



nwacaNEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2018

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

President's Message

—Vicki DeWeese

It's almost parade time!!! A HUGE thank you and shout out to Coach Mo, Epoch Coffee, NWACA Board member Joanie Arrott, and 2017 Fourth of July Parade Chair Amy Hajdu, for their work planning the **2018, 46th Annual NWACA Fourth of July Parade.** **Parade Chairs for 2018 are: Joanie Arrott and Coach Mo!** Please thank them for working really hard on our biggest undertaking of the year! If you would like to help in any way, please contact them at nwacainfo@gmail.com. Working on the parade is a great way to meet your neighbors and help our neighborhood!

Due to construction at Doss Elementary and Murchison Middle School, our parade will move **back to the Far West parade route** that we followed for 44 years. The Freedom Festival, a.k.a. the "after party," will take place in the parking lots of Epoch Coffee and Coach Mo's Fitness! Sponsors and vendors are already being lined up and we have some surprises!

NWACA recently welcomed three new board members: Connie Lundgren, Chair of our Neighborhood Watch Program, Rachel Lance, our fabulous new Facebook administrator, and Richard Grayum, who comes to us from our neighboring Balcones Civic Association (BCA). Please welcome our new board members!

Our annual neighborhood survey, which helps the board determine our focus of work for the upcoming year was recently completed.

Please see the results of that survey in this newsletter.

And, another survey, regarding telecommunications/internet service in our neighborhood is out for your review until April 5th. Please participate! For more information, please contact NWACA Board member, Charlie Galvin at: nwacainfo@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 9th from 8:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. in the Doss Elementary parking lot, NWACA hosts our annual **Electronics and Styrofoam Recycling** event open to NWACA members. Not a member? You can join at the event for \$25 annual dues! You can save time and fuel, as well as supporting your neighborhood while leaving the hauling to NWACA volunteers who take your old materials to the City's recycling center in South Austin. For more information: contact Tree, Wildlife and Environment Chair Joanie Arrott at: nwacainfo@gmail.com.

Sunday, April 15th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., leave the driving to Cap Metro, and meet fellow NWACA members at Northcross Mall, as we travel to the Palmer Events Center to attend the Art City Austin fine arts festival. Everyone who attended the bus adventures last year had a great time! More information can be found in this newsletter.

I hope that many of you were able to attend the Neighborhood

(Continued on Page 4)

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 the NWACA area 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 nwacamembership@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

Apr 5, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures - Sponsorship Committee

Apr 7, 8-10 AM

Doss Parking Lot - Electronics and Styrofoam Recycling;
also accepting used toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes

Apr 8, 2 PM

Biderman's - Parks Committee

Apr 10, 8:00 AM

Kneaded Pleasures - Communications Committee

Apr 10, 6:30-8:30 PM

Galaxy Cafe - NWACA Board Meeting

Apr 12, 6:30-8:30

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive, B18
Focus Group session on NWACA information and
service needs of those who rent in Northwest
HillsNWACA Board Meeting

Apr 15, 1-4 PM

Northcross Mall Parking Lot

NWACA Transit Adventure - take the bus

to Art City Austin at the Palmer Events Center

Apr 21, 9 AM-noon

Bull Creek District Park - Monthly cleanup event; please sign
up at: <https://www.givepulse.com/event/72424-NWACA-Third-Saturday-Park-Clean-Up>

Apr 21, noon-7PM

Huston Tillotson University - Earth Day events

Apr 24, 5PM

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

Apr 28, 8PM

AISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd.
Austin Classical Guitar Concert - free to NWACA residents

May 3, 8:00 AM

Kneaded Pleasures - Sponsorship Committee

May 4, 9AM-3PM

Asian American Resource Center - Austin Wildfire
Symposium - presentations and discussions on wildfire
prevention

May 6, 2PM

Biderman's - Parks Committee

May 8, 8AM

Kneaded Pleasures - Communications Committee

May 8, 7:00-9:00

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

May 19, 9AM-noon

Bull Creek District Park - Monthly cleanup event; please sign
up at: <https://www.givepulse.com/event/72425-NWACA-Third-Saturday-Park-Clean-Up>

May 20, 1PM-4PM

Murchison Pool Park 3700 North Hills Dr. - Cleanup at
Murchison Pool before it opens

May 22, 5PM

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/departments/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

2018 NWACA Board of Directors

- Vicki DeWeese, President
- Chris Hajdu, Vice-President
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- Mehlah Bhiwandiwalla, Treasurer
- Caroline Alexander
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- Ruven Brooks
- Aaron Daniels
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- Charlie Galvin
- Rachel Lance
- Connie Lundgren
- Mike Polston
- Christopher Roddy
- Lauren Ward

Each of the Board members can be reached at:
nwacainfo@gmail.com

The NWACA Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday 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.

