



nwacaNEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2018

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 5

President's Message

—Vicki DeWeese

Everyone in the neighborhood is invited to come to our annual meeting on May 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center! Representatives from City Council District 10, Alison Alter's office, will speak, as will Julie Cowan, AISD Board representative from our area. The Austin Fire Department will share a presentation about what a fire would look like in our neighborhood, the Game Warden will speak about poaching in our area, and we will hear from our District Officer with the Austin Police Department about Neighborhood Watch and from a member of the Greater Austin Crime Commission. We will have representatives from all of these agencies able to visit with you personally after the meeting, as well as representatives from City of Austin Code Enforcement, Travis County Constable Precinct 2, and AISD Police, as well as members from all of our NWACA committees. And, of course we will be serving refreshments!

We know everyone wants to be involved with the 46th Annual NWACA Fourth of July Parade! This is NWACA's biggest undertaking of the year! If you have a business and would like to be a sponsor, please contact Aaron Daniels, Julie Waidelich, or Teri Schock at nwacainfo@gmail.com. If you want to volunteer to work with logistics or to help arrange vendors before the parade, or you'd prefer to work the day of the parade, we would love to have your help. Email Joanie Arrott or Coach Mo at nwacainfo@gmail.com to volunteer. We had over 50 volunteers last year! You'll help your neighborhood, meet new

neighbors and have fun!

Speaking of new neighbors, who really aren't so new, welcome to our neighbors who live north of Spicewood Springs Road! NWACA recently expanded our boundaries to include the neighborhood from Spicewood Springs Road to US Hwy. 183 (Research Blvd.) on the north, MoPac Expressway on the East, Hwy. 360 on the West, and RM 2222 to the south. We are so excited to be working together! We welcome four new board members from our expansion area, many who have already been actively working with NWACA committees. Please welcome: Bridget Keating, Kam McCoy, Julie Rawlings, and Teri Schock.

Aside from working on the parade and welcoming new neighborhoods, NWACA committees have been hosting a series of meetings to discover the needs of people living in the apartment and multi-family housing communities in our neighborhood, who are an important part of our neighborhood. Together, with our single-family homes, we are a community of over 13,000 households strong!

And, The NWACA board recently had a visit from Game Warden Ben Echelson advising us on poaching in our area. For more information on this safety issue, see the article in this newsletter and come hear Game Warden Echelson speak at our annual meeting.

The NWACA Parks committee is promoting a "Buy Local, Give

(Continued on Page 4)

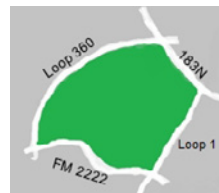
Am I a Member?

Since you get the newsletter, 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, Wildlife, 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? Go to www.nwaca.org and join a committee from the Get Involved tab.

If you're not sure you're a member, 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 your first copy of our newsletter, welcome to the NWACA neighborhood! The map shows our boundaries – Mopac, RM 2222, Loop 360, and US Highway 183 (Research Boulevard). There are about 7000 other single-family households who are your neighbors and are happy you're here!

This newsletter is one way to know what's happening in NWACA, but there's much more. Check out the quick link For New Neighbors on the home page at www.nwaca.org Use the Contact tab to see how to get the weekly NWACA Notes, sign up on Facebook, and join NextDoor. Become a dues-paying member by using the form at the end of this newsletter, or you can join online.

Welcome to NWACA!

NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

May 1, 8:00 AM

Epoch Coffee - 4th of July Planning Meeting

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, 6:30 - 8:30

JCC - Community Room

NWACA Annual Meeting – All neighbors invited

May 19, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Doss Elementary School - Doss Work Day - Help pack up
Doss for moving everything to Lucy Read Elementary; sign
up at: <http://signupcom/go/TBYTyTU>

May 19, 9AM-noon

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

June 2, 8:30 & 10:00

Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve, 7810 Sterling Drive
National Trails Day – Guided hikes at 8:30 and 10:00
with a bit of trash cleanup

June 3, 2 PM

Biderman's - Parks Committee

June 7, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures - Sponsorship Committee

June 12, 8:00 AM

Kneaded Pleasures - Communications Committee

June 12, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Galaxy Cafe - NWACA Board Meeting

