

nwacanews

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2018

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 6

President's Message

–Vicki DeWeese

One of the main missions of your NWACA Board is to build community, helping to enrich our neighborhood and our neighbors. Doss Elementary School Principal Janna Griffin helped NWACA with our efforts by jumping in at the last minute to host our annual meeting! Thank you so much, Janna! And, thank you to District 10 Council Member (CM) Alison Alter's office for publicizing our time and venue changes as we led our community on a treasure hunt to the meeting. It seemed only fitting to Julie Cowan, our AISD Board Trustee, and to me, that NWACA had our annual meeting in the Doss Cafeteria, one last time before Doss is remodeled.

If you were unable to attend the NWACA annual meeting, you can view the presentations online at www.nwaca.org. We had great speakers! CM Alison Alter spoke about the Austin Police Department and about the upcoming community forum with interim Chief of Police Brian Manley. CM Alter also spoke about traffic lights to be installed in our area, upcoming CodeNEXT meetings, and resolutions that she is proposing to Council. Elizabeth Christian spoke about the importance of the NWACA Constable Program, providing statistics on how the constable spends his time and ways for neighbors to assist NWACA in continuing the program. Austin Police Department District Representative Darrell Grayson gave a presentation on Neighborhood Watch, after which several neighbors signed up to

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!

serve as block captains. Travis County Game Warden Ben Echelson gave an informative presentation on deer poaching in our area and discussed wildlife habits.

Julie Cowan, our AISD Board Trustee for District 4, showed a wonderful presentation on property taxes and school finance; for more information, go to http://www.taxparencytexas.org/ NWACA Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee Chair Joanie Arrott spoke about Oak Wilt and then switched hats to her role as Fourth of July Parade Chair to update us on the parade.

The Austin Fire Department gave an enlightening presentation on the possibility of wildfire in our area, showing animations of how fire would spread when started in various parts of our neighborhood. We all need to be prepared for wildfires as AFD reminded us that this is not a question of if there will be a fire, rather when and where. Lastly, Joyce Statz was awarded a star in the NWACA Walk of Fame as this year's volunteer extraordinaire for her years of service to NWACA. After the meeting, all NWACA committees had tables with informational handouts, as did many City agencies and AISD. We welcomed all school principals from our NWACA vertical teams to our meeting this year as well.

Speaking of the Parade-it's just a few weeks away! Buy your NWACA

(Continued on Page 4)

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 13,500 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

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 8, 8 AM

Murchison Pool - Celebrate the Opening of the Pool with Kona Ice

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/72726-NWACA-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

July 1, 2 PM

Biderman's - Parks Committee

July 4, 9AM - 11 AM

Far West Boulevard and Doss Elementary - 4th of July
Parade and After-parade Party

July 10, 8:00 AM

Kneaded Pleasures - Communications Committee

July 10, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Galaxy Cafe - NWACA Board Meeting

July 21, 9AM - Noon

Bull Creek District Park - Monthly park beautification in the park and on trails; sign up at https://www.givepulse.com/event/72427-NWACA-Third-Saturday-Park-Clean-Up

July 24, 5 PM

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





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APD District Representative, Office Darrell Grayson512-974-5242
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter512-978-2110
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- 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 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

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President's Message (Continued from Cover)

t-shirt and enter the float contest! We will start at 9:00 a.m. at Far West and Waterline and end at Epoch Coffee. Thank you again to Epoch and Coach Mo's for hosting the Freedom Festival this year!

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

Come One, Come Y'all: NWACA July 4th Celebration

-Joanie Arrott



Ready to march, boogie, and cheer on the neighborhood? We are too! The 46th Annual Parade and Freedom Festival will be another big event that you don't want to miss. Make plans to get involved and celebrate with us!