President's Message (Continued from Cover)

Watch revitalization meeting held last week. If you missed it and want more information, please contact Chair, Connie Lundgren at nwacainfo@gmail.com.

NWACA volunteers recently held two focus group meetings at the Old Quarry Branch Library with neighbors living in the apartment/ multifamily housing communities within our boundaries, to gain insight as to what services they would benefit from and how they could serve as active members of NWACA. Another meeting is planned for 6:30 on Thursday, April 12, in room B18 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. We invite anyone who rents their home or manages a multifamily unit to attend and give us your ideas.

Please remember to keep the Murchison Pool Playground on your mind and make your tax-deductible donation through the Austin Parks Foundation; just follow the Hot Topics link at www.nwaca.org. For more information, contact NWACA Parks Chair, Caroline Alexander at: nwacainfo@gmail.com.

It's time to submit your neighborhood beautification projects to the NWACA Special Projects Fund. Projects should be submitted by May 10th to be presented at the June 12th NWACA board meeting. More information can be found in this newsletter, or you can contact the NWACA Finance committee at: nwacainfo@gmail.com.

Please plan to attend the **NWACA Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 8th, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the JCCA**. We will have a variety of presentations from the NWACA Wildfire Prevention, Neighborhood Watch, Oak Wilt, and Communications (School Watch) Committees, in addition to hearing from City Council District 10 Member, Alison Alter. Tables will be set up for each of the NWACA committees, with guests from the Austin Fire Department, Austin Police Department, and County Constable Pct. 2. Light refreshments will be served.

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 at www.nwaca.org or via email: nwacainfo@gmail.com.



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Business Spotlight: Meditation Bar

—Janice Green



Surely you've been curious about that signage on Mesa Drive – "Meditation Bar." In lieu of alcohol, this calm oasis serves up classes offering an enticing dose of peace and quiet, exercise for the brain, and a chance to recharge your mental acuity and creativity. Meditation Bar is the brainchild of

four enterprising women, two of whom hail from Northwest Hills, and was the second such establishment in the U.S. This is how Josh Walpole, manager, and Paige Davis, certified meditation instructor, describe the goings-on at Meditation Bar.

Who will you find there? Millennials who want to unplug from the stress of juggling so many devices. People who work in our 'hood and want to unwind before heading home. Folks who seek a spark in their creative pursuits. Anyone who needs help to counteract the unsettling experiences of life transitions, aging, and physical and mental challenges. Anyone of any gender, culture, age, nationality, or circumstance. First-timers, too.

What do you do there? First you turn off your phone and give it a chance to recharge, like you're going to do. Sit comfortably in a serene space for 30 to 45 minutes while a trained meditation leader guides you into a state of relaxation as your mind quiets and clears. No special clothing or equipment required.

Why would you go there? For starters, this is a secular experience, not a religious practice; it can leave your nervous system soothed, relaxed and refreshed. Benefits include being more present with your grandchildren, more attuned to your job demands, better able to cope with the stress that drives you to distraction.

Myth: Meditation is a '60's era esoteric adventure into navel-gazing. Facts: Meditation has been practiced for thousands of years. Now a plethora of reputable brain research, including brain imagery, has documented its positive boost to our immune systems and the amygdala – that part of the brain that houses our fight-or-flight response. While we are no longer being chased by saber-toothed tigers, we do experience panic when we accidentally "reply to all" or when the daily news cycle forecasts a tidal wave of doom and gloom.

In addition to daily meditation classes for which you can drop in or sign up in advance, there are special workshops and class series described on Meditation Bar's website where you'll find details about the variety of meditation methods in which the staff is trained. There are also summer programs for children who need to unplug from their screens and for teens about to embark on the often stressful transition into college. There is even a corporate program for meditation in the workplace.