June 16, 9AM - Noon

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

June 17, 2 PM

Kneaded Pleasures
Tree and Environmental Stewardship Committee

June 26, 5 PM

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



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KEY CONTACTS

Austin Citywide Information Center.....512-974-2000 or 311
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
Enroll in the District 10 monthly newsletter:
.....district10@austintexas.gov
.....www.district10austin.com

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| • Tracey Fine | • Julie Rawlings |
| • Charlie Galvin | • Teri Schock |
| • Rachel Lance | |

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 US Highway 183 (Research Boulevard), 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)

Local" event during the week of May 14th to raise money for the Murchison Playground. Neighborhood businesses will donate a portion of their sales to help fund the playground. Caroline Alexander and her committee have been working around the clock to make this playground a reality, so please support our neighborhood businesses and the Murchison Playground. For more information, contact Caroline at nwacainfo@gmail.com

If you have ideas about ways to improve our neighborhood and haven't already done so, it's time to submit your neighborhood project ideas to the NWACA Special Projects Fund. Projects should be submitted by May 10th to be presented at the June 12th NWACA board meeting. Past projects have helped fund recycling cans at neighborhood parks, soccer fields at Doss Playground, the Constable Patrol project, and the Anderson High School Gym renovation. More information can be found on our website www.nwaca.org and in this newsletter, or you can contact the NWACA Finance committee at: nwacainfo@gmail.com.

We can't do it without you, our neighbors! If you're not already a member, please join us for only \$25 per year! You can join or renew your membership online or by mail or at our annual meeting on Tuesday, May 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the JCCA.

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

School Construction Update

—Lauren Ward

Plans continue to finalize for the Doss Elementary School remodel, as well as the Murchison Middle School addition. As the teams meet to finalize design decisions, timelines are being formalized as well. The Doss campus will likely be demolished at some point this summer. The new design for the building is still in discussion, but current plans are a two-story building, located closer to Far West than the current facility. This will allow the construction team to avoid as many mature trees as possible. The Doss Park may stay open during construction, as well as the new soccer field. Updates will be provided as we get them.

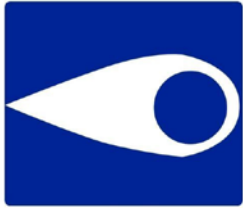
All students zoned to Doss will be bused to Lucy Read Elementary School (grades K-5). District policy states that if you are over 2.0 miles from a campus, bus service will be provided. This means there will be a lot more bus activity in the neighborhood, as all students will be eligible. Buses are expected to arrive for pick up between 6:40 and 7:15am and will be dropping off in the afternoons between 3:15 and 3:45pm. Please be aware of the increased student traffic during these times, and always stop when a school bus stops.

Doss is planning a community workday to help with the move. Everything has to be packed up for moving. The work day will be Saturday, May 19th from approximately 8:30am - 1:30pm. Would you like to help? Simply go to this SignUp page and register, <http://signup.com/go/TBYTyTU>. Email 1stVP@dosspta.org with any questions. All of the community is invited to participate. Thank you!

Neighborhood Watch Re-launched in NWACA

—Connie Lundgren

WARNING



**CRIME
WATCH
ZONE**

Old Spicewood Springs Road.

From work done in past years, there are several Neighborhood Watches in place. Parker Blevins has had an active watch on Shadyrock Drive for about five years. He shared a story of how their Neighborhood Watch street sign deterred two men off their street. Regrettably, they walked to another street and found a home unsecured. Watch groups from Northforest Drive, Parkview Circle, and Valburn Circle were also represented at the meeting.

Officer Darrell Grayson provided a presentation on how to set up a Neighborhood Watch and gave several very useful suggestions for keeping our homes and neighborhood safe. He stressed how important it is to “Call It In” if you see suspicious behavior. He explained the government has taken away the ability for police to stop people for “reasonable suspicion.” However, your call to 911 or 311 can provide the “probable cause” needed to stop and question suspicious people. In addition, the calls to 311 and 911 determine the allocation of police resources for our neighborhood; if there are few calls, there will be few allocations.

If you live in a multi-family complex, contact your HOA board or apartment manager. There are several things neighbors can do to spot suspicious behavior, and Neighborhood Watch Block Captains are welcome in multi-family housing as well as single-family neighborhoods.

Grayson also stressed the value of cameras inside and outside of your home. Above all, when you leave your home (or your car), lock it up.

