



nwacaNEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

President's Message

Happy Valentine's Day!

—Vicki DeWeese

We had a wonderful first meeting with our new NWACA Board. Everyone is eager and ready to serve our neighborhood! We welcome, Louri O'Leary as the new Secretary for NWACA and Mehram Bhiwandiwala as the new Treasurer.

The Crime and Safety Committee Co-Chairs- Chris Roddy, and former City of Austin Mayor, Bruce Todd, along with Elizabeth Christian, a member of the Greater Austin Crime Commission, came to speak with us about the ongoing Constable Patrol Project, Neighborhood Watch programs, National Night Out, Front-yard Friday ideas, and other ways in which we can improve safety and reduce property crimes in our neighborhood.

Valerie Laubacher came to visit with us about developing a NWACA Homes Tour/Fun Run/Holiday Lights program, similar to programs done in Houston by the Heights neighborhood.

And, Ian Tuski, from Austin Classical Guitar, a business in our neighborhood, gave a presentation highlighting their educational programs and their work helping visually impaired students pursue music.

Parks Committee Co-Chairs- Caroline Alexander and Stephannie Behrens, are still working hard to raise funds for the Murchison Pool Playground. Please donate to the one and only neighborhood playground

that will be open during the day for all our families to use!

Tree and Environment Committee Chair- Joanie Arrott, will be happy to provide information regarding Oak Wilt and the NWACA Oak Wilt fund. Please be cognizant about when to prune your trees. The coldest months of the year and the hottest months of the year are the appropriate times to prune trees or perform tree work.

Please share your time and talents with NWACA! We are looking for volunteers to serve on our Crime and Safety Committee, and on our Events Committee. The Events Committee may help other committees such as the Parks Committee with fundraising, or by establishing new family friendly events, such as a Homes Tour or Fun Run, and of course, it's never too early to start planning for the July 4th parade! Both of these committees have big and small jobs and don't require year-around attendance at meetings. Email us at: nwacainfo@gmail.com with your interests.

Did you know about the NWACA Special Projects Reserve Fund? Share your ideas for needs in our neighborhood! Go to the NWACA website under the Get Involved tab, Project Reserve Fund for more information. In the last two years, NWACA has helped improve soccer fields at Doss

(Continued on Page 2)

Am I a Member?

You get the newsletter every month, so 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 dues to produce educational materials and programs. The Special Projects Fund helps improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. Want to get more involved with NWACA? You can join a committee, and members are eligible to run for the NWACA board.

If you're not sure you're a member, we're happy to answer! Either go to www.nwaca.org and use the quick link on the home page or email us at nwacainfo@gmail.com. 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

Feb 1

Throughout NWACA
Oak Wilt Season starts - Do Not Prune Oaks
until after June 30

Feb 4, 2 PM

Biderman's
Parks Committee

Feb 6, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Mangia Pizza
NWACA Board Meeting

Feb 13, 7:30 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Communications Committee

Feb 18, 2 PM

Kneaded Pleasures
Tree and Environmental Stewardship Committee

Feb 27, 5 PM

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

Mar 1, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Sponsorship Committee

Mar 3, 9-noon

Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve, 7810 Sterling Drive
It's My Park Day - spruce up the area, remove weeds and
overgrowth; sign up at <https://www.austinparks.org/volunteer/impd/>

Mar 3, 9-noon

Bull Creek District Park
It's My Park Day - spruce up the area, remove weeds and
overgrowth; sign up at <https://www.austinparks.org/volunteer/impd/>

President's Message (Continued from Cover)

Elementary School, purchased recycling containers for Murchison Pool Park and Bull Creek District Park, assisted with the Constable Patrol project, and helped refurbish the main gym at Anderson High School. What should we do next?

NWACA Board meetings are open to all NWACA members. Please RSVP to nwacainfo@gmail.com if you plan to attend, so we can save a chair for you. Due to Valentine's Day, our February meeting will move to Tuesday, February 6th and due to Spring Break, our March meeting will move to Tuesday, March 6th.

