



nwacaNEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2020

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4

Our Community!

For many alive today, it seems that we are living in unusual times. Past generations experienced such times, albeit a little differently, though they were not strangers to illness. While we are dealing with the uncertainty of COVID-19, let's try to remember that it is not the only thing that people in our world think and worry about.

I have been amazed at the outpouring of support and concern in our NWACA community—for elderly neighbors, for grocery store and pharmacy workers, for the immunocompromised, for first responders. I love the coming together that our community exhibits.

We are working with other organizations in town, such as Drive a Senior to facilitate grocery and meal deliveries for those in need. And we are working with neighborhood restaurants to encourage them to continue to provide take-out meals or deliveries. Please reach out to us at nwacainfo@gmail.com with any needs or concerns, and we will do our best to help or direct you.

While you practice social distancing, I hope that you are able to find small bands of light and goodness. While on my neighborhood walks, I marvel as trees bud and flowers bloom, birds sing, baby animals come into the world, and many other simple pleasures that may be overlooked during normal times.

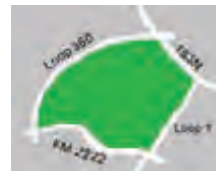
In keeping with guidance at the time, the NWACA Day in the Park, scheduled for April 26th, has been canceled for this year. Our NWACA board has switched to virtual committee and board meetings, and we are working on a way to live-stream presentations for our annual meeting.

Later this month, you will be receiving an electronic ballot to vote for new members of the NWACA board. Please vote and know that both old and new boards, as well as committee leaders, will work to keep you up to date on happenings in our neighborhood, our City, and our country.

We are blessed to live in this community and to have so many wonderful resources.

Stay safe and take care.

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.

Together we can make a difference!

JOIN TODAY @ NWACA.ORG/MEMBERS

Key Contacts

Austin Citywide Information Center.....512-974-2000 or 311
Emergency, Police..... 911
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) 311
To check status, go to: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/myaustincodestatus>
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

2020 NWACA Board of Directors

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- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
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| • Bridget Keating | • Julie Waidelich |
| • Connie Lundgren | • Monique Wright |

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 put 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

These events are as planned on March 15. As you consider participating in one of the events listed, please check first with the organizer, since Covid-19 may affect the ability to conduct the event. Some may be able to occur in a virtual fashion; others to be postponed or canceled.

April 5, 2PM

Parks Committee

Biderman's

April 14, 6:30PM-8:30PM

NWACA Board Meeting

Galaxy Cafe

April 17, 8:30AM-2:30PM

Austin Wildfire Symposium – presentations and discussions on wildfire prevention

Austin Board of Realtors, 4800 Spicewood Springs Rd.

April 18, 9AM

Earth Day Cleanup of Dry Creek

see map in article

April 24, 9AM-NOON

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park – this time on Friday.

Sign up at <https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/173206>

Bull Creek District Park

April 28, 5PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation

Committees Joint Meeting

Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane, r.201

May 3, 8AM

Park's Committee

Biderman's

May 6, 6:30PM-8:30PM

NWACA Annual Meeting (likely to be virtual)

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

May 16, 9:00AM-NOON

Monthly Cleanup Event, please sign up at <https://austinparks.givepulse.com/recurring/804433?event=Bull+Creek+Park+Clean+up>

Bull Creek District Park

May 17, 2PM

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee

Epoch Coffee

May -Date TBD

Cleanup at Murchison Pool before it opens

Murchison Pool Park

3700 North Hills Dr.

May 26, 5PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees Joint Meeting

Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane, r.201



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The Loewy Playground is Open!

– Stephannie Behrens



On Thursday, March 12, we officially opened the Loewy Family Playground at Murchison Pool Park. After years of hard work, we finally have a playground open to everyone, all day every day. The ribbon was cut by representatives of the groups who helped make this project possible, including Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) Assistant Director Liana Kallivoka, District 10 Council Member Alison Alter, Public Works Director Richard Mendoza, NWACA Parks Committee member Stephannie Behrens, and the Loewy Family. The playground is located just next to Murchison Pool, near the corner of Far West Blvd and Hart Lane.

The playground has long been a neighborhood dream. The NWACA Parks Committee had been looking for a playground location for more than 15 years but had not had any luck - acquiring land was too expensive. Then, at a community meeting in 2016, a neighbor mentioned the idea of putting a playground adjacent to Murchison Pool. The idea took off. The Parks Committee initiated the project as Phase II of an effort to improve Murchison Pool. They submitted a proposal to the PARC Community Activated Park Project program. Fundraising began with Amplify Austin in 2017, receiving the first \$5,000 in a campaign that continued until the Summer of 2018, getting generous donations from local businesses, neighbors, and friends near and far. With its matching funds, the City's Neighborhood Partnering Program made it possible for a community group like ours to accomplish this ambitious capital improvement project. Adam and Phil Loewy, our kind benefactors, made an extraordinary donation, which made it possible to start construction in October 2019.

The heart of this playground comes from Charles Mabry at PARC, who was responsible for everything from design through execution. The whole team at the Austin Parks Foundation helped with general guidance, financial management, and for being great cheerleaders.

This Loewy Family Playground will help Northwest Hills residents enjoy a healthy life. Playgrounds within walking distance of homes are vital in helping young children become physically active at an early age. Also, this playground will serve as a community gathering place, bringing neighbors together. Play is valuable; it makes communities stronger.