Forty percent of the neighborhoods in the U.S. have Neighborhood Watches in place. NWACA has a large collection of supporting materials on its web site for Block Captains and for neighbors, to help set up and run a neighborhood watch. A sign on your street or at your complex could prevent a break-in.

If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain for your street or HOA, contact Connie Lundgren at connie.lundgren@evusa.com

Note: the presentation given by Officer Grayson is now on the NWACA web site. Check out the News and Announcements segment of the home page at www.nwaca.org

Public Hearings On CodeNEXT This Spring

—Zoning and Transportation Committee

We’ve been talking about CodeNEXT for about three years, as City of Austin staff and their consultants have been working on a new land development code that governs how zoning and building is done in Austin. They recently released the third draft of the code text, as well as the maps of all properties in Austin, depicting what zoning code is assigned to each. To look at the text or to see how your property is zoned, go to this web page and follow the links: <https://www.austintexas.gov/codenext>

The Planning Commission, the Zoning and Platting Commission, and the Austin City Council have scheduled four public hearings in upcoming months. The public hearings are an opportunity for you to speak to the land use commissions and City Council about CodeNEXT. The public hearings are required by law in order for the City Council to vote on the ordinance. You can sign up to speak at the public hearings 30 minutes before each meeting. These hearings are also very likely to be carried live (and viewable later as recordings) on the city’s ATXN video broadcast web page: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/schedule>

Joint Land Use Commissions Public Hearings

- 10 a.m. Saturday, April 28, at Dove Springs Recreation Center, 5801 Ainez Drive
- 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, at Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road

Austin City Council Public Hearings

- 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 29, at City Hall, 301 W. 2nd St.
- 10 a.m. Saturday, June 2, at City Hall, 301 W. 2nd St.

For more information about the public hearings, call 512-974-2000 or visit <http://austintexas.gov/page/codenext-postcard>



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*Nobody loves you like your mother
Not even your father, sister or brother
Runs to you sleeping in the dark, coriander night Candy,
Mandarin Pearly white whispers by the sea*

For Mother's Day, what more beautiful words than the lyrics of Mother, the first track on Adam's first solo album, Rivers of Brick? Recorded under his real name, Adam Busch, the album is composed of original songs, sung in the composer's mellow baritone voice over his guitar accompaniment.

Adam, who moved to Northwest Hills with his wife and son in 2014, has a career spanning 20 years. His style incorporates the many styles he has studied and explored: English folk music, West African and American Primitive guitar playing, and Ambient music.

A veteran songwriter and band leader, Adam has considerable output with art rock ensembles in Chicago, including his bands The Curious Digit and Manishevitz, both of whom recorded with Jagjaguwar, and SONOI who recorded with Meno Mosso.

Adam's solo album, River of Bricks, recorded under his stage name, Adam Ostrar, was particularly influenced by his studies with African Music Scholar, Nathaniel Braddock, by guitar finger style forms, and by British folk icons Bert Janusch and Davy Graham.

Adam spoke of a significant change in this album. Earlier

he'd take less concrete ideas to the studio and work them out with the band, while now he was putting more effort into upfront writing. In addition, for tours generated by the album, it was essential to be able to do live performances solo, even though the album included multiple players and overdubs.

Asked about his composition process, Adam said, "When composing, the guitar harmony and texture usually come first, with a melody in my head. I'll record myself humming and mumbling the vocal line, refining and gradually adding words. If I can stay out of my own way, I get better results. Even if I'm embarrassed by the song in its early stages, if I give it time, it usually works out."

Inspiration comes from random sources: a book he's reading, a news event, a new instrument he hears or plays, or the music of someone else.

In 2017, Adam signed with Austin label, Super Secret Records, recording his latest album, *Brawls in the Briar*, at their Southwest Texas studio on the famed Sonic Ranch. On these tracks, look for elements of vintage folk, the sounds of open tuning, 12-string guitars, violin, organ swells, synthetic pad and piano swag, and infusion of bossa nova rhythms.

Brawl in the Briar is available in LP and CD at local record stores including Waterloo, or it can be ordered from the label's website or Adam's Bandcamp Page. You can also download or stream it from all the usual sources.

<http://supersecretrecords.bigcartel.com/product/adam-osttar-brawlin-lp>

<http://adamosttar.bandcamp.com/releases>

Interested in guitar lessons? Besides being a superlative musician, Adam is a patient and understanding teacher.

