



nwacaNEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2019

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 11



Happy Turkey Day!

What is NWACA thankful for? Our sponsors and our members, including Board members, who help make this neighborhood so wonderful! Please see our special Thanksgiving page to view our Platinum and Gold sponsors and be sure to thank them for supporting our neighborhood. We couldn't do what we do without them and our wonderful members. If you're not a member, please join now at: www.nwaca.org Also look for the list of our Board members inside this issue and thank them - they are a fantastic team and work hard on everyone's behalf.

Just for Fun! Holiday Lights Displays!



Please send us pictures of your favorite neighborhood holiday lights and other decorations. Send your photos to: nwacainfo@gmail.com We'll publish pictures of the four houses that receive the most entries in the newsletter. There may be a surprise prize for the winners.

UT Game Watch Parties Are You Ready for More Football?



Join us at Austin Terrier for great food and libations. First appetizers are on us.

Saturday, November 16th - UT vs. Iowa State, Time TBD- Watch NWACA Notes and FB for more info.

Saturday, November 23rd- UT vs. Baylor, Time TBD- Watch NWACA Notes and FB for more info.

Thank you, Robyn Nunis, Charlie Galvin, and Joanie Arrott for hosting the Texas/OU party.

Events Recap

NWACA Neighborhood Garage Sales

We had 52 NWACA member families participate in the NWACA area garage sales this year, and we've a survey to participants to get feedback on how we can help them improve sales and to see if they'd like to have spring, as well as fall sales. New to NWACA? NWACA members host sales in their front yards and keep their proceeds, while NWACA provides advertising and yard signs. We even deliver the signs. *Thanks to Mike Polston, Roger Bolick, Teri Shock, and Louri O'Leary for making this year's sales a reality.*



BOPA (Batteries, Oil, Paint, & Antifreeze (also toothbrushes) Recycling

We had 72 NWACA-member families participate in our annual fall recycling event. NWACA rents and loads the truck and then delivers your recyclables to the Austin Resource Recovery center in south Austin. Watch for our Styrofoam and Electronics recycling event next spring; save your stuff. *Thank you, Joanie Arrott, Roger Bolick, Chris Hajdu, Bridget Keating, Chuck Michalik, Sharon Mitchell, Joyce Statz, and David Hogan for staffing this event.*

Of course, there's more! See the NWACA Calendar on the next page for more important dates!

FIRE and RAIN! I've seen fire and I've seen rain, but we don't want to see wildfires and we've had only a teeny bit of rain. We can't say it enough. The NWACA area is ALWAYS a high-risk wildfire zone. Please be careful, and sign up for a *free Firewise* evaluation on our website. The evaluators look only at the outside of your home - no need for housekeeping to come before the evaluation.

WATER! Still a Problem! Please keep your dogs out of stagnant water. Dogs throughout the south have been succumbing to the effects of blue-green algae. There is reduced water flow in area creeks, and the water is still warm; so it's best to keep your dogs away from these creeks.

We hope you enjoy all the wonderful articles in this newsletter, and please support our sponsors and advertisers. If you have ideas or questions, please share them with us at nwacainfo@gmail.com We answer all email and publish questions from neighbors in the newsletter. The spirit of community is what keeps our neighborhood alive! If you're a NWACA member, remember to sign up for our weekly email, NWACA Notes, and request to join our Facebook group for the most up-to-date happenings in our neighborhood. As always, we are a click away at www.nwaca.org and nwacainfo@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 and visit our public Facebook page. Use the **Membership** button on the home page, or use the form at the end of this newsletter to become a member of NWACA. Members have access to the weekly **NWACA Notes** and the ability to join the NWACA closed Facebook group, to keep in touch with each other and with the latest news about NWACA.



ARE YOU A NWACA MEMBER?

Receiving the newsletter does not guarantee membership.
Not sure? Visit 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.

