

# nwacanews

#### NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

#### **VOLUME 9, ISSUE 7**

## **President's Message**

–Vicki DeWeese



Isn't play what summer is all about? Our area has been sorely lacking for a playground that is open every weekday during the school year; both of the playgrounds within the NWACA boundaries, Doss

Elementary and Hill Elementary, are used by the schools during the day. The closest playground we've had is Northwest Park, outside of the NWACA boundaries.

Almost one year after fundraising began, thanks to the extremely hard work of our Parks Committee chairs, Caroline Alexander and Stephannie Behrens, the generous donations of NWACA members, including one very generous donation (from, as of this writing, an anonymous donor), and a grant of \$10,000 from the NWACA Special Projects Fund, the design work of Maggie Andreani (play wall), the painting labor of Stephannie Behrens, Caroline Alexander, and Abigail Hazlett, AND with the help and support of Christine Chute Canul and others at the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, we have the beginning of a playground at Murchison Pool Park! If you haven't seen the wall with the mural, go by the backside of the Murchison Pool. The wall looks phenomenal!

And, who didn't love our parade? Thank you so much to our AMAZING parade chair, Joanie Arrott, who wears so many hats for NWACA! Thank you also to Epoch Coffee and Coach Mo for coming to our rescue to allow us to end the parade and host the Freedom Festival in your parking lots. Our long time generous Freedom Festival host, Doss Elementary, was unsure of AISD's demolition schedule, so we moved this year.

Thank you to Amy Hajdu, last year's parade chair, for sticking with this year's committee as Logistics Co-Chair with Glenn Deshields. Thank you to Tracey Fine and Abby Karp, Freedom Festival cochairs, for all your hard work arranging our booths, fun activities, and vendors-Kona Ice, Taco Deli, Super Donuts, Galaxy Café, and Water Monster. And, what would a NWACA July 4th be without watermelon from Judge Lipscomb, the petting zoo, face painting station, and Twistin' Art? Thank you also, to School of Rock for providing wonderful entertainment! And, to Nyre Spitzer, Paige Lay, Leala Kiecke, Regan Ray, and Lauren Ward for our now infamous t-shirt. Thanks to Joyce Statz, Bridget Keating, Louri O'Leary and Vicki DeWeese for distributing t-shirts. Thank you to Teri Schock and her sign brigade for placing signs and banners throughout the neighborhood to announce our parade. Lastly, thank you to Rachel Lance and Lauren Ward for publicizing our events.

We couldn't have pulled any of this off without our outstanding Sponsorship Committee-Aaron Daniels, Julie Waidelich, and Teri Schock. They raised a record-breaking amount from our local neighborhood businesses! Please thank the following donors for their support, and if I missed someone as of press time for this newsletter, I apologize and we love you!

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On a less exciting, but important note, the Austin Firewise Alliance, chaired by Joyce Statz, recently held a class at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church to train more evaluators for the Firewise program. As the Austin Fire Department announced at our annual meeting, it is not a question of if we may experience a wildfire in our area, but when. Please, go to our website www.nwaca.org and sign up for a Firewise evaluation of your yard. Our trained NWACA volunteers will review the surroundings of your home (they don't come inside, so you don't have to do a mad dash at cleaning) and make suggestions on what you can do to harden your landscape to protect against the hazards of wildfire.

(Continued on Page 2)

#### NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

**July 1, 2 PM** Biderman's - Parks Committee

July 4, 9AM – 11 AM Far West Boulevard and Epoch Coffee/ Coach Mo's 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, 5:30-8:00 PM Murchison Pool - Pool Party!