Writer's Corner is lining up authors, composers, and painters too, for Fall newsletters. Please contact Idee Kwak ikk@austin.rr.com



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Business Spotlight: Epoch Coffee

—Janice Green



Joe Rodriguez, one of the three founders of Epoch Coffee, likes to drive around Austin neighborhoods discovering their personalities. Northwest Hills caught his eye – being somewhat isolated on this side of Mopac with architecture echoing the '70's. He noticed the for-rent sign at the long ago vacated service station up the Far West hill. It beckoned, “You belong here.” Little did we residents expect that Epoch Coffee's third site would soon locate there and become our stand-alone coffee spot. Gotta say, that corner looks nothing like it did before!

After Joe finished his military stint he became enamored with the coffee shop experience, but not for reasons you'd expect. What hooked him was the lively, friendly banter and conversations he had with the baristas at Quack's near the University. After working for some of Austin's early coffee establishments he began to imagine opening his own. He vowed to foster happy employees behind the counter and replicate his experiences with good service. And from my experiences at Epoch, goals accomplished.

Epoch's interior and exterior design is sleek, trendy, and airy. The drive-around made smart use of parking space, access, and traffic flow. Then there is the inviting historical homage to the “paned service station doors.” Inside is sunny and open with smaller tables for customers wanting to dive solo into their devices and longer tables for conversation clusters. Light food (a pastry, salad, sandwich, dessert) is also available to accompany some of the best coffee and espresso served in our caffeinated city. Of course, the baristas are friendly and have even won Austin Coffee Society competitions for their artistic latte designs.

Epoch is tapping into the talent trained at local music schools for occasional performances; on Sunday afternoons you may hear a children's cello concertina in the background. Buckets of coffee grounds will be available for neighbors who want to recycle them for gardening. And local artists are offered a commission-free exhibit space, too – all examples of the founders' vision of Epoch serving as a neighborhood hub. Future plans also include outdoor seating.

But let's not overlook the quality of the brewed beverages served there. Epoch's roasters are local and engage in direct trade with the farmers who source the beans. Joe and his two partners Kevin Garry and Chris Clarkson are proud of the mutual support and sense of obligation shared by the four tiers that produce Epoch's terrific coffee drinks – farmers to roasters to brewers to baristas. Even great care is taken in the selection of milk products used.

These guys are serious about the quality of their coffee, providing congenial and skilled employees, and paying attention to the details that create the unique ambiance at Epoch. They understand that the ritual to a great espresso is enhanced by the environmental, ethical, and direct trade components.

Joe's “Cup of Joe” is worth trying. It's not just a taste, but a full body experience.

For hours and news about events: www.epochcoffee.com 3900 Far West Blvd. Open daily.

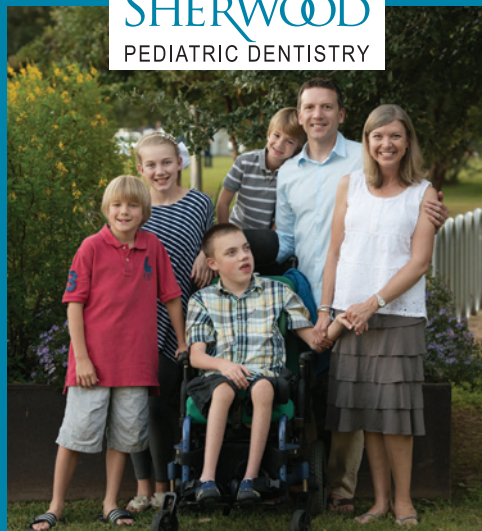


Start Collecting your Float Decorations!

—Joanie Arrott

NWACA volunteers are hard at work planning the 2018 July 4th Parade and Freedom Festival. Mark your calendars and starting making arrangements! We've got room for businesses and sponsors, community groups, scout troops, and neighbors from every corner to take part in our biggest event of the year. More details about the Parade, Float Contest, and Freedom Festival will be announced soon! If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring, contact us at: nwacainfo@gmail.com

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First Quarter 2018 Constable Report

—Zoning and Transportation Committee

During the first three months of 2018, we had slightly fewer hours of duty from our Travis County Constable, partly because of the time he needed to spend with the investigations around the package bomber and partly because of miscommunication. Here is a summary of the hours spent and the citations issued. At this point, more than half the citations are for people outside our 78731 and 78759 zip codes, the likely result of cut-through traffic.

