



nwacaNEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2018

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3

President's Message

—Vicki DeWeese

March in Austin means it's time for Spring Break and SXSW, time to play in our parks, time to vote in primary elections, and time to help make our neighborhood safer!

On March 1st, please support the Murchison Pool Playground through the Amplify Austin program, or you can donate to the program through the link on the NWACA website (<http://nwaca.org>). For more information see the article from our Parks Committee later in this newsletter.

On March 5th at 6:30 p.m. in Huffman Hall at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, the Austin Transportation Department will speak to our neighborhood about upcoming traffic control initiatives in our area. For more information on this program, please see the City's website: (<http://www.austintexas.gov/latm>).

On March 6th, it's time to vote in primary elections. Early voting runs from February 20th through March 2nd. Sample ballots can be found at: (<http://www.traviscountyclerk.org/clerk/Content.do?code=E.3>) along with a way to see which races will appear on your ballot.

During the month, many of our neighbors will be traveling or away from home for extended periods of time, so we ask all of our neighbors to be extra vigilant when watching out for their friends.

Historically, there has been an increase in property crime, both residential and vehicular, at this time of year, while police presence is in high demand in other parts of town. Please see our vacation crime and safety checklist (<http://nwaca.org/portfolio-view/summer-vacation-crime-prevention-tips/>) for prevention ideas.

In response to requests from neighbors, NWACA has started the Constable Program Fund, so that neighbors are able to donate funds, specifically to help fund the Constable Program. Please see the article in this newsletter for more information and visit our website (<http://nwaca.org/>) to make donations to this fund.

On March 26th at 6:30 p.m. in room B-21 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, please join our Crime and Safety Committee, along with our Austin Police Department District Representative, to learn about the revitalization of the Neighborhood Watch Program for our area. Please see the enclosed article and come learn more about how you can participate in the program. Additional information can also be found at: (<http://nwaca.org/category/library/neighborhood-watch/>)

We are always looking for volunteers, so please email us at: nwacainfo@gmail.com to let us know how you would like to

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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

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/>

Mar 3, 9-noon

Doss Park
It's My Park Day - spruce up the park at Doss Elementary
<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/69355-Doss-Park-Spring-Clean-up>

Mar 4, 2 PM

Biderman's - Parks Committee

Mar 5, 6:30 PM

Huffman Hall at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Dr. Austin Transportation Department conducts a meeting regarding speed mitigation at three locations in the neighborhood (see article for details)

Mar 6

Throughout City - *Primary Election Day*

Mar 6, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Mangia Pizza - NWACA Board Meeting

Mar 13, 8:00 AM

Kneaded Pleasures - Communications Committee

President's Message (Continued from Cover)

serve. It's already time to start planning for the July 4th Parade, our biggest event of the year!

As a reminder, NWACA Board meetings are open to all NWACA members. Please RSVP to nwacainfo@gmail.com if you plan attend, so we can save a chair for you.

Due to Spring Break, our March meeting will be on Tuesday, March 6th.

We are so fortunate to live in this special place and we 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 26, 6:30 PM

Room B21, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive
Crime Prevention Information Meeting on, with Officer Darrell Grayson, our APD District Representative, as speaker (see article for more details)

Mar 27, 5 PM

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

Apr 5, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures - Sponsorship Committee

Apr 8, 2 PM

Biderman's - Parks Committee

Apr 10, 8:00 AM

Kneaded Pleasures - Communications Committee

Apr 11, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Mangia Pizza - NWACA Board Meeting

Apr 15, 1-4 pm

Northcross Mall Parking Lot
NWACA Transit Adventure - take the bus to a fun place TBD


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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

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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.

ATD Speeding Mitigation Update and Meeting March 5

—Public Service Announcement

After a pause in the citizen request-based speeding mitigation program known as Local Area Traffic Management (LATM), the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) is resuming the installation of speeding mitigation devices throughout the city. As part of their improved process, ATD is now working with affected neighborhoods to conduct a broad-based traffic management discussion prior to mitigation.