NWACA members, thank you for helping our neighborhood! If you're not a member, please consider joining for only \$25 per year; dues support: neighborhood projects and events, parks, crime and wildfire prevention, and environmental concerns, as well as providing educational materials for our neighbors. And, NWACA volunteers maintain the website and Facebook page, send weekly emails-NWACA Notes (sign up on the website), write the newsletter, and contribute to Next Door.

We are so fortunate to live in this special place and look forward to continuing to build upon the community spirit of our neighborhood, working with both residents and businesses. Remember, we are a click away - info at www.nwaca.org or, via email: nwacainfo@gmail.com

Mar 4, 2 PM

Biderman's
Parks Committee

Mar 6

Throughout City
Primary Election Day

Mar 7, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Mangia Pizza
NWACA Board Meeting

Mar 13, 8:00 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Communications Committee

Mar 27, 5 PM

Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane, r.201
NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committee


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Emergency, Police..... 911
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) 311
To check status, go to: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/myaustincodestatus>
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

2017 NWACA Board of Directors

- Vicki DeWeese, President
- Chris Hajdu, Vice-President
- Louri O'Leary, Secretary
- Mehram Bhiwandiwala, Treasurer
- Caroline Alexander
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- Aaron Daniels
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- Tracey Fine
- Charlie Galvin
- Mike Polston
- Christopher Roddy
- Micah Sagebiel
- Lauren Ward

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).

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 advertising@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

School News Changes are Coming!

— Lauren Ward

Have you noticed a lot of surveyors around Doss Elementary and Far West? A collection of trucks near Murchison and the track? Exciting changes are on the horizon for our schools and community — brand new facilities!

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 and Highland Park Elementary - will have overall facilities upgrades including technology, updated wiring/plumbing/HVAC as needed, and more.

Doss is one of the first projects in the entire AISD system — and construction will commence starting the day after school lets out in June 2018. Other priority elementary school projects include Manchaca, TA Brown (which was condemned due to structural issues last year), Govalle, a new school built near Blazier Elementary, and a school to be built near Kiker Elementary. High school projects include East Side Memorial, Ann Richards, and Bowie.

Doss will be rebuilt to accommodate current enrollment as well as future growth, with an expected completion date of August 2020. The Murchison project will be managed in parallel with the Doss work to save costs, and is expected to be completed January 2021.

The Highland Park and Hill projects will commence during the 2018-2019 school year.

To rebuild Doss, AISD will close the Doss facility after school lets out this summer. The administration is in talks with the district to have all grades move to Lucy Read, instead of 4th and 5th grade moving to a portable campus on Murchison's campus. A decision is expected in the next few weeks. No disruption to the other schools is currently planned.

See the artist rendering of the future Doss campus to visualize what's coming.



Business Spotlight: Troy, Mediterranean Cuisine

—Janice Green

There is a three-step sequence to the art of drinking Turkish coffee served at Troy, and the Davarci family, Troy's founding owners, will gladly show you how. Since 2014 Northwest Hills has been home to this Turkish restaurant tucked in the northeast corner at Mesa and Spicewood Springs Road.

Drawn by the educational opportunities offered for their sons, Mehmet Nuri Davarci and his wife, Gungor, emigrated from Turkey to Austin. Mehmet brought his experience working with relatives in a restaurant in Adana, Turkey (also the location of a major U.S. military base). Gungor brought her culinary expertise. Orhun, their youngest son who attended Anderson High School and now attends U.T. in a biomedical program, assisted in the family business. They landed in Northwest Hills because it's a safe location and one close to both residential and commercial areas. Their dream was to introduce our community to Mediterranean cuisine. Now, with recent kitchen remodeling, menu expansion, and more family members serving as staff, their dream is actualized.

