



nwacaNEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2018

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

Message from the NWACA Board

Happy New Year!

We're going to make it easier than ever to join NWACA. Near the end of January, we will have a new automated annual membership system. No more guessing or having to ask us if you've paid your annual dues of \$25! Payments will be requested each January and you'll be able to go to www.nwaca.org/member to join, renew, or see if you're already a member! (If you have joined or you have renewed your membership in the last three months of 2018, you will be considered a member for 2019.)

Our newsletter goes to every single-family household from RM 2222 to Highway 183 and Loop 360 to MoPac, even if you're not a member! And, you may not realize that NWACA sponsors many events each year for the benefit of the entire community. We are a 100% volunteer-run civic association working to keep this neighborhood safe, fun, and family-friendly. There's no way we could offer the scale or number of events and services that we do without the generous support of our neighbors, volunteers, and local businesses.

- Raise your hand if you've cheered at our July 4th parade. Thousands of neighbors attend this event each year!
- We host two recycling events each year where members can drop off old paint, batteries, electronics, Styrofoam, and even old toothbrushes! You don't have to rent your own truck or drive far from your home to dispose of items you no longer need.
- We sponsor and provide signage and advertising for annual garage sales held throughout the neighborhood.
- This fall, we held the first annual NWACA National Night Out event for hundreds of residents to meet their neighbors and first responders while enjoying entertainment from local performers.
- We've secured funding to build a playground at Murchison Pool with groundbreaking to occur this spring.
- We provide Firewise home risk evaluations and training for wildfire prevention.
- We sponsor an oak wilt prevention campaign and provide education about caring for trees.
- We facilitate clean up groups at neighborhood parks.
- We host swim parties at Murchison Pool.
- We convey neighborhood concerns to the City, including code enforcement, zoning, transportation, changes to offerings of Cap Metro, etc.
- We support and establish neighborhood watch groups to help prevent crime in our neighborhood.
- We fund traffic patrol by Travis County Constable, Precinct 2.

• We host forums for local elections, so that you can hear from candidates and learn about important issues impacting our neighborhood and city.

• We helped fund the painting of the Anderson High School Gym.
• We helped fund the building of a soccer field at Doss Elementary School.

• We facilitated the replacement of the North Cat Mountain neighborhood entrance sign.

• We facilitated the building of sidewalks in the Mountain Ridge area.

• We funded the purchase of recycling cans at ALL neighborhood parks.

• This spring, we'll be hosting a "Concert in the Park" with details TBA soon.

• And, of course, you read our Facebook page, whether for info or entertainment!

Let us count you in! Members who contribute \$25 annually help us to continue to do great things for our neighborhood! We encompass the largest neighborhood area in the City of Austin, so please volunteer your time and donate to help us serve you!



ARE YOU A NWACA MEMBER?

Receiving the newsletter does not guarantee membership.
Not sure? Visit www.nwaca.org/member to confirm!

Here are 5 great reasons to join today!

GREAT NEIGHBORS = GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

Together, we can continue to do great things for our neighborhood!

STAY INFORMED ABOUT ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU

We are actively involved in our community and advocate for our residents.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

We encourage friendships among residents through our events - July 4th parade, National Night Out, Recycling Collection, Garage Sales, and more!

PROTECT AND IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY

Learn about fire safety, crime prevention, oak wilt, environmental concerns, park development, wildlife management, zoning/planning, and more!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

We are deeply invested in building strong relationships within our business network to positively impact our neighborhood.

Together we can make a difference!

JOIN TODAY @ WWW.NWACA.ORG/MEMBER

NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

Jan 6, 2 PM
Parks Committee
Biderman's

Jan 7
Big Brush Collection starts in our area
Throughout NWACA

Jan 8, 8 AM
Communications Committee
Kneaded Pleasures

Jan 8, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
NWACA Board Meeting
Galaxy Cafe

Jan 13, 2 PM
Tree and Environmental Stewardship Committee
Kneaded Pleasures

Jan 22, 5 PM
NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committee
Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane

Feb 3, 2 PM
Parks Committee
Biderman's

Feb 7, 8 AM
Sponsorship Committee
Kneaded Pleasures

Feb 12, 8:00 AM
Communications Committee
Kneaded Pleasures

Feb 12, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
NWACA Board Meeting
Galaxy Cafe

Feb 26, 5 PM
NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committee
Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane, r.201



Sarah Bird

"I adore Old Quarry. It's my home library... just three minutes away." These are the words of our neighbor, Sarah Bird, author of eleven novels, all of which grace the shelves of not only our own Austin Public Library but bookstores and libraries around the world (30+ languages).