Inviting NWACA Business Members

— Julie Waidelich

Are you interested in becoming a NWACA Business Member? We are in the process of renewing our business members and encourage local businesses to get involved. As a business member, you will have an incredible opportunity to get involved and network within our community. Please learn more by going to <https://nwaca.org/businessmembers/> or click on the Business Members tab at www.nwaca.org For more information, please contact Julie Waidelich at julieswaidelich@gmail.com.

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- 3 As a Top Producing REALTOR® and homeowner in 78731, Brian has a professional and personal interest in the Northwest Hills housing market.



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Brian has 19 years of experience

THANK YOU NORTHWEST HILLS

Because of your support and referrals, I am consistently one of the top two REALTORS® out of 550+ at Realty Austin. Thank you for being a part of my success and helping my business grow.

— Brian Copland, Your Northwest Hills Neighbor & REALTOR®

Murchison Middle School Construction Updates

– Teri Schock

Modernization of Murchison Middle School continues. The project's status was discussed with the building contractor at a principal's coffee meeting the morning of March 12, 2020.

Currently, construction on the new 6th grade addition and the administrative offices in the "old" library continues. The administrative office HVAC ductwork, plumbing, and electrical infrastructure is completed; doors are ready to go in. Over spring break, ceiling tile and lights will be added. The entryway to these offices will have a storefront with glass, and there will be a new data room.

Work on the new three-story 6th grade addition is behind by approximately six to eight weeks, but it is completely framed. Although it might have appeared slow, construction has occurred at a steady pace. A significant amount of infrastructure had to be put in place to get to this point, with all new plumbing and electrical, and a newly paved parking area beside the new building out to Hart Lane. Initially scheduled to be complete by the beginning of the new school year in August, the building is now set to be finished by Thanksgiving or winter break. Once the addition is open and complete, the existing portables will be removed. A tour of the new building will be scheduled on a Friday to be determined.

This summer, demolition will begin on the interior of the main building. They'll begin work on the new library which should be complete by January 2020. The remodel allows the new administration offices to be located near the entrance of the original building.

Project data, as well as recent progress information, can be found at <https://www.austinisd.org/schools/murchison/projects>

MURCHISON MIDDLE SCHOOL KEY INFORMATION:

- Modernization Budget: \$23,655,000
- Total Budget: \$25,308,000
- Anticipated Opening Date: January 2021
- Trustee: Kristin Ashy
- Location: 3700 N. Hills Dr., Austin, Texas 78731
- Existing Capacity: 1,113
- Planned Capacity: 1,700
- 2016/2017 Utilization: 120%

SCOPE OF WORK 2017 BOND:

- Modernization Phase 1: 6th Grade Addition, Library and Administration Relocation, Annex Roofing, and Bus Loop Addition
- Campus Master Planning
- Courtyard Improvements
- Heating and Air Conditioning Improvements
- Site Drainage Improvements
- Technology: Computer Lab Improvements
- Technology: Student Mobile Computers
- Technology: Teacher Computers
- Wall and Ceiling Improvements



NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET REPORT UPDATE

CLOSED SALES 12



AVERAGE SALES PRICE
\$918,342

23
NEW LISTINGS

MONTHS OF
INVENTORY 1.6

SALE PRICE
PER SQFT
\$285



DAYS ON MARKET 40

ACTIVE LISTINGS 19



SOLD PRICE TO
LIST PRICE RATIO

98.7%

SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM FEBRUARY 1-29, 2020 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES, BASED ON NWACA BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY 360/2222/SPICEWOODSPRINGS

Thinking about SELLING?

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History Interview: Dorothy Springs

– Carol Jones



Dorothy Springs went to the University of Texas at Austin in the mid-1940s, when the student population was made up of more women than men. Most of the boys were away, fighting in the war. She has fond memories of many happy times with her friends at The Tower nightclub on south Congress ("Best Steaks in Texas") and Avalon Dinner Club on Dallas Highway (later named Lamar Boulevard).

The war ended in 1945. When Dorothy and her friends heard the news on the radio, they rode the bus downtown to celebrate. She can remember the great excitement of the crowd as it filled the city streets. In 1946, the university population swelled with the boys returning home. She met her future husband at a high school dance party some years before. When he returned from the Navy, they married.

Dorothy grew up on her father's ranch in Gonzalez, Texas, so she was accustomed to open spaces and wilderness. While she and her husband were living on Princeton Avenue in Crestview, they heard about some new houses being built west of town, out in the middle of the country. It sounded great to them.

Dorothy and her husband looked at several houses in the Northwest Hills Parade of Homes in the 1960s. They chose their house on Greenslope Drive because they liked the floor plan, but they really fell in love with the magnificent mature oak trees on the property. The house seemed to have been carefully built around the trees.

When they moved to their new home in 1966, Spicewood Springs

(Continued on Page 10)

Preventing Package Theft

– Judy Smith

How can Northwest Hills residents prevent the theft of their packages? Free services to track and manage package delivery are offered by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), United Parcel Service (UPS) and FedEx. Here's how to sign up for USPS Informed Delivery, as well as a comparison of USPS, UPS, and FedEx package management services.

How to sign up for USPS Informed Delivery

USPS Informed Delivery tracks and manages delivery of packages and envelopes. However, users cannot sign up directly for Informed Delivery. They must first create a USPS account online, and then add the Informed Delivery option.