Dining at Troy is like being welcomed into the Davarci's cozy home, decorated with family collectibles and Turkish art. A Turkish



version of “mi casa su casa.” Whether you are new to the savory spices and flavors of Turkish dishes and want to ask questions about them, or whether you are already a regular customer who wants a quiet place to eat and work on a laptop mid-afternoon, Troy exudes a comfortable familial ambiance.

Cumin, cinnamon, pepper pastes, yogurt sauces, coriander, allspice, mint, garlic appear in both vegetarian entrees and Halal meat dishes. The spices carry a complexity that suggests Southwestern cuisine. And the flatbread melts in your mouth.

A long community table extends the length of the restaurant, the longest I've ever seen – perfect for the U.T. Turkish professor who brings her class to Troy to experience native cooking. Others celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and special events with attendees filling the community space. BYOB is also an option.

During my interview with the family, Gungor insisted I taste her stuffed eggplant – a new menu specialty item. In no time I had devoured the entire dish. It was absolutely yummy. But their baklava! Without a doubt, the best I have ever had, with a light crunchy pastry melting into a nut and honey-laced “food for the gods.” By the way, a large baklava to-go order was a perfect treat at a Middle Eastern baby shower for a refugee family.

The Davarci's love for Austin is reflected in their desire to share the flavors of their homeland. Troy gives locals a taste from the other side of the world, without having to travel beyond the borders of Northwest Hills. Plus, it is cheaper than a Mediterranean cruise.

Hours: 10 AM- 9:30 PM weekdays (closed Mon.); noon to 9:30 PM weekends; 8105 Mesa Drive; 512-897-2860

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Featuring Diane Owens Prettyman

— Idee Kwak

‘The Surfing Capital of Wales’ is Diane Owens Prettyman’s third book, currently being prepared for publication. Yes, for those willing to brave cold waters, there is surfing in Wales as well as in Diane’s home state, Oregon. Diane’s love of the spiritual, magical and mystical, plays into this story of an American girl who, while spending a gap year with a Welsh uncle, discovers her own face in a Renaissance portrait and is compelled to pursue the reason why it is there.

With numerous, published articles on health and spirituality from earlier in her career, Diane was able to devote herself more fully to writing fiction once her two children were grown. Over the past years, she has proven herself to be a versatile author in several genres.

Her novel ‘Redesigning Emma’, published in 2013, is historical fiction/romance. It’s set in turn-of-the-century New York, the world of gang leader Paul Kelly as well as Diamond Jim Brady and Emily Post. Based on the life of Diane’s grandmother, the story follows the adventures and loves of a young milliner making her way as an independent, self-supporting, single woman. Well-researched, with colorful descriptions and crisp dialogue, it is a short and enjoyable read.

‘Thin Places’, published in 2012, gets its title from the Celtic concept of access to a world beyond, with blurred edges between this life and the next. In this book, Diane’s sense of sustained tension is informed by her real-life experience as an American Cold War spy in Germany. A story of mystery, quest and redemption, the adventure begins when a death row prisoner asks a soon-to-be-released inmate to find his estranged daughter and clear him of guilt in her eyes. The daughter runs a fishing boat off the coast of Washington state, a rugged setting for their dangerous pursuit of the real criminals in this thriller of a mystery.

Winner of awards from the Pacific Northwest Writers and from the Colorado Romance Writers, the always elegant Diane is a physical therapist and hospital administrator who lives with her husband in our area. Perhaps you’ve seen her, walking their two, black, standard poodle puppies, Sadie and Barney.

Isn’t it exciting to have such an interesting author living in our neighborhood?

Curious About People Doing Surveys Near Utility Poles?

— Public Service Announcement

Austin Energy has released the following statement about what they’re doing:

“Austin Energy’s Infrastructure Asset Management staff ensure the safe pole attachment of various telecommunications equipment which allow for enhanced digital and fiber network. The group is gearing up for major deployment of small cell wireless devices on thousands of utility poles. Small cell wireless will be a major upgrade for broadband and cell phone service. In the future, it will provide faster, more efficient 5G networks throughout the city. Please see Texas Senate Bill 1004 (Texas Local Government Code Chapter 284) for more information.”