Consider entering your organization, group, club,

civic group, church, or business in the Parade Float Contest. For the purposes of the contest, all entries must be made using some sort of mechanized vehicle or trailer. Whether you put your float on a trailer or a truck or a boat - all are welcome in the parade. More details including entry forms and other official contest rules can be found at www.nwaca.org

Not feeling the glory of the Float Contest prizes? You can still join in the parade! The parade route will follow along Far West Boulevard until Chimney Corners. Opening ceremonies will take place at 9AM at the intersection of Waterline Road and Far West. Motorized vehicles will line up along Far West, west of Waterline Road, and pedestrian participants will line up along Waterline Road. Sign up to participate in the parade here: http://signup.com/go/ONxQVVr

The fun doesn't end with the parade! We've got a full lineup of activities at the Freedom Festival taking place outside Epoch Coffee. There will be a petting zoo, snow cone truck, face painting, balloon animals, and more! We'll have snacks, watermelon, and other goodies to keep you cool. Austin School of Rock will be providing the festive jams again this year. Makes plans to participate in this family-friendly fun.

We sure could use a hand for this big event. If you've got a little time to spare, we need volunteers for setting up, navigating the parade, and helping at the festival. Shift details and sign-up can be found here: http://signup.com/go/ONxQVVr

Last but never least, be sure to show off your NWACA pride with our commemorative July 4th t-shirt. Check out the "Donate and Shop" page on the NWACA website for more details and to secure your festive swag!

As more details are confirmed, we'll be providing updates via email, our website, and social media. Questions can always be sent to: nwacainfo@gmail.com

Welcome the Pool Season!

-Parks Committee



Come join us on Friday, June 8th at 5:30 for a Murchison Pool Party! Bring our friends, too. There will be free Kona Ice for the first 100 pool fans! Welcome the new pool season, as we dream about the Murchison Playground, as well.

STR Update - Spring 2018

-Mike Polston

The Short Term Rental (STR) situation continues to change over time. This short article will address recent STR news for Austin, Texas, and the USA.

The recently combined legal teams from the Texas Public Policy Forum (TPPF) and the Texas Attorney General have initiated their second lawsuit against the City of Austin. Their argument is based predominantly on "Property Rights" and the fact that the City of Austin passed a set of ordinances a few years ago which created regulatory rules for Short Term Rentals in Austin. These new Austin ordinances specify maximum customer numbers allowed in a STR hotel, times for outdoor activities, and other regulations. The Texas opposition argues that these regulations are not valid since the STRs are in residential neighborhoods. It is interesting to note that many Texas cities have similar ordinances in place for STRs, and these cities are not called out in this lawsuit. Many believe that this lawsuit may eventually wind up at the Texas Supreme Court in the near future.

One very interesting development has been the rapid growth in new technology companies that market software applications for cities to use for mapping and documenting residential homes in the city which are being advertised as STR properties. Finally, the March 2018 STR 311 complaints database indicated that District 9 has now reached over 1,000 complaints from June 2015 to March 2018. District 10 has consistently had the third highest complaints for this same time period. The top 3 districts with complaints were: District 9-1010, District 3-451, and District 10-300.

Finally, there has been a significant increase across the nation in new municipal STR regulations for cities, with respect to residential-zoned neighborhoods. Many cities have now put into place new regulations that significantly restrict or outlaw STRs in residential neighborhoods. These include Asheville, North Carolina; New Orleans, Louisiana; Savannah, Georgia; Lookout Mountain, Georgia; Santa Monica, California; Santa Barbara, California; South Portland, Maine; and others.

Business Spotlight: Owl Reach

-Janice Green



Perhaps you've heard Screech Owls in our midst – a neighing call that leaves you wondering if your neighbors acquired a horse. Weighing mere ounces, they are one of the smallest owl species. Due to urban spread, it is difficult for them to find their ideal nesting spots in tree cavities abandoned by woodpeckers ... which brings me to Northwest Hills resident Emmy Sunshine and her business, OwlReach. She makes Screech Owl houses.