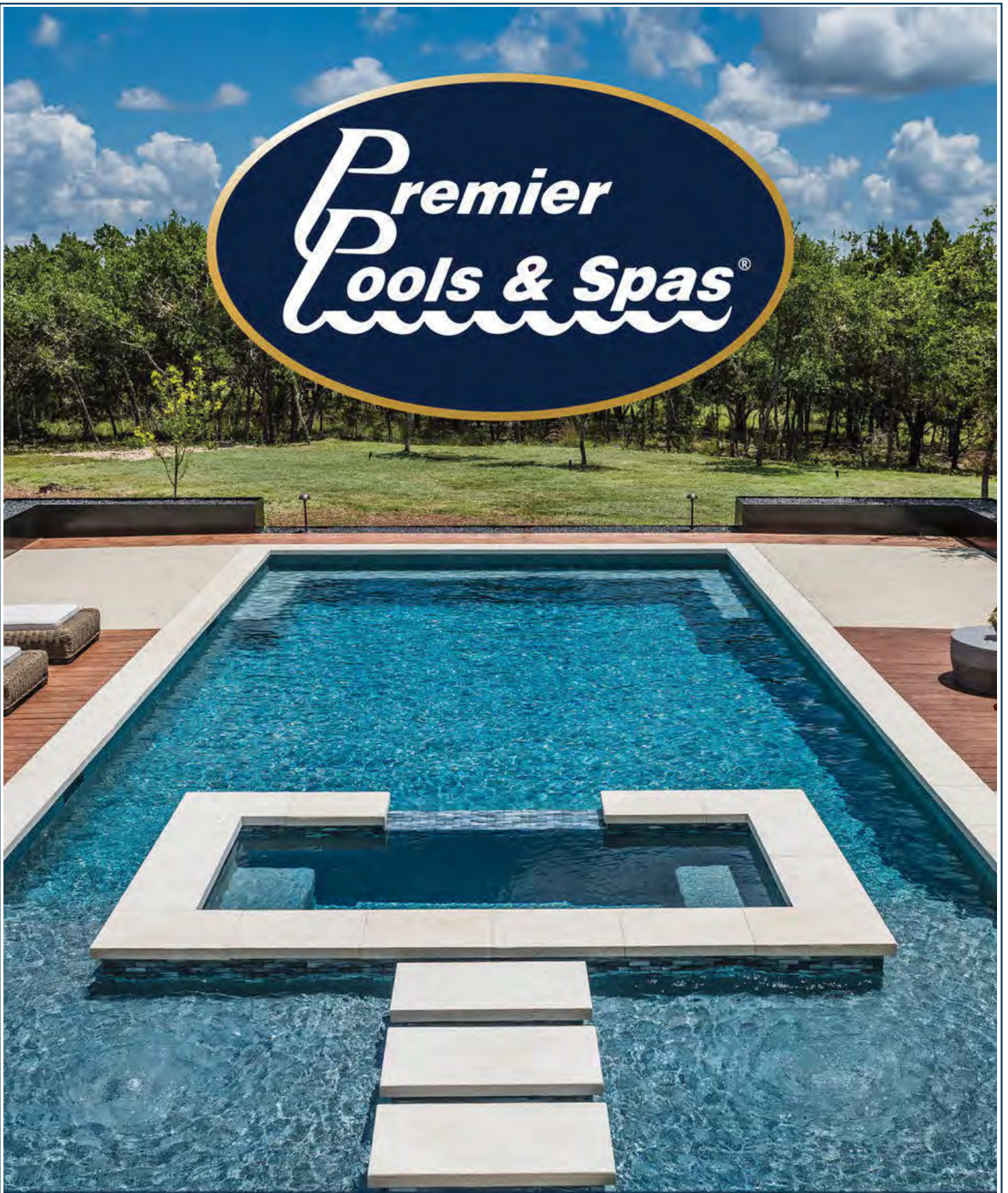
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Each of the Board members can be reached at:
nwacainfo@gmail.com

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)

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. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

NWACA Events CALENDAR

November 2, 9AM to Noon

It's My Park Day – beautification at the preserve at 7810 Sterling Drive,
just off Burney Drive; Register at <https://austinparks.org/impd/>

Stillhouse Hollow Preserve

November 2, 1pm

It's My Park Day – visit Shinoak Valley Greenbelt on a guided hike –
limited to first 30 who sign up at <https://austinparks.org/impd/>

Shinoak Valley Greenbelt

November 3, 2 PM

Parks Committee

Biderman's

November 13, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

NWACA Board Meeting

Galaxy Cafe

November 16, Time TBD

UT vs. Iowa State Football Watch Party - Check NWACA Notes, Facebook,
and the online calendar for details.

First appetizers are on NWACA.

Austin Terrier

November 18, 4 PM

Communications Committee

Galaxy Cafe

November 23, time TBD

UT vs. Baylor Football Watch Party – Check NWACA Notes, Facebook,
and the online calendar for details. First appetizers are on NWACA.

Austin Terrier

November 26, 5 PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committee

Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane, r.201

December 1, 2PM

Parks Committee

Biderman's

December 16, 4PM

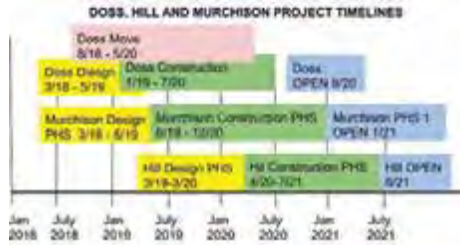
Communications Committee

Galaxy Cafe

School Construction Update (as of 10/14/19)

– Teri Schock

Area school improvements are on schedule following the planned timeline.



Construction Timeline

Hill Elementary School

Work at Hill Elementary remains in the design phase; construction is expected to begin in April 2020.

Phase 1 will include new parking along Robbie Drive and new studios/fitness space. Portables will temporarily remain with three being relocated. A new detention structure and fire truck turnaround will also be added as required by the City of Austin. Phase 2 will include partial renovations to the south wing along with new construction of the administration offices. Phase 3 will include renovations in the north wing and new construction of music/art studios. New on-site parking for staff will provide the required count of 120 spaces. At the end of this phase, permanent capacity will increase from 690 to 870 students, with some portables still required to account for a total of 1,000 students.