Sarah's recently released book, *Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen*, is meeting with acclaim, named a BuzzBook of 2018 by Publishers Marketplace, a LibraryReads Top Ten, Christian Science Monitor's Best Fiction of 2018, Texas Observer's Favorite Books of 2018, and Kirkus' Best New September Fiction. Historical fiction set just after the Civil War, the book traces the story of Cathy Williams, a former slave, the only woman to ever serve with the legendary Buffalo Soldiers. It is a fascinating tale of bravery, romance, and adventure, told with such wit, honesty, and heartbreak, it's difficult to put down once started.

I was surprised last month when Sarah told me, "I wouldn't have a writing life if I hadn't come to Austin." Arriving here from New Mexico in 1973, her welcoming committee was Marcie and Kinky Friedman who lived three doors away.

"Austin Texans laugh at themselves and are in love with themselves. Austin was my first exposure to real, serious Texas, the most bizarre, extravagant place on earth and I shared news of this strange world."

Completing an MA in journalism at UT, Sarah wrote humorously of her graduate school experiences in her early book, *Alamo House*, which was rejected 35 times before publication. Her second novel, *Do Evil Cheerfully*, beat it to bookshelves in 1983.

In the mid-eighties, she became a founding contributing editor of Austin's *Third Coast Magazine*, while publishing five contemporary romance novels with Silhouette under the pseudonym "Tory Cates." A screenplay followed for the movie *Don't Tell Her It's Me* (1990, starring Shelley Long and Steve Guttenberg). Subsequent screenplays include some for Paramount, CBS, Warner Bros, National Geographic, ABC, TNT, Hemdale Studio, and several independent producers. Her books include *The Boyfriend School* (1989), *The Mommy's Club* (1991), *Virgin of the Rodeo* (1999), *The Yakota Officers Club* (2001), *The Flamenco Academy* (2006), *How Perfect Is That* (2008), *The Gap Year* (2011), *Above the East China Sea* (2014), which was a Dublin International Literary Award nominee, and *A Love Letter to Texas Women* (2016).

Sarah has contributed articles to *The New York Times*, *Salon*, and *O Magazine* and is a columnist for *Texas Monthly*. She has been selected for the Barnes & Noble Discover Great Writers series; a Dobie-Paisano Fellowship; New York Public Library's 25 Books to Remember list; Elle Magazine Reader's Prize; People Magazine's Page Turners; Library

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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)

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Journal's Best Novels; and a National Magazine Silver Award for her columns in *Texas Monthly*.

In 2012, Sarah was voted Best Austin Author for the fourth time by the readers of the Austin Chronicle; was inducted into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame; and received the Illumine Award for Excellence in Fiction from the Austin Library Foundation. In 2013 she was selected to be The University of Texas Libraries' Distinguished Author speaker, and was featured on NPR's The Moth Radio Hour.

Longtime residents, she and her husband raised their son in Northwest Hills and, in Sarah's opinion, "Our neighborhood has everything." Surrounded by her family and friends, her home overlooking a dry creek bed and forest, she expressed what so many of us feel: "Living here is utter perfection."

Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen is available at Book People, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and other places books are sold.

Understanding City Code: Care for Animals

— Alan Carson

This is the first of a series of articles that will appear in the NWACA newsletter. The series discusses City of Austin codes and ordinances that affect our lives and property, some of which you may not be aware.

I recently read the following letter on the internet and thought it appropriate for the winter months ahead of us:

"My brother just moved into a new house and is still forming relationships with his neighbors. His next-door neighbor is a (seemingly) nice person that he'd like to stay friendly with, but this person apparently keeps his dog outdoors even when it's reeeaaallly cold outside (like, freezing). We're assuming that it's ignorance, not cruelty, at this point. It's a small dog with a short coat. The pup does have a dog house to take refuge in apparently, but I know that's not much help when it gets cold beyond a certain point. My question is: is there a nice way to approach a neighbor about leaving their dog outside in these conditions? What would you say or how would you approach them? And, yes, I've already told my brother to call 3-1-1 and report this person if he keeps doing it and he's very concerned."

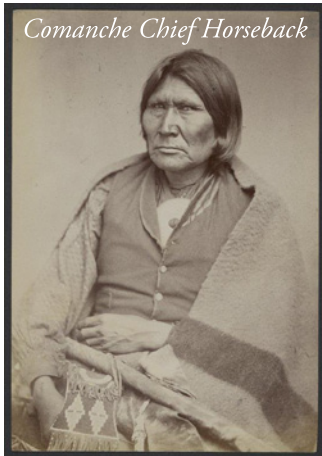
Some people shouldn't have kids or pets, and this appears to be one of them. State, county, and city laws and ordinances specifically prohibit cruelty to animals, with penalties of misdemeanors or even felonies in the worst cases. The Travis County Sheriff's Department website lists "no shelter from the weather" as cruelty. As we all live in the City of Austin, the place to start is by calling 311, or call 911 if the animal is in immediate danger.