Since childhood Emmy has had an affinity for the outdoors and wildlife. Eight years ago, she built her first Screech Owl house with design features that allowed her family to observe the birds roosting on a ledge with their young while watching their surroundings in safety. She was mesmerized by the owls' antics. They dine on insects and small rodents and are harmless to household pets. In a division of labor, the male brings in the groceries and guards the box from a nearby spot while the female sits on the eggs. And Screech Owls mate for life, except when a hussy moves into a nest and ousts the resident wife.

One of the trademarked aspects of Emmy's owl houses, constructed of durable cedar, is their larger entrance and roosting window. She never sands the interior because the owls like to roughen it with their talons. The houses come in three colors, but Screech Owls have no preference. They are color-blind. Emmy provides all you need to attach the house to a tree or structure with a clear flight path to the house but not facing north or in the direct sun. All you have to do is drop two handfuls of dry leaves into the bottom and wait. Maybe a couple weeks; maybe a couple months. Be patient. A male will find it.

(Continued on Page 7)



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Recycling and Apartment Living

-Joanie Arrott

Recycling in an apartment can feel like an impossible task, but it doesn't have to be that way. Here are four steps to begin recycling in an apartment, townhome, or condo.

1. Start with the Simplest to Recycle

When starting to recycle in an apartment, focus on just a few materials, and those that are guaranteed to have a convenient recycling drop-off point. Making the biggest impact is assured with focusing on easy-to-recycle materials. Here are a few suggestions:

- #1 plastic (water bottles)
- #2 plastic (milk jugs)
- Cardboard
- Paperboard (cereal and snack boxes)
- Aluminum cans
- Newspaper
- Office paper
- Grocery bags
- Clear glass
- 2. Find Drop-Off Locations in Your Complex

As of October 1st, 2017, all multi-family properties in Austin must provide convenient recycling access for plastics #1 & #2, paper, cardboard, glass, and aluminum. The recycling containers must be placed within 25 feet of the trash containers or dumpsters, and signs must be posted indicating what materials are accepted in English and Spanish. Before you start searching for drop-off locations, you may want to talk to someone in your apartment complex office. If recycling is not available or if recycling services need improvements (more signage, larger carts or bins, additional education, etc.) where you live, please talk to your property manager or reach out to Austin Resource Recovery for resource assistance.

3. Pick a Spot for your Personal Bin

This may seem like a no-brainer, but when you live in a cramped apartment, finding the space for both a recycling bin and a trash bin can be tough. In a previous apartment, our recycling often ended up stacked on top of our dryer until we took it out to the recycling

collection containers. It wasn't ideal, but it worked. You may also consider smaller bins in the kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom. It lessens the need for a larger recycling bin in a single space and increases the recycling rate for the entire household.

The main things to consider are ease of access and visibility. When you're rushing around the kitchen to get lunch packed and breakfast cooked, it can be easy to forget you have a recycling bin and let that empty box of cereal slip into the trash can. When I see my recycling bin out in the open, I think about recycling way more than when it's tucked away in the back of our pantry.

4. Encourage Neighbors to Participate

As you get to know your neighbors, you can also encourage them to recycle. This can be as simple as letting them know that you found the complex recycling containers, in case they were looking. Many people are willing to recycle; they just need a little help. If people know what to recycle and where to recycle it, the odds of them actually doing the work to recycle are going to go up.

Download a helpful one-page City of Austin Recycling Guide for Apartment Dwellers at: http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Resource_Recovery/COA-ARR_SortingGuideInsert_FINAL.pdf

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(Continued from Page 5)

Emmy mounted a camera on a house 15 feet from her front door. Footage of her resident owl family appears on her website, with views of the committed pair readying their house for a family, hatching eggs, and chicks growing under the care of involved parents perched in full sight at the entrance. If you yearn for a connection to wildlife, you will be absorbed in your own "discovery channel" starring occupants of a Screech Owl house.