#### 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

> **August 5, 2 PM** Biderman's - Parks Committee

Aug 14, 8:00 AM Kneaded Pleasures - Communications Committee

> Aug 14, 6:30 - 8:30 PM Galaxy Cafe - NWACA Board Meeting

#### Aug 14, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Bull Creek District Park - Monthly park beautification in the park and on trails; sign up at: https://www.givepulse.com/ event/72428-NWACA-Third-Saturday-Park-Clean-Up

#### Aug 19, 2 PM

Kneaded Pleasures - Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee

#### Aug 28, 5 PM

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



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#### President's Message (Continued from Cover)

Constable Sam needs you! "In order to try to cover the new larger area of NWACA, I have divided it up into three (3) areas. My hope is to work one of the areas each shift, then mix it up every now and then by roaming all three." Please make donations to the NWACA Constable Fund, so that we can continue to provide this service to the neighborhood. Any amount is appreciated and it's easy to do by visiting our website's donation page https://nwaca.org/donations/

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 at nwacainfo@gmail.com

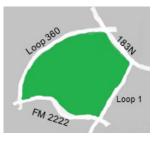
## Am I a Member?

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 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!



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## **KEY CONTACTS**

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Emergency, Police
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) 311
To check status, go to: http://www.austintexas.gov/department/
myaustincodestatus
APD District Representative, Office Darrell Grayson512-974-5242
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter
Enroll in the District 10 monthly newsletter:
district10@austintexas.gov
www.district10austin.com

Vicki DeWeese, President Chris Hajdu, Vice-President Louri O'Leary, Secretary Mehlam Bhiwandiwala, Treasurer

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• Julie Rawlings

• Christopher Roddy

- Charlie Galvin Richard Grayum
- 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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On the New York Times Short List, 5/25/18, is a book written for you, Northwest Hills neighbors. Our own Juli Berwald, author of Spineless says, 'This book's for you, for my curious, intelligent, best friends in Northwest Hills.' She says she is always aware of her reader, and so we know she thinks a great deal of us, giving us glorious amounts of fascinating, scientific information in writing that is clear and witty, surprising and mesmerizing.

In the author's words, the book is 'about jellyfish which are spineless; and their spinelessness is making them successful in today's damaged seas. Also, about me growing my spine as a middle-aged woman and as a scientist turned writer; and about our collective spinelessness toward the health of our planet.'

Reviews praise the book as an odyssey and, while some of us remember Juli dropping her kids at school in one of the minivan variety, the detailed wealth of knowledge shared here is organized around her colorful, global journey which started in Israel during her junior year abroad at Amherst where she majored in math. (Math? Yes. She considered majoring in writing but was intimidated by the talent of her roommate, Margaret Stohl, who to-date has published eight books.)

Snorkeling in the Red Sea inspired Juli to study Marine Biology. She received her PhD from the University of Southern California where she studied equations satellites used to tell how much CO2 the ocean can inhale: in other words, studying climate change before any of us had heard of it.

Moving to Austin in 2000, Juli settled into the usual routine: husband, child, post doc work in Marine Biology at UT (Marine Biology at land-locked UT? Yes. But Juli soon became frustrated ... the usual routine, carpooling, yoga classes... But in one of those yoga classes, a woman stretching beside her told Juli of job openings writing science textbooks. A short application later, she was hired and quickly honed her skill for concise, crystal-clear description.

Laid off during maternity leave, she continued freelance writing and picked up yoga again. Another woman stretching beside her, this time in a different studio, told her about a writers' group. After two years of only reading the works of others in the group, Juli finally began writing.

An old grad school buddy (who coincidentally also does yoga) was working for National Geographic and contacted her to write three tiny paragraphs explaining the physics of how water bugs skate up a meniscus. The magazine liked her work and asked her for more, including fact-checking a feature on ocean acidification, acidification

<sup>(</sup>Continued on Page 5)

#### (Continued from Page 4)

that tipped the scales toward a jellyfish upturn.

Juli became enthralled with jellyfish. A voracious reader she had always known there was a book she would write. This was the subject; this was the time.

With family vacations planned around experts, blooms within driving distance, and her husband's frequent flyer miles used for international trips, Juli's odyssey began, taking her to many parts of the United States, to Japan, Italy and Spain, with Skype accessing other places she couldn't travel to.