This is good news for us. The telecom company, such as AT&T, will pay the city pole attachment fees; the city does not own the attachments. They are called Pico cells and they amplify the signal from your phone to the closest cell tower. We have two towers in the neighborhood, 1) across the street from Doss behind the strip center with Goodwill and 2) on Spicewood Springs Road on the south side at the top of the hill before you descend to Loop 360.

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Insurance Benefits from Being Firewise

—Joyce Statz

Insurance companies are using both carrots and sticks to get homeowners to make their homes fire-hardened, to minimize the risk of loss from wildfire. The “carrot”: some companies provide a discount on home insurance premiums for homeowners in a Firewise Community (also now known as a Firewise Site). In our part of the country, USAA provides such incentives. The discount is based on the home being part of a group of homes that has earned Firewise recognition for their efforts to eliminate the hazards around each home, regularly maintaining clearance of brush and debris that could ignite their property from blowing embers. [To learn how to be Firewise, go to www.firewise.org or contact the NWACA Wildfire Prevention Committee through <http://nwaca.org/firewise-request/>]

The “stick” being used by some companies is to refuse insurance to homes that are considered to be too ill-prepared for wildfire, or that are situated in an area that is not able to be defended. The Austin Fire Department has heard from several homeowners in our area who have received notices from their insurance companies telling them they will no longer be insured. While relatively new in Texas, this has been more common in the last several years on the west coast of the U.S., especially in California, Washington,

and Oregon, where there have been catastrophic insurance losses from wildfire.

Some companies will issue insurance policies only after they’ve inspected the property and the buildings to be sure that they’re Firewise and have defensible space. Given the limited amount of resources and firefighters available in the case of wildfire, this is only prudent. No city or county has sufficient capability to defend every property in case of wildfire; they have to defend those for which their efforts are likely to be most successful.

Several articles you may find interesting provide more background on the insurance matter:

<https://tinyurl.com/wfarticle1> - what makes a home defensible; what causes insurance companies to decide not to renew policies

<https://tinyurl.com/wfarticle2> - factors that go into higher premiums – type of building materials, access to the home in case of wildfire, etc.

<https://tinyurl.com/wfarticle3> - people in California losing insurance coverage, a risk response by the insurance companies

<https://tinyurl.com/wfarticle4> - big companies dropping coverage in California, leaving homeowners to resort to high-priced, high risk insurance



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Neighbor Honored by League of American Orchestras

— Local News

Todd Waldman, one of our neighbors on Valburn Circle, has been selected by the League of American Orchestras to be part of the Emerging Leaders Program for 2017-2018. Todd is the Director of Development for the Austin Symphony, a position he's held for four years. He came to Austin after working as Assistant Development Director for the Young People's Chorus of New York City and working in music publishing for several years.

The League of American Orchestras' Emerging Leaders Program is a ten-month leadership program offering mentoring by top leaders in the field, one-on-one coaching, and in-depth seminars with leadership experts. Viewed by the orchestral field as one of the best sources of identifying and training talented senior managers with great potential, the program is the flagship of the League's leadership development offerings. Participants are selected through a competitive application process based on their leadership experience and growth potential; their adaptive capabilities and collaborative skills; their diversity in experience and perspectives; their passion for and commitment to orchestras; and their potential to make a difference and influence the field in the years ahead. Congratulations, Todd! Have a great time with the program.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE:

The League of American Orchestras leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of more than 2,000 organizations and individuals across North America. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers and administrators, board members, volunteers, and business partners. Visit americanorchestras.org for more information.

Highland Park Elementary Celebrates 65 Years

— Stacey Brewer



This school year Highland Park Elementary is celebrating its 65th anniversary! Highland Park is one of 18 schools built in the post-World War II generation in order to keep up with rapid population

growth in the Austin area.