To create a USPS account, go to the USPS home page, usps.com. About half a screen from the top is a navy band across the width of the page entitled "See Incoming Mail in Your Email," including a clickable box "Sign Up for Free." Click on the "Sign Up" box; prompts will lead you through the account signup process. Near the end of the process, you may add the option for Informed Delivery.

Comparing Package Management Services of USPS, UPS and FedEx

USPS Informed Delivery is a work in progress:

- for residential customers only; not yet available for small businesses
- not for persons in multi-residence buildings whose individual mailboxes lack a unique USPS-assigned mailbox code
- tracking only for envelopes and packages, not yet for magazines and catalogs

UPS: UPS mailbox can receive UPS, USPS, and FedEx deliveries with the addressee's name, UPS store's physical address, and addressee's UPS box number

FedEx: delivery service for envelopes and packages, often chosen for deliveries that must arrive by the third business day or earlier

NOTE: UPS and FedEx may not deliver to a USPS PO box address, unless the post office's physical address is included, followed by # and the box number, e.g., for 78731 PO boxes:

John Doe

3575 Far West Blvd # 123

Austin, TX 78731

Further comparisons are in the accompanying table.

(Continued on Page 9)



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"Preventing Package Theft" (Continued from Page 8)

	USPS	UPS	FedEx
Name of package-managing service (all services are free)	USPS.com online account. Informed Delivery available only to account holders.	UPS Mobile app or UPS My Choice online.	FedEx mobile app or FedEx Delivery Manager online.
Tracking methods	Text, e-mail, online.	Text, e-mail, online.	Text, e-mail, online.
Mailbox?	\$57-75 for 6 months. Oversize packages held for 7 days.	\$126 for 6 months. Accepts items addressed to UPS mailbox regardless of shipper.	None.
Reroute home-addressed package to secure location?	USPS.com account enables user to request that home-addressed USPS packages be held at post office. Free.	Before delivery date, UPS account holders may request that package be held at UPS Store. No mailbox needed: \$10 for small package, \$20 for large.	Rerouting home-directed package to FedEx store is \$5/package.
Incoming packages: reschedule delivery date?	Mixed delivery may be rescheduled once.	Variable.	Recipient can choose delivery date; \$5/package.
Outgoing packages: send to secure site for retrieval?	Recipient must have PO box.	If recipient lacks UPS mailbox, sender must call destination UPS Store ahead of time to see if store will accept package.	Sender can send package to recipient, to FedEx store; \$5/package.
Outgoing packages: require recipient's signature to hand over package?	Only for Restricted Delivery, i.e., delivery only to addressee; \$5/package.	Signature service: only addressee can sign for package; \$4/package.	Any adult at address may sign for package.

"History Interview" (Continued from Page 8)

Road was a country lane. Her teenaged sons loved to prowl the woods surrounding the street. Dorothy could hear kids splashing nearby in the Swim-A-Day pool run by Dotson Smith, a couple of streets over.

Everyone knew about the vast network of underground limestone caverns in Northwest Hills. Dorothy remembers that while she was in college, UT would send carloads of geology students out there to explore the caves. When the streets started filling up with houses and families, the caves were irresistible to the neighborhood boys. Older boys would send their younger, smaller brothers down the cave openings to explore and report back. Sometimes those younger brothers reported back to their parents instead, getting the older boys in trouble.

Dorothy watched the neighborhood grow from the beginning, when families moved in due to the new IBM jobs nearby. Some of the housewives formed the Balcones Hills Women's Club (see more about BHWC in the March 2020 NWACA newsletter). Dorothy was an original member of the club. However, she couldn't attend the daytime meetings during the school year, since she taught second grade. She was able to participate in the summer and in the evening "couple's parties." She hosted the first couple's party in her backyard under the shade of their spectacular oak tree.

Dorothy and her husband were married for 70 wonderful years until his passing in 2019. She is thrilled that the Balcones Hills Women's Club is still going strong in her neighborhood, and she does her part to make sure that new neighbors know the history of this tightly-knit group.

It was delightful to talk with Dorothy! If you have memories to share, please contact me at nwacainfo@gmail.com.

COMPASS

Did you know adults over age 65 tend to make 8% less selling their Austin home?

We found that homes owned by seniors sold for less because they often lacked modern updates or were poorly marketed by the Realtor.

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"History Interview" (Continued from Page 8)

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Austin's Path to Zero Waste: How Can You Help?

—Joanie Arrott



Are you an avid recycler, composter, and lover of all things reused? Do you find yourself telling friends and family about how to recycle or compost correctly? Do you look forward to learning new repair and reuse skills? If you answered

yes to any of these questions—the city of Austin Zero Waste Team needs you!

Specifically, the city has developed a Zero Waste Block Leader program to establish community leaders to engage fellow Austinites and help move everyone toward practices that encourage reducing, reusing, recycling, and rethinking. Block Leaders can choose their level of participation, utilize education materials provided by the city, and meet other Zero Waste Block Leaders and Austin Resource Recovery Staff. Community leaders get to decide how to participate and be creative in how to engage with neighbors on the topic of Zero Waste.

More information about the program, how to sign up, and interviews with other block leaders can be found on the city website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/be-zero-waste-block-leader>. The City of Austin is committed to reducing the amount of waste sent to area landfills by 90 percent by 2040 or sooner, but they can't do it alone.