So much more can be said about Spineless. In fact, so much more has been said. Read the reviews. Then read the book. *(And then maybe think about taking some yoga classes?)* https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/05/25/books/review/animals-horses-jellyfish-new-books.html

https://www.npr.org/2017/11/07/561216968/spineless-dives-deep-into-the-world-of-jellyfish

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/12/04/greater-gotham-spineless-to-the-back-of-beyond-and-freya

https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/may/27/jellyfishpersonal-empowerment-and-saving-the-planet

https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/543899/spinelessby-juli-berwald/9780735211261/

## July Pool Party-Y'all Come!

-Parks Committee

On Saturday, July 21, the NWACA Parks Committee invites you to a pool party at Murchison Pool. We'll have fun in the pool, with poolside treats starting about 6PM. Bring friends and cool off with us!



## **Doss Update**

-Lauren Ward

Our neighborhood has been asking many questions about the coming renovations happening at Doss Elementary School, so here are some quick answers to some common ones:

• Doss will not be demolished to start rebuilding until the Fall 2018

• The Doss student body is currently setting up at Lucy Read to use the school for two years while Doss is modernized.

• Bus service will be provided to the new campus, so look for increased bus traffic in the neighborhood at morning and afternoon times.

• The Doss park will be available to the public for the summer. For construction reasons it may be fenced off. Once construction finishes it will be available again. Much of the construction will be happening on the Far West side of the Doss campus to ensure that oaks and the park are not impacted.

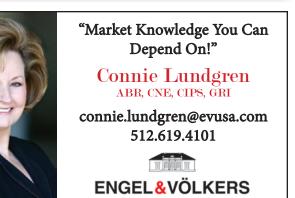
• The owl will continue to be the Doss mascot during the transition and in the future building.

• Information on progress will be posted to aisdfuture.com

• Campus Architecture Team meetings are open to the public and can be found at the same website- through the summer they will be meeting at Lucy Read

If you want more information, we will have flyers, architectural drawings and more at the 4th of July table with Bond information





# **dream:** listening to youth voices of Austin

Carl Caricari, Board President of Austin Classical Guitar and NWACA resident



**dream** is Austin Classical Guitar's follow-up to last summer's production called i/we, which just won the Austin Critics Table Award for Best Original Composition. i/we was a compassion project that explored themes of commonality, struggle,

perseverance, and home through interviews with refugees settling in central Texas.

For **dream**, ACG will create a multimedia arts experience based on interviews with diverse young people from the Austin community. We're asking them to tell us about their hopes and dreams, fears, and perspectives on the world they will inherit; and we're surrounding their words with original music and images. AGC's award-winning Composer in Residence Joseph V. Williams is creating the work, and an international cast of incredible artists including Austinbased vocalist Ta'Tyana Jammer, and instrumentalists playing violin, cello, percussion, and guitar will premiere the work alongside original art and projections. dream will take place on August 3, 4, and 5 at the Blanton Museum Auditorium on the UT Campus.

We would like to invite members of NWACA to join us for dream and enjoy a 25% discount! Just call 512-300-2247 and mention you're with NWACA or visit us online at AustinClassicalGuitar.org/dream and use the coupon code "nwaca." I would love to share this moving evening of music and art with my fellow NWACA members. Join us!

## Business Spotlight: Edis Chocolates

–Janice Green



Edis Rezende is the chocolatier, baker, and proprietor of Edis Chocolates on Spicewood Springs Road. Over 20 years ago she emigrated from Brazil where she enjoyed baking for friends, making birthday cakes for family and neighbors – a culinary curiosity she nurtured by working in restaurants in her new homeland so she could fine-tune her self-taught skills and artistry.

Her business began in 2002 with

a presence in the Austin farmer's market scene and quickly attracted sweet-toothed customers. She then made the leap to a brick and mortar location in Northwest Hills – a neighborhood she found welcoming for her family and friends.