There are three speeding mitigation projects slated for our neighborhood in the next several months:

1. Mesa Drive from First View Drive to Cross Valley Run
2. Hart Lane from Greystone Drive to Executive Center Drive
3. Mountainclimb Drive from Highland Hills Drive to Dry Creek Drive

As both Mesa Drive and Hart Lane are so-called "collector" streets, ATD will be conducting a public meeting where the neighborhood can learn about the preliminary plans and provide feedback on the proposal. A representative from the District 10 office will also be on hand to answer questions.

The meeting will be held on Monday, March 5th at 6:30pm at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Huffman Hall. St. Matthew's is located at 8134 Mesa Drive.

Murchison Playground Update

—Carolyn Alexander

As many of you know, the NWACA Parks Committee has been hard at work raising funds to build the neighborhood's first playground that is open all day long, 365 days of the year. As of the end of February, we topped \$60,000 out of our \$165,000 goal and are anxiously awaiting news about the \$165,000 grant that the committee applied for through the City of Austin's Neighborhood Partnering Program.

In January, about 100 people participated in the First Annual Neighborhood Kickball Tournament that the Northwest Austin Kickball Association hosted with NWACA. A lot of fun was had. Some participants discovered their hidden kickball talents while others discovered that those kickballs are harder than they look! Overall, the event raised just over \$1,500 for the playground.

For the week of Valentine's Day, we ran the Love Your Park Challenge Grant, thanks to a generous family that donated \$2,500 to seed a matching grant. With the help of more generous neighbors, we were able to meet that challenge, adding another \$5,000 towards our goal.

If you haven't had a chance to donate yet, we have one more fundraising event scheduled. Amplify Austin (March 1 - 2). On

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

this day, you can join in a city-wide day of giving by supporting the Murchison Playground Project! Each donation will receive a 25% match, allowing the project to receive up to an extra \$2,500. <https://amplifyatx.ilivehereigivehere.org/murchisonplayground>

We have also finalized the Donor Recognition Program. Donations above \$250 will be recognized on bricks that will be inlaid in the playground patio. Any previous donations that you have made will count toward your brick.

As always, if you want more information, you can visit www.murchisonplayground.com



Sponsorship Level	Brick Size	Yard Sign	Website	Facebook	Newsletter
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Orange \$2,500	12x12	✓	Logo	Logo	Logo
Yellow \$1,000	8x8	✓	Printed name only	Printed name only	Printed name only
Green \$500	4x8	✓	Printed name only	Printed name only	Printed name only
Blue \$250	Name listed jointly with 22 others on a 12x24	✓	Printed name only	Printed name only	Printed name only
Violet \$100		✓	Printed name only	Printed name only	Printed name only
Friend <\$100			Printed name only	Printed name only	Printed name only

It's My Park Day!

—Caroline Alexander

The Austin Parks Foundation organizes two annual city-wide volunteer days to provide our parks with a bit of TLC. On March 3, there will be three ways to support the event and volunteer at your neighborhood parks:

Bull Creek District Park from 9:00 to 12:00

<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/68560-Bull-Creek-District-Park-Beautification>

Doss Elementary Park from 9:00 to 11:00

<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/69355-Doss-Park-Spring-Clean-up>

Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve from 9:00 to 12:00

<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/68198-Stillhouse-Hollow-Nature-Preserve-Parking-Lot-Clean-up-and-Plant-Restoration>

These are always fun ways to meet new neighbors, take care of these natural assets, and teach stewardship to our next generation of NWACA citizens. We hope you will join us!



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ENGEL & VÖLKERS



Patricia Roberts-Miller – Idee Kwak

‘It’s us or them!’ This stance, seen throughout history, erodes rational debate and threatens the democratic process. This is demagoguery. It embraces demonization rather than deliberation. It subverts logic with misinformed emotional response.

Patricia Roberts-Miller’s latest book, *Demagoguery and Democracy* (June 2017), explores the complexity and predictability of power based on pandering, charisma, misinformation, and prejudice.