Eventually, the east wing will be demolished, and the dining function moved into the old 5th Grade Annex. Temporarily, portables will house existing administration until the new suite is completed. Phase 2D will include new Kitchen/Dining suites and demolition of the 5th Grade Annex. At the conclusion of the final phase, permanent capacity will be increased to 1,000 students with no portables required.

For more information about the construction at Hill Elementary go to: <https://austinisd2017bond.org/schools/hill-es/>

Doss Elementary School

As you can see from the drone photograph, Doss Elementary now has a retaining wall; a foundation with steel supports has been delivered to the location and awaits installation. Students will continue to travel to Lucy Reed Elementary this school year. Construction is on track to be completed and students should be in the new building when school starts in August 2020. For a visual video graphic go to: <https://roundme.com/tour/327327/view/1080718>



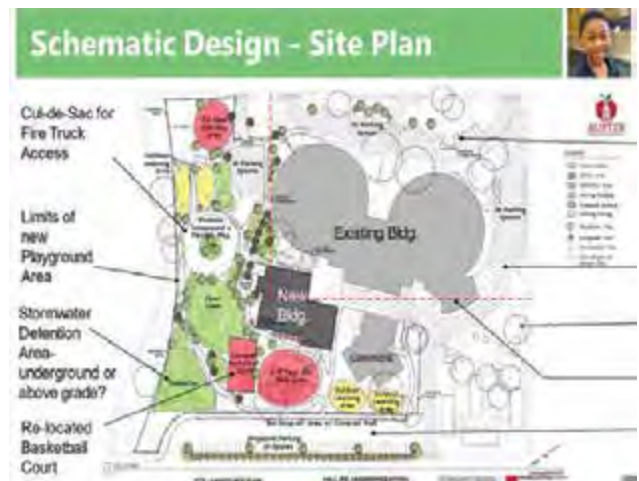
Doss Drone Photo

Murchison Middle School

Work on the Murchison Middle School 6th grade annex is also on track. Early this school year, the student and parent check-in was moved from the back left corner of the administration office to a converted office near the main entrance. All students and visitors now enter through the front entrance of the main building. Work will continue on the 6th grade addition, library and administration relocation, cafeteria expansion, annex roofing, and bus loop addition. For more drone footage of these and other area Austin schools under construction go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrx1tk_jslM&t=405s



Murchison Drone Photo



Hill Design

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I hope you've enjoyed some of Austin's October activities, including two weekends of ACL, the Austin Film Festival, and the Texas Book Festival.

More is yet to come. The Jewish Film Festival held November 2-8, the East Austin Studio Tour during the third and fourth weekends of November, and the Austin Area Jazz Festival on November 29th and 30th are Austin favorites.

As our newsletter adds a third column of resident interviews, Writer's Corner will focus more on the works of authors and composers, especially Austin authors and recording artists our NWACA neighbors enjoy.

I am open to suggestions, thinking perhaps of neighbor Christen O'Keefe Aptowicz's *Dr. Mutter's Marvels: A True Tale of Intrigue and Innovation at the Dawn of Modern Medicine*, John Pipkin's *Woodburner*, or one of Ire'ne Lara Silva's books of poems.

Please send me a private message via the NWACA Facebook page with names of favorite books by Austin authors that you would like to suggest we cover.

History Interview: Harold Silberberg

— Carol Jones



Harold Silberberg still lives in his home, built in 1961, that he helped design. He studied at the University of Texas, earning undergraduate and master's degrees and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. He later became a professor of petroleum engineering at UT where he was Assistant Director of the Texas Petroleum Research Committee Program. He had a lifelong friendship with his graduate advisor Dr. John McKetta, until McKetta's death this year at age 103. Harold is now 93 and has many fond memories of his time at the university.

Harold's grandparents came to Austin in 1874 and had nine daughters. They were one of the founding families of Austin's first synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel. Harold has lots of family stories with some about their old home at 500 Rio Grande, including living there as a UT student.

However, the most fun he had in his life was with land development and house design. It was a creative endeavor that appealed to him, kind of like playing with a set of Tinker Toys and figuring out how to put them together.

Harold said he had the soul of a David Barrow, but the mind of a chemical engineer. A favorite saying was, "Get a lot while you're young," as in, a land lot. After spending quite a bit of time looking for the perfect 3 to 5 acres to build their home, he and his wife Adele bought 11 acres out in the country along Spicewood Springs for \$14,000.

Their house was designed and built by architect Frank DeGroot. Harold enjoyed the design process and paid close attention to the details, including where he wanted light switches. He figured out how to create 3-way light switches, so he could turn on lights from various parts of the house.