My personal opinion is to let those in authority resolve the issue above, rather than creating a "cold war" with the neighbor. One thing to keep in mind about calling 311 is that the report can be anonymous, so you won't have an irate neighbor at your door.

You can find more information by doing a web search for "City of Austin Cruelty to Animals."

Texas Ranger Dick Preece. On the Trail of the Comanche

—Richard Denney



This is part II in the story of Dick Preece, Bull Creek's patron Texas Ranger! Catch up on the first article at <https://nwaca.org/newsletter/>

Among the early Anglo settlers to the hill country west of Austin were William Martin Preece, wife Mary Elizabeth Giddens, and son Richard Lincoln Preece (1833-1906), AKA Dick Preece. The family moved from Kentucky to Texas about 1838, Texas still a republic.

The Comanche were in control of much of Texas in those years, several trails crisscrossing Travis County. By the time Dick Preece was 16 he was an "un-enlisted volunteer" with Ranger patrols, officially joining the Texas Rangers at age 22. Dick Preece's younger brother, William Martin Preece Jr., also served as a Ranger.

Dick Preece, as a Texas Ranger before the Civil War, was principally focused on fighting the Comanche far and wide. Harold Preece wrote in *Real West* "From the Colorado River to the San Saba the powerful Comanches struck ... led by Chief Horse Back [AKA Horseback, and against them] in a special Ranger battalion, went grandfather and his brother, William Preece [Jr.]."

Dick Preece's ranch sat on a trail utilized by Central Texas' Penateka Comanche. In 1859 he received a patent for 160 acres along the Colorado River in the area we now associate with the River Place and Steiner Ranch subdivisions, and across from today's Commons Ford Ranch Park¹. On the north river bank, near the southeast corner of his ranch was located Santa Monica Springs.

The springs are now under Lake Austin, but you may have seen old photos of bathers at the springs circa 1890. Santa Monica Springs were once Indian campgrounds. Anthropologist Daniel Gelo called them "a watering place" for the Comanche. The springs are only about 4 miles south of Comanche Peak² and Defeat Hollow, the location of a skirmish in the 1870s, possibly the last in Travis County, between Joel Harris, an early settler to Hudson Bend (one of my ancestors!), and Indians, probably Comanche. As the name of the Commons

Ford Ranch Park suggests, the springs were located near a ford on the Colorado.

So, Dick Preece's ranch sat on a Comanche trail down the Colorado River, south from Comanche Peak, one branch of which, today's FM 2222 leading to Mount Bonnell, marks our neighborhood's southern boundary. Might this be the trail Harold Preece wrote about in *Real West* magazine: "A few miles from the Preece ranch lay the southern terminus of the bloody Comanche Trail with its northern end being seven hundred miles away in Western Kansas." Yes, with a caveat; any Comanche trail running near the Preece Ranch most certainly followed the Colorado River itself, northwest to its headwaters; the Comancheria of the Penateka Comanche, the southernmost division of the Comanche that frequented our area.³ It was after all the headwaters of the Colorado River near what is now Colorado City, TX where the expedition of Colonel John H. Moore headed on its punitive strike against the Penateka Comanche in their own homeland in 1840, in revenge for the sacking of the town of Linville, TX earlier that year.

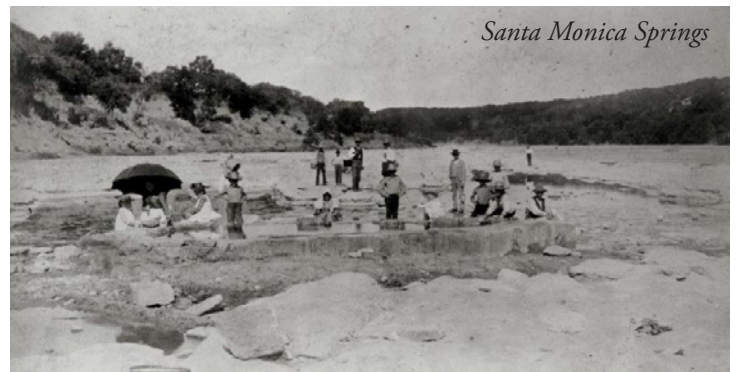
Next time, The Civil War and Bull Creek's own "Free State of Jones."

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

¹ "Commons" is a corruption of "Camman's", the original ranch's owner.

² Comanche Peak is adjacent to today's Oasis restaurant on Lake Travis. It may well be the only natural geographic feature, and certainly peak, in Travis County named for an American Indian tribe.

