



## NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF TARRYTOWN AND DEEP EDDY

DECEMBER 2019

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 12



# LETTUCE RECYCLE



by Dena Houston

**SAVE PAPER!** Receive this newsletter electronically on the first day of each month. Go to: <https://peelinc.com/index.php/resident-subscriptions>.

## HOLIDAY TIME – A CORNUCOPIA OF STUFF!

Life during the holidays is filled with abundance. It is a time of getting together with family and friends to celebrate the season with lots of food, gift getting and giving, parties, and general merrymaking. All this celebrating generates STUFF. I would never suggest we give up all the wonderful things the holidays bring. Instead, in this month's Lettuce Recycle, I hope to help everyone deal with some of the impact of this glorious bounty. In several months, "all this stuff" will become the focus of our de-cluttering mission for spring-cleaning.

### HOW TO RECYCLE SOME OF THIS STUFF

- **BATTERIES** – Household batteries, including rechargeable, can be recycled at most Austin public libraries. Here is a complete list of the battery drop off locations in Austin: <http://austintexas.gov/page/battery-drop-locations>
- **GIFT BAGS** – Gift bags cannot go into the blue recycling cart. They can be reused, donated to the Austin Creative Reuse Center <https://www.austincreativereuse.org/>, or thrown into the trash cart.
- **GIFT WRAP PAPER** – Wrapping paper and tissue paper (no glitter or foil) is recyclable and can be placed directly into the blue recycling cart. This can even include paper with tape still on it.
- **HOLIDAY CARDS** – Plain cards can go into the blue recycling cart if there is no glitter or other embellishments (like bows or googly eyes). The embellished ones go into the trash cart. Photo cards cannot be recycled. They must go into the trash cart.

- **HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND OLD LIGHT BULBS** – Strands of broken holiday lights can be taken to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. This center will also take old LED light bulbs. Incandescent bulbs must be thrown into the trash cart.

- **STYROFOAM and BUBBLE WRAP** – Styrofoam peanuts and bubble wrap that are clean and in good condition will be accepted at mail box stores like Pak Mail and UPS. They will happily reuse them. Chunks of Styrofoam and other Styrofoam pieces are accepted only at the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. The recycling center no longer accepts Styrofoam peanuts.

- **TINSEL AND BROKEN DECORATIONS** – Tinsel and any broken decorations must go into the trash cart. They are not recyclable.

### EXCESS WASTE

- **CARDBOARD BOXES THAT WILL NOT FIT INTO THE BLUE CART** –

Flatten the boxes and set them next to your blue bin on collection day. They will be picked up that day by either the recycling truck or another City truck.

- **HOLIDAY PARTY WASTE** – With curbside composting, we can now put our party-generated paper plates, napkins, and food product into the green bin to be composted rather than going to the landfill. If you don't have curbside composting, consider using recyclable plasticware (cups, plates, bowls, and cutlery) for parties. After a quick rinse to remove food product, these can be placed in your blue recycling bin. TIP: I set out small bins for recycling and compost collection at my holiday parties.

- **HOUSEHOLD CLUTTER** - Holiday time is a great time to get rid of the toys and clothing everyone has outgrown in order to make room for new items. Please consider donating your gently

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Police Department .....	512-975-5000
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
Animal Services Office.....	311

## SCHOOLS

Austin ISD .....	512-533-6000
Casis Elementary School .....	512-414-2062
O. Henry Middle School.....	512-414-3229
Austin High School.....	512-414-2505

## UTILITIES

City of Austin.....	512-494-9400
Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service.....	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies.....	512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig.....	512-472-2822
Grande Communications.....	512-220-4600
AT&T	
New Service.....	1-800-464-7928
Repair.....	1-800-246-8464
Billing.....	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service.....	512-485-5555
Repairs.....	512-485-5080
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste .....	512-974-4343

## OTHER NUMBERS

Austin City Hall.....	512-974-7849
Austin City Manager.....	512-974-2200
Austin Police Dept (Non Emergency).....	512-974-5000
Austin Fire Dept (Non Emergency).....	512-974-0130
Austin Parks and Recreation Dept.....	512-974-6700
Austin Resources Recovery .....	512-494-9400
Austin Transportation Dept.....	512-974-1150
Municipal Court .....	512-974-4800
Post Office.....	512-2478-7043
City of Austin.....	www.AustinTexas.gov

## NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. ....	512-263-9181
Editor.....	tarrytown@peelinc.com
Advertising.....	advertising@peelinc.com

(Continued from Cover Page)

used goods to the many wonderful organizations in Austin that will happily accept them. Here is a link to the Austin Reuse directory to help find a home for your used items:

<https://austineconetwork.com/austin-reuse-directory/>

• **TRASH OVERFLOW** – Extra bags of trash that do not fit into your trash cart with the lid closed must be placed next to the trash cart and tagged with an Extra Trash Sticker. These stickers can be purchased at most local grocery stores for \$4.00 + tax. Extra bags without a sticker will be charged \$9.60 + tax per bag by the City. If you have curbside compost collection, you can save room in your trash cart by sending all your turkey bones and leftovers to be composted rather than thrown into the trash cart.