(Continued on Page 8)

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NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET REPORT UPDATE



AVERAGE SALES PRICE
\$700,253



DAYS ON
MARKET **29**

21
CLOSED SALES

ACTIVE
LISTINGS **34**



SALE PRICE PER SQFT
\$249

NEW
LISTINGS **19**

MONTHS OF INVENTORY
1.6 Days

SOLD PRICE TO LIST PRICE
RATIO **99%**



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON NWACA BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY 360/2222/SPICEWOODSPRINGS



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NWACA News

"History Interview with Harold Sillberg..."

(Continued from Page 6)

Harold's daughter Celia says he may have gotten his interest in real estate from his mother and one of her sisters, Lydia Littman. The two women bought lots in old west Austin near today's Clarksville neighborhood in the mid-20th century, back when real estate was a man's business. Lydia, the oldest, was a self-educated single woman who did paralegal work, and she later developed a subdivision in south Austin.

It was rural living for Harold's family far out in the country, across the tracks from civilization and city services. They did their own trash disposal, had a butane tank and a septic field. The kids went to Lanier High School.

There was plenty of wildlife, including armadillos that would dig up gardens they planted, and rattlesnakes with a rattle so loud, it sounded like high-pressure steam escaping. At one point, they had a goat who thought it was a dog and romped with the family pets. But then the goat grew horns and got too rambunctious, so it was sent to live with another family farther out in the country.

His best wildlife story involved a once-in-a-lifetime incident. One day, Harold was outside doing yard work. He walked around the side of the house and came face to face with a monkey. They stared at each other for an endless paralyzed moment, and then the animal ran off. He reported it to the Sheriff. Nobody believed Harold, at first. "You saw a what?" "A monkey!" It did sound like a tall tale. There certainly wasn't a zoo or wild game ranch nearby. Then neighbors reported some chickens killed, and later it was confirmed that a monkey had indeed escaped from the nearby Balcones Research Center. It might have been involved in NASA space travel research going on at the time. Harold jokes that later, the monkey attended A & M University.

It was delightful to talk with Harold and his daughter Celia! If you have memories of Northwest Hills or Austin that you would like to share, please contact nwacainfo@gmail.com

Shinoak Valley Greenbelt Trails

— Parks Committee



Over the past several months, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) and the Texas Conservation Corps / American YouthWorks have completed a project to clear brush and create a trail through the Shinoak Valley Greenbelt. The area is a City of Austin Park, a greenbelt located near Mountainclimb Drive and Dry Creek. (see map)

The new trail is 0.62 miles long, starting from a point on Dry Creek Drive. It is open for hiking during daylight hours at any time. It was the site of one of our NWACA activities on It's My Park Day on November 2, where we had a guided hike. Since this is a brand new trail for our neighborhood, we're likely to have guided hikes in the future as well.

If you hike the area soon, you'll notice that Austin Energy has cleared some of the trees near the trail, as part of their work to keep our utility lines clear. Neighbors may have seen their contractor, Asplundh, doing this work.



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NWACA Neighborhood National Night Out Recap

— Connie Lundgren

Saturday, September 28th, NWACA held its second annual Neighborhood National Night Out. This event brings together the community with the Austin Police Department (APD) to learn about crime prevention methods that we can all use to help keep our neighborhood safe. It also encourages camaraderie between residents and local law enforcement. We had a great turnout, thanks to our wonderful sponsors and our now “official band of Northwest Hills,” Shotguns Ready. The event also featured complimentary food from Randalls, Torchy’s Tacos, Fancy Fluff, and Sweet Caroline’s.

We like to honor all of our first responder groups. In attendance that night were Constable Sam Lindsay, our game warden Ben Echelson, AISD Police Corporal Chris Roddy, and members of the Station 21 Fire Department, who brought a fire truck and an EMS vehicle for kids and adults to explore. Also helping to make the evening a success were community sponsors who turned out in force with prizes and games for everyone.

APD staff work hard on our behalf. If you are interested in learning more about their community activities, please attend the Central West (Baker) Sector meetings. You will have an opportunity to discuss issues with police and with friends and neighbors, to help keep Austin the best place to live. The meetings are held on Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Glad Tidings Church, 2700 Northland, #208. Watch for dates on the NWACA Facebook page, on NextDoor, or using the APD app (see <http://austintexas.gov/departments/austin-pd-smartphone-app>). District Representatives activities have included conducting security surveys, speaking at school career days, attending neighborhood association meetings, assisting with underpass clean-ups, and running youth camps. At the meetings, they have been discussing habitual and high demand complaints, transient camps, abandoned and junk vehicles, and hot spot initiatives (areas where multiple crimes occur). At the last meeting we were informed of a significant arrest related to car theft in the Mt. Bonnell area. APD was able to make the arrest based on several citizen reports.