Meditation Bar offers a pleasant path toward relief from those moments we want to shout, "Stop the world! I want to get off!"

Contact info: 8108 Mesa Drive, Suite B103; 512-840-1640; for hours, rates, and daily class schedule go to www.meditationbar.com NWACA members receive a 10% discount.

We're going to Art City Austin!

—Ruven Brooks

The Art City Austin Fine Arts Festival features over 150 artists exhibiting on the grounds of the Palmer Event Center. We'll be holding a Transit Adventure on April 15th to take us there. We'll gather at the Northcross Mall bus stop on Burnet Road at 1 PM and take the 803 bus down and back. Bus tickets courtesy of Cap Metro. NWACA will pay the entry fee for NWACA members who register for the event at <https://art-city-austin.eventbrite.com> and join us at the bus stop! An optional side trip could be to visit the new central library which is on the bus route.

Buy Local, Give Local: Week of May 14

—Caroline Alexander



As part of the on-going efforts to raise funds for Murchison Playground, we are partnering with some of our neighborhood businesses along Far West to hold a "Buy Local, Give Local"

campaign. During the week of May 14, some businesses along Far West will donate a percent of their sales to the fundraising effort. Others will plan an activity that participants register for, and then the business will donate the registration fees or a suggested donation to the playground fund. It will be a wonderful opportunity to support our local businesses while contributing toward our future playground. The week of May 7, we will publish the list of participating businesses and the events that will take place. Stay tuned for all the fun details! For more information, visit www.MurchisonPlayground.com



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featuring Ernest Cline

On Sunday, March 11, SXSW screened the world premiere of Ernest Cline's *Ready Player One*. Described as a "cross between Willie Wonka and the Matrix... a cyberpunk kind of adventure... in theaters March 29", it is destined to be a box office smash and cult classic.

This is every author's dream: a 6-figure, publishers' bidding war over your first novel, screen rights snapped up by Warner Brothers within 24 hours, interviews, bestsellers lists, book signings, Steven Spielberg directing the film for which you write your own screenplay. Whew!

But like many dreams come true, years of preparation and practice, discipline, and dedication preceded this "overnight success," and Ernest was kind enough to share details of this journey at a February book signing at Doss Elementary where his daughter is a student.

From rural Ohio, Ernest spent his early years immersed in computer games, science fiction, and pop culture, Star Wars being a high point. In time, still fully embracing his nerdiness, he divided his focus between geeking out, working (short order cook, fish gutter, plasma donor, video store clerk, and computer support tech), and writing, screen plays being his primary area of interest.

In 1998, as a competitor in the National Poetry Slam, he met fellow competitor, author Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz,

whom he later married. Three years after the competition, he released an album of live, spoken-word recordings. A written sampling of his slam poetry is available in his 100-page volume, *The Importance of Being Ernest* (2014), an amazing little book.

While working his many jobs, Ernest kept writing. His screenplay, *Fanboys*, had its film release in 2009 and quickly inspired a cult following. Meanwhile, *Ready Player One*, thirteen years in its creation, was continually developing. With a myriad of references to games, movies and music, Ernest thought copyrighting for film would be insurmountable, so changed the seemingly impossible screenplay to a novel. Frustrated, he dropped his last job, in the computer industry, and settled into full-time writing, completing the book in 2012. What a surprise that it could actually be turned into the film he had first conceived.

His second novel, *Armada*, only 10 years in its creation, was another best-selling success, published in 2016, screen rights immediately bought by Universal, soon to be in theaters.

Ernest's writing, even in one-liners, resonates with truth. (See 50 of his quotes on quotecatalog.com/ernestcline). In *Ready Player One*, teenage hero Wade Watts draws us into his world of 2045 where cyber life is all important, the games, music, and movies of our present times becoming historic references for him. With this imaginative perspective, the sci-fi story touches our own lives and, with its well-wrought adventure of quest, loyalty, and love, it stands as a classic story, in any genre, hard-fought success coming to the deserving hero after years of preparation and practice, discipline and dedication.

A shout-out to Book People for the Doss book signing by Northwest Hills' Ernest Cline and for the in-store book signing by Austin's Michael Noll. For those dreaming of writing a bestseller, maybe a movie, Noll's enormously helpful book, released last month, has now been restocked by Amazon after a lightning-fast sellout. Don't miss it! *The Writer's Field Guide to the Craft of Fiction*.