Having written of the demagoguery in other eras, Dr. Roberts-Miller was asked to write this book as an approachable discourse on the topic, once again rising to notice. How do we recognize demagoguery? How do we address those who are never wrong, often disdainful and always convinced their arguments are irrefutable?

A tenured Professor of Rhetoric and Writing at the University of Texas, Dr. Roberts-Miller is an expert in her field and has authored three scholarly tomes. The first, her doctoral dissertation at Berkeley University, is *Voices in the Wilderness: Public Discourse and Paradox of Puritan Philosophy*. What arguments did Puritans use to reconcile their pacifist beliefs with burning witches? What justification did these charitable Christians offer for persecuting Shakers?

Dr. Roberts-Miller’s second book, *Deliberate Conflict:*

Argument, Political Theory, and Composition Classes, is used to support English and writing courses for university freshmen. Learning to use words properly should hopefully be mastered in high school; learning to use them persuasively should ideally be addressed early in the college experience.

In her third book, *Proslavery Rhetoric: Tragic Consensus*, Dr. Roberts-Miller takes an interesting approach to the 30-year argument for and against slavery. What remains today are the just and persuasive discourses against, but what has faded (in ignominy?) are the arguments for continuing the practice. What rhetoric was used to solicit support for slavery? What methods were used to convince good people of an abhorrent practice? What rationale allowed a belief of ‘Do unto others’ to exist alongside enslavement of fellow men?

Newspapers of the time wholly embraced one party or the other, with readers kept in an informational bubble. Articles on the shameful side of the issue cherry picked, deleted, or adjusted facts to lead the readers to only one conclusion, premises bolstered by the testimony of “experts,” often with questionable or non-existent expertise. Dr. Roberts-Miller’s research delineates how this use of language in a bygone era was the propaganda of persuasion.

Experiment Press, although known for trade books rather than academic publications, approached Dr. Roberts-Miller with the suggestion to write this book, in tone and in depth different from her scholarly works, but in research and accuracy, just as impeccable. Short and very accessible, it was written at the request of the publisher who felt, in the current milieu, Dr. Roberts-Miller expertise on this live issue is to be valued and appreciated. Does the rhetoric of our time mirror that of the past? Is history perhaps repeating, repeating, repeating itself?

Demagoguery and Democracy by Patricia Roberts-Miller is widely available through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Powell’s and many other sites. It is modestly priced at \$10 and offer us a timely and timeless hope for fair and democratic discourse.



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Neighborhood Watch Meeting March 2018

—Connie Lundgren



As a result of recent crime and vandalism in our neighborhoods, the NWACA Board has decided to gauge interest in establishing more Neighborhood Watch groups. Neighborhood Watch is a national program; approximately 40% of neighborhoods throughout the country rely on this volunteer program to keep their neighborhoods safe. The program encourages neighbors to get to know one another, thus making it easier to spot or report suspicious activity. This is especially important if your street has been affected by vandalism or crime.

Officer Darrell Grayson, our APD District Representative, has agreed to speak to all interested parties on the steps used to organize this type of group and the responsibilities associated with it. The Board encourages everyone to come to the meeting Monday, March 26th at 6:30, in room B21 at St Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive. Light refreshments will be served.

Constable Project Update

—Lauren Ward



At the January board meeting, the NWACA board voted to extend the pilot constable program for six months. As was noted in the last newsletter, the constable has issued almost 200 tickets – primarily moving violations such as speeding and running stop signs. He has also assisted in fighting a house fire, as well as patrolling for the start of the school year, National Night Out, and responding to specific street requests of residents.

Upon requests from numerous neighbors, the NWACA board voted to establish a separate project fund to support Constable patrols in our neighborhood, providing interested neighbors a way to donate. Like our Parks Fund and our 4th of July Fund, the Constable Fund provides a way for neighbors to enable things they really care about.



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Business Spotlight: Velvet Tailoring and Alterations

—Janice Green



Last year Jessie Santos discovered her entrepreneurial spirit. The Far West tailoring business she had worked for since 2006 was closing. She was losing more than a job. Northwest Hills had been her home and where she'd raised her three children from daycare to Anderson High School. She did not want to abandon her roots in this neighborhood. With the advice and guidance of trusted friends she took the leap and opened her own alterations and tailoring shop in that same Far West location – now, Velvet Tailoring and Alterations (named after the popular Netflix series about a Spanish fashion house).

