less speeding, slower driving
- 12 – Saw Constable and/or traffic stops/citations being given
- 12 – Positive comments on the speed bumps
- 9 – Negative comments on the speed bumps
- 6 – Diversions through other streets to avoid speed bumps
- 6 – Slight improvements (less backup at Far West/Mesa, fewer cars in PM rush hour, ...)
- 6 – More congested (various ways)
- 6 – Speed bumps (just listed; no other comment)
- 5 – overall safer (calmer, more respectful at 4-way stops, more cautious at intersections)

(Continued on Page 10)



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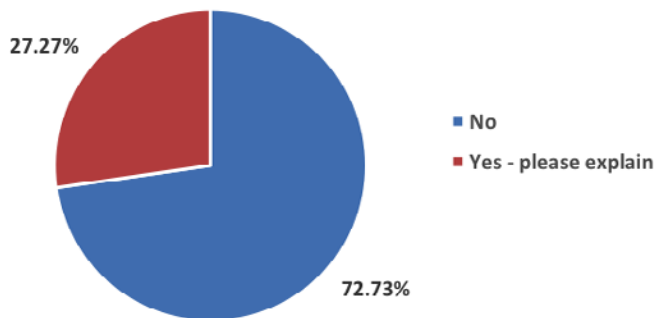


NWACA News

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Q5: Since the start of the pilot in mid-July, have you noticed any changes in the behavior of drivers in our neighborhood?
(319 responses)

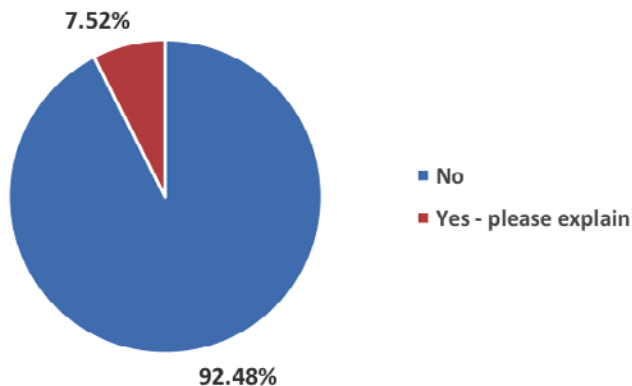
Changes in Behavior of Drivers?



Among the 87 Yes responses, these were the most prevalent:
 32 – Drivers are going at slower speeds
 22 – Drivers more cautious, calmer, courteous (observe stop signs, speed limits, ...)
 9 – Things are the same or worse
 5 – Negative comments on speed bumps and how drivers react (too slow, too fast)
 5 – Speed bumps slow down the drivers
 4 – Drivers more aggressive, agitated, irritated
 3 – Drivers divert to side streets to avoid speed bumps

Q6: Since the start of the pilot in mid-July, have you noticed any impact on the level of crime (usually burglary of vehicle and house break-ins) in our neighborhood? (319 responses)

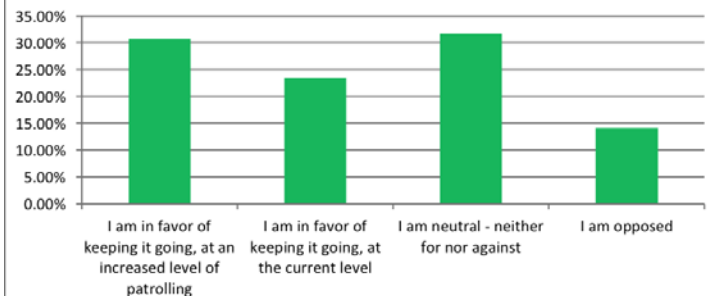
Impact on the Level of Crime?



Of the 24 Yes responses, these were the categories of responses:
 9 – Experienced more, or heard about more incidents
 7 – Experienced less, or heard less about incidents
 6 – Not sure or about the same
 2 – Comments about how to prevent break-ins

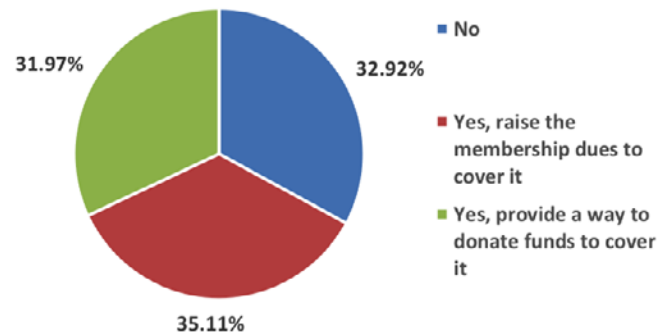
Q7: What is your opinion about continuing this program with a constable patrolling our neighborhood? (319 responses)

What is your opinion about continuing this program with a constable patrolling our neighborhood?