2018 Q1 Constable Report									
Month	Days Patrolled	Traffic Stops	Violations	Total Duty Hours	Total Days in Month	Enforcement Summary			
						Moving Violations	Non-Moving Violations	Other Zip Codes	78731 - 78759 Zip Codes
January	7	27	31	14	7	27	4	17	10
February	2	6	6	4	2	6		2	4
March	8	17	20	15	8	17		9	7
Totals	17	50	57	33	17	50	4	28	21
								57.1%	42.9%

The constable reports that 90%-95% of the Moving Violations are for Speeding, with speeds generally 40MPH or more. The Moving Violations are things like Speeding, Following Too Closely, Ran Stop Sign/ Red Light, Failure to Signal. Common violations under the Non-Moving Violations are Expired Registration, No Insurance, No Drivers' License, etc.

A more complete report is online at www.nwaca.org, including comments from each day's patrol activities. In addition to the traffic work and driving through the neighborhood as requested, you see special situations the Constable dealt with: vehicle/deer collision, marijuana possession, APD dispatch for a 911 call, and suspicious packages.



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~Steve H.



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Stillhouse Hollow's White Lightning!

—Richard Denney



Have you ever wondered about our neighborhood's Stillhouse Hollow and associated Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve: Where did the name "Stillhouse" come from?

Back in the day, Bull Creek was a world apart from Austin. Cedar, abundant in the valley of Bull Creek, proved an important

livelihood for many, leading to the derisive label used by outsiders: "cedar choppers." From 1870 to 1940, cedar logs were in high demand in Austin and Travis County for railroad ties, foundation piers, stove wood, charcoal, and fence posts. And during prohibition, 1920-1933, the valley of Bull Creek provided the necessary ingredients for another livelihood, the production of moonshine: an abundance of spring water, charcoal made from cedar to fuel the stills, and most importantly, the solitude of the hills, valleys, and caves to hide production!

One such location offering all these key ingredients was our own Stillhouse Hollow, AKA Stillhouse Canyon.

Headlines from an article in *The American Statesman* in 1923, proclaimed "Caves In Bull Creek Hills Furnish Safe Retreats For Moonshine Gangs; Officers Get Clue To Nest Of Stills." The article continues with: "Capture of an alleged bootlegger and six gallons of 'white lightning' ... [which] led to the location of a veritable nest of illicit stills in the Bull Creek hills ... a vast quantity of Bull Creek moonshine finds its way into local [Austin] cellars ... [and bootlegging is now a profitable industry] ... of the Bull Creek 'hillbillies' ... One canyon which empties into Bull Creek northwest of Austin derived its name 'Stillhouse Canyon,' through having been many years ago the location of an illicit distillery. At the head of this canyon is a cave known to this day as 'Stillhouse Cave.' A gang of moonshiners is said to have prospered there until about sixty years ago, when federal revenue and state officers paid a surprise visit, which resulted in gun play and the annihilation of the illicit distillers."

Sounds like a line right out of George Jones' "White Lightning!" Well, the "G" men, "T" men, revenueurs, too
Searchin' for the place where he made his brew
They were looking, tryin' to book him, but my pappy kept on cookin'
Whshh, white lightning!

So, the name "Stillhouse" dates back as far as the 1860s. Another article in *The Austin Statesman* from 1921 ran with the headlines "Stillhouse Springs Where Once Moonshine Outfit flourished. Ancients Spin Yarn. Tell of Battle With Federal Revenue Officers Staged 60 Years Ago".

That article includes: "Three-score years ago Federal officers were busy [along Bull Creek trying to] locate the source from which certain residents of Austin ... were receiving their supply of moonshine ... They found Stillhouse Springs which to this day bear that name, and

Caves in Bull Creek Hills Furnish Safe Retreats for Moonshine Gangs; Officers Get Clue to Nest of Stills

there, also, they found a still in operation in a sort of half-cave which is known ... as Stillhouse Cave ... This moonshine mixture was reputed to be triple-distilled and was guaranteed to have 'some kick'."

Stillhouse Hollow is today a nature preserve with restricted access, but you can take a short hike out to an overlook via the trail entrance off Burney Drive at Sterling Drive. And as you stand there remember this line from an "old-timer" quoted in the 1921 article: "It was about million-proof alcohol and when poured into a glass it looked as innocent as water [but make no mistake] in regard to Stillhouse moonshine, for it had a kick that would make a blaze-faced mule turn green with envy."