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Dry Creek Cleanup on April 18

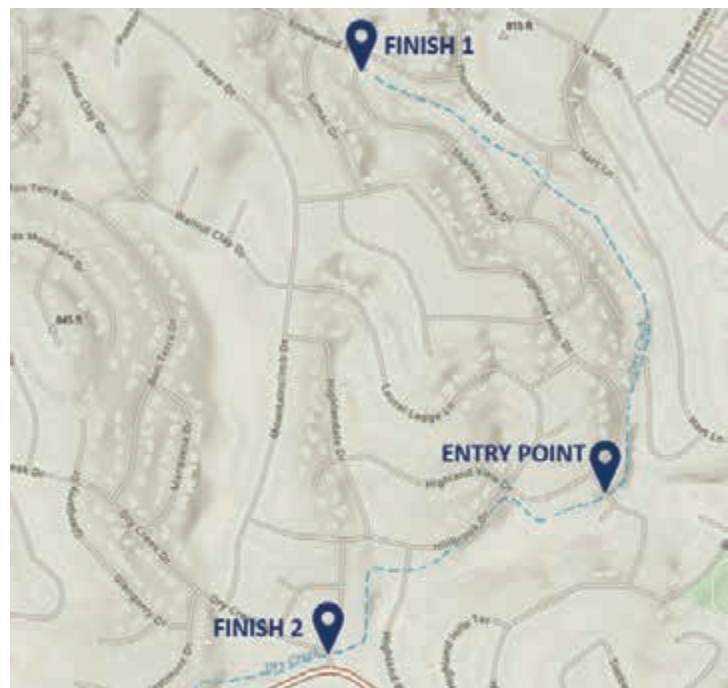
— Maura Powers

You are invited to join NWACA and Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) volunteers in a cleaning expedition for a portion of Dry Creek. The cleanup is scheduled on Keep Austin Beautiful Day, Saturday, April 18, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., in celebration of Earth Day. For more information and to sign up, go to <https://givepul.se/jmtxm7>.

KAB provides the supplies and volunteer T-shirts! All you need to do is wear clothing that can get wet.

Each team will cover about a half mile of the creek with entry at Tumbling Circle and Highland Hills Drive. Some of the terrain is difficult, so this is not recommended for young or unsupervised children, or for mobility-impaired individuals.

If you have questions, if you would like to help with this effort, or if you would prefer no creek cleaners on your property, please contact Maura Powers at maura.powers2007@gmail.com.



Business Spotlight: Chiara's Boutique Pilates Studio

— Janice Green



Searching for entrepreneurship gems in Northwest Hills – in addition to our brick and mortar establishments – led me to Chiara's Boutique Pilates Studio. Chiara Maggi's studio is a discrete, beautiful space in her home; the light and view from a large window makes you feel as if you were suspended in a treehouse. What a serene and inviting place to focus

on your well-being and agility.

Chiara, born and raised in Italy, describes her younger self as stiff and “not a physically flexible child.” Though she completed a master's degree in politics and worked in the oil/gas industry, Chiara, prompted by her long-held interests in anatomy and physiology, later discovered that her own quality of life, strength, and flexibility improved dramatically with the Pilates approach to movement and spinal alignment.

In 2012, Chiara started formal training to be a Comprehensive Balanced Body Pilates instructor and left the corporate world behind. She fine-tunes her methods in the U.S. and Europe, spending summers in Italy expanding her classical and contemporary Pilates tools while learning new concepts that incorporate the current state of scientific research into the role fascia connective tissue plays in pain and stiffness.

She believes that with a tailored approach we can become stronger and reduce pain at any age, a belief supported by client reports of relief. The methods she uses include breath awareness and stretching and strengthening muscles and fascia to encourage new neural pathways to direct movement – all playing a part, along with the Pilates apparatus, to achieve greater comfort in activities. She is passionate about helping her clients and explains the science behind their work and progress.

A client's first session is a conversation about health history, goals, limitations, and how they perceive their own body's posture and mobility. Clients range in age from 8 to 93. Some are building strength before hip replacement or are in post-rehab recovery. Others are weak, fearful of falling, and struggle with balance. Some clients

(Continued on Page 13)

"Business Spotlight" (Continued on Page 12)

want greater strength and stamina. Whatever the goal, Chiara recognizes that progress comes by not only by focusing on an isolated part of the body, but also by paying attention to the whole body's involvement and alignment. At the beginning of each 55-minute session she asks, "What do you want to take home today?" That goal, even as simple as reaching a higher shelf or climbing an extra stair-step, steers the session.

Her website outlines special rates for seniors, veterans, employees and families of students at Doss and Murchison schools (where her children attend), and students and employees of the University of Texas (where her husband is a math professor). Duets are available, too.

Chiara reminded me of how our species began by moving and stooping as hunter-gatherers – movements long abandoned in our sedentary lifestyles and extended lifespans. Her challenge is to reacquaint her clients with the potential stored in their muscle memory and help them meet their mobility goals with 21st century methods.