After her first online order shipped to 5th Avenue in New York City, Emmy's business took off. Over 400 houses sold last holiday season. Plus, she enjoys speaking to groups of children and adults about these marvelous birds, who are not to be feared but embraced. Emmy's enthusiasm is contagious.

Maybe you have a curious child or know of someone who is bedridden with a window nearby. Perhaps you are looking for a house-warming gift. Or you just want to relax indoors or outdoors and be entertained by exquisite birds. Once a Screech Owl house owner, you'll be hooked, always taking a peek.

What fascinating people (and owls) inhabit our Northwest Hills!

Check out her website at www.owlreach.com for info and ordering. Her email is info@owlreach.com

Dealing with Wildfire Season

-Wildfire Prevention Committee



This material is adapted from an article written by Claire Osborn, published in the Austin American Statesman on May 12, 2018. (You can contact her at 512-246-0040)

Central Texas is forecast to have a wildfire season this year with all the ingredients to be a dangerous one, officials say. "The effect of high winds, dry conditions

and hot temperatures will dry out the vegetation very quickly," said Cedar Park Fire Chief James Mallinger, the president of the Williamson County Fire Chiefs Association. During the drought of 2011, he said, Williamson County lost close to 100 homes in wildfires (including at Steiner Ranch, as many of us remember).

You can be prepared in several ways including the following:

HAVE A HOME SAFETY EVALUATION: sign up for a free wildfire safety evaluation, performed by a team which has been trained by the Austin Fire Department. Go to www.nwaca.org and use the Get Involved tab to make a Firewise Request

STAY INFORMED: Sign up for announcements through phone,

(Continued on Page 8)

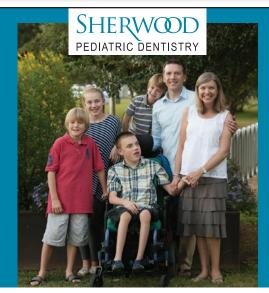
Progress on Telecom Improvements

-Charlie Galvin

Based on the results of our recent telecom survey, AT&T changed the antenna tilt angles and added significant power for signal transmission. It looks "green to them." I have seen improvement in the area I live near Cat Hollow Drive and Mesa Drive. Another neighbor who lives on Waterline reports no improvement.

AT&T cannot solve for higher tower transmission height as our neighborhood fought the height of towers back in the permitting timeframe of the early 2000's. With higher towers, they could very easily solve gap problems. AT&T can place small transmitter cells on lighting poles to continue to decrease the gaps in coverage.

If you have continuous problems, please email your name, address, and cell phone number to cgalvinjr@att.net along with a description of the problems.



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NWACA News

(Continued from Page 7)

text, or email from local emergency personnel about disaster or public safety issues (including wildfire alerts) in our area at WarnCenterTexas.org

OBSERVE THE NFDRS SIGNS: Each of the Austin Fire Stations has a sign that posts the current level of danger, using the National Fire Danger Rating System. As the accompanying graphic shows, we need to be alert when the arrow gets into the yellow, orange, or red zones.

CREATE A BUFFER ZONE: Clear brush away from your home and create a buffer zone between trees and your home's roofline.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES: Pack a bag of emergency supplies, including important medical, insurance and other documents in a waterproof bag; medication for three days; flashlights with extra batteries; water; nonperishable food; a change of clothes; a phone charge; and supplies for your pets.

WHERE TO GO: Know evacuation routes (and places to stay until its clear to return).

DON'T WAIT: If a wildfire warning is issued and you are asked to go, leave early and go somewhere safe.

For more guidance, use the Search bar at www.nwaca.org and look for Ready Set Go.

NWACA Volunteer Extraordinaire: Joyce Statz

-Lauren Ward



At our annual meeting in May, we were able to recognize one of the most tireless volunteers in our neighborhood, Joyce Statz, as the NWACA Volunteer Extraordinaire. You have seen her name many places as she does so much for our community! She has held numerous leadership positions in NWACA including President, Treasurer, and as

current Chair of the Wildfire Prevention Committee and co-chair of the Zoning and Transportation Committee. And Joyce continues to give back in so many ways with many additional roles: as NWACA webmaster, managing the constable program, and editing and compiling the monthly newsletter. We are very thankful for Joyce's tireless work on behalf of our neighborhood, and if you see her, please tell her thank you for her many hours of service. She might even let you wear her tiara.