Q8: Continuing a program like this is expected to cost about \$1,000 per month for 24 hours per month of patrolling. If we make this an ongoing program, do you support NWACA funding this program? (319 responses)

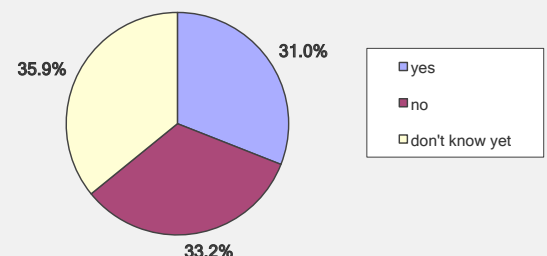
Support NWACA Funding an Ongoing Program?



The May survey prior to making a decision to run the pilot asked a similar question: **This 6-month trial effort is expected to cost about \$6,000. If we were to proceed with the program on an ongoing basis, would you be willing to contribute funds for the program?**

The response to that question had a similar number of “no” responses, but the remainder split between “yes” and “don’t know yet.”

This 6-month trial effort is expected to cost about \$6,000. If we were to proceed with the program on an ongoing basis, would you be willing to contribute funds for the program?



(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued from Page 10)

Q9: Please provide any other comments you wish to give us, regarding this program. (159 responses)

- 62 – Comments favorable regarding the program and funding it, many with suggestions for specific things to address or ways to improve it -ex. More patrols at night
- 17 – haven't seen the Constable; some not aware of the program; some in areas not likely to be heavy traffic (thus not patrolled), though there is speeding in the area
- 13 – drop it; or negative comments about the approach or funding this with neighborhood association money
- 13 – This should be done by APD. In addition, several said it should be paid for by the City of Austin, by Travis County, or by the fees collected for tickets
- 13 – specific traffic issues (some of which we can point out to the Constable, and he will use them as suggestions for where to focus)
- 11 – Don't see a need for this program, based on few traffic issues or not seeing any change from the program so far

- 8 – oppose the use of speed bumps
- 7 – support the use of speed bumps
- 7 – questions – liability, could ticket fees fund the program, does Constable focus on identified trouble spots, how many tickets of each type have been issued, can the Constable give tickets (some of these have been answered in monthly newsletter articles, but bear repeating)
- 5 – miscellaneous comments – ex. We love the neighborhood

The NWACA Board discussed the survey results at its November Board meeting and agreed to continue the program in 2018. The pilot program has funds that will carry it into the month of January. The new Board which starts its work in January will determine the number of hours per month for the constable, and they will discuss the scope of work after the pilot completes – keeping the effort focused on traffic enforcement or extending the coverage to other areas.



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City of Austin Overcharging You for Drainage?

—Ray Hendren

In response to our high water and electric bills in July and August 2017, I decided to do some looking into all the different charges on our City of Austin utility bill. No small task, as it turned out. Using the August bill, I started with data update for drainage charge which came with the bill. The City of Austin website says that the drainage charge was added in 1982 in response to the Memorial Day flooding that year, 35 years ago. I looked for the \$9.80 charge that I guessed was still being charged. That \$9.80 figure per month had more than quadrupled on our bills! The drainage information on the City's website said some homeowners experienced some increase in the \$9.80; I guess 4X plus qualifies as some increase! The fact sheet from our bill states that in 70% of cases the change was less than a dollar or no change. That was not us!

I called the number on the fact sheet for Customer Care (512-494-9400) and started looking at the website www.austintexas.gov/GIS/DrainageCharge/ I found out that in 2015 the methodology for fees had been changed.

We are in a 1970s's house with a circular drive and back patio. Because of the steep drop-off behind our house, I am guessing a deck was installed over much of the back yard, and I am guessing that the circular driveway was installed because the street is hilly and curved, and It could be dangerous to back straight out.