At the outset Edis was committed to using only the best and freshest ingredients, avoiding preservatives or fillers or artificial flavors, and finding the organic and local when possible. All that appears on her shelves, counter, and cases are handmade in the on-site kitchen by Edis and her staff "family."

From someone who always looks first at the dessert section of any menu, let me capture the essence of the Edis Chocolates experience through a litany of the five senses:

• The lingering AROMA of the daily baked variety of croissants and cheese puffs (a Brazilian bread), plus the inviting smell of freshly brewed Brazilian coffee.

• The tantalizing TASTE of citrus: Meyer lemon cake, lemon bars, lime bars, and chocolate-dipped orange slices. Cookies carrying flavors of lavender, chocolate spice, pumpkin, Italian sesame seed, and many other ingenuous concoctions.

• The SIGHT of assorted chocolate truffles embedded in beautiful handmade parchment flowers; sweet Easter eggs with colorful, intricate designs; the majestic beauty of a whole cheesecake or chocolate flourless

(Continued on Page 7)



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#### (Continued from Page 6)

cake or hazelnut pecan cake (also available by the slice). Fruit tarts and cookies in sculpted shapes.

• The FEEL and texture of smooth, rich Belgium chocolate swirling in your mouth. The surprise crunchiness of maple/pecan bars and peanut butter mousse cake. Chocolate truffles and barks melting as they strike your tastebuds.

• The SOUND of oohs and aahs and contented murmurs from those biting into one of Edis's marvelous goodies.

Edis also caters for special events at Neiman Marcus, Austin Classical Guitar Society, Porsche Austin, Kendra Scott, and she accommodates special requests for celebratory occasions. She prepares a variety of gluten-free treats because of first-hand experience with her daughter who is gluten intolerant (and a U.T. graduate in nutrition). Items vary to reflect the seasons, and Edis often experiments with new combinations of the finest ingredients, so you're bound to find some new temptation displayed next to a neighborhood favorite.

Let's say you seek health through a daily, guilt-free chocolate splurge; or, you want to celebrate a birth, wedding, anniversary, or making it through a marathon; or, you don't have time to prepare dessert for that neighborhood potluck meal – Edis Chocolates to the rescue! One look at her online review accolades assures you made the right decision.

For more info check out www.edischocolates.com and the location at 3808 Spicewood Springs Road #102; 512-795-9285.



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## **Telecom Update**

#### -Charlie Galvin

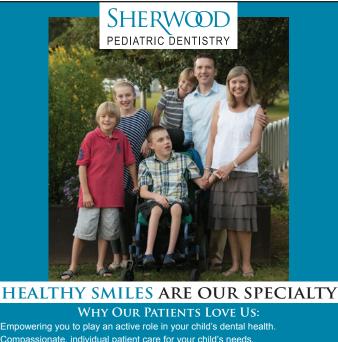
AT&T first tried to improve the signal reception in the neighborhood by readjusting the antennas on the cell towers. It resulted in very slight improvement. The next step is for AT&T to obtain permits from the City of Austin to deploy small cells on the light poles in the neighborhood to amplify the signals from phones to towers. What you can do now: no need to e-mail me. I get it. Send a written complaint to AT&T customer service. When AT&T files for permits, I will contact Council member Alter's office to push the department to expedite the permits.

## Northwest District Park Survey

-Public Service Announcement

Make your voice heard! Please complete this short, online survey regarding future improvement projects to Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park! This district park services our neighborhood and your feedback will influence project prioritization for years to come! Thank you for your time!

www.tinyurl.com/northwestparksurvey The survey will be open until the end of the summer.



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## We love play

#### -Stephannie Behrens

You've been seeing the red yard signs around, and we are getting so close! The NWACA Parks Committee has been working on the design and funding of a new playground adjacent to Murchison Pool for more than 3 years. There are some exciting developments to share.

