



# nwacaNEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2019

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

## Join us for the First Annual NWACA Day in the Park! Sunday, April 28th, 1:00-7:00 p.m. Murchison Middle School Kickball Fields

See inside for all the details of our new spring event! We're starting off the afternoon with the Second Annual NWACA/NW Austin Kickball, kickball games. First, we'll have a recreational game, next a competitive game. Dust off your tennies and join us! **You don't have to sign up, just Show Up to play** - families, kids, **everyone is welcome**. Last year's games were a blast! Then, join us for the groundbreaking of the Loewy Family Playground at Murchison Pool with District 10 Councilmember Alison Alter, our famous NWACA Parks Committee with their golden shovel, and of course, the Loewy Family. The afternoon continues with performances by School of Rock, Journey Martial Arts, Shotguns Blazing Band, Shirley McPhail School of Dance, and lastly, the Anderson High School Jazz Band. Kona Ice, Austin's Pizza, Daily Juice, and the NWA Kickball concession stand will be there to keep us well fed and hydrated, but just in case we need them, Austin Emergency Center will be on hand, too!

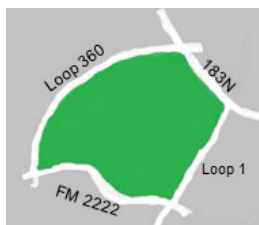
Another important date in April, join us on April 13th from 8-10 a.m. at Anderson High School for our spring collection event of Styrofoam, electronics, and bathroom supplies! More details inside.

Save the date! Wednesday, May 1st is our annual neighborhood meeting at 6:30 p.m., St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Huffman Hall. There is plenty of free parking and we will have refreshments. If you've never been to an annual meeting, you should come. You'd be surprised what you will learn about your neighborhood. We will hear from Councilmember Alter, AISD Board Member Kristin Ashy, as well as the Austin Fire Department, Austin City Arborist, Austin Police Department, and the NWACA Neighborhood Watch Committee. Each of our NWACA committees will have tables to showcase all that we do to serve our community and to encourage you to sign up to participate! Code Enforcement, Cap Metro, Austin Resource Recovery, the Game Warden, and TxDOT will have personnel at tables to answer your questions. An enlightening favorite from last year, Austin Fire Department will share their interactive table to show you what the spread of a wildfire would look like close to where you live.

A word about the Constable Program...this program was started in 2017 through the generous donation of a NWACA family. It has

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## 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](http://www.nwaca.org) Use the **Email Signup** tab to get the weekly **NWACA Notes**. Use the **Contact** tab to join the NWACA Facebook group and to join NextDoor. Become a dues-paying member by using the form at the end of this newsletter, or you can join online using the **Join/Renew** tab.

**Welcome to NWACA!**



### ARE YOU A NWACA MEMBER?

Receiving the newsletter does not guarantee membership.  
Not sure? Visit [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) 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/JOINRENEW](http://WWW.NWACA.ORG/JOINRENEW)

# NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

**Apr 7, 2:00pm**

Parks Committee  
Biderman's

**Apr 9, 6:30pm-8:30pm**

NWACA Board Meeting  
Galaxy Cafe

**Apr 13, 8-10 AM**

Electronics and Styrofoam Recycling; also accepting used  
toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes  
Anderson High Parking Lot

**Apr 13, noon -7PM**

Earth Day events  
Huston Tillotson University

**Apr 15, 8:00am**

Communications Committee  
Kneaded Pleasures

**Apr 20, 9:00am-Noon**

Monthly cleanup event; please sign up at:  
<https://www.givepulse.com/recurring/364986?event=NWACA-Third-Saturday-Park-Clean-Up>  
Bull Creek District Park

**Apr 23, 5:00pm**

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

**Apr 28, 1-7 PM**

Day in the Park - Kickball Tournaments, Dedication of the Loewy  
Playground, live music, and more! (See the big announcement page)  
Murchison Kickball Fields, Loewy Playground

**May 1, 2019; 6:30-8:30 PM**

NWACA Annual Meeting  
St. Matthew's, 8134 Mesa Drive; Huffman Hall

**May 4, 2 PM**

Austin Wildfire Symposium - presentations and discussions on  
wildfire prevention; go to [ATXFire.com](http://ATXFire.com) to register  
Asian American Cultural Center; 8401 Cameron Road

**May 5, 8:00 AM**

Parks Committee  
Biderman's

**May 11; time TBD**

Cleanup at Murchison Pool before its opening on June 3  
Murchison Pool Park 3700 North Hills Dr.