For more info, contact: 512-975-9728, chiarapilateswellness@gmail.com, chiarapilateswellness.com

Gourmand's Corner: Central Texas Distilleries

– Chris Hajdu

It's been awhile since I covered the local brewery scene in the Austin area. This month we will consider a more refined class of beverages called distilled spirits. The act of distilling takes a product with a lower alcohol product and makes it stronger. Distilling is a relatively recent re-addition to Texas, gone from the state since Prohibition. After that long hiatus, the first new distilling license was granted in 1995 to Bert "Tito" Beveridge of Tito's Vodka fame. (Yes, that is his real name.) Paula Angerstein (of Paula's Liqueurs) received a license in 2005 for her orange, lemon, and grapefruit flavored liqueurs; she became the second licensed and first female distiller in Texas. Dripping Springs Distillery, the third distiller in Texas, was also licensed in 2005. Central Texas lays claim to the first bourbon distiller outside of Kentucky and Tennessee. Garrison Brothers in Hye, Texas, was granted a license to distill bourbon in 2006 making that company the oldest legal bourbon distillery in all of Texas.

Since Central Texas has been a trailblazer in the Texas distilling scene, I'd like to suggest some good distilleries in our area.

(Continued on Page 14)



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NWACA News

"Gourmand's Corner" (Continued from Page 13)

Much like my brewery article last year, I'll list the distilleries by area. Most of these have tasting rooms and some even offer tours. Hitting a few of these on a given afternoon makes a great day trip. (Just remember to plan appropriately by arranging for alternative transportation or designating a sober driver.)

If you want to stay close to home and away from crowds (which may be the case with the latest coronavirus news), most of these distilleries sell their wares at our local liquor stores.

Blanco/Hye

There is a nice grouping of distilleries in the Blanco/Hye area. The aforementioned Garrison Brothers Distillery, in Hye, specializes in bourbons -- from a fairly standard 94 Proof Small Batch Bourbon to a 137.3 Proof Cask Strength offering. They give tours and have a tasting room onsite.

Just a short, 23-minute drive away in Blanco, are three distilleries. Real Spirits, which shares the same real estate with Real Ale Brewery, currently makes gin and whiskey. Not available in stores, Real Spirits products are available onsite in their tasting room. Just across the street from Real Spirits, is Ben Milam Whiskey. This is one of my personal favorites and you can find their goods in most stores in Austin. Ben Milam specializes in bourbon and rye whiskey. A little way up highway 281 is Andalusia Whiskey Company, where they are making some Scotch and Irish-inspired whiskeys. These are also available in the Austin area and in their tasting room.

Ben Milam - <https://benmilamwhiskey.com/>

Andalusia - <https://www.andalusiawhiskey.com/>

Real Spirits Distilling (Real Ale Brewery) - <https://realalebrewing.com/spirits/whiskey/>

Garrison Brothers Distillery (Hye, Texas - 23 min from Blanco) <https://www.garrisonbros.com/>

Dripping Springs/Driftwood

Known for its large number of breweries, Dripping Springs has also become a hotspot for distillers. Some of the older operations, like Dripping Springs Distillery, Deep Eddy, and Treaty Oak, have been operating for quite a while. Treaty Oak Distilling, which got its start producing gin (using local flavorings including yaupon and pecan) is now also making whiskey, including two bourbons and a rye. Deep Eddy currently produces six flavored vodkas in addition to their regular unflavored vodka. They probably possess the largest tasting room, with indoor and outdoor space for plenty of people, and their products are widely available across Texas. Dripping Springs Distilling has become a mega brand, combining their original vodkas and gins with whiskeys and tequilas via acquisition. They also own Paula's Liqueurs (mentioned earlier in this article.) They offer tours and have a tasting room; on a newly expanded tasting room is slated to open later in 2020. Frog Pond

is a small, family-owned distillery making gins and vodkas near Dripping Springs. They have a tasting room and patio; their goods can be found in local liquor stores. Desert Door is the only distillery mentioned in this article that is making alcohol distilled from the sotol plant, resulting in a drink reminiscent of a tequila or mezcal. I have not tried Desert Door Sotol yet, but I did see that it is carried at Spec's and other local stores, so I may have to give it a try.

Deep Eddy - <https://deepeddyvodka.com/>

Dripping Springs Distilling - <https://drippingspringsdistilling.com/>

Frog Pond - <https://frogponddistillery.com/>

Treaty Oak - <https://www.treatyoakdistilling.com/> and <https://www.waterloogin.com/>

Desert Door - <https://www.desertdoor.com/>

Austin City Limits

There are a couple of distilleries in our city. Still Austin Whiskey is the first whiskey distillery in Austin since Prohibition. Located near St. Elmo Brewery in South Austin, Still Austin Whiskey makes Bourbon Whiskey and gin. They have a great tasting room and patio area. Not far from Still Austin is Genius Liquids, which produces gins. While they don't have a tasting room, you can buy their product in area stores.

Still Austin Whiskey - <https://stillaustin.com/>

Genius Liquids - <http://geniusliquids.com/>

I hope this article encourages you to visit local distillers. Remember that supporting local businesses helps our Central Texas economy and supports the many individuals and families who have chosen to produce high-quality products for our consumption.

Until next time... cheers!

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A real estate advertisement for Peggy Little, a Realtor. It features a headshot of Peggy Little on the left. To the right of the photo, her name and title are listed. Below this, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Further down, a 'PEGGY POWER!' logo is shown with the word 'SOLD' underneath. To the right of the logo, a list of services is provided: 'One-to-One Consulting', 'Social Media Campaigns', and 'Proven Track Record'. At the bottom, the website 'www.atxagent.com', phone number '512.970.7349', and email 'peggy@atxagent.com' are listed. A 'JB Goodwin REALTOR' logo is also present in the bottom left corner of the ad.