There are many ways to help strengthen our community. Donations to the NWACA Constable Fund allow us to have constables patrol our streets to curb speeding and other crime. You can also sign up to be a Neighborhood Watch Chair. We have all the materials necessary to do the job. It takes 40 % participation to be effective and we encourage every street to become involved. If you are interested, send us email at nwacainfo@gmail.com



People Spotlight:

Tamara Barbery

Our Dancing Crosswalk Guard by Janice Green

Note: This is the first People Spotlight column featuring persons of interest in our 'hood – noteworthy for their generosity, accomplishments, unusual skills and talents, or simply because they carry an interesting story. I will be toggling between this newbie and our usual Business Spotlight as subjects surface. Feel free to email suggestions for either column to janiceaustex@gmail.com. Thanks!

To the school children, she is “Miss Tamara.” To drivers paused



at the Mesa and Far West stop signs, she's “our dancing crosswalk guard” – a moniker Tamara Barbery did not intend. It evolved from her need for exercise and her rapport with children.

Tamara retired after 27 years with the Texas Department of Agriculture and four years ago began serving as a student crosswalk guard. When she began her new job, she knew she was overweight, needed aerobic activity, and had to keep moving to avoid stiff joints.

While she's always enjoyed dancing, she describes herself as shy; but the more she danced, the more kids opened up to her, and passing adults smiled and waved encouragement. Her goal? To send children to school on a happy note – in sharp contrast to her childhood experience.

She was “a military brat” and her childhood was “rough.” Most mornings she left for school depressed and tense due to arguments at home. At age 16 she was legally emancipated; she stumbled without caring adult supervision. Eventually, though, she found a spiritual mentor whose compassion totally changed Tamara's direction. Her gratitude for that turning point is visceral. It led to Tamara's commitment “to be there for children” and to her later avocation as a lay chaplain.

With three sons, a stepdaughter, nine grandchildren, and nine godchildren, she still has room in her heart for other youngsters. “We all have a calling to touch each other's lives with love and

(Continued on Page 10)

NWACA News

"People Spotlight..." (Continued from Page 9)

kindness." This woman walks her talk ... and dances and hoops it. Enthusiastic smiles, waves, and high-fives are her trademarks as she escorts children from one curb to the next.

Does she have a music playlist? Yes, "Pandora's 'clean version' of hip hop, because the beat keeps me moving." Her hula hoop was a recent gift from a passer-by who said it would get her heart pumping and legs working. In the beginning Tamara could only hoop for five minutes but now is up to 37 minutes. Pounds have vanished, too.

She believes that children want to know they are seen and heard, so she keeps a calendar full of the names and birthdates of the children she befriends in her work so she can acknowledge their special day.

Tamara is not a push-over. One day after work while walking around the neighborhood, she saw familiar boys on bikes riding across the intersection crosswalk – a big no-no that these kids knew. When she called out to them, they were bug-eyed with guilt at being caught. She turned it into a teaching moment by emphasizing that rules apply even if no one is looking.

Tamara's upbeat spirit is contagious, extending beyond guarding the safety of our 'hood's children. Her joyful energy also reminds frazzled drivers to "Have a Happy Day!"

Gourmand's Corner: Little Hidden Gems in the Neighborhood

– Chris Hajdu

As I struggled to think of a topic for this month's article, a few people suggested I write about some of the hidden gems that we have in our neighborhood. So here goes!

Tacos Ivan (inside the C-Mart Convenience Store) - 700 Village Center Drive

First is a place I was fortunate to learn about in my first few months in the neighborhood: Tacos Ivan, located inside the C-Mart at the corner of Village Center Drive and North Hills Drive. This unassuming taco stand is very convenient (it's in a convenience store, right?), and the quality of the food and salsa is amazing for the price. I'm a fan of the breakfast tacos, but the lunch menu is great as well. And, since it's located in the C-Mart, you can place your order, then go shopping for a coffee, Topo Chico, or beer while you wait. (C-Mart's has a walk-in beer cave for those craft

(Continued on Page 11)



And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.
– Oscar Wilde

The holiday season is around the corner! A season to spend time with friends and family. A season of joy and giving!

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"Gourmand's Corner..." (Continued from Page 10)

beer fans.) You could even fill up your car with gas while you're there – how convenient!

Hours: Open 7:15am to 2pm, every day except Sunday

Nelo's Cycles & Coffee, 8108 Mesa Drive - #B-105 (<https://neloscycles.com/>)

Next up is a place which many people know exists, but not everyone knows that they have a great coffee shop in the back of the bike shop with a drive through window. They have great coffee and also serve breakfast tacos, pastries, smoothies, and more! I've even heard that they have Keto Bagels! So, whether you're on a bike or in a four wheeled ride, swing by and check it out. They also have tables so you can sit and work for a bit while you have your coffee.