**May 18, 1:00-4:00 PM**

Monthly Cleanup Event, please sign up at:  
<https://www.givepulse.com/recurring/364987?event=NWACA-Third-Saturday-Park-Clean-Up>  
Bull Creek District Park

**May 19, 2 PM**

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee  
Kneaded Pleasures

**May 20, 8 AM**

Communications Committee  
Kneaded Pleasures

**May 28, 5 PM**

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

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*From The Board (Continued from Cover)*

been continued as a result of your donations. To be truly effective, the program needs to grow, a lot. To grow means we need to receive more donations. Did you know that when the Constable is in our neighborhood, he is in contact with APD; and if he is in the neighborhood and they are not, he will be the first to respond to radio calls for assistance? He doesn't just issue traffic citations. Crime prevention was the number one item cited on the recent NWACA survey (see results in this issue), followed by traffic control. The Constable helps with both. While issuing citations is what you may notice the Constable doing, what you may not notice is the Constable watching for reckless drivers, package theft, burglaries, and disabled vehicles; and working with the homeless in our neighborhood. If you think you haven't seen the Constable enough to do any good, please donate, and you'll see more of his work! It's easy, go to [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org), Donate and Shop, Constable Fund.

Please enjoy this month's history articles, Gourmand's Corner, Business Spotlight, crime prevention tips, and environmental articles! Remember, we are just a click away at [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) or via email at: [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com). 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.

## NWACA Annual Meeting: What's in it for Me?

— Joanie Arrott

For those of you who haven't attended past NWACA Annual Meetings, you may be wondering what you missed. Let me first tell you what it's not—a formal, drawn-out meeting covering topics that apply to members only. Instead, the opening agenda provides brief updates on neighborhood priorities and city programs. Some examples of what will be discussed at our upcoming meeting:

- What's going on with our neighborhood Austin ISD schools?
- Should I be concerned about wildfire risk?
- What can I do about traffic in the neighborhood?
- What crime prevention resources are available to me?
- How do I contact my city council representative?
- What's the status of oak wilt in the NWACA area?

After the brief program updates, we break into an open-house style agenda where attendees can roam and visit with NWACA Committee members and their guests on specific issues, concerns, or questions, at assigned tables. Some of the guests who will be in attendance represent the Austin Police Department, City of Austin Transportation, Travis County Game Wardens, TxDOT, and City of Austin Fire Department. The goal is to foster learning, connecting, and growing as a community, and NWACA is excited to provide this opportunity. We just need you!

Please come join us for the 2019 NWACA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 1, from 6 to 8 PM, in Huffman Hall at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive.



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Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) ..... 311  
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APD District Representative,  
Officer Darrell Grayson...512-974-5242  
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter.....512-978-2110  
Enroll in the District 10 monthly newsletter: .....  
.....district10@austintexas.gov  
.....www.district10austin.com

## 2019 NWACA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Each of the Board members can be reached at:**  
**[nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com)**

The NWACA Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, except December. Please visit our calendar at [www.nwaca.org](http://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)

## PEEL ADVERTISING

Please support the advertisers that make the NWACA News possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact THE PEEL sales office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

## Collection Event this Month: Electronics, Styrofoam, and Bathroom Supplies

— Joanie Arrott



Gather up your outdated computer monitors, old microwaves, iPhone 3s, and blown-out stereo equipment. The Anderson High School south parking lot will be the site of the Northwest Austin Civic Association's (NWACA) annual Spring Collection event. This spring we'll be collecting old electronics, Styrofoam, bathroom toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, used razors, and dental floss containers.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. at Anderson High School. Collected electronics and styrofoam will be taken to the City's Reuse and Recycle Drop-Off Center. Bathroom supplies will go to TerraCycle. This event is open to NWACA members only. If you're not a member, you can join at the event for \$25.

We will accept:

- Used electronics such as: computers and related supplies, printers, batteries, cameras, phones, LCD televisions, routers, stereo equipment, microwaves, and small refrigerators; all consumer electronic devices and appliances;
- Clean Styrofoam blocks, egg cartons, cups and containers;
- Used toothpaste tubes and floss containers;
- Used disposable razors, replaceable-blade cartridge units, and razor plastic packaging;

We will not accept:

- Rear-projection TVs or those with wooden frames;
- Dirty Styrofoam food or drink containers;
- Packing peanuts or plastic foam;
- Household hazardous wastes including: used oil, paint, light bulbs, or chemicals;

We're always looking for volunteers for our collection events. We need folks to corral the cars, unload vehicles, load the collection truck, and assist with separating the collected materials. If you're looking for a great opportunity to help serve your neighborhood, meet your neighbors, and protect the environment, come join us! Any questions or volunteer sign-up can be sent to: [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com).

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# Join NWACA for a Day in the Park



nwaca

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

Murchison Middle School Fields

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NWACA Kickball Games-Just Show Up to Play!

## LOEWY LAW FIRM

HELPING INJURED TEXANS



1:00 p.m. Recreational/Family Game  
2:00 p.m. Competitive Game  
3:30 p.m. Groundbreaking for Loewy Family Playground at Murchison Pool.

nest  
PROPERTIES AUSTIN

Great Live Music and Performances, *plus* First Responders!



4:00 p.m. School of Rock  
4:45 p.m. Journey MA  
5:00 p.m. Shotguns Ready Band  
5:45 p.m. SMSD  
6:10 p.m. Anderson HS Jazz Band



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## Urban Sketchers

When neighbor Suzanne Duncan took up watercolors several years ago, she started keeping journals which now trace the honing of her artistic skills in scenes of Austin as well as in vignettes of her travels.