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Recap of ATD Meeting on Speed Mitigation

—Zoning and Transportation Committee

The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) held an informational meeting on March 5th to present plans for three new speed mitigation installations in our neighborhood:

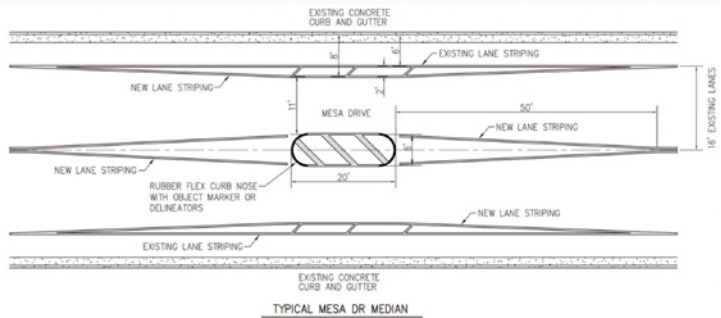
1. Mesa Drive from First View Drive to Cross Valley Run
2. Hart Lane from Greystone Drive to Executive Center Drive
3. Mountainclimb Dr. from Highland Hills Dr. to Dry Creek Dr.

Mesa Drive and Hart Lane are both designated as higher-traffic "collector" streets. In response to neighborhood feedback from prior speed mitigation installations on collector streets, the upcoming Mesa Drive and Hart Lane installations will not be speed cushions, but instead be rubber medians and modified lane striping to slow vehicles as they maneuver around the medians.

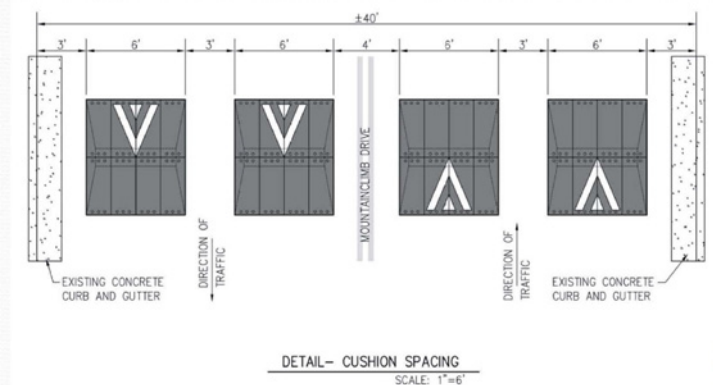
Unlike Mesa Drive and Hart Lane, Mountainclimb Drive is considered a low-volume "neighborhood street". As such, the installation for Mountainclimb drive will be simple speed cushions without the flat-tops seen on other speed cushions in the neighborhood.

The presentation from the ATD meeting can be found at www.nwaca.org in the News and Announcements section on the home page. Please contact ATD or the District 10 office if you have questions.

Mitigation Option for Mesa Drive



Mitigation Plan for Mountainclimb Drive






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new year. We invite you to
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managing your home if you
are moving in 2018.

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NWACA Project Reserve Fund Inviting Applications

—NWACA Finance Committee

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

During the past two years, NWACA funded the purchase of five recycling containers for use at our local parks, contributed funds for the development of a new soccer field behind Doss Elementary, helped refurbish the Anderson High School Gym, and provided part of the funding for the pilot Constable patrol project.

Any group or individual can apply for Project Reserve funds; just download an application online at www.nwaca.org using the Get Involved tab, and look for Project Reserve Fund.