One of the stellar reviews of her business describes Jessie as “sweet, honorable, affordable, and fast.” That is the person I interviewed and watched engage with numerous customers. She never rushed a client. She patiently juggled all the demands on her time while she visited with a mother and her son, both of whom had altered outfits to try on; a panicked expectant mother whose baby clothes were almost ruined by a dry cleaner and needed repairs; a businessman picking up his suit jacket that had been tailored; a fellow dropping off casual pants for a hemming; and a woman leaving a coat that required a new button. All of this in the span of fifteen minutes while I was peppering her with questions!

Jessie enjoys the creative challenges that walk through Velvet's door

– whether it is turning a fur coat into a luxurious pillow, redesigning a wedding gown for an expectant bride, or taking an older article of clothing with sentimental value and repurposing it into a current style. Jessie crafts something new and attractive out of the discarded, damaged, or out-of-date. She renews and restores.

While internet clothing sales have knocked a hole in brick and mortar apparel stores, clothing purchased on the internet is an alterations bonanza. And when the resource for the alterations and tailoring is reasonably priced, like Jessie, the clothing purchase is still a good deal.

Jessie takes pride in the quality of her work, and customers sense that she enjoys what she is doing. “After a customer tries on clothes I've made or modified, and the client breaks out in a big smile because the fit is now perfect, well, that makes me so happy!”

Her clients come in all ages, sizes, and genders, with usual and unusual problems to be solved. With her needle and thread and scissors and can-do determination, Jessie crafts her seamstress solutions. Even though her decision to break out into her own business was daunting at first, business is now bustling with old and new patrons. She is thrilled she did not have to leave her roots in Northwest Hills where she and her family have evolved.

Contact info and hours: 512-340-9161; Suite 106, 3720 Far West; Open 9-6 M-F and 9-2 on Saturday.

The Thurms, Early German Settlers on Bull Creek

—Richard Denney

Whereas today we see Bull Creek District Park and Greenbelts as wonderful places to hike or swim, the valley formed by Bull Creek was once home to pioneer families. There were schools, cemeteries, churches, and water-powered mills.

In this article let me take you back in time to visit the homestead of an early pioneer family. Drive down Spicewood Springs Road, west toward Loop 360; turn left down Old Spicewood Springs Road; pull into the 2nd trailhead parking lot on the right with the porta-potties. If you can, tune out the drone of Loop 360, imagine an open field where Loop 360 lies. Focus on the gurgle of Bull Creek and the beauty of the Appalachian-like hills that surround you. You are now at the location of the old Thurm homestead.

William Thurm (pronounced “Term”) came from Germany in 1850 with his wife, Caroline, and two young daughters; a third soon born in Texas. Arriving in Galveston they lived first in Fredericksburg, then settled here along Bull Creek in 1855 on 80 acres of land purchased from Josiah Fisk, namesake of Fiskville. The family lived in a three-room log cabin constructed at the base of what was known to pioneers as “Thurm Hill,” the steep hill down which today's Spicewood Springs Road descends. As with other historic homes in Austin, like Edward Zimmerman's near Fiskville, the Thurm home may have been built from lumber milled at nearby Walden mill south on Bull Creek. Additional land purchases from Fisk in 1873 and 1874 expanded holdings to 340 acres on Bull Creek. The homestead was a landmark for defining Travis County voting precincts No. 14 and 15.

The turn-in to the parking lot corresponds to the old road off Spicewood Springs Road (it wasn't “Old Spicewood Springs” then) to their farm. Bits of that road, later paved, that passed just east of their home are still visible. If you drive to the other side of Loop 360 you will find the continuation of that old abandoned road under today's Bluffstone Drive. About where Loop 360 is located was a field. Common to German homesteads of the Texas Hill Country before barbed wire, the field was enclosed with a dry-stack stone wall, not to keep animals in, but rather out, of crops.