³ Harold Preece may have conflated the various Comanche trails crisscrossing Travis County with the Chisholm Trail that ran through Austin and did indeed extend 700+ miles north to Abilene, Kansas. More on the Chisholm Trail in part IV.



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What is Wildfire Fuel?

— Joyce Statz

On a windy day in December, experts reminded us that this was a hazardous day and that we should take precautions, as shown in the graphic. Essentially, don't create any sparks or embers, since this is a day when wildfire will be blown quickly through any available fuel.

So, just what is wildfire fuel? It varies, as we look at it locally versus considering it at a community or national level.

At the local level, each household has burnable material in its landscape, some next to the home and some further away. We need to be especially wary of material that is easy for embers to ignite, such as tall dead grasses, dry shrubbery, thin dead tree branches, and piles of leaves. When lit by an ember, these "fine fuels" (kindling) can ignite dense and long-burning material to support a large fire. We need to regularly remove fine fuels from areas surrounding our homes, to make them better-hardened against fire. After all, most of our homes are built using some form of dead trees! We don't want kindling that embers can ignite close to those "dead trees."

As opportunities arise, we also need to remove the long-burning material: dead and down tree limbs too big for weekly trash pickup, construction slash (some from 40 years ago, dumped onto the slopes behind our houses), and other burnable debris, such as pieces of lumber accumulated over time. During Big Brush Removal week in January and in July, we have an opportunity to get rid of our local wildfire fuel.

On the community-wide and nation-wide scale, discussions are underway about how best to minimize the damage from wildfire by removing existing wildfire fuel. We have too much existing fuel in part because of climate change, but also because of fire suppression since the early 1900's. Mother Nature used to regularly sweep fire through forested areas, clearing out the dead material and undergrowth, but leaving most big trees. However, as populations developed closer to the forests, those naturally-occurring fires weren't allowed to burn.

Wildfire experts, planning how to prevent more catastrophic wildfires in California and elsewhere, use controlled burns to clear out the fine fuels and underbrush – using "good fire" to prevent "bad fire." Where controlled burns aren't feasible, other strategies include prescribed grazing, selective thinning of trees, and removing kindling in the understory. In some locations, it's appropriate to create a "shaded fuel break," an area where the understory is cleared to minimize travel of fire to or from populated spaces and large green spaces. These approaches are labor-

intensive, but the expense trades off well against the even larger cost of a huge wildfire. What is clear to the experts, though, is that clearcutting is not the answer. Keeping a mixture of mature and immature trees is vital to the environment and the soil in which the trees grow.

Here are some references you might find interesting, to see how experts think about reducing wildfire fuel:

- Somewhat irreverent article about reducing fuel, and how logging is usually not the answer

<https://tinyurl.com/fuelarticle1>

- Interesting article about how forest fires are fought, why fire is needed in the forests, and how we should let them burn. (Caution: some comments here may offend some conservative readers)

<https://tinyurl.com/fuelarticle2>

- This KERA Think interview by Krys Boyd with the author of the article above is perhaps more acceptable to all. It's a good discussion of how firefighting is organized; how firefighting money is spent on the wildland urban interface (WUI), what homeowners can do to make their homes more fire-resistant, how structure fires start others, the impact on homes built in the WUI where they shouldn't be. It raises the notion of being in a "fire plain," similar to being in a "flood plain."

<https://tinyurl.com/fuelinterview>

Fire Weather Safety Tips:



- Do not throw cigarette butts out of your car window.
- Be careful to not drag trailer chains that could cause sparks.
- Do not park a recently driven car on dry grass.
- Avoid outdoor burning and check recently burned piles for flare-ups.
- Clear out dead vegetation from around your home.



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Northwest Austin Helps Along the Spectrum of Homelessness

— Joyce Statz

Concerns about affordable housing and homelessness in Austin are top of mind for many of our public servants as well as the residents. This series of articles is intended to inform our readers about both the needs in our area and the responses to the needs. Last month, we looked at the work of Mobile Loaves and Fishes, an organization that houses the homeless.



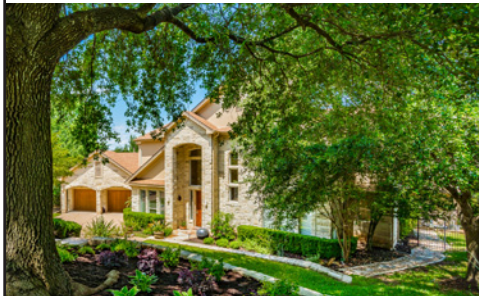
There is other good work being done by faith-based communities in our neighborhood, to both prevent homelessness and assist those who are on the street. The support network provided by public resources (federal, state, city, county) doesn't serve everyone, so churches and synagogues step in to help.