### QUESTIONS AND IDEAS FROM OUR READERS:

#### ARE TETRA PAKS RECYCLABLE?

No, they are not recyclable in Austin. Tetra paks, as well as cardboard milk and juice containers, must be placed in the trash carts. They are made of multiple layers of materials that cannot be separated for recycling.

#### ARE TOILET TISSUE AND PAPER TOWEL ROLLS RECYCLABLE AND DO THEY NEED TO BE FLATTENED?

Yes, both can go into the blue recycling bin and do not need to be flattened. The toilet tissue roll can even have a little tissue left on it.

#### IS ALL ALUMINUM FOIL RECYCLABLE?

No, aluminum foil must be totally clean and dry (no paint or food product) in order to be recyclable. It needs to be wadded up into at least a 2-inch ball. Foil tops on cream cheese, sour cream, and yogurt can be recycled if clean and dry. Some wrappers and toppers look like foil but are not. If you wad it up and it stays wadded up, it is foil. If it does not stay wadded up, it has a plastic coating on it and is not recyclable.

#### IDEA – CRAYOLA COLORCYCLE IS A WAY FOR SCHOOLS TO RECYCLE CRAYOLA MARKERS.

Please visit this website for more information <<https://www.crayola.com/colorcycle.aspx>>. Please remember:

**WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!**

AND



Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website called What Do I Do With. It is a guide to recycling, reusing, composting and more for City of Austin residential curbside customers. Just type in the name of an unwanted item and you will find out what to do with it. <<http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>>

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: [recycling@hpwbana.org](mailto:recycling@hpwbana.org).

For those ready for what's next

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## *Still on the Fence About Hosting an Exchange Student?*

You don't have any kids? Are you a single parent? Same sex couple? An empty nester? This is not a problem, we place our students in all kinds of families!

You're not rich? Neither am I! Your exchange student comes with their own spending money and health insurance. All you provide is room/board and three meals a day. Oh and TLC... but that's free.

Live in the middle of no where? Small town? Not a big deal. Some kids prefer to get away from the hustle and bustle of big cities. The exchange students also do pretty well in small schools, as they usually get to be the center of attention and make friends rather quickly. Our students also get chances to travel to New York, Washington DC, Hawaii and California... so they can get their fill of the city life and return back to the peaceful sounds of nature.

Do you consider yourself a boring person? More than likely this is not true, and you should quit being so hard on yourself. Your student will make friends. Your student will meet other exchange students. Your student will attend activities offered by our program. Your student will get involved in sports and school clubs. Your purpose is not to entertain them. But you

might find that you bring a little adventure to each others lives.

Kids are too young? Great! Lots of students love young kids, and your kids will love them. It's beneficial to introduce your kids to new cultures at a very young age. You're preparing them to accept people no matter what the religion, color of their skin, or language they speak. That my friend, is good parenting.

Don't hold back! This is a gret experience for both parties. You get the opportunity to change a child's life. You get the satisfaction of seeing them grow, even after they leave your home into becoming a doctor, a lawyer, a diplomat, artist, teacher... the list goes on. And you contributed to that success! And the best part of it all, is you gain another family member for life. We need people like you to give these kids a chance.

STS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to place exchange students in our area. If you are interest in hosting, please contact me at 832-455-7881 or at [vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com). I'll be happy to answer any question you might have and get you started on hosting your very own student!

## TARRYTOWN REAL ESTATE market report update

December  
2019

by *Tracy McWhorter*

Below is a summary of Tarrytown metrics through November 17, 2019 compared to the same time period in prior years:

Single Family Homes	Year to Date - Tarrytown	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>SOLD</b>	Single Family Homes Sold	113	121	102	102	113
<b>List Price</b>	Avg List Price	\$ 1,452,891	\$ 1,345,648	\$ 1,310,606	\$ 1,190,042	\$ 1,181,654
	Median List Price	\$ 1,247,900	\$ 1,189,000	\$ 1,172,444	\$ 982,000	\$ 1,090,000
<b>Sold Price</b>	Average Net Sold Price	\$ 1,386,284	\$ 1,301,373	\$ 1,247,379	\$ 1,148,734	\$ 1,129,993
	Median Net Sold Price	\$ 1,140,000	\$ 1,175,000	\$ 1,130,000	\$ 932,750	\$ 1,050,000
<b>List Price \$ / Sq Ft</b>	Average List Price / Sq Ft	\$ 495	\$ 445	\$ 420	\$ 431	\$ 410
	Median List Price / Sq Ft	\$ 471	\$ 432	\$ 430	\$ 409	\$ 404
<b>Sold Price \$ / Sq Ft</b>	Average Net Sold Price / Sq Ft	\$ 470	\$ 433	\$ 404	\$ 417	\$ 393
	Median Net Sold Price / Sq Ft	\$ 447	\$ 422	\$ 414	\$ 398	\$ 392
<b>Days on Market</b>	Average Days on Market	54	65	75	65	64
	Median Days on Market	32	28	57	40	30
<b>Size of House</b>	Sq/Ft (Total)	2821	2892	2,918	2458	2717
<b>Age of House</b>	Year of Construction	1956	1981	1960	1954	1960