Suzanne is a member of the Austin Chapter of Urban Sketchers, a global community that depicts the world one drawing at a time and provides an opportunity to meet other artists. When Suzanne travels, she not only paints the places she visits but often does so in the company of local artists, fellow members coming together for their chapter's artist meetups.

With artists already gathering for outings in our area, another neighbor, Ellen Simpson, suggested they affiliate themselves as the Austin chapter of the international organization. Ellen along with co-host Cindy Schiffgens, post the different location for each weekend's meetup. Usually on Saturday mornings, anywhere from 3 to 25 members and guests gather at the designated spot with their supplies, then disperse in various directions to choose a nearby scene they'd like to paint or sketch for the next two or three hours.

Ellen says here in Austin the norm is for about half the art to be rendered in black and white: pencil and ink,

the other half to be done in color: pastels, pencils, oils or watercolors. All art is created on site, indoors and out, capturing what is seen by direct observation, truthful to the diverse scenes witnessed. Locations have included Mayfield park, the Capitol, farmers markets, community gardens, the Wildflower Center, SoCo, and Fiesta Beach. Styles, media, and abilities vary greatly; no pre-requisite experience is needed to participate.

At midday, the artists rejoin at the meeting place for a "throw-down," an opportunity to share their work immediately with their fellow artists if they choose. With a non-judgmental atmosphere, all are welcomed and encouraged; amid friendly comments and compliments, techniques are discussed, questions asked and answered.

After the meetup, artists may opt to share their work online with global members, with over 200 official Urban Sketchers chapters worldwide. From Africa to New Zealand, from Austria to Vietnam, with date and location included on each piece, the art chronicles time and locale, telling the story of the places and surroundings lived in and traveled to.

Sometimes well-known artists are introduced at meetups, and on occasion classes are offered through Urban Sketchers. Annual symposia are also held providing even greater opportunities to meet fellow artists.

If you would like to check out a meetup of Austin Urban Sketchers (no invitation or R.S.V.P required), you can find each week's time and place by searching "Urban Sketchers" on meetup.com or by going to the Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1079812898761611/>. When you get to the location, you'll recognize your fellow artists by the camping stools, bags, easels, and sketch pads they carry. And if you'd like to join artists in other lands or just see their work from around the world, go to [urbansketchers.org](http://urbansketchers.org).



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# Texas Ranger Dick Preece. The Preece Cemetery

— Richard Denney



This is the 5th and final part in the story of Dick Preece, Bull Creek's patron Texas Ranger! Catch up on previous articles at [www.nwaca.org/newsletter/](http://www.nwaca.org/newsletter/)

After his death in 1906 Dick Preece was buried along West Bull Creek in the Preece family cemetery off RM 2222, just a little over a mile from the western boundary of our NWACA neighborhood. Also buried there is his brother William Preece Jr., who had served alongside Dick as a Texas Ranger, then in the Civil War as a member of the "Texas Mountain Eagles" (a Union guerrilla outfit fighting the Confederacy), then finally in the Union army's First Texas Cavalry, a fact inscribed on both their tombstones.

A letter written by Dick Preece's granddaughter, Louise Preece, dated 1968, contains a fascinating story about the Preece Cemetery, replete

with ghosts. The "big dams" she refers to are the current Highland Lake dams which did indeed require relocation of some cemeteries :

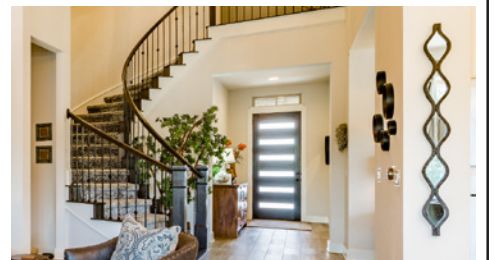
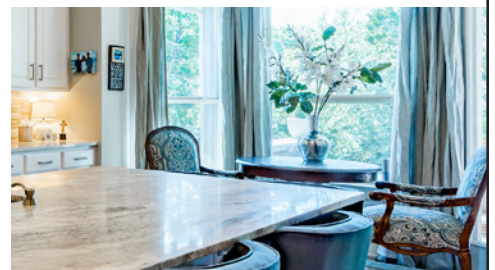
*"...In the 1930's the big dams were built, and the descendants of the pioneers were told they would have to get out as the land was condemned. The cemeteries were moved, thank goodness; but our Preece cemetery was not touched. It is on Bull Creek, just below the site where great Uncle Wayne Pulaski Preece built his house and donated the land for the cemetery. It is said that at night Uncle Wayne would leave his grave and walk cross the wide front porch and enter a little side room where he slept. I heard footsteps one night (don't smile at this, for such things are known to happen in our family); The sound of the footsteps went across the porch and entered the side room; then the footsteps returned and went down toward the cemetery from which they came. We were all sleeping in the same room. I wondered why no one said anything. Years later it occurred to me that perhaps I was the only one who heard them. I never did mention it to anyone then. The cemetery was on a limestone embankment, and it is said that one or two persons dug up for reburial had turned to stone. A geologist later said the bodies had ossified-or at any rate, they did change because*

*(Continued on Page 9)*



  
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# 2019 NWACA Neighborhood Interest Survey Results

March 11, 2019

(Note: this is an abbreviated version of the results; see [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) for the entire report.)