Twice a month, Westover Hills Church of Christ offers utility and rent assistance for anyone

in need. The church serves 50 to 70 households each time, most being people who are housed, but some at risk of losing that housing. Those who need help with utility or rent payments go through an interview process, and if qualified can get help a limited number of times. However, food is available each week. For Westover and for many other non-profits who distribute food, the Central Texas Food Bank is a significant resource – some of the food free to the distributor, some for a small fee. The day I visited to observe, they had grocery bags full of dry goods (two types, targeted for different types of households), lots of bread, fresh fruit and vegetables, bottled water, and several other items. The most prized thing, I was told, is laundry detergent!

Westover also partners with North Austin Christian Church on Rutland, where a food pantry and clothes closet serve more than 100 families a week. They make extensive use of food from the Central Texas Food Bank, as well as other donations. Because the City of Austin now prohibits restaurants and grocery stores from trashing usable food, there is an abundance of food available in

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Austin; distribution is now the problem to be solved! Starbucks has an innovative approach; they pay recently housed men in a program at the Westover South campus to drive trucks to Austin's 37 Starbucks locations to gather unsold food, which then is distributed through the church food pantry.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church also provides rent and utility assistance, gathering requests and interviewing applicants by phone each week. They serve 25 to 30 families each month, funded by church member donations. Other churches in the area including Northwest Hills United Methodist Church and Austin Christian Fellowship - Northwest also help individuals on an ad hoc basis, as people come to the office looking for financial help, bus passes, grocery debit cards, and food.

Men from Northwest Hills United Methodist Church help out with a clothing program, the Clothes Closet for Homeless Men of Austin. A program of the Capital District United Methodist Men, the closet is run out of Central Presbyterian Church. They served about 1300 homeless neighbors in 2018. Financial donations and donations of clothing (very specific items) are very welcome, and the group would be pleased to have volunteers from any group.

First Presbyterian Church members are involved with several partners helping the homeless, including Mobile Loaves and

Fishes and Manos de Cristo. In addition, they volunteer at Central Presbyterian Church when the Cold Weather Shelter Program is activated. This program provides overnight shelter to several hundred individuals living on the street in Central and Downtown Austin when the weather is cold (below 35 and wet, or below freezing and dry). They are housed at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) and Salvation Army, and at about 10 churches and a number of the City's recreation centers. A coalition of churches in Northwest Austin is working on a plan to provide a Cold Weather Shelter Program for the homeless neighbors in our area. Because all of the coordination and transportation for the City's program is anchored at the ARCH, the homeless from our area don't get included.

At St. Theresa's Catholic Church, there is a longstanding program run by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, providing short-term assistance to the needy. Pairs of volunteers visit with families to provide financial assistance to keep them housed, as well as helping with grocery debit cards, bus passes, and other needs. The group also conducts food drives and helps with breakfast at the ARCH once a week.

A ministry started by a member of St. Theresa's is called Helping our Neighbor (HON); this ministry is now a joint effort of St.

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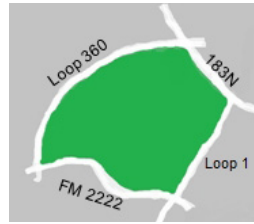
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Theresa's and St. Matthew's. HON focuses on the homeless neighbors in our area, taking them to appointments with social service agencies, or to get a Texas ID, birth certificate, or some other essential documents. Quarterly, HON puts on an event during which homeless neighbors are provided transportation to a venue where they can take a shower and get a haircut, new clothes, and food. The event provides a respite from the street, as well as enabling the HON volunteers to build trust and relationships, to better help the homeless along the path to being housed. Since its inception, HON has helped 18 people get into housing, most of them through the efforts of the founder, Johanne Ibsen-Wolford.

There are undoubtedly additional efforts underway. If you would share those, we can extend this series with another article! If you would like to get connected to any of the programs mentioned here, please contact me, and I'll connect you to the people running that program. Send information or requests to joyce.statz@gmail.com