At our home, we had not made any structural changes, built any

more patios, or paved over any more driveways, but the charge was now something significant. Further, I found out that that the charges were not correct; in fact, the City was off by over 16% on the amount of impervious cover for our lot, and we are due a refund because of this mistake since 2015. The deck was not deducted from the impervious cover (though you only get a 50% reduction on decks), and areas that are shaded by trees and on the back of the house that the satellite could not see were charged against us. Even more confusing to the impervious cover calculation is the fact that we have a sunporch on the second floor that hangs out over a flowerbed, and that counts against us as well as gravel paths under wide eaves. I would not think of flower beds and gravel as impervious cover. (Yes, they updated the satellite pictures of the house.)

Where does all this money go? That was another surprise. On the City website's Austin Drainage Charge page (<http://austintexas.gov/drainagecharge>) there is a link to FAQs, which includes one on "What is it and Why is it important?" The list of where the money goes is long and not where I thought the money would go.

I encourage you to get your tape measurers and calculators out and review the data on the drainage calculation. Then unless you're an environmental engineer and can make sense of it, contact the city and have them walk you through the process to make sure that you are receiving the maximum credits you are due.



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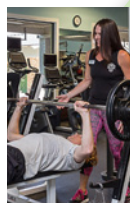
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Using Your New Composting Cart

—David Hogan



Some NWACA residences have now received an additional green cart for use in the City's compost collection service.

This is a small cart similar to the tan trash cart and blue recycling cart already in use. Yard trimmings previously in tied bundles or collected in big paper bags can now instead be placed in this new cart. Additional paper bags and trimming bundles can still be placed at the curb.

Compostable organic items can be mixed in with the yard trimmings. These include: food scraps - including meats and bones, spoiled food, cotton balls, pizza boxes, soiled paper napkins (clean paper should still be recycled) and popsicle sticks. You can see a short video on the acceptable items at www.tinyurl.com/WhatOrganic

Staging food item collection in the kitchen could take some experimenting to find what technique best fits your way of preparing food. Vegetable scraps may be simply kept under the sink in a small reusable composting container. There are many kitchen/indoor compost bins that you can buy online or at retail stores like Target and World Market.

Wet food items can be collected in a reusable container or a recyclable container like an old cereal box and stored in the freezer. There are also special decomposable/compostable bags. When purchasing compostable bags, just be sure that they have the BPI composting logo on them.

On your pickup day you simply deposit the contents of your staged collection into the green cart. A summary of food staging techniques may be found in the following video: www.tinyurl.com/RecycleOrganics

Three-gallon compostable bags can currently be found at the Natural Grocers in Arbor Walk. HEB is in the process of working with a vendor to supply bags for their stores. Bags can also be found on Amazon by searching for "3-gallon compostable bags."

The Austin City Council has approved a \$1 monthly fee increase to cover this first year of the composting rollout. By 2020, when curbside composting is rolled out to the entire city, the fee will be \$4 extra per month. This fee is mandatory, even if you choose not to use the composting service or are not included in the phase 1 rollout.

However, there is still a way you will be able to save money. In Austin, your trash/recycling/compost bill is calculated based on the size of your trash bin (see www.tinyurl.com/CartSizes). The average Austin Resource Recovery customer has a fairly large 64-gallon trash cart. Since food waste makes up nearly half of Austin's trash, the idea is that with composting, you'll be able to throw away less stuff and therefore reduce the size of your trash cart. If you're able to downsize to a 32-gallon cart, you could save \$61 a year and if you're able to downsize to a 24-gallon cart, you could save \$76 a year. Both of those savings are more than the eventual \$48 a year rate increase everyone will experience to pay for the new composting service.

Recycle Holiday Styrofoam and Dental Care Products

—Tree and Environment Committee

Your Tree and Environment Committee tries to make it easy for you to recycle those hard to recycle items that you can't put in your curbside cart. Each Fall and Spring we hold electronics and paint collection events. We have recently added collection of Styrofoam and dental care products.

Hold onto Those Holiday Packing Materials!

As the holiday packages (and just the normal deliveries) are opened, there's often a lot of Styrofoam packing material included. The small packing peanuts can be recycled at some of the local package shippers, but the blocks of Styrofoam aren't welcome there. There is a solution for you, other than putting them into the trash! Hold onto them for the Spring NWACA Electronics and Styrofoam collection event. We don't yet have a date for the event, but it's just a few

months away! We'll gather your materials and take them to the City's Reuse and Recycle Drop-Off Center for you.