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Oak Wilt within NWACA

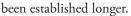
-Joanie Arrott

You may have heard it mentioned that the NWACA area has at least four active oak wilt zones within its boundaries. This means that our live oaks and red oaks are constantly at risk from exposure to this disease, both by insects spreading it during pruning or the underground root system transmitting it beneath our feet. Insects can easily travel miles to infect newly pruned oaks, and the disease has been known to spread at an average rate of 75 feet per year through the root system. Where exactly do we mean within our neighborhood?



Location #1: South Mt. Bonnell Road, North of 2222, and west of Mesa Drive

One of the more recent infections centers identified in the NWACA area (mid-2000's), this center is assumed to be caused by the nearby Highland Hills-area infection center which has





Location #2: Highland Hills area

This area currently has the highest percentage of tree mortality and is most concerning due to the area having the highest density of oak trees surrounding the infection center on all sides. Some homeowners in this area are currently treating for oak wilt.



Location #3: Mesa Drive at Greystone Drive and Tablerock Drive

Assumed to be the oldest infection center discovered in the NWACA area (around 1988-1989), many oak trees perished in this area over the years. Several homeowners in this area are also currently treating for oak wilt.



Location #4: Far West Boulevard at Mesa Drive

This is the largest infection center with known recent activity at the western edge near Stahl Cove. It was also first discovered in 1988-1989. It has two smaller nearby areas at Rockledge Drive and Knollwood

Drive and at Waterline Road and Circletree Loop. Over the years, homeowners have easily spent over \$100,000 to contain the oak wilt from spreading to other trees in this area.

We are essentially in "containment mode" throughout the entire NWACA area because oak wilt has already infected many of our trees. The best option to prevent the fatal disease from spreading is to avoid pruning from February through the end of June, which is the

most active time for the insect vectors. Fresh wounds from pruning or accidental damage usually leak sap, which attracts insects that have visited oak wilt-diseased trees nearby. These insects can easily spread the disease to healthy trees which can transit it to other trees through their interconnected root system.

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 to nwacainfo@gmail.com

Cap Remap

-Ruven Brooks

By the time you read this, Cap Metro will have made the biggest change in its routes in its history. More than 80 routes will be modified. As a result of the changes, the number of high frequency routes which have service at least every 15 minutes will go from 4 to 14 including more frequent service on weekends. Also, there will be more direct east/west routes. To help people find their way around the new routes, Cap Metro is offering free travel June 3-9. More details are available at https://www.capmetro.org/remap/

Remap is the second stage of the Connections 2025 plan. The first stage, which began in January of 2017, reduced fares and increased frequency on the Metro Rapid buses. These buses now run every 10 minutes during peak periods and run until 2:30 a.m. Thursday through Sunday. Results have exceeded expectations with average weekday ridership on the 801 route exceeding 9,000 per day during April, so Cap Metro has moved ahead more rapidly with the Connections 2025 plan.

What's happening in the NWACA area?

- 1. Service on the 661 Far West continues unchanged. This service, which anyone who pays the fare can ride, runs every 5-10 minutes when UT is in session. If you want to go downtown, say, to the new library, taking this bus and changing to the 801/803 is the fastest way. Once the Remap changes have taken place, you can change from the 661 to route 20 and go all the way to the airport for \$1.25.
- 2. The 320 St. Johns service which starts just in front of the H.E.B. on Village Center Drive is being discontinued.
- 3. A new route, the 337 Koenig will run from the corner of Northland Dr. (2222) and Balcones to the ACC Highland Campus and then across town all the way to Colony Park.
- 4. The 19 route continues as it is for the time being until August 2019, when it will be replaced by a Mobility Innovation Zone, probably with on-call shuttle service like Cap Metro's recent Pickup experiment. We will likely hear a lot more on what they're planning after the Cap Remap changes are in place.