The Thurms and the Waldens were neighbors. From Clementine (Walden) Jackson's 1966 book, *The Walden* home in the valley, she recalls “There was a family of German people by the name of Thurm that settled on Bull Creek about the same time my Grandfather [Hughell] Walden [of Walden mill] did. They came over from Germany and were broke and couldn't speak English. My grandmother could speak the German language, so she helped and befriended them, so to this day the Thurms' descendants tell of how their grandparents told them of my Grandmother Walden --how she divided (sic) with them and waited on them when they were sick.”

William died ca. 1887 and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery along upper east Bull Creek, along today's Spicewood Springs Road (then Bull Creek Road). Wife Caroline died ca. 1897 and was buried in Walden Cemetery which today sits in the front yard of a family on Creekbluff Drive, west of Loop 360. In 2006 the Austin American-Statesman ran

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NWACA News

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a piece “FORGOTTEN: Subdivision embraces, uses old graveyard, adding loved one’s ashes” with a photo of the family beside Caroline’s tombstone. Her burial here raises the question: Why not Oak Grove with her husband? One possible explanation: Bull Creek may have been in flood stage that year. The road from the Thurm’s to Oak Grove Cemetery crosses Bull Creek 6 or 7 times; there were no bridges. Possibly after her death they simply could not reach Oak Grove Cemetery and opted for the Walden Cemetery which is on a high bluff out of the creek.

The old homestead, or derivative thereof, was still visible in historic aerials taken in 1967. Unfortunately, during construction of Loop 360 in the early 1970s, the historical significance of the Thurm homestead was not recognized and the property was razed.

In 1866 daughter Louise Thurm married August Waechter; the newspaper announced the marriage at the home of the bride on Bull Creek, i.e. the Thurm homestead. In a small world, I have good friends that, unbeknownst to me before researching the Thurms, are descended from that union! Odd, on a quiet night when I drive down to that spot on Old Spicewood Springs Road, I swear I can hear laughter from a wedding party! Ghosts on Bull Creek?

(accompanying maps show the site in 1967 and what Google Earth shows today)

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



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Doss and Murchison Building Update

—Lauren Ward

The planning continues for our neighborhood schools because of the AISD bond passed in November. AISD construction management is in negotiations with Bartlett Cocke General Contractors and Stantec Architects for the joint fast-tracked, design-build project for Doss Elementary School and Murchison Middle School.

The Doss and Murchison Construction Advisory Teams will be working closely with them very soon to frame the design of the new modernized school. The starting point will be the current rough model provided by the next phase design team and include the values of the Doss and Murchison staff and Community. The Doss design was published in the last newsletter and can also be found online at aisdfuture.org. Murchison will be gaining a new wing for 6th graders as well as a new traffic loop and drop off and entry system, and new facade and entrance to the school overall.

As inputs to the process, Doss and Murchison staff and design teams have been touring updated, modern facilities – so that the future design of the schools could be in an elementary and middle school setting.

In terms of logistics, bus service will be provided as the Doss student body relocates to Lucy Read. More details will be forthcoming, but all students will be able to ride the bus to and from Lucy Read. Currently, Doss plans to have the same slate of after school programs that are currently offered, and Murchison has indicated the same.

As we prepare for next year, PreK students should register at the school they will attend directly instead of for Lucy Read.

Doss School Alumni and former staff are invited to attend an alumni breakfast with Principal Griffin. They will discuss the current plan for Doss and take input on the preservation of the cultural and historic pieces of Doss. Doss Alumni Coffee – March 1st 8:00-9:00 am in the Doss Jane Willis Library.

We Need to Prepare for the New Normal

—Joyce Statz

The following caution is extracted from a recent article about our nation's growing need to be prepared for the occurrence of wildfire (<https://tinyurl.com/wfarticle5>):

“Yes, it will happen. You need to be prepared. It's very likely that firefighters can't rescue you if [they] are coping with multiple large, fast-moving wildfires. Yes, if your home is already burning during a major wildfire, the firefighters are going to try to save the home next door. You need to be ready to be on your own for up to 72 hours. Yes, you need a plan. Yes, you need a go-kit for evacuation. You need to do a home inventory in case your home burns to the ground and you need to make an insurance claim. When you rebuild you need to make your home fire-resistant. And we all need

to come to terms with a new normal of large and frequent wildfires.”