Hold onto Those Toothbrushes and Dental Care Products

This year we will also be collecting old toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes and caps, and empty dental floss containers. These dental items will be collected at our Fall Paint/Battery/Oil/Antifreeze event and sent off to TerraCycle. Just place a bag in your bathroom and toss old products into the bag. Each Fall bring it in to the recycling event like your old battery collection.

The dental materials are upcycled into new products such as can be found at www.dwellsmart.com/TerraCycle





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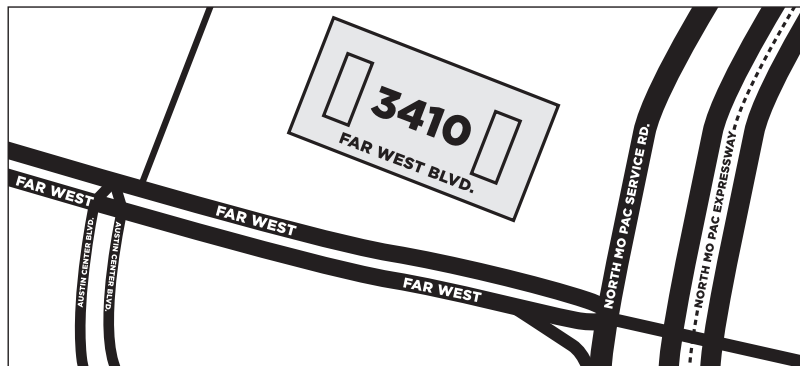


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Volunteers are always needed on our committees.

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

- Civic Engagement
- Communications
- Crime and Safety/Neighborhood Watch
- Events/ 4th of July
- History
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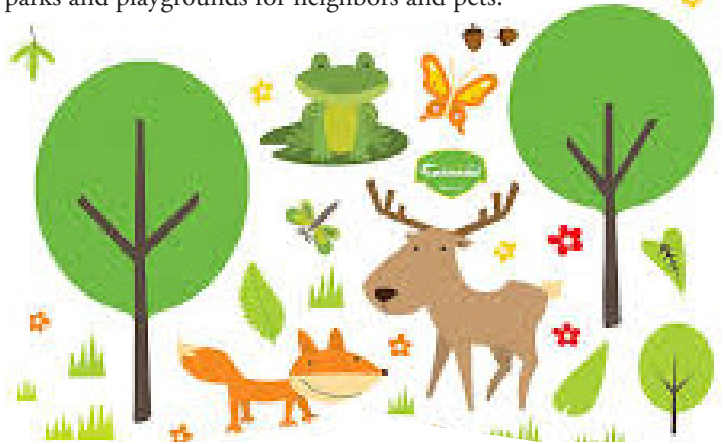
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NWACA advises residents to NOT feed wildlife. Many well-intentioned individuals do so out of concern for the wildlife they are feeding. However, intentional and unintentional feeding of wildlife attracts predators to the wildlife being fed. Additionally, an association with humans and food contributes directly to habituated behaviors of animals like coyotes and feral hogs, which then become aggressive in pursuit of a food or prey attractant. Please eliminate food attractants from your yards for the safe enjoyment of our streets, parks and playgrounds for neighbors and pets.



Why Join NWACA

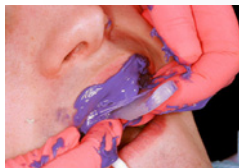
The Northwest Austin Civic Association is your neighborhood association. NWACA represents you on issues like crime prevention, transportation congestion and excessive speeds, zoning concerns, and wildfire prevention. NWACA plans the annual 4th of July Parade, organizes election forums, sponsors an annual neighborhood garage sale, recycles household waste, publishes this newsletter, and much more! Your support makes it all happen! Join us.

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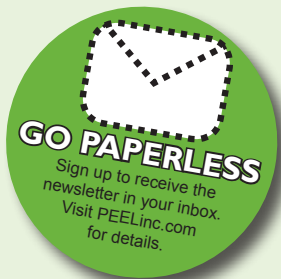
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APD District Representative, Office Darrell Grayson...512-974-5242
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter.....512-978-2110
Contact to enroll in the District 10 weekly newsletter:
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Each of the Board members can be reached at:
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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.

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