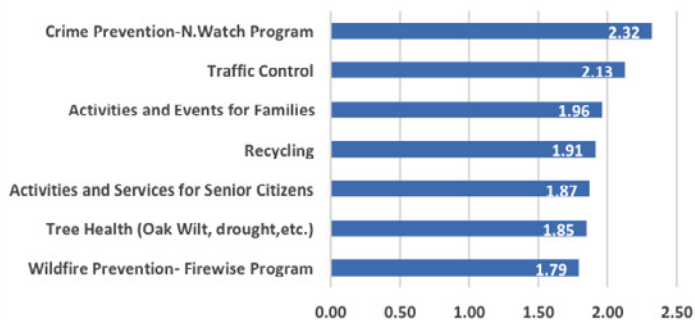
Between February 10 and March 11, 2019, NWACA conducted its annual neighborhood survey to identify the issues that are currently most pressing for the neighborhood. The survey was done using Survey Monkey, open to anyone in the neighborhood. In addition, paper copies were sent to NWACA members without internet access. There were 287 responses, 13 of those from members without internet access.

Responses are summarized below.

**Q1: What areas do you think are most important for NWACA to work on in the coming year? [choose only 3, rating them first choice, second choice, third choice] (285 responses)**

A weighted rating was computed to be able to see the consolidated response to each item.

**Areas Most Important to Work on**  
Weighted rating (#1=3 pts, #2=2 pts, #3=1 pt)



**Q2: Which civic issues would you like NWACA to provide information on and to advocate for your concerns? [Choose no more than 3, rating them first choice, second choice, third choice.] (287 responses)**

A weighted rating was computed to be able to see the consolidated response to each item.

**Civic Issues - Weighted Rating**  
(#1=3 pts, #2=2 pts, #3=1 pt)



(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 7)

of the effect of the limestone on them. Mother said she must never be buried there, as she wanted to be able to rise on the Judgment Day. She died in 1972, and is buried at the foot of the mountains, in Austin Memorial Park... Uncle Wayne's place was built on the site of a Comanche hunting ground. The early pioneers there, including my people, fought the Comanche; and one of Giddens (sic) cousin was killed. We children used to pick up arrow heads, and my uncle Byrd... found an Indian grave in which the body had been buried in a sitting position. It was not on our place, though..."

As I've mentioned before, over the years I've had the pleasure to make the acquaintance of some the Preece descendants that still live here in Austin, and I continue to swap information with them. If you are interested in learning more about the Preece family and their early days in Travis County, UT's Briscoe Center for American History is home to the "Richard Lincoln Preece papers, 1859-1919," which comprises materials pertaining to Dick Preece's experiences as a soldier serving in the Civil War and as a rancher following the war.

For safe keeping I donated to the Briscoe my copies of Texas Rangers and Real West magazines with Harold Preece's articles about his grandfather. Those articles are also available for reading on the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/@rdenney>

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

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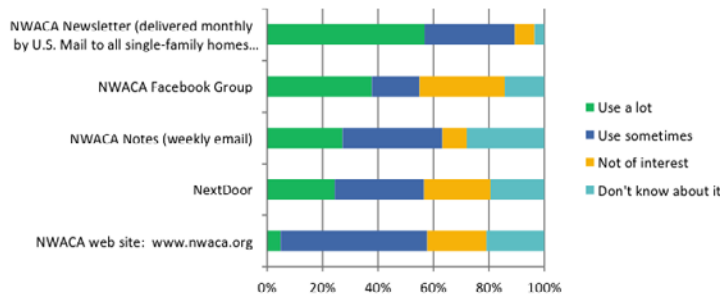
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# NWACA News

(Continued from Page 7)

## Q3: Please rate your awareness and use of these NWACA communications media (287 responses)

Please rate your awareness and use of these communications media.



## Q4: The NWACA Board has funded a constable for approximately six hours per week for more than a year to alleviate traffic concerns and speeding. Have you seen value in the Constable's additional patrols to date? (287 responses)

The responses in 2019 are more positive than in the 2018 survey.

Answer Choices	2019 % Responding	Count of Responses	2018 % Responding	Count of Responses
Yes	26.13%	75	18.25%	50
No	34.49%	99	41.97%	115
Unsure	39.37%	113	39.78%	109
Total		287		274

## Q5: Are you willing to contribute to a fund to continue the program? (279 responses)

The response is a bit more favorable than in the 2018 survey.