Winter Hours - Mon - Sat: 10am - 6pm, Sun - closed

Spring / Summer / Fall - Mon - Fri: 7am - 7pm, Sat: 7am to 6pm, Sun: 7am to noon

La Traila @ Mesa, 8143 Mesa Drive, next to Mesa Mart (<https://latrailaatmesa.com/>)

I discovered this spot while taking my daughter to Orca practices early in morning. She wanted something to eat and she loves breakfast tacos, so this place was perfectly located. La Traila is a food truck right next to the Mesa Mart convenience store across from the Anderson High School parking lot. I love their slogan written right on the side of the trailer: "We don't make fast food;

we make fresh food as fast as we can!" With breakfast tacos named the "Trojan" and the "Anderson," they definitely are catering to their nearby students. They make everything from scratch including the tortillas. For lunch, they have Tortas and Gorditas on the menu as well.

Hours - Open 6am-3pm every day, except Saturday when they close at 2pm.

If you have a favorite hidden gem that I've missed, please let me know at nwacainfo@gmail.com and make sure to add Gourmand's Corner to your subject line. I'll share your hidden gems in an article in a few months.



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DRAWing Towards Zero Waste

— City of Austin Road to Zero Waste Blog

If you haven't heard, there's a colorful way to reuse in Austin. The Diverting Resources for Artistic Works program (DRAW) is a service provided by Austin Resource Recovery and aimed at reusing and extending the lives of art supplies such as acrylic paints, canvases, brushes and related items. Located at the city's Recycle and Reuse Drop-off Center (RRDOC), and as an expansion of the center's ReUse Store, DRAW is a resource aimed at offering barely-used art supplies to local residents in creative need.

The RRDOC collects all kinds of materials to be disposed of properly. However, back in 2011, RRDOC employees realized that many of the art supplies being dropped off were still in good condition and had a lot of life left in them. To avoid sending these usable items to the landfill, the DRAW program was created. Each week, employees go through the items that have been dropped off and determine if they can be reused; if so, they are set aside for the general public to pick up. On its eighth year, this small but impactful program has kept around 8,000 pounds of materials out of the landfill each year.

But don't take our word for it. Thao Phan, a local art teacher who educates students on topics ranging from introduction to art to advanced sculpture and ceramics, heard about DRAW last year and has been using the service for classroom (and personal) projects ever since. "DRAW is an awesome program!" Phan recently stated. "I can find classroom materials, craft supplies, paints, and glazes for all kinds of projects."

Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this reusable resource. Visit the Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center, located at 2514 Business Center Dr., Austin, TX 78744, Monday through Friday during operating hours. Availability of supplies varies. More information can be found at: <http://austintexas.gov/dropoff>



Curbside Composting Expands Footprint into Much of NWACA

— Tracey Fine

If you have received an Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) green composting bin at your home, congratulations! You are one of 148,000 homes selected to participate in making not just our city, but planet Earth, greener, cleaner, and safer.

A recent study showed that almost half of everything residential customers send to the landfill can be composted. Compostable material doesn't break down in landfills, as it would in nature or in compost piles. Instead, it decomposes without oxygen, releasing harmful methane (which is 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere, and it can contaminate ground water. Organic material placed in green carts is transported to a local facility, where it breaks down into compost which can be used to help soil to retain water and to fertilize lawns and gardens without chemicals.

If you received a green bin, please do your part to divert compostable waste from landfills. ARR plans to extend the service to all curbside customers by 2020, pending funding approval by City Council.

This program is part of the City of Austin's Zero Waste goal to divert 90 percent of materials from landfills by 2040. For more information including a detailed FAQ, please visit www.austintexas.gov/austincomposts

Keep these items out of your green cart

Prohibited items cannot break down into nutrient-rich compost, or cause a safety hazard for collection crews. Check the list below to find out what to keep out of your green cart:

- Aluminum
- Animal carcasses
- Ceramics
- Cigarette butts and ashes
- Clothing
- Diapers
- Fats, oils, grease
- Glass
- Glossy paper
- Hazardous waste
- Landscape timbers
- Liquids
- Medical waste
- Metal
- Pet waste
- Plastic bags
- Plastic containers
- Plastic Straws
- Rocks
- Styrofoam
- Trash
- Treated or painted lumber
- Tree stumps
- Treated or painted wood
- Wine corks

For a complete, up-to-date list of accepted materials, visit austintexas.gov/austincomposts



What goes into your green cart?

If it grows, it goes!



Food scraps

- Cooked or raw meat, poultry and seafood (including bones)
- Cheese and dairy products
- Fruits and vegetables
- Grains, bread, pasta and baked goods
- Tea bags, tea leaves and coffee grounds
- Nuts, candy and snack foods
- Eggshells, leftovers and spoiled food



Yard trimmings

- Grass clippings
- Flowers
- Leaves
- Plants
- Small branches and tree limbs
- Tree roots
- Straw



Food-soiled paper

- Paper napkins, paper towels and tissues
- Paper bags, paper plates and paper cups
- Paper containers and take-out boxes (without wax or plastic lining, and with any metal or plastic removed)
- Pizza boxes
- Coffee filters
- Microwavable popcorn bags
- Newspaper



Natural fibers

- Popsicle sticks
- Sawdust (in paper bags)
- Pet fur/hair
- Shredded paper (in paper bags)
- Toothpicks
- Wooden chopsticks
- Untreated wood

Understanding City Code: Farm Animals

— Alan Carson

It may come as a surprise to you that keeping farm animals and fowl is legal in Austin. Municipal Code Title 3: “Animal Regulation” provides the information needed if you are interested in having a horse or some chickens in your backyard. To access the codes, do a web search for Austin TX Municode Library, then select “Code of Ordinances.” The most important consideration is in section 3-2-5, Proper Care of Animals. There are other sections concerning noisy animals and maintaining enclosures in a sanitary condition, i.e., the enclosure may not allow flies to breed or cause an odor offensive to neighbors.