Project applications for spring/summer grants will be accepted until May 10, 2018, and selected applicants will be encouraged to present their projects at the June 12, 2018, NWACA Board meeting. Submit applications, drawings, pictures, and estimated project costs to: nwacainfo@gmail.com or by mail to: NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance and funds can be distributed as early as July following project selection. The number of projects funded is at the discretion of the Board. If you have questions about the program, email those to nwacainfo@gmail.com

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

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

NWACA History Sought

—History Committee

The NWACA History Committee is working on articles about this neighborhood, accessing newspaper clippings, books, and articles. Many times, the most useful information is from people – usually a neighbor who was part of that history. If you or someone you know has stories to tell, we'd like to know about them. It might be about the development of our neighborhood, interesting events that happened, outstanding individuals, you name it. Send us your suggested interviewees at nwacainfo@gmail.com

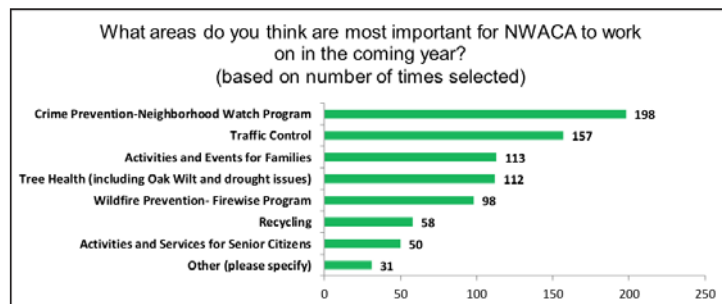
2018 NWACA Neighborhood Interest Survey Results

—March 14, 2018

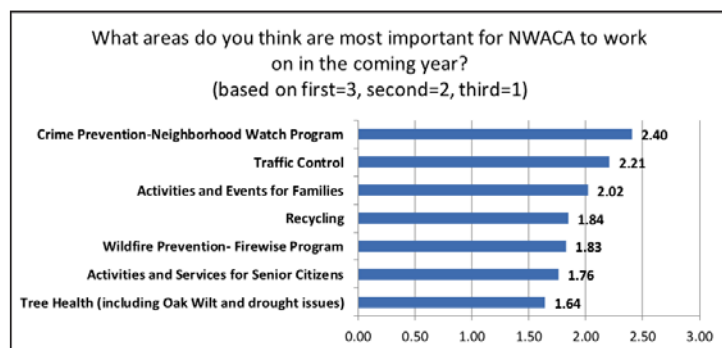
Between February 19 and March 5, 2018, NWACA conducted its annual survey of the neighborhood to get answers to questions that help identify the currently most pressing issues for the neighborhood. The survey was done using Survey Monkey, open to anyone in the neighborhood. In addition, paper copies were sent to NWACA members without internet access. There were 275 responses, 7 of those by US Mail from NWACA members without internet access. Responses are summarized below.

Q1: What areas do you think are most important for NWACA to work on in the coming year? [choose only 3, rating them first choice, second choice, third choice] (273 responses)

Based on the number of times an item was chosen at any level, the responses were as follows:




A rating was computed, based on first choice given a value of 3, second choice 2, and third choice 1. The results change slightly, with Tree Health lower and two other items switching positions (Wildfire Prevention and Recycling).

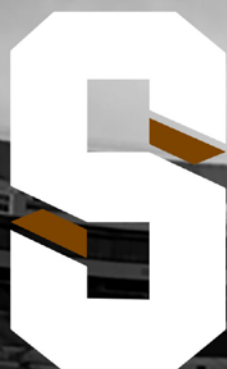


Among the “Other” responses, these were most prevalent:

- 6 – Remove Speed Bumps
- 6 – CodeNEXT and Zoning
- 3 – Bring more events to the neighborhood
- 3 – Walking and Cycling
- 2 – Parks
- 2 – Activities for middle-age adults without kids

(Continued on Page 11)

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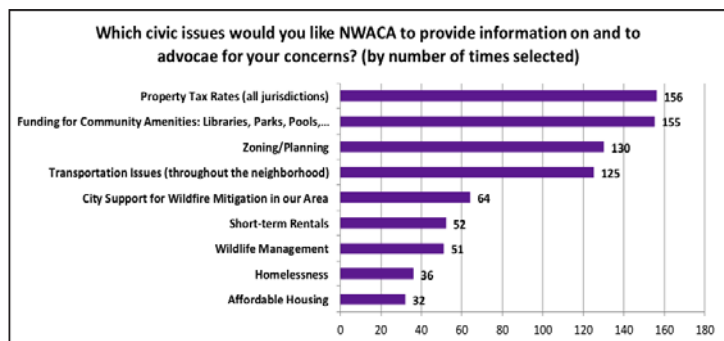
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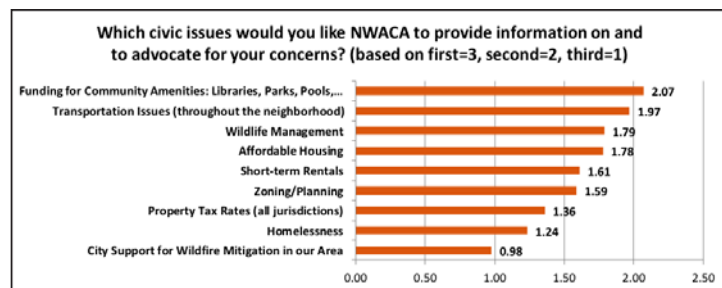
(Continued from Page 9)