Answer Choices	2019 % Responding	Count of Responses	2018 % Responding	Count of Responses
Yes	46.59%	130	40.6%	108
No	53.41%	149	59.4%	158
Total		279		266

## Q6: NWACA holds two household recycling events each year. Have you recycled items at one or more of these events? (287 responses)

Answer Choices	2019 % Responding	Count of Responses
Yes	45.99%	132
No	54.01%	155
Total		287

## Q7: If you have not participated in a recycling event, please explain why not. For example, are there some materials you would like us to gather in addition to what we now gather? (161 responses)

The responses fell into these categories:

- 49 - Not aware, didn't know about it, missed the date, forgot
- 40 - Not applicable – Apartment complex handles, don't have these things to recycle, can do all I need in the regular blue bin

- 11 - Not sure, not interested, too hard to get to
- 11 – bad timing – gone at the time, hours of the event too short, too early in the morning, need three events per year
- 8 - New to the neighborhood, wasn't a member
- 8 - Take our own to the South Austin Hazardous Waste Center
- 4 - Need more info about events, brought things last time that weren't included

And several who said they'd used the events and appreciated them.

Additional things to recycle included:

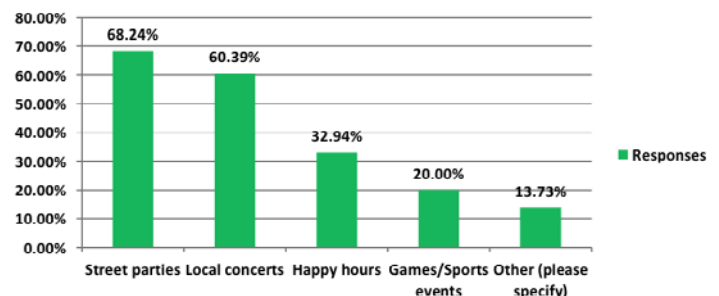
- Chemicals – pool, household, cleaning solvents
- Light bulbs
- Medication
- Metal weights
- Milk cartons, aseptic containers
- Old gasoline
- Pressed cardboard egg cartons
- Styrofoam every time! More types and sizes

## Q8: If NWACA was able to secure coupons or discounts to local businesses, as a benefit to NWACA members, how attractive would that be to you? (287 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses
Excellent idea! I'm sure I could make use of something like that.	46.69% 134
I'm not sure it would be worth the trouble.	41.11% 118
Not interested; thanks!	12.20% 35

## Q9: If NWACA was to organize some new events for the neighborhood, what would you be likely to attend? (select as many as you wish) (255 responses)

If NWACA was to organize some new events for the neighborhood, what would you be likely to attend?





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# Survey Questions and Comments

— Joyce Statz and Vicki DeWeese

Among the “other” responses to the NWACA 2019 survey, there were some questions and comments to which we’d like to respond, since they may be on the minds of more than one neighbor.

- *Does NWACA provide information on candidates in local elections?* Yes, our Civic Engagement Committee puts on a forum each election period, offering a platform for candidates for seeking local office to provide their views. They also invite advocates for and against significant City and State ballot propositions to bring their information to the public.

- *Can we look into a compost program for our neighborhood?* This question is probably about the City’s green recycling container, intended for kitchen compost as well as landscape trimmings. The City is gradually rolling out that program across all neighborhoods, intending to cover all by the end of 2019 or beginning of 2020. They don’t have a detailed schedule.

- *Can I get a dues reminder like I used to get?* We are transitioning to an annual renewal at the start of the calendar year, and had expected to do that in February, so we stopped doing reminders for the time being. However, the implementation of the system is taking a bit longer than we’d hoped. Feel free to renew now if you wish, or wait for the notice that will be coming soon.

- *I would like NWACA to help enforce zoning violations, parking in front or side yards, timely removal of political signs and billboards, ...* Since NWACA is a Civic Association and not a Homeowners Association, it has no enforcement mechanisms. Most of the items of concern here are ones that need to be dealt with by the City of Austin Code Compliance Department. The best approach is to call 311 and report the matter. If the issue is a pervasive one, we can put an article in the newsletter educating neighbors as to City Code requirements.

- *Facebook – let people post freely; stop policing; don’t become a nanny leadership group...* NWACA FB Moderators try to

maintain open communications, while making sure that misinformation is not being distributed, and that rhetoric stays neighborly. The majority of our FB group support our stated rules, thank us for moderating, and realize that we are volunteers working overtime. It’s a difficult job!

- *How about a Google calendar with events we can import or attach to our calendars?* There is a NWACA Google calendar that is part of the NWACA web site home page, [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org). Let us know if this isn’t sufficient.

- *There are many deer in my yard, and we do not feed them.* Other people are feeding the deer. Would speaking to any of these individuals help, or should we at least let them know their neighbors are aware and watching? You can make a call to 311 and ask them to have someone come and talk to the neighbor; unless they see the feeding being done, Code Compliance cannot cite the person for violating the Do Not Feed Ordinance.