That means it was good, I think?

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



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Taking Care of Your Family and Pets in an Emergency

—Al Simmons



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appearing to be driven by high wind with fiery embers already visible in the air above the distant valley fire. You have very little time to load your family, your pets, and important items you will need to survive during and after the fire has moved on. How do prepare? Here is a start.

First, establish a game-plan similar to the following sometime BEFORE the fires occur:

1. Identify every person and animal in your home.
2. Establish the potential time-frame you expect to be away from your home.
3. Identify where you can take your family, including all pets, while away; and establish the potential “stay time” limits.
4. Pack enough clothes; medicines, and other necessities for everyone in your family, including pets, for the estimated time away from home.
5. Specifics for your pets:
 - a. Emergency pet kit...should be a light-weight, smaller version of what your family has. Consider having both a home emergency pet kit as well as a smaller grab-and-go kit;
 - b. Your pet’s carrier: Write your pet’s name, description and your phone number on their carrier;
 - c. Collar, leash, and ID tag that includes your phone number;
 - d. Pet food and water (three-day supply minimum), as well as dishes;
 - e. Copy of immunization and health records;
 - f. Pet muzzle (to prevent bites to rescue personnel);
 - g. Picture of your pet for identification, in case you are separated;

Emergency events may not allow you the amount of time that you thought you might have - particularly with smoke starting to come out of the valley immediately across the road from your home,

h. Treats and pet toys;

i. Pet medication (three-day supply minimum).

6. Specifics for your family members can be found in the Go section of the Ready, Set, Go guide at <https://nwaca.org/awd/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ReadySetGoTexasBooklet.pdf> The essence of the guidance is:

- a. Three-day supply of water, non-perishable food, sanitation supplies, clothing
- b. Medicines (and copies of prescriptions)
- c. First aid kit, flashlight
- d. Cell phones, computers, chargers, archive drives
- e. Cash, credit cards, important family documents and contact numbers
- f. Family photos and other irreplaceable items [put a list of what to take on your fridge]

Second, it is strongly recommended that families purchase and install a 4-hour fire-safe to protect their valuables...this is for protecting your valuables not only from Wildfire but also from the crime that is becoming more and more prevalent in our communities.




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What to do with Evidence of a Poacher?

Public Service Announcement



Poaching of wildlife (usually deer) has become a major issue in NWACA. In fact, the State Game Warden visited the NWACA Board meeting in April to ask for our help in finding these individuals and building a case against them. Things to look for and report:

- Suspicious vehicles parked near the greenbelt or traveling in the neighborhood at night (the Game Warden noted they are often large diesel pickups with riders in the cargo bed)

- Arrows of any type found on the ground or in an animal
- Videos on your surveillance of individuals carrying bows or guns

Unfortunately, this activity is not confined to the greenbelt, so we ask that everyone be on alert. Call to report any of the above to the Game Warden Dispatch Office at 512-389-4848.

And, if you hear shots fired in our neighborhood, you should immediately call 911.

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.

Oak Wilt 101

—Joanie Arrott

If you're new to the neighborhood or new to Oak Wilt, you may be wondering why all the fuss? The short of it is—oak wilt, one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States, has been killing oak trees in central Texas at epidemic proportions, as stated by the Texas A&M Forest Service. The NWACA area has at least four active oak wilt zones within its boundaries, and I don't know about you, but I would be really upset to lose my big, beautiful oak trees.

Don't believe contractors when they tell you oak wilt is not a problem or that they can work safely. **An educated and reputable professional tree company will not try to get you to prune your oaks in spring. Instead, they'll tell you they can't do the job until July.**

If we're going to stay ahead of managing this tree epidemic, we need to educate ourselves on the disease and how we can prevent it.

Symptoms

The leaves of diseased live oaks often develop yellow veins that eventually turn brown (dead), a symptom called veinal necrosis. Widespread loss of leaves will be rapid, and dead leaves with brown veins often can be found under the tree for months after initial defoliation. Symptoms of oak wilt on red oaks are less distinct. In early spring, young leaves simply wilt, turning pale green and brown. Mature leaves develop dark green, over-watering symptoms or turn pale green or bronze, starting at the leaf margins and progressing inward.