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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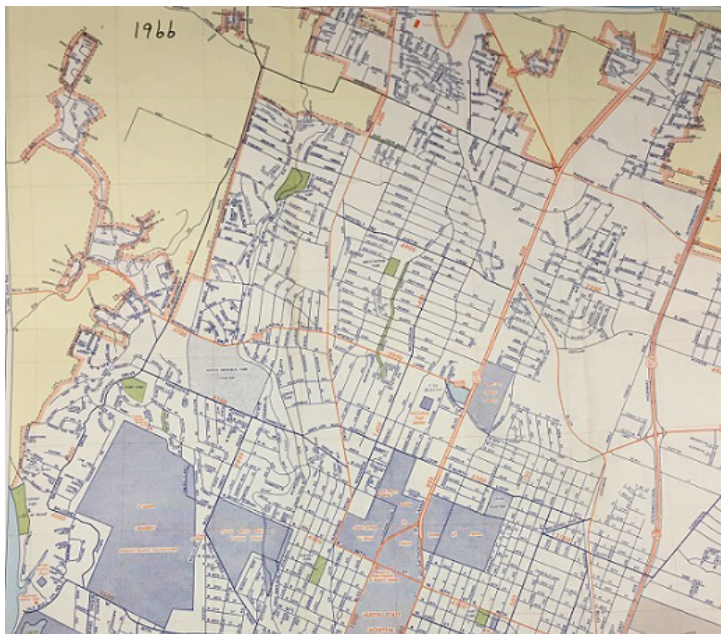
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NWACA History Interview with Lois Moran

— Carol Jones

Lois Moran's family moved to Austin in 1957 when she was 7 years old. They lived near 45th Street, on the small portion of Highland Terrace which is now the northbound feeder road to Mopac. Of course, there was no highway flowing through that neighborhood back then. She remembers there was a population sign near the stoplight at Balcones Drive and RM 2222; she thinks that it said the Austin population was 111,000.



1966 map of north Austin



Lois Moran with 1961 phone book

Lois and her friends rode their bikes to Highland Park Elementary. They had to get licenses for their bicycles and get the tires checked at the firehouse on Hancock Drive, near the Americana theater. The nearest grocery store, named Checkfront, was also on Hancock Drive. They used to shimmy down the storm drains along Highland Terrace, exploring the underground trails until they came back up in Camp Mabry.

When Gullett Elementary School was built in the 1950s, everyone thought, "Who is going to go to school all the way out there?" When the first graduating 6th grade class from Gullett was about to enter Lamar Junior High with kids from Highland Park, some of the parents were concerned that the kids from the two schools wouldn't know each other, so the parents got together and created a dance club, called The Twilighters. The Twilighters had dances every month at Westwood Country Club, Austin Country Club, and

other places. You had to be invited to belong, had to pay dues, and you had dance cards. Most of the kids went to Bob Wilson Dance Studio to learn to dance.

Lois attended Lamar Junior High, McCallum High School, and later, UT. She remembers that when she and her friends entered UT in the late 1960s, girls had to wear dry-cleaned dresses and pantyhose. By the time she graduated in the early 1970s, fashion had relaxed quite a bit, and everyone wore flipflops and blue jeans.

In 1964, there was a lot of excitement about a British band called The Beatles. Their new film, titled "Help," was going to be playing at the Americana movie theater on Hancock Drive. Lois and her friend had their parents drop them off at 5 AM to get in line to see the movie, which earned them a picture in the newspaper!

By the time she graduated high school in 1968, Northwest Hills was just starting to be built. There was a reason that "Far West Boulevard" was called that; it was out in the middle of nowhere.



The Barn restaurant

She remembers that she and her friends used to rent horses for \$1 a day at Hobbyhorse Stables (north of Steck Avenue near present-day Mopac). They would ride through the open fields to Burnet Road. The horse barn and its round silo later became a steakhouse restaurant called The Barn. After The Barn closed, the buildings housed a Harold's Outlet Store, then an event center called Shoal Crossing. Only recently, the silo and other original buildings were torn down to make room for office buildings.

In the bar at The Barn restaurant, a girl in a cute outfit sat up high on a swing; she would swing back and forth all night. Lois thought back then that this must be the most fun job ever. The restaurant used to serve a block of Swiss cheese as big as a car battery to each table. They stopped doing that after a while, because the customers would eat so much cheese that they wouldn't order much for dinner. (Later, the San Francisco Steakhouse restaurant copied the girl on a swing and the cheese idea.)

It was delightful to talk with Lois about her memories of the neighborhood! If you would like to share your memories, contact me at nwacainfo@gmail.com

—Joanie Arrott

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Reporting Suspicious Activity

— Connie Lundgren

Keeping our neighborhood safe is a community effort. Each citizen's involvement can decrease the opportunity for a crime to be committed. The following guidelines for reporting a suspicious person's description or a vehicle description were given by Officer Darrell Grayson at the kickoff to our 2018 Neighborhood Watch Program. Being effective comes from being prepared!

It is important to be as thorough as possible when giving a suspicious person's description. Each time you provide an additional identifier, you greatly narrow the pool of possible suspects. The following are guidelines for describing a suspicious person:

1. NAME: Always give the person's name, if known.
2. RACE: White, Black, Hispanic, Asian.
3. SEX: male or female.
4. AGE: Use their date of birth or estimate age as close as you can. If you cannot guess a number for age, use terms such as: teenager, middle aged, etc.
5. HEIGHT: Estimate the suspect's height by comparing him/her to yourself or someone you know. Use terms such as: tall, short, average, etc.