- *Can NWACA reach out to students and families in apartments and rentals?* We would appreciate feedback on how to do this. We have held information sessions for renters, which were very lightly attended, and we have provided information to apartment managers to pass along to their residents. At this point, we have about 20 members in apartments; we’d love to reach more!

- *Too many people do not clean up after their dogs or leave their poop sacks in the street.* You can remind them by putting up the signs promoted in the newsletter. Send email to [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com) to request a “Pet Waste Poollutes sign.”

- *I’m hearing that NWACA sells the 4th of July t-shirts at a loss. I hope this isn’t true!* It’s not our intent to sell them at a loss; we try to break even. If we tried to make a profit on them, the prices would be higher than we want to charge. However, if we estimate this year’s shirts based on last year’s sales, and we’re wrong... we lose a little bit of money.



  
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## Doss Elementary School Construction Update

— Teri Schock and Chris Hajdu

It has been a full year since the planning and design/concept phase began for the new Doss Elementary School. As of mid-March, demolition of the existing structure is underway, focused on the building interiors. The overall demolition is expected to take several weeks, the quickest part of the long construction process. The March 13th update from the Doss Principal included this:

### “DEMOLITION STARTS TOMORROW!”

Austin ISD is excited to announce that demolition of the existing Doss Elementary School facility will begin tomorrow, Thursday, March 14. While abatement has taken place over the last several months, we’re looking forward to this next phase in the construction process. The modernized Doss Elementary School is still on schedule to open in August 2020.”

The architect, contractor and AISD representatives met with the Doss PTA early in March to explain the design concept. From this meeting, we learned the new Doss will be at the corner of Northledge and Far West. A new curb cut will be made to match up with Chimney Corners which will be the bus entrance. Buses will enter and travel under the building in a loop. The new parent entrance to the school will be off North Hills Drive. Because of the slope of the property, there will be a basement lower level and

there will be two elevators.

Site development is expected in April and building construction in May. Expected completion is slated for April/May 2020. A Virtual Reality Tour of the new Doss camps can be seen here: <https://roundme.com/tour/327327/view/1080718/>

To track progress, look for updates at this link: <https://austinisd2017bond.org/doss-es/> You can also sign up for email updates, which are expected to include pictures of the entire process once demolition starts.

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# Easter Sunday

**Celebrate Easter Sunday  
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Christian Church!**

**Sunday, April 21st**

**Youth-Led Garden Service, 9:00 AM**

**Breakfast, 9:15 AM**

**Easter Egg Hunt, 9:45 AM**

**Resurrection Service, 10:40 AM**

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## Neighborhood Watch Signs Going Up

— Connie Lundgren

Neighborhood Watch signs have been delivered to the City of Austin and will be going up in 78731 and 78759 zip codes soon. The first signs will be at entry points to our subdivision and major intersections; a total of 11 signs in all. They'll provide a warning to any would-be troublemakers that our community is acting to prevent vandalism and crime. The next signs will be placed on the streets where residents have signed up to be Block Captains. This is a relatively simple job and there is a guide book with a sample letter for collecting names of residents on your streets and their contact information. Once that information is compiled, it is distributed back to the residents. The program needs only one volunteer to collect and distribute names per street.

The first key principle of the Neighborhood Watch program is to get to know your neighbors and look out for one another. The second key principle focuses in on the first: "Know Your Five." The five are the two neighbors on either side of you and the three across the street directly in front of your home. Coordinate with them when you are out of town, so that you have watchful eyes to keep everyone and everything safe.

If you would like more information regarding the crime in our

community, there are several web sites that provide good data by area, including these two: [https://www.krimelabb.com/\\_](https://www.krimelabb.com/_) and <https://spotcrime.com/>

NWACA has to purchase the Neighborhood Watch signs, as well as pay for the Constable who patrols our neighborhood. If you value the work of your civic association, please be a member, and consider making a contribution to the Constable Program. Your membership and donation will help continue the work and keep our streets safe. <https://nwaca.org/joinrenew/> and <https://nwaca.org/donations/>

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## GOURMAND'S CORNER:

# You and Your Local Austin Breweries

—Chris Hajdu



The idea of sitting on a patio enjoying a fresh beer brewed a few feet away, seems like the very definition of Spring. I'm often reminded of the many biergartens I visited during several trips to Germany (not always in Spring or Summer but memorable nonetheless).

What's the appeal of a local brewery? Well, for starters, you are supporting local businesses, getting a fresh product, and enjoying beer options that aren't available away from the brewery - like special seasonal beers. Also, many breweries offer food, have places for the kids to run around and play, and are often dog-friendly. (Check online first about kid and dog situations, just to be sure.)

We are very lucky in Northwest Hills that so many quality breweries lie a very short distance from our 'hood. Breweries tend to congregate in specific areas of town, and I want to cover a few of those areas. It makes it easy to visit several breweries in a night if you stick to one part of town.