Q2: Which civic issues would you like NWACA to provide information on and to advocate for your concerns? [Choose no more than 3, rating them first choice, second choice, third choice.] (275 responses)

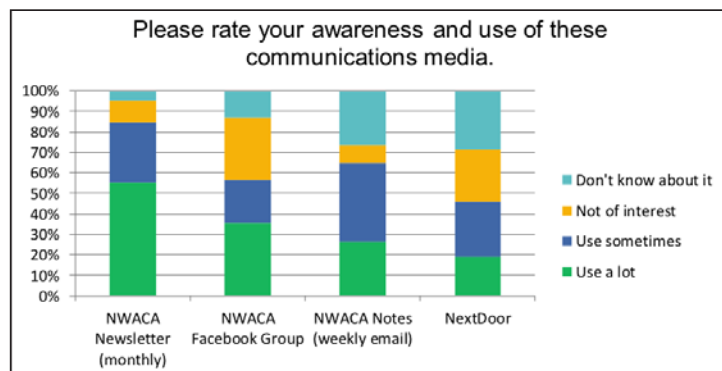
Based on the number of times an item was chosen at any level, the responses were as follows:




A rating was computed, based on first choice given a value of 3, second choice 2, and third choice 1. The results ranked by that rating are quite different.




Q3: Please rate your awareness and use of these NWACA communications media (275 responses)



(Continued on Page 12)




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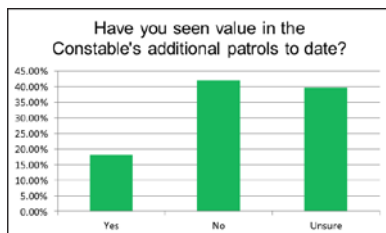
NWACA News

(Continued from Page 11)

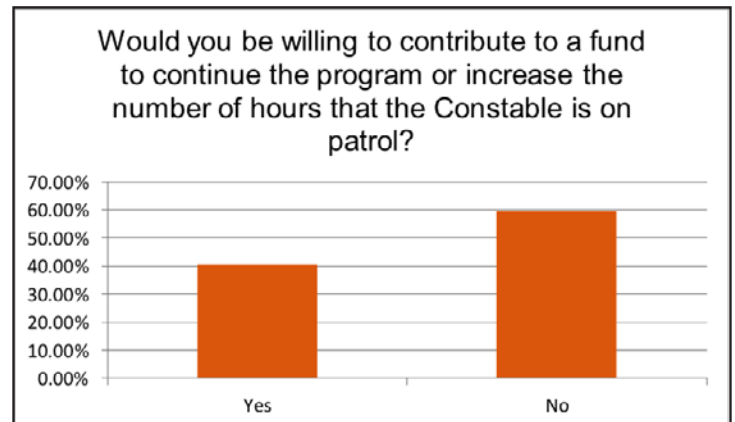
Among the comments provided under the “other” response were these:

- Would like to get the newsletter electronically – that can be done by signing up for electronic format, rather than printed. Go to www.peelinc.com
- Sometimes I don't get the printed newsletter – please send email to nwacainfo@gmail.com and we'll get you on the list
- The newsletter should include new restaurants and businesses – There is a monthly column that features a new business each month (except when the author is out of town), but perhaps the person would like a listing of new enterprises in the neighborhood. We welcome a volunteer to provide such a column – we'll print it!