• Thank YOU! To date, we've raised over \$75,000 towards this playground from your very generous donations.

• We have been offered a grant by the Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) for the playground that will cover half of the cost of the project. For more information about NPP: http://www. austintexas.gov/neighborhoodpartnering

• Two grant proposals are in for review, and we expect to hear back about these applications in the early summer.

• A beautiful mural has been painted on the wall of the Murchison Pool building that faces the playground site – come see!

• One amazing thing is in the works. We can't share the details of it, but we will as soon as possible.

What does all this mean? We're getting there. To get the project started, we will need to have secured funding for the entire project - about \$356,000 in total.



## Isaac and Tena Thurm Venable, Early Settlers on Bull Creek

#### -Richard Denney

In my March 2018 newsletter article, I wrote about the Thurms, early German settlers on Bull Creek. To recap, William Thurm came from Germany in 1850 with his wife, Caroline, and two young daughters. A third was soon born in Texas, and the family settled along Bull Creek. This is a continuation of their story.

There is a hike and bike trail on Bull Creek Greenbelt Upper, with entry just off Old Spicewood Springs Road. <sup>1</sup>On the greenbelt is a set of ruins. In 2004 an environmental impact review was done in preparation for building the hike and bike trail. Unfortunately, the historical research done as part of that review traced the history of the ruins only back to the Smith family who bought the property in 1941 for recreational use. But the history of the ruins is much older. The ruins are the remains of the homestead of Isaac and Tena Thurm Venable; Tena was one of the three Thurm daughters.

During the Civil War, Isaac Venable served in the 1st Tennessee Light Artillery, US Army. After the war, he moved to Texas settling on Bull Creek with his sister and mother and taught school at the original Oak Grove School on Bull Creek, a one room log cabin established ca. 1864 on what is today's Old Lampasas Trail, later moved near today's Oak Grove Cemetery.

In 1872 Isaac Venable married Tena Thurm, daughter of William Thurm, and settled along Bull Creek. The ruins on Bull Creek Greenbelt Upper are those of the homestead of Isaac and Tena Thurm Venable. Richards' Valley of Cascade Creek<sup>2</sup> describes the house in some detail: "The house contained two large rooms, one fourteen feet square and the other one sixteen by fourteen feet in size. Behind these rooms were two smaller rooms, one the kitchen and the other a bedroom. The hall which divided these rooms was twelve feet wide and twenty feet long. It was here that Mrs. Venable placed her dining table. The house faced east and a long porch

(Continued on Page 10)



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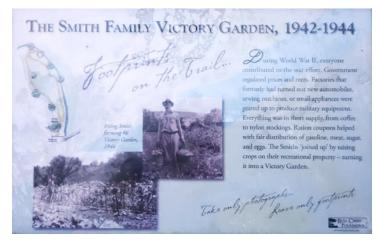
I had the pleasure of working with Julie and it was truly a terrific experience. It's difficult to "put perfection into words." However, this would describe my experience completely! Julie is professional, detail oriented, possesses excellent marketing skills, always mindful of timelines, always quick to respond to calls, emails and texts. I would recommend Julie to anyone interested in selling or purchasing a home! She will most definitely have your best interest in mind. I moved out of state and in the process of purchasing a new home often wished how very much I would have liked to have had an agent that could have even begun to compare with the talent Julie has shown. SHE IS TRULY A GEM!!!!

~ Laurie M

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#### (Continued from Page 8)



ran the length of the house on the front. Mrs. Venable had a well drilled at the edge of the porch so that she had only to step to the bannister and dip the well bucket to have water in the house. After the well was complete, the water was found to be unsatisfactory for household purposes, so a second well was drilled."

Isaac Venable apparently proceeded Tena is death (date of death, burial unknown) because the homestead was later used as a landmark for defining roads, appearing on the 1892-1902 Travis

County road maps as the Tena Venable house.

Tena passed in 1921 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery Annex alongside her Thurm sisters.