The first area, fairly close to us, is North Austin, anchored by Adelbert's, Austin Beerworks, Celis, 4th Tap, Circle Brewing, and Oskar Blues. These six breweries are within a mile of one another and are only a few miles from Northwest Hills. A personal favorite of mine

is Austin Beerworks, due to their amazing patio and wide selection of beers to satisfy all taste buds. Oskar Blues also regularly hosts live music, so that's a good bet for music fans as well.

Another close option (with a killer view) is Oasis Brewing Company. Not to be confused with the restaurant of the same name, this is a separate business with its own restaurant. And, to top it off, their deck is at a higher level than the Oasis Restaurant and offers better views of Lake Travis. A short hop down Highway 620 is Infamous Brewing.

There are a number of breweries in the North Central part of town that focus much of their attention on food. Pinthouse Pizza, Brewtorium, and Black Star Co-Op are good places to take in a pint and a meal at the same time.

Another area with a plethora of breweries is the East Side, with Zilker, Blue Owl, Lazarus, Hops and Grain, Friends and Allies, and Southern Heights. For a great night, take a ride share to the east side, and then walk from brewery to brewery. The close proximity of many of these breweries makes them very convenient to one another.

If you are south of the river, options include: ABGB (Austin Beer Garden Brewing), 512 Brewing, Independence, St Elmo, and Thirsty Planet. ABGB is a personal favorite of mine after attending several Doss Dad outings there in the Brew Bus.

Out near the Airport in Southeast Austin, there are two great options - Live Oak and Hi-Sign Brewing. The Biergarten at Live Oak is legendary, according to several acquaintances.

If you cannot make it out to any of these breweries, take the next best step: ask your local bartender to pour you something that's local. Enjoy, my neighbors, and remember to enjoy responsibly....

Until next time, Cheers, Sláinte, Salute, Salud, Prost, Santé.

## After All, It's Weather in Texas

—Joanie Arrott

Texas weather is often the butt of jokes. But, there's no joking about the impact of storm damage we should expect during springtime months. Rollercoaster temperatures, strong storms, and tree damage is the norm. Being oak wilt season, it is vital to respond to tree damage with the proper tools, techniques, and knowledge to keep your trees safe. Home and property owners can directly manage the landscaping on their property in most cases. However, there are times when they should consult with applicable city staff to verify appropriate steps to be taken. For example, when trees or plants need to be trimmed around power lines or if a tree has fallen on a power line, then Austin Energy should be contacted to address the situation.

Fresh tree wounds, whether from pruning or storm damage, are great entry points for oak wilt fungus spores or insects that may carry the spores, and these wounds should be properly and immediately treated by covering them with any type of paint (latex, spray-on, brush-on, or wound dressing). While all oak tree species are susceptible to the disease, there are certain ones that are most at risk. These include varieties of live oaks, white oaks, and red oaks.

Make a habit of sterilizing pruning tools each time they are used to greatly reduce the spread of disease among your landscape plants

and trees. Tools should be disinfected between each pruning cut; alcohol-based disinfectants such as 10% bleach solution or rubbing alcohol can be used.

Employ only certified arborists who specialize in tree trimming or removal, to prune your storm-damaged, sick, or dead trees, especially oaks. The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) recommends hiring a tree service company that has ISA-certified professionals on staff. They have developed two easy-to-use tools to assist homeowners in locating an arborist in the area (Find an Arborist tool) and in confirming whether an arborist has an ISA credential (Verify a Credential tool). Access them here: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/arboristsearch.aspx>.

Remember, the best defense against oak wilt disease or pest infestation is to avoid pruning during the time of year that has the highest risk of infection, the mild weather months of February through the end of June. That being said, when accidental damage occurs, the best response is to safely remove any branches and properly cover or paint all wounds, no matter how small. Any questions about NWACA's oak wilt prevention campaign can be sent to: [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com).

## Business Spotlight: Foodie Kids

—Janice Green



How did you learn to cook? From a parent, a grandparent? From TV cooking shows or YouTube? From a Jurassic home-EC class decades ago? From an inherited box of recipes? While chatting with Bonnie Jay, owner, and Maggie Dickerson, manager, of Foodie Kids – both products of culinary schools – I couldn't help but reflect on the genesis of my own love of cooking for self and others.

The idea for a culinary center for children took root over twenty-five years ago with Barbara Beery, founder of Foodie Kids. In 2017 Bonnie Jay, who had been working there, acquired Foodie Kids. It is the longest-running children's culinary school in the U.S.

Foodie Kids is for children ages two to teens; there are four components: retail merchandise, The Makery snack bar, education (classes, camps, workshops), and a location for private party events. When you walk into the store, you'll find everything a young chef might need, from lunch kits to cookbooks to kid-friendly utensils. Drop in at The Makery snack bar for a self-made snack and teaching moment: a pizza topped with fresh-cut herbs or a cupcake decorated by a child's imagination. A smaller activity room provides space for party prep or overflow, and the large kitchen education space is equipped for classes.