Q4: The NWACA Board has partially funded a constable for approximately six hours per week for a six month period to alleviate traffic concerns and speeding. Have you seen value in the Constable's additional patrols to date? (274 responses)



Q5: Would you be willing to contribute to a fund to continue the program or increase the number of hours that the Constable is on patrol? (266 responses)



Q6: Are you a current member of NWACA? (275 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	77.09%	212
No	12.73%	35
Unsure	10.18%	28


(Continued on Page 13)

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(Continued from Page 12)

Q7: Please provide other suggestions and comments you have on NWACA activities or services. (80 responses)

The most common categories of responses were these, along with 31 individual items or suggestions. All comments are provided to the Board for their review and response.

- 17 - Compliments to NWACA Board and Committees
- 13 - Remove speed bumps
- 5 - More constable time, with some wanting crime prevention patrols
- 4 - membership questions [please email nwacainfo@gmail.com for help]
- 4 - Austin Oaks concerns
- 3 - Slow down traffic
- 2 - walking and cycling - comments related to bicycle safety training, more opportunities to walk and cycle to local retail
- 2 - want more celebrations and other events
- 2 - more speedbumps



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Selling Your Home? Prevent Oak Wilt at the Same Time

—Joanie Arrott



Thinking about taking advantage of the strong housing market? Maybe you're considering downsizing or renting your home. No matter the reason, you should keep oak wilt in mind when prepping your house for potential buyers or renters. Oak wilt already affects the community of trees in NWACA. We have at least four active oak wilt zones within our boundaries, and it will take the thoughtful and diligent action of our residents to control the known hot spots and prevent the further spreading of this disease.

I have visited with neighbors who have lost beautiful oak trees, most 15 years old or more, or were currently treating their large oaks because they had contracted oak wilt. Some folks had trees that were just a driveway apart from yards with diseased oaks, and they knew the threat of contracting the disease through the root system was the greatest risk.



The disease can be spread by beetles moving between infected trees and uninfected trees with fresh wounds. It can also move between infected and uninfected trees through their interconnected system

of roots, especially with regard to live oaks. There is also potential for spreading between diseased red oak firewood to nearby trees while the firewood is being stored. There is no concern about transmission when burning infected firewood, however. The best defense against disease or pest infestation is to prevent pruning during the time of year that has the highest risk of infection, Feb 1st to July 1st.

Know that pruning is really wounding the tree or shrub, and it's important to have a valid reason for every pruning cut. Pruning cuts create potential entry points for insects and disease, so knowing your tree varieties is very important, to determine whether wounds should be sealed or not. Prune properly and safely to promote quick and healthy wound closure.

If you're contracting with a tree-trimming company, clearly identify the proper practices they need to follow for tree care. Treat all wounds properly by immediately painting them with a commercial tree wound dressing or latex paint. Clean and sterilize

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NWACA News

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pruning tools between each landscape plant and tree to greatly reduce the spread of disease.

It is recommended to employ only certified arborists to prune your valuable trees, especially oaks. There are several reputable companies that provide quality services to our neighborhood, but each year, there seem to be just as many uncertified tree service vendors that perform unsafe and poor quality services. Take an active role in how in your home landscape is managed especially involving any pruning.

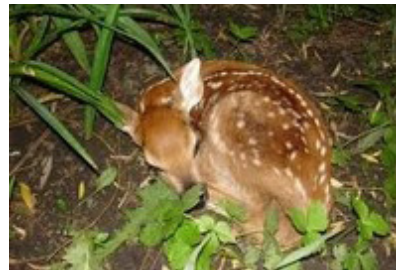
The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) recommends hiring a tree service company that has ISA-certified professionals on staff. They have developed two easy-to-use tools to assist homeowners in locating an arborist in the area (Find an Arborist tool) and in confirming whether an arborist has an ISA credential (Verify a Credential tool). Access them here: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/arboristsearch.aspx>.

A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 and \$10,000, per the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers. Whether you're a homeowner, realtor, or both, we want you to have a profitable and successful home selling experience. At the same time, we want you to do your part in keeping our neighborhood exceptional including protecting our trees.

Watch Out for Wildlife with Their Young Ones

—Wildlife Management Committee

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



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

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

(Continued on Page 15)



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(Continued from Page 14)

- Coyotes breed in February and March; pups are born about 60 days later.

- During this time, territorial male coyotes do not tolerate other canines in their territory; many conflicts between coyotes and domestic dogs result from this territorial behavior.