In 1946 when a school was first proposed in the vicinity of the Highland Park West neighborhood (undeveloped at the time), it was outside of the limits of the City of Austin. By 1949, the land was conveyed to the City and the school board voted to authorize plans for a school. The architectural firm of Fehr and Granger was selected to design Highland Park Elementary. Arthur Fehr and Charles Granger who generally designed in the Modernist style, delivered a building that the Austin American Statesman reported was "a spacious one-story school built with "utility and economy in mind". Highland Park opened to students on September 2nd, 1952.

At the time of construction, the school consisted of sixteen classrooms, a gym, a cafeteria-auditorium, library and administrative office. Initial construction cost was around \$554,000.00. The 5.81 acres of land the school was constructed on was purchased for less than \$2000 an acre.

Additions to the school were made in 1955, 1956, 1960, 1999 and 2016 as well as numerous other improvements throughout the years.

Highland Park serves the southern portion of the NWACA boundary and is in the vertical team which also includes Lamar Middle School and McCallum High School. Approximately 650 students attend the school in grades K-5. Katie Pena is the school Principal and Taylor Cowan is the Assistant Principal.



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Don't Blow Trash into the Streets

— Public Service Announcement

It's a common sight to see homeowners or their yard crews blowing leaves and grass into the streets rather than picking up the litter and removing it. This is prohibited by City ordinance. Street sweeping equipment is not able to handle limbs, branches or large quantities of grass and leaves. You should dispose of these materials through your weekly yard trimmings collection.

Here is the detail from Austin City Code:

§ 10-5-41 - DEFINITION.

• In this article "litter" means garbage, trash, rubbish, ashes, manure, waste, cloth or rags, paper or cardboard, leaves, grass cuttings, or refuse. (Source: Ord. 031023-11; Ord. 031023-11; Ord. 031211-11.)

§ 10-5-42 - LITTERING PROHIBITED.

• (A) A person commits an offense if the person deposits or throws litter on a street, alley, sidewalk, premises, vacant lot, or public property, including a park or playground.

• (B) A person commits an offense if the person deposits or throws litter along a street, alley, sidewalk, or public property, including a park or playground.

• (C) A person commits an offense if the person deposits or throws litter from cleaning the interior of a residence, business, or premises on a street, alley, sidewalk, or creek.

Source: 1992 Code Sections 10-4-1, 10-4-2, and 10-4-3; Ord. 031023-11; Ord. 031211-11.

2018 Resolution: Increase Your Reuse

— Joanie Arrott

Austin residents are estimated to dispose of \$11 million in reusable items annually. That's equivalent to tens of thousands of pounds of reusable materials going in the trash every day rather than being reused or recycled. What a waste! The Austin area has an active reuse community among local charities and thrift stores that is waiting to receive your gently used, still valuable materials. Before you aim for the recycling or trash bin, consider donating to this network of local organizations first.

To make the reuse process simpler, the Austin EcoNetwork created the Austin Reuse Directory. This online directory is designed to make it as easy as possible for Austinites to find a second home for everyday items. You can enter your items in their search bar to find businesses and nonprofits to donate or sell your used clothing, electronics, furniture, and other household items. The directory also has a drop down list of participating locations, which is a great way to learn about all the various materials accepted for reuse. Here's a link to the directory: <http://austineconetwork.com/austin-reuse-directory/>

Reuse reduces the strain on valuable resources, such as fuel, forests and water supplies, and helps safeguard wildlife habitats. Reuse creates less air and water pollution than making a new item or recycling. Reuse results in less hazardous waste. Make sure reuse is on your resolution list for this year.

New Year, New Sign, Same Concern

— Joanie Arrott

PREVENT OAK WILT

**DON'T PRUNE
FEB-JUNE**

OAK WILT CARRIER BEETLE PEAK SEASON
NWACA.ORG



As of February 1st we officially entered the prime season for oak wilt disease. Any work or pruning involving oak trees should not occur from February 1st to June 30th. This is the time of year when our oak

trees are at greatest risk for exposure to this virulent, infectious disease. You will learn about this disease in the coming monthly newsletters. Most important to remember during oak wilt season—do not prune, and respond to accidental damage as quickly as possible.