Children learn cooking basics, the science behind it, and safety skills. For example, the art of cutting and chopping is introduced with plastic

serrated knives – real knives are used beginning around age nine with nary a mishap. Fun is contagious in the classes because it is not just about the eating, but also the thrill of feeding and sharing food with others, along with expanding a child's palette with new flavors. Extensive after-school and holiday classes, plus the summer camps, offer a more focused experience with themes like patisserie fare, French and Italian and American cuisines, restaurant classics, and more. For advanced students there is a pro-style chef series. Five of Foodie's former students have been contestants on Food Network kids programs!

Foodie Kids is a unique site to reserve for a themed birthday celebration, and at the same time the parents can gather in a separate reserved space with their own "refreshments." Parties are designed around crafts, culinary skills and techniques, and even fun competitions akin to the Food Network "Nailed It" and baking championship shows.

Foodie Kids is a terrific go-to for busy parents looking for a child's unique educational experience, for grandparents wanting valuable and fun entertainment with a grandkid, and for a child who expresses a passion for all things food-related.

Cooking is a life skill, despite our fast-food and home-delivery age of eating. What better way is there to nourish a child's culinary curiosity and instill self-reliance, immersed in the art and joy of cooking.

For more details on classes and hours, go to [www.foodie-kids.com](http://www.foodie-kids.com); 3818 Far West Blvd, Suite 107; (512) 346-3333.

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*You can also pay via PayPal by going to [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org),  
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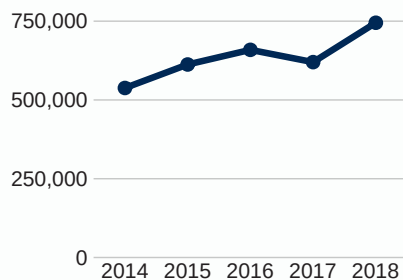
# NWACA REAL ESTATE

## NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET REPORT UPDATE

APRIL  
2019

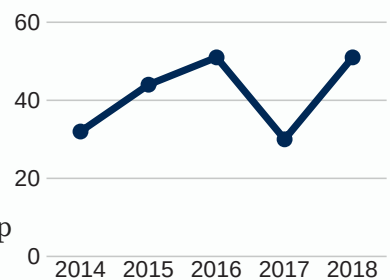
BELOW IS AN OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY AND PRICING FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES OVER THE PAST 5 WINTERS (DECEMBER - FEBRUARY). THE GRAPHS COMPARE DATA FROM DECEMBER 2014 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2019. PRICES HAVE CONSISTENTLY INCREASED AND DAYS ON MARKET HAVE DECREASED OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS. NORTHWEST HILLS CONTINUES TO HAVE LOW INVENTORY, RESULTING IN STRONG DEMAND AND LOWER DAYS ON MARKET.

### MEDIAN SALES PRICE



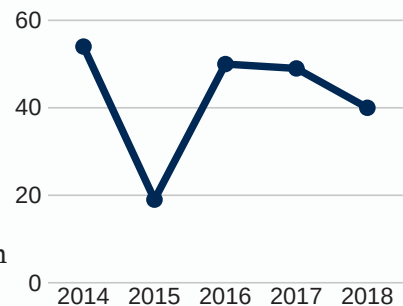
Median sales price  
up 20% from 2017

### NUMBER OF SALES



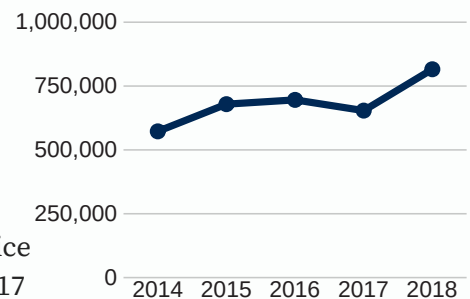
Number of sales up  
70% from 2017

### MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET



Average DOM down  
18% from 2017

### AVERAGE SALES PRICE



Average sales price  
up 25% from 2017

OUR 2019 IS OFF TO A STRONG START WITH 38 SOLD TRANSACTIONS FROM JANUARY THROUGH MID MARCH. THIS IS A 46% INCREASE FROM THE 26 SOLD TRANSACTIONS DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD IN 2018. WITH POSITIVE PRICE APPRECIATION AND LIMITED INVENTORY, WE CONTINUE TO BE IN A SELLER'S MARKET. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT YOUR HOME MAY BE WORTH, I'D LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.



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SOURCE: ABOR MLS including data through March 12, 2019. Based on NWACA Boundaries: MOPAC/HWY 360/2222/SPICEWOOD SPRINGS.



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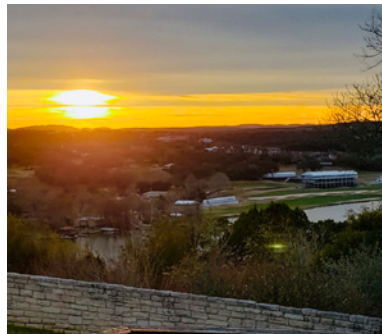
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