- An average coyote litter contains 4 or 5 pups, born in dens. In urban environments, dens can be in storm drains, under storage drains, in holes dug in vacant lots, parks, golf courses or any other dark, dry place.

- Coyote pups are cared for, fed, and protected by both parents. The pups mature quickly and can eat meat and move about well by the time they are a month old.

- Food requirements of the nursing females and the growing young remain high until late summer. As people and their pets spend more time outdoors during this time, the possibility of a coyote encounter increases.

- It is not unusual to observe a family of coyotes traveling through urbanized areas.

- If food is deliberately or inadvertently provided by people, the pups quickly learn not to fear humans and develop a dependency on easy food sources.

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



Special Needs in Times of Wildfire and Other Emergencies

—Joyce Statz



In our NWACA Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), we have section that discusses measures that can be taken to help those with special needs for health and mobility reasons, should they need to be evacuated during an emergency. These same measures apply to evacuation for other reasons as well – severe weather or other emergencies monitored by local authorities.

One mechanism that is available is the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR). This free registry is used by emergency planners and emergency responders. Having your information helps to determine what kinds of services might be required during a disaster, and helps responders plan and train more effectively.

- Information registered here is routed to the appropriate county (in our case, to the database of the Emergency Operations Center for Austin/Travis County)

- All registered information is confidential
- EMS personnel have a layer on their EMS computers with which they can see red dots on homes that have been registered, so that these can be priority locations during evacuation for emergencies like flood or wildfire
- Residents must still call 9-1-1 for services, if they need immediate help, and indicate that they have a special needs person
- Registration must be renewed annually

Those who should register include:

- People with disabilities
- People with access and functional needs such as:
 - o People who have limited mobility
 - o People who have communication barriers
 - o People who require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
 - o People who require transportation assistance
 - o People who require personal care assistance

More information can be found at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/stear/public.htm>

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Ladybird Beetles

—Wizzie Brown, Texas Agrilife Extension Service

Ladybird beetles, also known as ladybugs, are beneficial insects that can help eat pests in the landscape. While they help to control various soft-bodied insect pests, they are best known for eating aphids in the adult and larval stage. One ladybug can eat up to 5,000 aphids during its lifetime. Ladybugs may supplement their diet with flower nectar and honeydew in times when prey is scarce.

Ladybugs have a complete life cycle with four life stages- egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Adults come in a variety of sizes and colors.



Ladybug Eggs



Ladybug Larva



Ladybug Pupa



Ladybug Adult

They are oval with a domed body shape, are brightly colored, and have contrasting markings. After mating, female adults lay eggs in clusters on plants, usually near aphids, mealybugs, or scale insects. The eggs are yellowish-orange and look like footballs sitting up on end. Larvae emerge from eggs to feed on the insects that are found nearby. Larvae are alligator-shaped, and often greyish-black with bright markings. Larvae feed on insect prey for several weeks before pupating on the plant. The pupae are non-feeding, non-moving, and are unprotected by a cocoon.

To conserve the ladybugs that you find in your landscape, learn to recognize all stages of the beetles. Make wise pesticide choices and target use to specific areas. Add plants that can provide pollen and nectar for the beetles to supplement their diet.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

SUDOKU

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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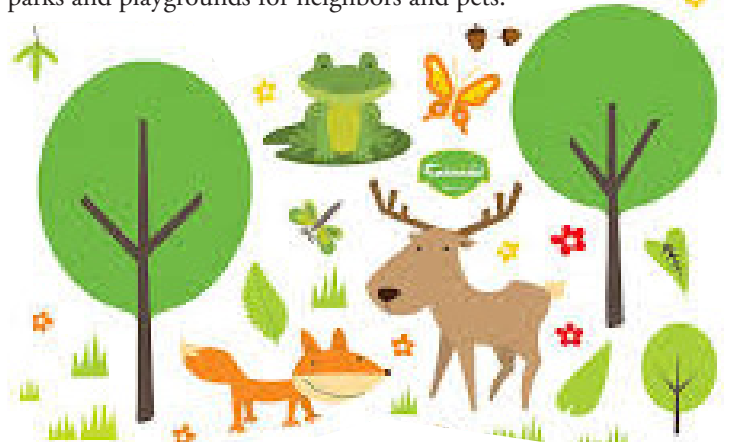


Why Join NWACA

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

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