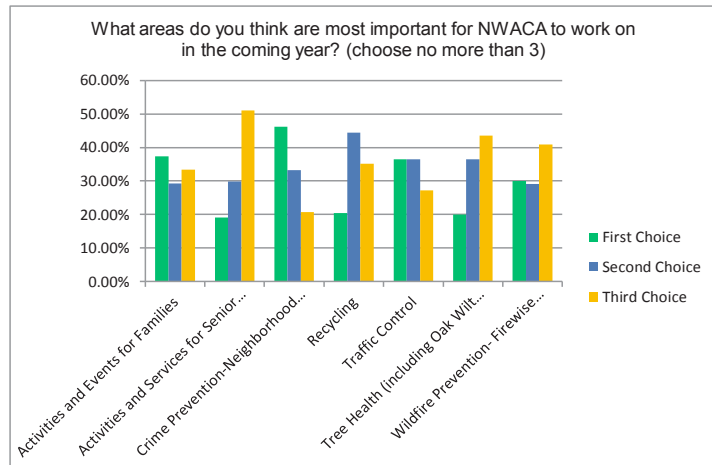
2020 NWACA Neighborhood Interest Survey Results

March 10, 2020

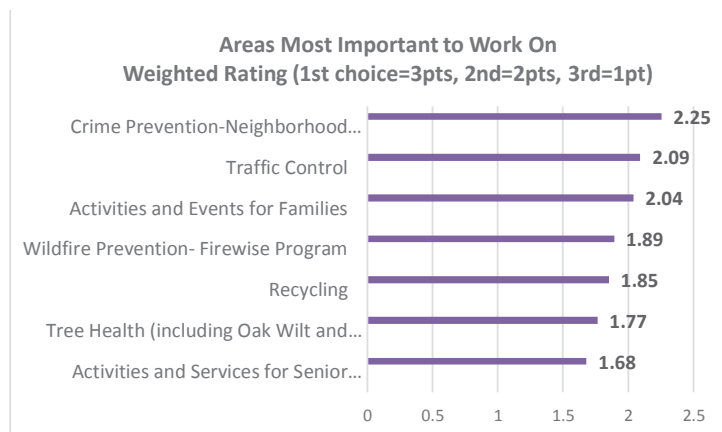
During February and March 2020, NWACA conducted its annual survey to identify issues that are currently most pressing for the neighborhood and to gather input about the Old Quarry Library renovation. The survey was done using Survey Monkey and open to anyone in the neighborhood. In addition, paper copies were sent to NWACA members without internet access. There were 270 responses, 2 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] (269 responses)



A weighted rating was computed to be able to see the overall responses in another way.

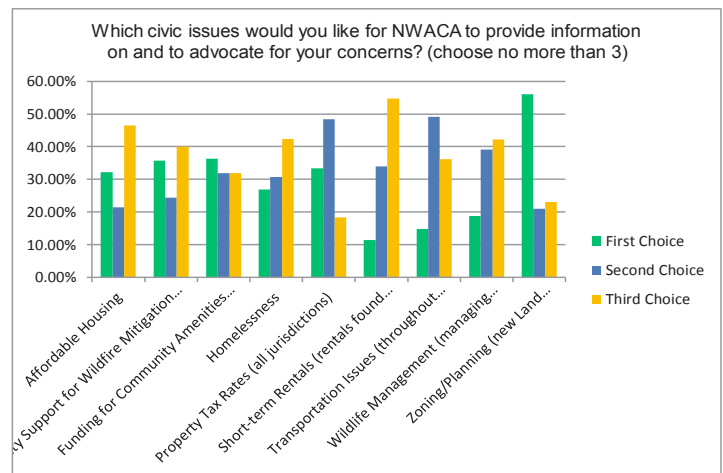


Among the “Other” responses, these were most prevalent:

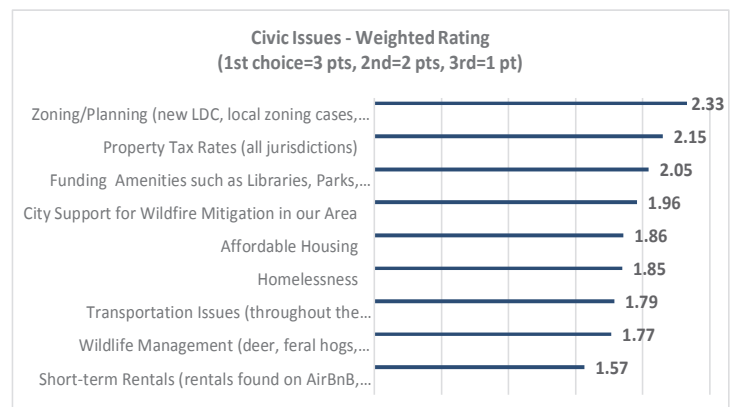
- 6 – CodeNEXT concerns
- 5 – traffic items – speed bumps, support Constable, right turn markings, bike lanes
- 3 – more activities/events
- 2 – all of the items are important
- 1 – deer control, tree health, watershed protection, cell phone service, COA composting, follow the ordinances, support Old Quarry Library, power outages, environmental sustainability education, candidate forums, improving our parks