6. WEIGHT: Estimate the suspect's weight by comparing him/her to yourself or someone you know. Use terms such as: heavy, thin, average, muscular, etc.

7. HAIR: Note the color of the hair, its length, hair style, and any headgear worn. Also note any facial hair, if worn.

8. EYES: Note the color of the eyes 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 is wearing any jewelry and what type.

10. MARKS: Note if there are any scars, tattoos, amputations, deformities, etc., as well as their location.

Equally important is knowing how to describe a vehicle in a way that will be most helpful to law enforcement. You can remember a vehicle description by learning the acronym, CYMBAL, associating each letter of the acronym with the following values:

C = color Y = year M = make B = body style
A = accessories L = license plate

(Continued on Page 15)




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(Continued from Page 14)

- **COLOR:** Be very specific about color. For example, if you see a car that is red and you know it is the shade of "Fire Engine Red," make a note of it. Also describe any two-toned or multi-colored vehicles as best you can.

- **YEAR:** If you don't know the exact year model of the vehicle, estimate as best you can.

- **MAKE:** What is the brand of the vehicle? Ford, Chevy, Dodge, etc.

- **BODY STYLE:** Note if the vehicle is a pickup, passenger car (sedan, station wagon, etc.) or van. Note the number of doors (2-door, 4-door)

- **ACCESSORIES:** Note if the vehicle is equipped with any accessories.

- **LICENSE PLATE:** This is the most important information needed for the vehicle. You should write down the plate number before anything else. If you cannot get the whole number, a portion of it is better than none at all. Also, be sure to write the state from which the plate is issued.

SEE SOMETHING?
SAY SOMETHING!

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 October 16, 2018 and December 16, 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.

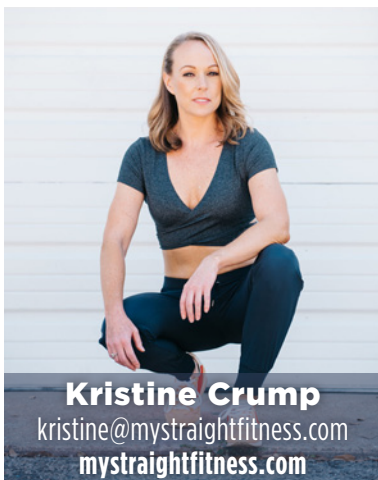
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- Carolyn and Mark Johnson
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- Mike and Roberta Starbird
- Charlie Underwood
- (and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)



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Drain Flies

— Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



Drain flies are small brownish-grey insects with two wings. They have fuzzy wings and bodies and when at rest, the wings are folded over the body making them look like tiny moths. This is why they are sometimes called moth flies.

Drain flies may be seen in kitchens and bathrooms near sinks or tubs.

They tend to be more active in the evening. Female flies lay eggs in the thin film of organic matter that builds up on the inside of drain pipes. Larvae develop in the slime layer, feeding on fungi and other microorganisms.

Unfortunately, killing adult drain flies will only temporarily solve the problem. To manage drain flies, the source should be located and treated to reduce the population of developing flies. To track down where the flies are coming from, place tape over one side (don't cover the drain completely) of drains in sinks and tubs before you go to bed. In the morning, check tape for flies that emerged during the night to find out which drain(s) is/ are infested.

Once the drain is located, take a stiff brush and scrub the inside of the drain, following up by flushing the drain with boiling water. There is no need to treat the drain with bleach or ammonia. It may take several days to see a reduction of the adult flies once the drain has been cleaned; you have to allow the emerging adults to die. If you have drains that you cannot access to clean, there are biogels that consume the organic matter where the larvae develop. Read and follow all label instructions.

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



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TODAY TO TAKE YOUR GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Big Brush Pickup Coming The Week of January 7, 2019

— Public Service Announcement

This month is a great time to do the brush removal you've wanted to do for a long time, to help make your property more beautiful, and also more wildfire-resistant. During the week of January 7, 2019, Austin Resource Recovery will be picking up large brush in our area, at no extra charge.

Collection Guidelines:

- Brush should be between 5 and 15 feet in length.
- Tree trunks more than 8 inches in diameter should be 3 feet long or less.
- Place large brush at the curb in front of your house by 6:30 a.m. on the first day of your scheduled collection week.
- Cut ends should face the street.
- Stack loosely along the curb in one row, not more than 15 feet across and no higher than 4 feet.
- Do not block the sidewalk.
- Do not extend into the street.
- To prevent damage to your property, keep items 5 feet away from your trash cart, mailbox, fences or walls, water meter, telephone connection box and parked cars. Do not place any items under low hanging tree limbs or power lines.