Some things you can do now to be prepared include these steps:

- Sign up for emergency notifications at <http://warncentraltexas.org/>. You can get warnings by text, email, and phone.

- Create a plan for what your family would do if asked to evacuate, perhaps for as long as three days. There is excellent advice about how to plan and what you should include in your “go kit” in the Ready, Set, Go brochure at this link on the NWACA web site: <https://nwaca.org/?s=ready+set+go>

- Prepare an emergency pet kit for your family pet – a lightweight carrier with identification for both you and your pet where you can take immunization records, food, treats, toys, and pet medications for as much as a 3-day evacuation

Imagine that you have 10 minutes to evacuate. Could you do it?

That's why you need a plan and a list of what you'd take. (My list is on my refrigerator.) The better prepared you are, the less scary it will be, as you can see in this Youtube video: <https://tinyurl.com/mwp7zoa>



Plastic Bags, Wraps, and Film—What to do?

—Joanie Arrott

Let me cut to the chase, plastic wrapping or bags of any type should never go in your blue recycling bin. That doesn't mean that these types of plastics cannot be recycled. Many of these thinner plastics used for packaging and wrapping, are recyclable, but you'll need to find a grocery store or retail store that provides plastic bag recycling collection. In our neighborhood alone, the HEB and both Randall's locations provide bins to collect these types of recycled plastics. Most other grocery stores, hardware stores, and general retail stores (e.g. Wal-Mart or Target) also provide collection containers. Most dry cleaners also accept their returned plastic bags for recycling.

What types of thin plastics are we talking about? Plastic film – also known as plastic film packaging – is soft, flexible polyethylene (PE) packaging such as grocery, bread, zip-top and dry-cleaning bags. It's also the wrap around many products including paper plates, napkins, bathroom tissue, diapers, and more. The general rule for what thin plastics are collected, at the many retail options listed above, is when you try to make a hole in the plastic with your finger and it stretches, then it is recyclable. Two important exceptions are any frozen food plastic bags and bags that hold fertilizer or soil. These types of packaging are treated to make them resistant to cold and are thus stronger.

Sometimes remembering what can and cannot be recycled is

(Continued on Page 12)

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frustrating. This graphic provides the most common types of thin plastics eligible for recycling, and you can visit the website listed to search your zip code for nearby retail locations.

Don't be a lazy recycler and throw these materials in your curbside recycling bin. It's not doing anyone a favor. Plastic film or bags are notorious for jamming or damaging the automated machinery that sorts materials at the recycling facility. This forces operations to shut down to remove the contamination, requiring time, energy, and manpower. As a result the finished product becomes more expensive. Hard plastics including soda bottles, kids' toys, and laundry baskets can be recycled in your blue curbside bin.



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Northwest Austin Roots, Global Impact: Austin Classical Guitar

—Ian Tuski

When I arrived in Austin a little over two years ago, I was ready to begin my doctoral degree in classical guitar performance at The University of Texas, with plans to refine my skills, compete in international competitions, and continue playing concerts. What I wasn't expecting was to become deeply involved in an organization that uses music to serve its community and build connections that would not ordinarily exist between people.

Austin Classical Guitar (ACG) is a nonprofit arts organization that has been based right here in Northwest Austin for over 25 years. Initially formed as a club for guitar players, ACG has grown steadily into one of the largest arts organizations of its kind in the United States, with six major concert series annually, free performances in local schools and libraries, community ensembles for youth and adults, innovative social service programs offered in shelters and hospitals, as well as education programming that reaches young people throughout the city, across the country, and increasingly, around the world.