As the year draws to a close 2019 is shaping up to be another very good year for Tarrytown real estate, with strong price / sq ft appreciation (the median \$ / sq ft number has increased every year since 2011) and median sale prices that are roughly flat with 2018. While median days on market is slightly longer than 2018 at roughly 32 days, this is still a very strong market.

The number of active listings remains well below past years and if the trend follows prior years, I would expect to finish December with a record low number of active listings available for buyers.

Annualized price appreciation based on median sold \$ / sq ft can be seen in the nearby graph, showing the effects of the dotcom bubble bursting, as well as the 2008 recession.



Note: All data comes from the Austin Board of Realtors' MLS report, reflecting activity through November 17, 2019.

# *Water Conservation in the Winter Saves Money Year Round*

*Jacob Johnson, Austin Water*

Conserving water during late fall and winter saves you money on two fronts. First, you get a break from those landscape-induced higher summer water bills. Second, and just as important, conserving water during this time can keep your wastewater bills lower for the next 12 months.

There is no meter on your home's wastewater line, so to determine residential wastewater volume Austin Water uses a process called wastewater averaging. Austin Water averages your water use during your three monthly billing periods between mid-November and mid-March. This average sets a cap on the wastewater volume you will be billed for the next 12 month period.

In late fall/winter, the typical landscape rarely needs supplemental water, pools don't usually need to be topped off and slip and slides have been packed away. Without all that outdoor water demand, this timeframe typically gives a good indication of how much water is being used indoors, going down the drain, and ultimately to a wastewater treatment plant. The lower that average water use is, the lower your wastewater charges can be.

Let's say a family of four averages 6,000 gallons of water use monthly during their wastewater averaging period. As summer comes along, and their outdoor water use increases, they use 12,000 gallons per month. The family will be

charged for 12,000 gallons of water, but because of their wastewater average, they will continue to only be charged for the 6,000 gallons of wastewater average cap.

Even after the wastewater average is set, wastewater charges can be lowered by using less water than the wastewater average cap. If the family with the 6,000 wastewater average uses 5,000 gallons of water one month, they will only be charged 5,000 gallons for wastewater volume. Wastewater volume is billed at the wastewater average cap or at the same volume as the monthly water usage, whichever is lower.

A higher wastewater average will result when irrigation systems are left on or leaks are present during the 3 month wastewater average period, and can be very costly. Turn off automatic irrigation systems and identify and repair leaks early.

To find your specific waste water averaging period, check out the Utility News section on your utility billing statement. Customers must have at least 60 days of billed water usage during the wastewater averaging period to have a calculated wastewater average. Visit [www.austintexas.gov/wastewateraveraging](http://www.austintexas.gov/wastewateraveraging) for additional information.

This winter, practice good water conservation behaviors, turn off your irrigation system, and see how low you can go!



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enjoy some of Austin's  
favorite holiday events  
this year.

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a new home for the  
holidays, contact me.  
I'll put my experience  
and the resources of  
Moreland Properties to  
work for you.

**NOV 20-JAN 2**  
Mozart's Holiday Light Show  
3825 Lake Austin Blvd

**DECEMBER**  
**1, 8, 15**  
Teddy Bear Tea | Four Seasons Hotel - Austin  
**3**  
Austin Symphony Orchestra Handel's "Messiah"  
Hyde Park Baptist Church (12/3)  
**5-8, 12-15**  
LadyBird Johnson Wildflower Center - Luminations  
**7**  
Holiday Sing-Along & Downtown Stroll | State Capitol  
**7**  
Trail of Lights Fun Run | Zilker Park  
**7-8, 14-15, 20-24**  
Gingerbread Workshops | [my.thinkeryaustin.org/31](http://my.thinkeryaustin.org/31) | The Thinkery  
**7-23**  
Ballet Austin's The Nutcracker | The Long Center  
**10-23**  
Trail of Lights | Zilker Park  
**13-24**  
Armadillo Christmas Bazaar | Palmer Events Center  
**23**  
Tuba Christmas | State Capitol

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Read my market update inside.

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