Special Thanks to Members

-Membership Committee

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the 4th of July Parade Fund, the Park Fund, and the Constable Fund, between January 18, 2018 and May 13, 2018.

Donations to the 4th of July Parade Fund help NWACA to host the best 4th of July parade in Austin! The Park Fund helps us do events in our parks and revitalize parks in the NWACA area. The Constable Fund helps us provide the patrol activities of the Travis County Constable.

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Austin Fire Department on Fireworks

-Public Service Announcement

Each year in late June and early July, AFD reminds Austin citizens that fireworks are illegal within the Austin city limits. Each year, there are hundreds of brush, grass, and structure fires across the state started by fireworks, doing millions of dollars in damage and risking the lives of innocent bystanders. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there are more fires on a typical Fourth of July than any other day of the year, and that fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other cause of fires. Additionally, the risk of fireworks injury is highest for those ages 15-24.

It is illegal to possess fireworks within the City of Austin, and to use or sell fireworks within the City of Austin and within 5,000 feet outside the city limits. If you are found in violation, the fine is \$568; that may not seem like much, but if your fireworks cause bodily harm and/or property damage, you can be charged with assault and/or arson, both felony crimes.

The Austin Police Department responds to fireworks complaint calls made to 311. Do not call 911 for fireworks complaints; call 311.

The U.S. Department of Transportation does not classify the following items listed as common fireworks, and their use is allowed within the City of Austin:

- Wooden Stick (not Wire Stick) Sparklers
- Smoke Bombs
- Glow Worms and Snakes
- Poppers, Trick Noisemakers, Snappers

However, sparklers can reach temperatures of 1,800 degrees and smoke bombs shoot a flame of 2 to 3 inches when ignited; even though these items are legal, they can still be very dangerous.

Be especially vigilant around dry grasses, brush, and the green spaces that surround our homes; with our ongoing drought, there is a lot of wildfire fuel throughout Austin, which can lead to tremendous destruction and threat to lives. Fireworks are not Firewise.

Reporting Crime

-APD Advice from Officer Grayson

Several lists were provided by our Austin Police Department District Representative, Officer Darrell Grayson, in his presentation at the NWACA Annual Meeting. Those lists are valuable references – in fact, you might want to clip this and post it on your refrigerator! When you see something suspicious,

- 1. Write down all the available information. Don't trust your memory.
- 2. Is the person or vehicle posing an immediate threat or involved in a crime?
 - If YES, contact APD immediately by calling 911.
- If NO, determine whether or not an officer needs to be sent to the scene, and call 311.

- 3. Give your name and all necessary information identified below to the dispatcher.
- 4. Keep a watch on the suspicious activity if possible and update the dispatcher on any changes of the situation. This information will be cross-referenced through the computer system to determine if the person or vehicle has been previously reported.

To report a suspicious person to 911 or 311, include these details:

- 1. NAME: Provide this, if known.
- 2. RACE: White, Black, Hispanic, Asian.
- 3. SEX: Male or Female.
- 4. AGE: Give date of birth if known, or estimate age as close as you can. If you cannot guess a number, use terms such as: Teenager, Middle aged, etc.
- 5. HEIGHT: Estimate height by comparing him/her to yourself or someone you know. Use terms such as: Tall, short, average, etc. if you can't estimate a specific height.
- 6. WEIGHT: Estimate weight by comparing him/her to yourself or someone you know. Use terms such as: Heavy, thin, average, muscular, etc. if you can't estimate a specific weight.
- 7. HAIR: Note the color, its length, hair style, and any headgear worn. Also note any facial hair.
- 8. EYES: Note the color and any characteristics such as: Bloodshot, watery, etc. Note if the person is wearing any type of eyeglasses or sunglasses.
- 9. CLOTHES: Note the color, type, style, condition of the suspect's shirt, pants, coat, shoes, etc. Note if the suspect wearing any jewelry and what type.
- 10. MARKS: Note if there are any scars, tattoos, amputations, deformities, etc., as well as their location.