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.] (270 responses)

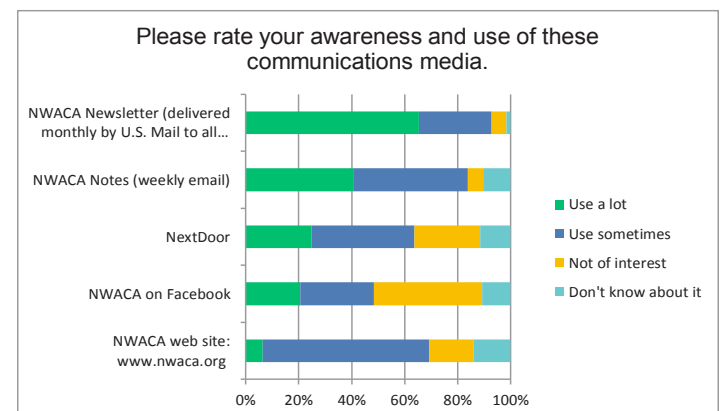


A weighted rating was again computed, showing how interest varies quite a lot.



Among the six “other” responses were two on parks and playgrounds, two on policing, one on public camping, and one requesting accurate information on the new land development code.

Q3: Please rate your awareness and use of these NWACA communications media (270 responses)



(Continued on Page 16)

Among the eight comments provided under the "other" response were these:

- 2 – positive comments about the history articles in the newsletter
- 1 – liked the calendar on the web site
- 1 – negative about NextDoor
- 1 – asked that Facebook and NextDoor be closely monitored to keep from spreading BS
- 3 – unaware of some these media

Q4: In 2021 the Old Quarry Library on Village Center Drive will undergo a major renovation. District 10 Library Commissioner Deborah Pardo-Kaplan would appreciate your input on the next several questions for general direction and to help guide the community input sessions to be held this year. How often do you use the Old Quarry Library? (270 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Daily	0.37%	1
Weekly	15.56%	42
Monthly	22.59%	61
Less than once a month	36.67%	99
Never	24.81%	67

Q5: If you answered "Never," why do you not use the Old Quarry Library? (63 responses)

Common responses to this question were:

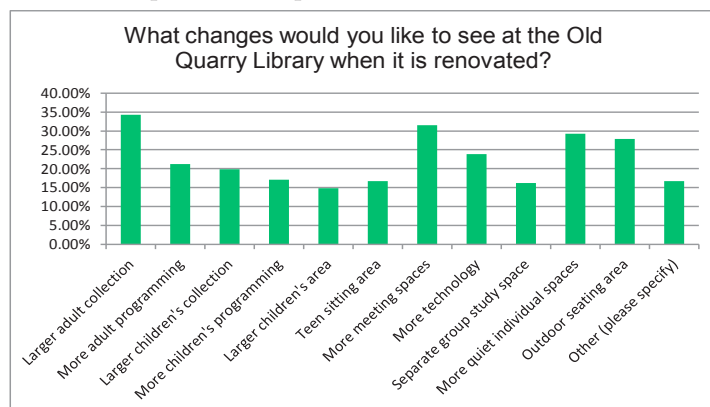
- 44 – no need for it – use the internet, buy books, have other sources, etc.
- 9 – new to neighborhood, unaware it was there
- 2 – use North Village Library on Steck Avenue
- 2 – prefer Central Library
- 2 – forget that it's there!

Q6: If you use the Old Quarry Library, for what purposes do you generally use it? (196 responses)

Responses to this question (many cited several reasons):

- 144 – checking out or returning books
- 26 – voting
- 23 – meetings
- 16 – reading books or magazines
- 14 – checking out movies and DVDs
- 14 – children's activities
- 12 – research
- 9 – recycling magazines
- 6 – recycling batteries
- 6 – quiet space to study or work
- 4 – computer use
- 2 – buying recycled reads
- 2 – donate books
- 1 – tapes

Q7: What changes would you like to see at the Old Quarry Library when it is renovated? Select those most important to you. Add your own ideas in the "other" response. (222 responses)



The "other" responses included:

- 6 – more books – types varied: Christian fiction, audio books, craft books, large print, ebooks
- 5 – okay as is; don't invest in changes, since resources are available free on the web
- 3 – updated space
- 2 – keep it available; it's valuable to the community
- 2 – community events – senior activities, ones for kids in parking lot
- 1 – more chances to interact with librarians
- 1 – more visibility
- 1 – more sound-proof meeting rooms and study spaces
- 1 – access to research database
- 1 – manager who does background checks on presenters
- 1 – drive-up book return
- 1 – faster Wifi
- 1 – coffee and donuts

Q8: Are you a current member of NWACA? (270 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	89.26%	241
No	4.44%	12
Don't know/Don't remember	6.30%	17

Q9: What is your zip code? (270 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
78731	85.19%	230
78759	14.81%	40

Q10: What type of household is yours (270 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Own our home	97.04%	262
Rent a single-family home	1.48%	4
Rent an apartment	0.37%	1
Other (please specify)	1.11%	3

The three "other" responses were from condo owners.

Q11: Please provide other suggestions and comments you have on NWACA activities or services. (76 responses)

The most common categories of responses were these, along with about a dozen individual comments or suggestions. All comments were provided to the Board for their review and response.