Establishment and Spread

Red oaks play a key role in the establishment of new infection centers or hotspots. The fungus is easily spread by insect vectors and by people moving wood from infected red oaks to other locations. Fungal mats form beneath the bark of diseased red oaks in late fall and especially in spring, but do not form on live oaks. The fruity odor of fungal mats attracts many kinds of insects, the most important of which are believed to be sap-feeding nitulid beetles. Fungal mats are most commonly formed on standing trees, but they also can develop on logs, stumps, and fresh firewood cut from diseased red oaks. Any planned pruning or accidental damage to oaks produces an opportunity for insects to land and pass along

(Continued on Page 14)

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NWACA News

(Continued from Page 12)



Diseased Live Oak Leaf

expand at an average rate of 75 feet per year, varying from no spread to 150 feet in any one direction. NWACA has areas where the disease has “jumped” driveways via the interconnected root system connecting groups of trees in an area.

Prevention and Control

When trees are infected, death is guaranteed. Treatment can be applied to potentially slow the decline, but there is no cure. The best defense against disease or pest infestation is to prevent pruning during the time of year that has the highest risk of infection, February 1st to July 1st.

Most live oaks lose their leaves and die 1-6 months following initial

the fungus to healthy trees.

Live oaks tend to grow in large, dense groups with interconnected roots. The fungus is transmitted from one tree to another through the root system. As a result, patches of dead and dying trees (infection centers) are formed. Infection centers among live oaks in Texas

appearance of symptoms. Red oaks often die within 3 to 4 weeks following the initial appearance of symptoms. During summer months, diseased red oaks often can be spotted from a distance because of their bright fall-like colors surrounded by greenery.

If accidental damage occurs, due to storms or high winds, respond quickly to seal the wounds and remove the damaged limbs. Consult a Texas Oak Wilt Certified arborist or ISA Certified Arborist whenever working on your oaks during oak wilt season.

It will take the thoughtful and diligent action of our residents to control the known active oak wilt zones and prevent the further spreading of this disease. If you see contractors working on trees in the area, email your concerns at nwacainfo@gmail.com



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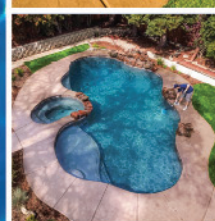
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Weekly Curbside Yard Trimmings Collection

—Joanie Arrott

Many of you already put out leaves and grass clippings with your weekly trash pickup, but did you know that you can also put out small brush every week? As long as the small branches or limbs are no longer than 5 feet and no thicker than 3 inches in diameter, they will get picked up by the Austin Resource Recovery trucks.

Small branches should be tied with string or twine into manageable bundles no heavier than 50 pounds. Put yard trimmings in lawn-and-leaf brown paper bags or a reusable container that is no larger than 34-gallons and no heavier than 50 pounds. Yard trimmings placed at the curb in plastic bags will be collected as trash and be subject to extra trash fees.

Place yard trimmings at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on trash collection day. Place any materials to be collected 5 feet apart to allow the automated trucks to collect materials safely and efficiently. These materials are composted and made into Dillo Dirt, which allows for the reuse of organic matter back into the

soil. Composting yard trimmings is also less expensive to residents than landfilling the materials.

Dead limbs or other brush should never be left behind in parks or common areas, and they should not be tossed into greenbelts. Dry spells combined with loose brush are a recipe for wildfire disaster. The city makes it easy to regularly remove yard trimmings to keep our green spaces managed and safe. If you see trimmings being left behind or have other questions, contact us at nwacainfo@gmail.com.