Learn more at <https://www.austintexas.gov/brush>

Volunteer Opportunity to Drive a Senior

— Public Service Announcement

Drive A Senior-West is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization which provides free transportation services to adults over the age of 65. In operation in Austin since 1985, we provided over 6,000 rides last year in our region alone to home-bound seniors! Our mission is to help eliminate social isolation and assist older adults to age in place, staying in their homes and remaining independent longer. In addition to transportation, we provide other services such as light home maintenance and repairs, referral services, in-home visits, and reassurance calls.

According to The Texas Demographic Center, there will be a 262.9 percent growth rate in the Texas elder population between 2010 and 2050. Services in the Senior Sector are already working at capacity to the current senior population. With this projected increase we must increase programs to meet the critical needs of this population, and to create sustainable growth and desired impact, we need more volunteers!

Volunteering is easy and convenient! There are no minimum time commitments and everything is done through your smart phone or computer. Volunteer with your vehicle once a week or once a month!

Our West Austin Regional office is located on the Tarrytown United Methodist Church property and we serve clients in the following zip codes: 78701, 78703, 78705, 78731, 78751, 78756, 78759

Please visit our website or call today with any questions or to sign up as a volunteer driver:

<https://driveasenior.org/volunteer/>

512.472.6339 or westaustin@driveasenior.org



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NWACA News

NWACA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Send annual dues of \$25 with this form to:
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Email #1 (kept private; print): _____

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Phone (with area code): _____

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\$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

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- **Dormant Season**
- **Coldest Months**

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NWACA REAL ESTATE

NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET REPORT UPDATE

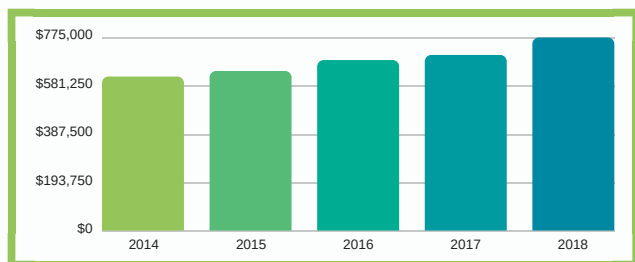
JANUARY
2019

Happy New Year! Our first analysis of the year shows steadily increasing prices over the last 5 years. Average list and sold prices were up roughly 9% and median sold prices were up 12% from 2017. Although sales are typically slower during the holiday season, it's typical for activity to pick up in the coming months.

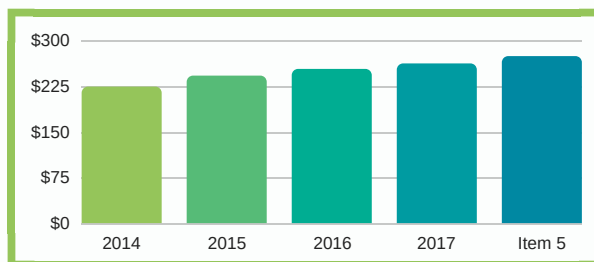
LISTINGS	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Single Family Homes	225	212	218	245	250
AVERAGE					
List Price	\$642,770	\$677,834	\$740,318	\$753,042	\$819,648
List Price/Sqft	\$229	\$245	\$261	\$269	\$283
Sold Price	\$617,110	\$639,374	\$683,124	\$703,627	\$773,537
Sold Price/Sqft	\$224	\$242	\$253	\$262	\$274
Sold Price/Original List Price	97.2%	96.9%	97.5%	96.3%	97.1%
Days on Market	46	46	48	59	48
MEDIAN					
List Price	\$599,000	\$635,000	\$689,500	\$695,000	\$750,000
List Price/Sqft	\$226	\$241	\$260	\$267	\$278
Sold Price	\$590,000	\$607,500	\$639,500	\$652,000	\$727,500
Sold Price/Sqft	\$221	\$240	\$252	\$261	\$271
Days on Market	17	17	21	19	22

*Due to publishing deadline, 2018 figures include sales from January through December 15, 2018

AVERAGE SOLD PRICE



AVERAGE SOLD PRICE/SQFT



CONSIDERING A CHANGE IN 2019?

NOW is a great time to start the conversation. Feel free to contact me for a **FREE** market analysis or to discuss the best updates to consider for a future sale.

JULIE WAIDELICH
BROKER|OWNER, REALTOR®

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR UPDATES, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT JULIE.
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SOURCE: ABOR MLS including data through December 15, 2018. Based on NWACA Boundaries: MOPAC/HWY 360/2222/SPICEWOOD SPRINGS



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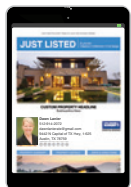
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