When reporting a suspicious vehicle, include these details:

- 1. COLOR: Be as specific as you can. For example, if you see a car that is red, and you know it is the shade of "Fire Engine Red," note that. Describe any two-toned or multi-colored vehicles as well as you can.
- 2. YEAR: Provide the exact year of the model of the vehicle or your best estimate.
- 3. MAKE: Give the brand of the vehicle Ford, Chevy, Dodge, etc.
- 4. BODY STYLE: Note if the vehicle is a pickup, passenger car (sedan, SUV, crossover, etc.) or van. Note the number of doors (2 door, 4 door)
- 5. LICENSE PLATE: This is the most important information; write down the plate number and state of issue before anything else. If you cannot get the whole number, a portion of it is better than none at all.
- 6. ACCESSORIES: Note if the vehicle is equipped with any accessories.

When you are considering whether or not to call the police, remember – When in doubt, call it in! Under no circumstances should you take any personal risks or attempt to apprehend a person who is committing a crime! You will be of most value as a good witness.



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NWACA News

Mud Daubers

-Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Mud daubers are a great wasp to have around. They are solitary, generally docile, and can help to reduce various bugs in the landscape. Mud dauber wasps are ¾ to 1 inch in size and come in a variety of colors. They have a very thin, thread-like waist.

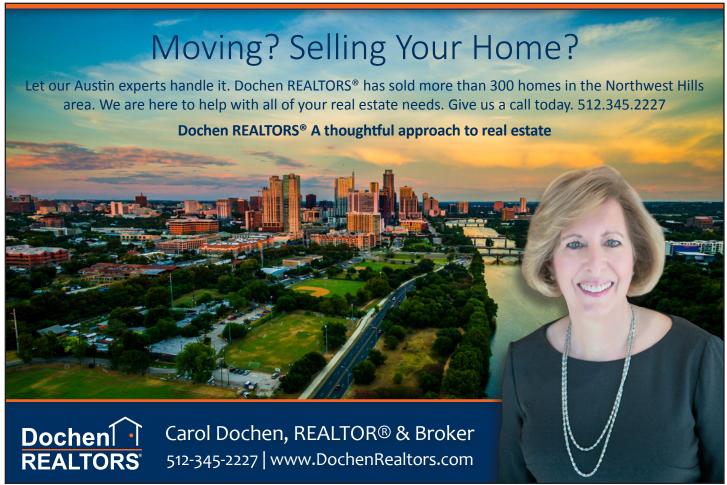
Mud daubers create a mud structure that they provision with insects and/or spiders; they lay an egg on each prey item within a cell in the nest, and then seal the nest off. When larvae hatch from eggs, they eat the items provisioned for them, pupate, and then emerge as adults to begin the process over.

Management is not usually needed for mud daubers as they do not guard their nest like other wasps. While they are capable of stinging, they are not considered to be aggressive. If you do not like the look of the mud nests, you can remove them with a putty knife.

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

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.





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City of Austin Adopts New Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

-Public Service Announcement

Austin City Council recently adopted the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code to regulate the minimum maintenance requirements for existing residential and commercial buildings. One amendment involves the installation and maintenance of carbon monoxide alarms and Austin Code Department is working with key partners to get the word out regarding this important new safety requirement.