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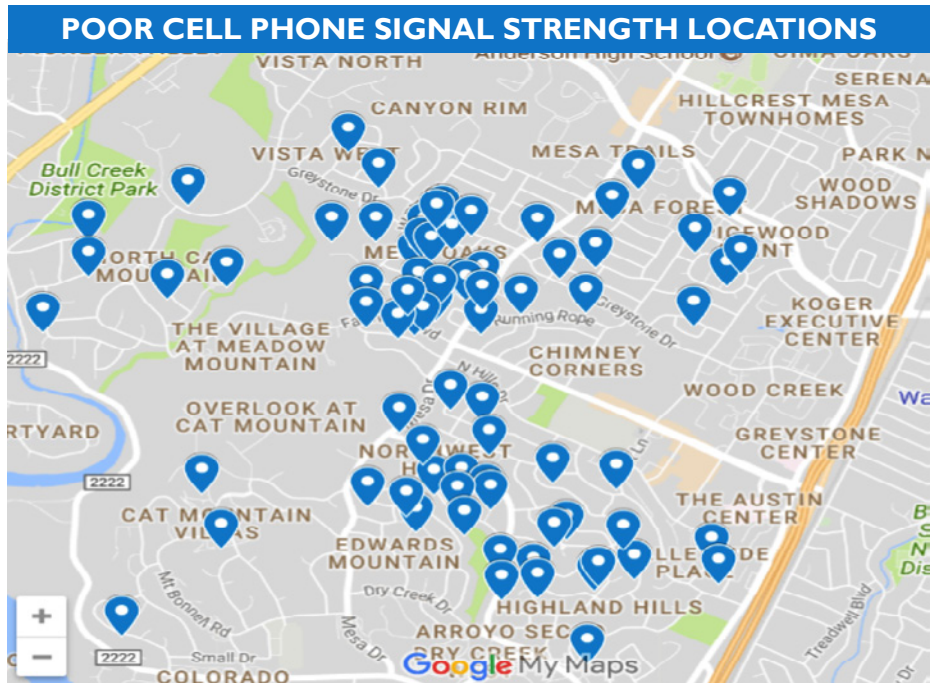
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Results of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Survey

—Charlie Galvin

243 neighbors in the NWACA area responded to the recent survey on the signal strength of the wireless and internet providers. Approximately 69% of the respondents use AT&T for cell phone service. When questioned about signal reception at home, approximately 49% responded that service was poor. A map of those who responded that service is poor shows the problem is widespread across the NWACA area, with particular clusters along Mesa Drive north and west of Far West Boulevard. The vast majority use AT&T u-verse and Spectrum for internet service. Only 16% rated internet signal strength as poor. AT&T has been provided the results of the survey and will analyze the data and provide a response.

For more charts and details from the analysis of the survey, please visit www.nwaca.org for a results presentation in the News and Updates section of the home page.



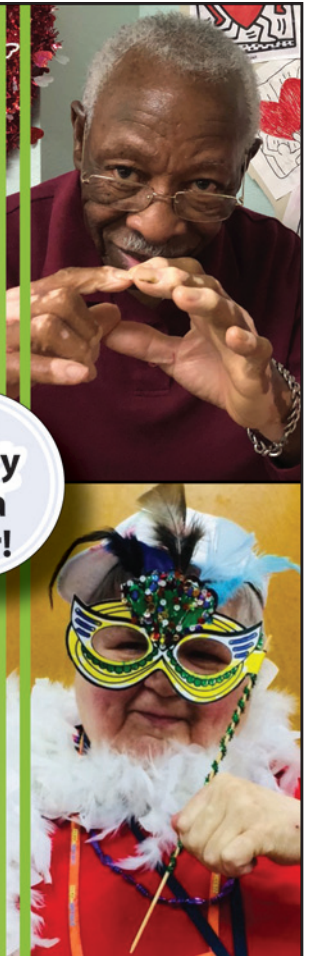
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NWACA News

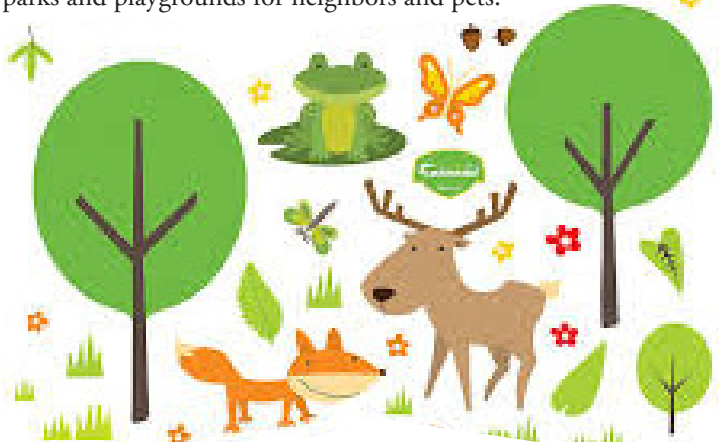
Why Join NWACA

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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selecting the Get Involved Tab, and choosing Join/Renew*

Volunteers are always needed on our committees.

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

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

NWACA Window Decals



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