An animal must be kept in an enclosure that meets the requirements of sections 3-2-12 through 3-2-16. Although these sections define requirements to maintain clearance between the enclosure and adjacent residential property, the code does not specify the enclosed housing and exercise yard areas. A good source of information on these area requirements can be obtained in a web search of UNH Housing and Space Guidelines for Livestock, then select “Download Resource.”

If you are considering keeping a horse in your back yard, the area requirements are found in section 3-2-14. Based on UNH table, and depending on the area of your home, the setback of your home from the street, and the size of the enclosure area, a little over one acre would be required. For each additional horse, the area required would increase by about 6%. If you would like to have some pigs, section 3-2-42 limits the number kept to two. However, there is no limit for a miniature breed. Pigeons are limited to 100 at one location.

The code defines the enclosure area requirements for livestock, small animals, dogs, miniature livestock, fowl, pigeons, and bees. If you are interested in becoming an apiarist, you should become familiar with Chapter 3-6: BEEKEEPING. Bees can be a threat to human or animal health, so there are requirements for controlling an aggressive colony of bees. One requirement that may discourage interest in beekeeping is the Flyway Barrier, defined in section 3-6-4. If a person keeps a colony within 25 feet of their property line, then a flyway barrier parallel to the property line must be maintained. This is a solid wall, fence, or dense vegetation, six feet high and extending at least 10 feet beyond the hives on each end of the colony. The cost of this barrier might offset any savings from the production of your own honey!

As you walk around your neighborhood, and you hear the mooing of a cow or the crowing of a rooster, don't be alarmed, as they are probably quite legal.

Wildfire Fuel Mitigation: What, Why, How?

— Joyce Statz

Austin has the dubious honor of being ranked fifth highest-risk City in the United States for wildfire damage, behind four California Cities. A research report from CoreLogic found that almost 54,000 Austin residents live within an area of high to extremely high risk, with a potential for about \$16 billion worth of reconstruction costs.

The CoreLogic report highlights the importance of mitigating the fuels risk throughout the City. Action is required of both the Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division (AFD Wildfire) and by homeowners to eliminate any risks that we can.

- Dead and down material needs to be removed and disposed of safely. Many homes in green spaces were built by developers who tossed the slash down hillsides behind the houses, and several decades later, it's very flammable tinder.

- Tall grasses, brush, and debris below trees needs to be regularly removed to limit the amount of “ladder fuel” which allows a ground fire to climb up to the treetops and grow into moving walls of fire. It's much less hazardous and much easier to fight a ground fire.

- Tree canopy should be preserved, to provide shade that limits the growth of ladder fuel. Contrary to guidance given to other parts of the country, we must preserve our trees and the shade they provide.

AFD Wildfire has worked since 2016 to create shaded fuel breaks on City-managed property, within 150 feet of communities, at a manageable slope (less than 25%), and outside the Critical Water Quality Zone. The shaded fuel breaks are generally 60 feet wide. Clearing out the underbrush and dead material is physically hard work done by an AFD Wildfire fuels crew and AFD contractors. Keep in mind that eventually there will be new undergrowth; the shaded fuel breaks need to be treated again, 3 to 5 years after initial treatment. That next treatment is likely to be much less work, though, because the legacy dead material will already have been removed.

AFD Wildfire has mapped the areas at risk in the City of Austin, finding

- 647.7 miles of wildland urban interface (where the wildland connects to properties with structures)

- 182.4 miles of it on City of Austin-managed property, 97.6 miles of that (53%) identified as potentially treatable with shaded fuel breaks

- Over the last four years, about 11% of the treatable area has been treated

- 465.3 miles (72%) of the total wildland urban interface is on privately owned land; treating it is up to the landowner

In its 2019-2020 budget, the City of Austin augmented the fuels mitigation budget by \$600,000, a 60% increase. As you can see from the numbers, it will take many years, at even this level of funding to address mitigation well.

Homeowners and landowners must care for the privately-owned land and the community side of the wildland urban interface.

We, too, need to do our part to remove dead trees and brush, manage the grasses and landscape, and ensure we don't have ladder fuels that enable dangerous wildfires.