When your trees appear sick, employ certified arborists and their firms for proper diagnosis. This will ensure measures can be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases if necessary. If oak wilt is diagnosed, there are options to contain the disease from spreading—trenching, tree injection, and tree removal. NWACA can provide financial assistance to property owners dealing with this disease. Through the Oak Wilt Financial Assistance Program, NWACA can reimburse forty percent of a homeowner's expenses, up to a maximum \$1,000 reimbursement. More information on oak wilt and the financial assistance program can be found here: <http://nwaca.org/category/library/tree-health/>.

You should see "Prevent Oak Wilt" signs placed in yards throughout the neighborhood as a reminder we've entered oak wilt season. The sign campaign is managed by the NWACA Tree and Environmental Stewardship Committee to support efforts in the battle against this disease which has infected several parts of our neighborhood for decades. We updated our signs this year with a new design, but we're still battling the same problem.



Questions About Cars and Bikes on our Streets

– Public Service Announcement

As we see more bike lanes added to our streets, more novice cyclists using those lanes, and concerns from neighbors in our traffic surveys, we answer some common questions that have been raised.

What are common bike rules for cyclists to keep in mind?

From City of Austin web page <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/bicycle-laws-codes>

“Cyclists have all the rights and are subject to all of the duties and regulations applicable to drivers of motor vehicles...

- Always ride with traffic, never against it.
- Obey traffic signs and signals, and observe others’ right-of-way.
- Don’t pass other vehicles within the same lane.
- Stay visible, predictable and assertive.
- Control speed on Austin’s trails, and give 3 feet when passing.”

Check out the frequently asked questions page for additional tips and useful information on biking at: <http://www.austintexas.gov/content/1357/FAQ/1688>

The answer to the question “Can I ride my bike on the sidewalk?” includes this information: “City of Austin code states that a person may ride a bicycle on the sidewalk, however sidewalks are slower than streets, and are not always as safe as they seem. Sidewalk riding

is prohibited in some parts of Central Austin (Guadalupe around the University, and downtown streets – see map online). Crossing motorists may not expect such fast-moving sidewalk traffic. Ride carefully, checking before crossing streets and driveways. Slow down for pedestrians, and give an audible signal well before passing them.”

When cars pass cyclists, what do they need to keep in mind?

Austin has a Safe Passing Ordinance, approved in October 2009, which gives this guidance for how drivers need to pass vulnerable road users (bicyclists, pedestrians, people on horseback, etc.):

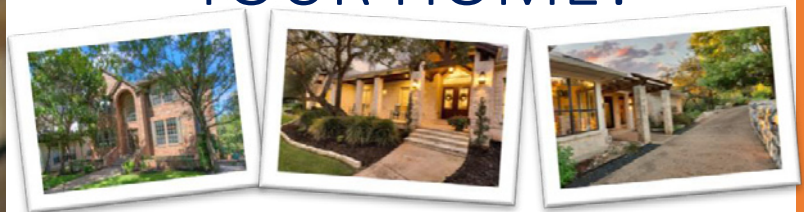
- Passing motorists must either move into another lane, if one is available, or pass at least three feet from the vulnerable road user (six feet for large trucks and commercial vehicles). This does not apply when the vulnerable road user is in a bicycle lane.
- Motorists must not pass and then turn right, if the turn is unsafely close to a vulnerable road user.
- Left-turning motorists must yield to vulnerable road users approaching in the opposite direction.
- Motorists may not drive in any way meant to intimidate, harass, or threaten a vulnerable road user.

(Continued on Page 12)

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NWACA News

(Continued from Page 11)



The City Code which incorporates this ordinance is section 12-1-35, which can be found by searching at this web link: https://library.municode.com/tx/austin/codes/code_of_ordinances

How do cars handle right turn lanes where there are marked bike lanes?