In 1935 heirs sold the property to one Dorothy Duvall (no relation to Duval as in Duval Rd.). The ruins of the house Duvall built are near the Venable homestead, across Spicewood Springs Road, on the hill next to the AT&T building, now part of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. The adventures of Dorothy Duvall vs. the City of Austin are a whole 'nother story for some future article!

In 1941 Duvall sold 40 acres of her land to Matthew Irving Smith and Hazeline Ingram Smith whose heirs later, wishing to preserve the property, sold it to the City of Austin ca. 1998, making up today's Bull Creek Greenbelt Upper.

So, go hiking or biking on the trail that runs through the old Isaac and Tena Thurm Venable homestead. But please, show respect and stay on the trail; remember, this was the home of Bull Creek pioneers!

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

1. Entrance near 5479 Old Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78759 2. Richards, Cathryn. Valley of Cascade Creek. Written in 1961 but unpublished. Copy at Austin History Center.



## **Too Much Mulch Can Be Bad**

#### –Joanie Arrott

Using mulch in your garden comes with a variety of advantages: keeping weeds at bay, preventing water evaporation, protecting your plants' roots from pests, reducing competition between different species of plants, reducing extreme soil temperatures, and ensuring a pleasant aspect of garden beds.

There are two major types of mulch: organic and inorganic. The right choice depends on the plants that grow in your garden and on your budget. Organic mulch integrates into the soil and it requires constant renewal, while inorganic mulch may need to be removed and replaced only the next season.

Organic mulch includes bark chips, sawdust, leaves, manure, peat, grass cuttings, vegetable waste, and straw. The main advantage of organic mulch is that it breaks down, you don't need to eliminate it later and it eventually transforms into fertilizer. Inorganic mulch consists of glass, stones, pebbles, plastic, and polyethylene sheeting. By using these recycled materials, you will also discourage weeds from emerging out of the organic mulch layer.

It is generally recommended to apply 75-100 mm of mulch, in order to ensure moisture retention and efficient weed suppression. Do not apply mulch directly around your trees and shrubs, because the decomposition process of organic mulch can lead to collar rot

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and kill the plant. Live green mulch is not recommended, because

the decomposition process extracts too much nitrogen from the soil.

getting enough water and oxygen. Too much decomposing mulch will affect soil pH and eventually have a negative impact on your

plants. You should never apply black mulch around your trees when

the weather is hot because it increases soil temperature and it causes

Avoid thick layers of mulch, because it prevents plants from

## **Good Fences Make...**

– Joyce Statz

#### ... fewer fires.

Many area homes are undergoing renovation these days, and some of those renovations are adding or repairing privacy fences. A wooden fence that is connected right up to the home can make that home quite vulnerable to a wildfire, or to a fire at the home next door. Firefighters often refer to wood fences as "wicks," because grass fires can attack the bottom of a wooden fence and then follow it around to light the house on fire. Many wooden fences abut directly to an outside wall of the home and can start a fire on that wall. Since the fence is often just below the eaves of a house, it can carry the fire up to the eaves and thus to the roof, as well.

Any wooden fence near a house should be separated from the house itself by a metal gate or metal segment, a masonry post, or some other inflammable element to keep the wood fence away from the house (See the photo for an example).

A long run of wood fence can also pose less of a hazard if it is periodically interrupted by stone pillars or other inflammable materials.



### **FIREWISE USA**<sup>™</sup> Residents reducing wildfire risks



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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.