For more information:

(Continued on Page 16)

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NWACA News

"Wildfire Fuel Mitigation..." (Continued from Page 14)

• AFD Wildfire has a web site at which you can find more details: ATXwildfire.org

• A map of the City's wildfire risk, navigable to an individual property: <http://arcg.is/1OnWae>

• A tutorial on AFD Wildfire's work on shaded fuel breaks: <http://arcg.is/4rXii>

• The Corelogic research report: <https://tinyurl.com/CoreLogicReport>

• A KUT article on the CoreLogic report: <https://tinyurl.com/KUTreport>

• This article has examples of how mitigation works – focus is on defensible space and non-combustible material: <https://tinyurl.com/mitigationworks>

NWACA offers free home wildfire risk evaluations. A team of trained evaluators will walk your property with you to see where you already have things that minimize your risk and where you might want to make some changes to harden your home and landscape. You can sign up on the NWACA web site www.nwaca.org.



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- BEETLES ARE INACTIVE
- DORMANT SEASON
- COLDEST MONTHS

Questions from Neighbors

– Joyce Statz, Aggregator

A reader asks: Why is cell service from AT&T so poor in our area?

One of our Board members checked in with AT&T and found that they plan to implement small cell receptors along the telephone poles in 2020. That should help.

What are the guidelines for putting out our trash?

From the web site of Austin Resource Recovery (our trash service):

- Place all your trash carts at the curb by **6:30 a.m.** on your collection day. **Remove ALL your carts from the curb the day of collection.**

- Place trash, recyclables and yard trimmings **5 feet apart** to allow our automated trucks to collect materials safely and efficiently.

- **Extra bags of trash** that do not fit in your trash cart **with the lid closed** must be placed next to the trash cart and tagged with an Extra Trash Sticker, which can be purchased at most local grocery stores (\$4 + tax). Extra bags without a sticker will be charged a per-bag fee of \$9.60 + tax.

If you have questions you'd like answered, please send them to us at nwacainfo@gmail.com.



Spot Crime.

Be a Neighborhood Watch
Block Captain

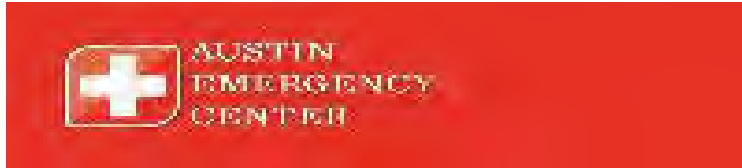
Stop Crime!

More info: email nwacainfo@gmail.com

Thank You, NWACA Business Sponsors!

NWACA is very grateful to our business sponsors. They make it possible for us to have the finest 4th of July events in the City! It's because of them that we also have the Neighborhood National Night Out gathering, family-friendly events throughout the year, and a host of committees and activities that keep our neighborhood vibrant. Please join us in thanking them for their support of the NWACA community!

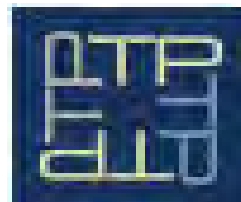
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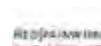
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NWACA News

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*You can also pay via PayPal by going to nwaca.org
and selecting Membership*

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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Deer Rutting Season

– Wildlife Management Committee



November through December is deer mating season in Texas, also known as “rutting season.” During this time, we all need to use extra caution; deer are paying attention to one another and not to humans and cars. You’ll probably see more mature male deer than usual, and at times females will be scurrying ahead of them. Be careful, as they may dart in front of walkers, runners, cyclists, and moving cars. Give them plenty of space. Keep dogs on a leash at a safe distance from the deer.

Given the frequency with which cars and deer collide, it would be prudent to check your auto insurance to ensure you have adequate “Collision – Other” coverage, which applies to such incidents. Last year, an encounter with a deer on Greystone Drive required more than \$3,000 in repairs, though the apparent damage was small!

If you’re a gardener with a medium or large agave plant within a deer’s reach, you might want to put a barrier around it during mating season. Male deer like to rub the velvet off their antlers using the agave spines, destroying the plant’s big wide leaves in the process.

To report an injured or dead deer, call 311. Be prepared to provide a precise address where the animal can be located.

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If you have questions you’d like answered, please send them to us at nwacainfo@gmail.com.

PSA: Crime Reporting APP

– Austin Police Department



The Austin Police Department would like to remind you that there is an app to help you and your neighbors report and combat neighborhood crime. You can submit tips anonymously, view crime maps, get valuable crime prevention tips, view our Twitter feed, and stay informed of upcoming APD events in your area. The Austin Police Department is here to help you, and we look forward to working together to make our community a safer and more enjoyable place to live. The app is available for iPhone and Android phones. Learn more and download the app here: <http://austintexas.gov/departments/austin-pd-smartphone-app>

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Here is a sampling of the most common home improvement projects to get your home ready for the market:

- Painting
- Kitchen and Bathroom Upgrades
- Electrical and Plumbing Upgrades
- Appliance Purchasing and Installation
- Wall and Ceiling Repair, Insulation
- Carpentry/Handyman Services
- Carpet Cleaning or Installation
- Maid Service
- Curb Appeal Enhancements

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