Texas Transportation Code Sec. 545.101 (<http://law.onecle.com/texas/transportation/545.101.00.html>) requires that motor vehicle operators make right turns from as close to the right-hand curb as practicable.

Austin City Code Section 12-1-21 has the following guidance about cars and bike lanes. (https://library.municode.com/TX/Austin/codes/code_of_ordinances)

“(A) A person may not drive a motor-propelled vehicle in, on, or across a bicycle lane except:

- (1) to enter or leave a driveway, building, or alley;
- (2) to enter or leave a parking space; or
- (3) for a bus, to enter or leave a bus stop.

(B) Subsection (A) does not apply to a bicycle, scooter, or other similar vehicle that is equipped with an electric motor that is capable of propelling the bicycle, scooter, or vehicle at a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour.

(C) A person may not drive on or cross a bicycle lane under this section without first yielding the right-of-way, if necessary, to avoid collision or interference with bicycle traffic.”

There are instances where a queue of cars (either in the travel lane, or trying to turn into a driveway) can make turning from the motor vehicle lane feel a little strange. Good advice is to simply “slow down and pay attention.”

What about Parking in Bike Lanes?

From City of Austin web page <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/bicycle-laws-codes>

“The City of Austin 3-1-1 system may be used to report parking in a travel lane or bicycle lane. The 3-1-1 system is generally best used for persistent and ongoing problems that require a more in-depth review and response. For a more immediate response for enforcement,

citizens may call 3-1-1 and request ‘Police, Non-Emergency’ to report a vehicle blocking a travel lane/bicycle lane. Please note that for any citations to be issued, parking must be prohibited with posted signs; if signs are not present, report the issue to 3-1-1 so the Transportation Department can determine if additional signs should be placed. There are some older bicycle facilities in Austin where parking is still allowed in bicycle lanes where placing new signs will not be immediately feasible. Generally, all new bicycle facilities have parking restricted.”

Where can I get more information?

There is more detail on this City of Austin web page: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/bicycle-laws-codes> and there is also a lot of information about the conventions and laws regarding bicycling in the City of Austin on this web site: <http://bicycleaustin.info/laws/>

Special Thanks to Members

– *Membership Committee*

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the 4th of July Parade Fund and the Park Fund, between October 19, 2017 and January 10, 2018.

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 do events in our parks and revitalize parks in the NWACA area.

- Brian and Erin Beil
- Robert Bracewell
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- Johnny and Tina Cailleteau
- Kathryn Forrest Clark
- David and Pam Frager
- Janean and William Garner
- Bob Gerrie
- Michael Hickey
- Joanna James
- Jerry Kilpatrick and Patricia Orlosky
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- Valerie Laubacher
- Paul Lewis and Maira Mendez-Lewis
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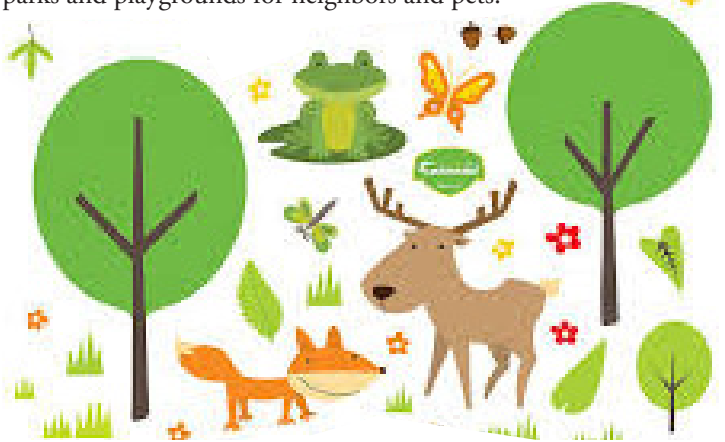


Why Join NWACA

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.

Help Keep our Wildlife Wild!

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.



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You can also pay via PayPal by going to 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
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- Crime and Safety/Neighborhood Watch
- Events/ 4th of July
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