Why do we do it? Because ACG believes music makes people's lives better. We believe music is one of the oldest, wisest, and most patient teachers there is, and a universal means of expression for humankind. These beliefs are reinforced whenever we bring music to places like a juvenile detention center, a community clinic, and the county jail. Time and time again, we witness first-hand the unique power of music to be open and welcoming to all people, instilling a sense of belonging and connection.

Locally, ACG has established ensemble-based classical guitar education programs in more than 60 schools—mostly in the form of daily, in-school classes in Austin ISD—that serve almost 4,000 students each week. This year, we've had the privilege of helping establish new programs in five surrounding school districts, including Del Valle and Manor. At the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center, ACG offers the only daily fine arts class available to youth in the detention facility there, and we even partner with Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired to offer braille-adapted instruction for their students.

In appreciation of the incredible support we receive from our wonderful community, we would like to invite members of NWACA to experience some of Austin Classical Guitar's programming for FREE on Saturday, April 28th, 8 PM, when a cello and guitar duo from Russia will perform at the AISD Performing Arts Center (1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd.) for the finale of our 2017/18 International Series. The concert will also feature an opening performance by one of ACG's student groups! Just email me at Ian@AustinClassicalGuitar.org or call 512-300-2247 and mention you're with NWACA.

From concerts to education to social service, Austin Classical Guitar is a unique Northwest Austin creation, with a big and bright future of serving the Austin community. Learn more at www.AustinClassicalGuitar.org or call us to schedule a visit to our home on Balcones Drive!

Respond Promptly to Storm Damage to Trees

—Joanie Arrott

Spring storm season is rearing its head as we transition from cooler to warmer temperatures. This means the potential for high winds, strong thunderstorms, and damaged neighborhood trees. Response and clean-up should include proper care of any damaged trees. Tree wounds should be always treated with commercial tree paint or wound dressing immediately. Fresh tree wounds, whether from pruning or storm damage, are great entry points for oak wilt fungus spores or insects that may carry the spores. Infected trees can give off a fruity odor that attracts insects, such as sap beetles, which can pick up spores while feeding on their spore mats. Fresh wounds also commonly produce sap which draws insects. As the insects move back and forth between infected and healthy trees, the fungus can spread great distances killing a stand of trees in less than one year's time. The peak activity period for sap beetles is early February through late May, before temperatures begin to increase.

While all oak tree species are susceptible to the disease, there are certain ones that are most at risk. These include varieties of live oaks, white oaks, and red oaks. In addition to spreading by sap beetles, the disease can move between infected and uninfected trees through their interconnected system of roots, especially with regard to live oaks.

Once a tree is infected with the fungus, death is assured. Awareness of this disease and prevention of its attack and spread are our best allies in this on-going battle to protect the beautiful urban forest of trees in our neighborhood. When your trees appear sick, reach out for help to ensure measures can be taken to prevent spread of infectious diseases if necessary. Don't allow any work or pruning involving oak trees from February 1st to June 30th. Questions and concerns can be sent to: nwacainfo@gmail.com.



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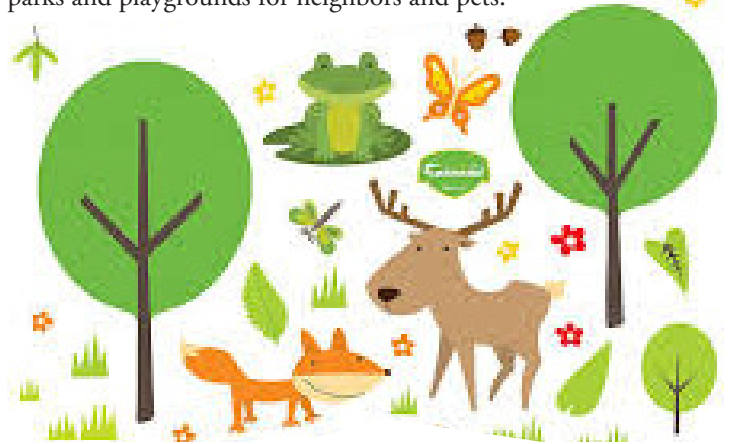


Why Join NWACA

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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Volunteers are always needed on our committees.

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

- Civic Engagement
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