Beginning April 1, 2018, residential and commercial structures with gas or fuel-burning appliances are required to install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms. In a dwelling unit, a carbon monoxide alarm must be installed outside of each separate sleeping area and in the immediate vicinity of each sleeping area. A carbon monoxide alarm must be installed within a sleeping area if a fuel-burning or solid fuel appliance is located within the sleeping area, a bathroom attached to the sleeping area or a garage attached to the sleeping area. For more information see: http://austintexas.gov/department/international-property-maintenance-code

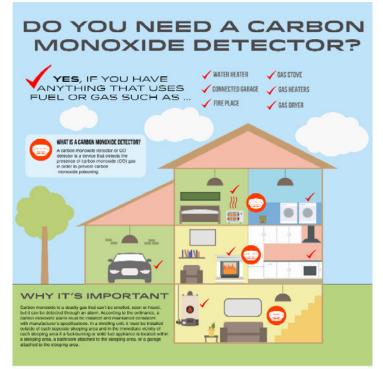
'Tis the Season for Mailbox Breakins

-Public Service Announcement

Neighbors have alerted us to two type of mailbox theft in recent weeks, a lucrative business during times of tax payments and tax refunds. Please be vigilant and consider the following suggestions:

- If your residence has a mailbox that's easily opened by passers-by, be sure to put out any mail you want picked up early in the day, rather than the previous evening. A neighbor says that on her early morning walk with her dog, she has seen all the mailboxes left open along her street, evidence that someone's been looking for opportunities.
- If your residence has mailboxes that have been broken into, call 311; if you see a break-in in progress, call 911.





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Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$75, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or <u>advertising@PEELinc.com</u>.

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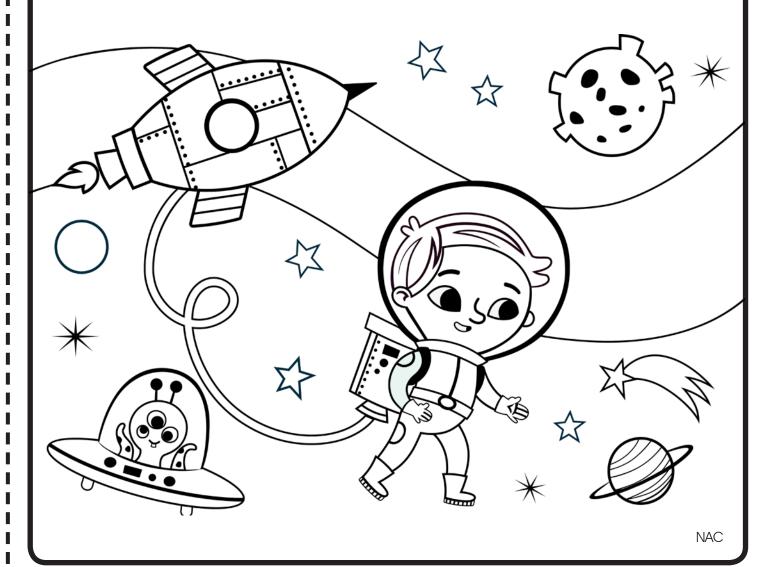
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We will select the top few and post their artwork on our website at www.peelinc.com/index.php/kids-club

DUE: June 30th, 2018

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name (first name, last initial): _______ Age:_____



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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- Lakeway
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- Meridian

- Northwest Austin Civic Association
- · Parkside at Mayfield Ranch
- · Plum Creek
- · River Place
- Rocky Creek
- Sendera
- Steiner Ranch
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(Optional) 4th of July Parade Contribution: \$10___ \$20___ Other ___ (Optional) Parks Fund Contribution: \$10___ \$20___ Other ___ (Optional) Constable Fund Contribution: \$10___ \$20___ Other ___

You can also pay via PayPal by going to www.nwaca.org, selecting the Get Involved Tab, and choosing Join/Renew

Volunteers are always needed on our committees.

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

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

NWACA Window Decals



NWACA window decals are now available for \$3. Show your neighborhood pride and spirit with an official NWACA membership window decal, perfect for your vehicle.

The decal measures 3"x3" and sells for \$3 online at: http://nwaca.org/donations/ Order yours today!



If you would like this yard sign, please send email to nwacainfo@gmail.com

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