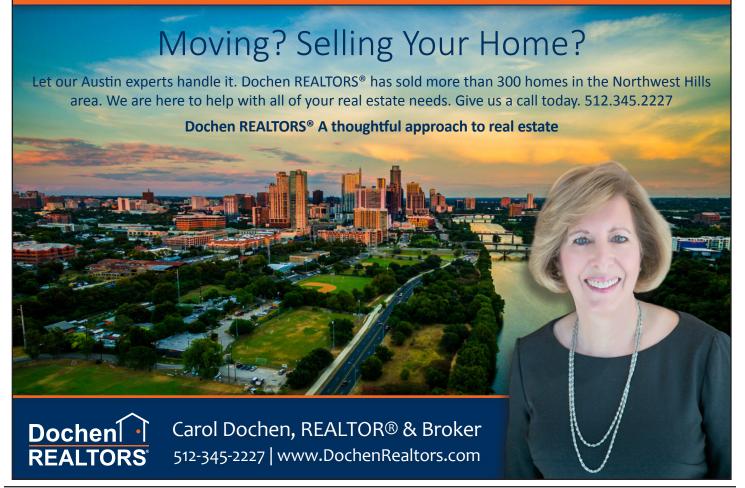
The U.S. Department of Transportation does not classify the following items listed as common fireworks, and their use is allowed within the City of Austin:

- 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.





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## 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 May 14, 2018 and June 15, 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.

- Marcus and Kimberly Bove
- Joyce and Wesley Campbell
- Craig and Sylvia Casper
- Mary Cochran
- LaRayne Dallas and Timothy DeFries
- Ed Davis
- Pete and Vicki DeWeese
- Bob and Mary Fellows
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- Bill and Cindy Locke
- Carl and Molly Nicholls
- Camille Seaton
- Susan and Kelvin Thompson
- Mike and Dianne Wheeler
- Sharon Wilson
- John Yatsu and Kathryn Hudachek
- (and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)

## **Spider Mites**

#### – Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

It's hot. It's dry. It's time for spider mites. Spider mites are very small to microscopic in size and depending on how good your eyesight is, you may not be able to see them without a good hand lens or microscope.

While spider mites are not insects- they are arachnids and more closely related to spiders than insects- they are pests in the landscape. Most spider mites produce a webbing around their colony. It starts on the underside of leaves and will expand out as the population increases.

Feeding can cause leaves to discolor, creating a speckled appearance on foliage. With severe infestations, leaves discolor to a silver or bronze color and leaves may drop from the plant. While mites feed on the underside of leaves, damage is more apparent on the tops.

Spider mites lay their eggs along the leaf vein during the growing season. Eggs are round and large in size when compared to adult mites. Some species of spider mites peak during warmer months of the year while others become more active in the cooler months of the year. The mites are able to develop more quickly when temperatures are warmer, with some spider mites going from egg to adult in less than 1 week. Spider mites thrive in dry conditions while their natural enemies require more humid conditions. Dry conditions allow spider mite populations to grow with little predation or parasitism that would help to keep the population at an acceptable level.

There are many predatory arthropods that feed on spider mites. Some of these include predatory mites, spider mite destroyers (a type of ladybug), minute pirate bugs, big-eyed bugs, and predatory thrips. Proper watering of plants may help to reduce spider mite outbreaks as it can reduce stress brought on by drought. Using strong jets of water directed on plants can also help to dislodge spider mites. Miticides or acaricides can be used to manage spider mite outbreaks. Look for active ingredients such as horticultural oils (watch temperature when you use oils), insecticidal soaps, spinosad, abamectin, bifenthrin, dimethoate, or acephate.

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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## ATTENTION KIDS: SEND US YOUR MASTERPIECE!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to Peel, Inc Kids Club 308 Meadowlark St. Lakeway, TX 78734-4717 We will select the top few and post their artwork on our website at www.peeli DUE: July 31st, 2018 Be sure to include the following so we can let you	nc.com/index.php/kids-club
Name (first name, last initial):	Age:
	APPY APPY THDAY ERICA

## 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.

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

Volunteers are always needed on our committees. Please mark those on which you'd like to actively participate.

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



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Your master suite possesses amazing views of the hill country and a large master bath. Outside, step into lush, colorful gardens, front and back, expertly designed by Botanical Concerns. Enjoy the soothing water feature in your private, serene backyard and relax in a variety of outdoor living areas.

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