- 20 – compliments to NWACA Board and volunteers
- 7 – speed control items – need speed control, pro and con on speed bumps, more policing
- 6 – crime prevention ideas
- 3 – park improvements – bench/table at Allen Park, large park for the area, regular hikes at Bright Leaf park
- 3 – fight density elements of CodeNEXT
- 3 – more recycling events – quarterly, perhaps
- 2 – remove deer
- 2 – regulate short-term rentals better
- 2 – more information on city-wide issues
- 2 – mechanism to provide feedback to District 10 Councilmember

Crime and Safety Town Hall Follow-up

– Connie Lundgren

On February 19th NWACA held a special town hall meeting in response to what seems like a rash of car break-ins throughout our area. Officer Darrell Grayson, our Austin Police Department (APD) District Representative, and Constable Sam Lindsey shared information and answered questions from a large group of attendees. Officer Grayson stressed that car break-ins are generally a crime of opportunity. Remove the opportunity and you will reduce the crime. He advised everyone to follow the “9 p.m. Rule.”

A public awareness campaign regarding the 9 p.m. rule was developed in hopes of reducing easily preventable burglaries and car break ins. Citizens use social media to remind others to lock up before going to bed. Law enforcement agencies all over the country are now promoting the campaign. In one county in Florida, there has been a reduction in car burglaries by 36 percent.

To become a part of this easy and effective solution, set an alarm for 9:00 p.m. every night as a reminder to:

- **remove valuables and garage door opener from vehicles**
- **lock vehicles**
- **close overhead garage door**
- **lock door between garage and house**
- **close and lock all external doors**
- **ensure windows are shut**
- **turn on an exterior light**

Most car burglaries occur between 10:00 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. Grayson said, “these guys talk and brag to one another about what they steal. If they are successful, they will come back and so will others. If the

opportunities are not there, they move on.” Home burglaries occur mostly between noon and 2:00 p.m.

There are currently 122 vacancies within APD. The most recent class graduated 39 cadets who must

Train an additional four to six months before going out on the street. In light of the shortage of resources, residents owe it to themselves to remove valuables and lock their cars before going to bed.

Alison Alter’s office was represented at the meeting; the representative reminded the group that the APD budget allocations are based on the number of crime reports, so report break-ins and burglaries to either 311 or 911.

All in all the take-away from this meeting was: don’t leave valuables in your car and lock your car doors.

You Can be a Wildfire Risk Evaluator!

– Joyce Statz

Over the last eight years, the NWACA Wildfire Prevention Committee has helped about 300 homeowners in the NWACA area understand how their homes and property would fare during a wildfire. Since there are about 6200 homes in our area, we have many more to visit! To make progress we need two things:

- Neighbors need to sign up to have their property evaluated. (Go to www.nwaca.org)
- Our team of evaluators needs to grow, since we have had trained evaluators move away from the neighborhood. Let me know of your interest by sending email to joyce.statz@gmail.com

The home wildfire risk evaluations are completely free and take 45 minutes to an hour. A pair of trained evaluators walks around the property with the homeowner, looking at common areas of concern on the outside of the house and throughout its surroundings. The evaluators look at the roof and any structures on it – skylights, chimneys, vents, gutters; the doors, walls, and windows of the house; the garage door seals and framing; and attachments to the house, such as decks and porches. We look for places where embers from a fire might bring the fire inside or onto the home. When our local cedars burn, their embers are very small, so we look for places where leaves gather and where wind can enter the building, since that’s where the embers will also go.

Evaluators look at the surrounding landscape, focusing closely on the area within 5 feet of the house; nothing combustible should be there. The most common concern is wood mulch, often placed right next to wooden stairs or combustible siding. We look at the area 30 feet away from the house, identifying any dead combustible material or any especially flammable plantings that should be separated from the home by a rock border, sidewalk, or other type of path. For many homes, there’s also an area beyond 30 feet, where the understory can be thinned and brush and debris removed. We almost never recommend cutting down trees; most green spaces need the shade to prevent growth of flammable understory.

Most homeowners keep garden hoses connected to hose bibs around the house; these enable firefighters to combat spot fires without having to use scarce water from their trucks. As we evaluate a home, evaluators point out these good practices as well as giving advice on how to deal with any risks identified.

Evaluators use a comprehensive checklist as they do their walkthrough with homeowners. Each homeowner also gets a checklist on which to make notes, along with a set of handouts that provide excellent guidance on how to make the home and surrounding landscape as hardened as possible.

You can become an evaluator by attending a quarterly training session and then performing several evaluations alongside a seasoned evaluator – observing at first, then being observed in the lead role. We always do wildfire risk evaluations with a pair of evaluators; two sets of eyes are always better than one, and we learn from each other as

we go along. If you’re interested in getting the skills to provide this neighborhood service, contact me at joyce.statz@gmail.com and I’ll get you registered in the next training by the Austin Fire Department’s Wildfire Division.



Understanding City Code: Watershed Protection Ordinances

– Alan Carson

Since 1974, the City of Austin has passed nine ordinances related to storm water controls that prevent flooding, erosion, and pollution of our creeks and lakes. Ten percent of Austin lies in the floodplain.

Watershed protection is complex and multifaceted. For example, the Watershed Protection Ordinance of 2013 contains 164 pages, so this article will be concerned only with something familiar – detention and retention ponds. Detention ponds, of which there are over 3,000 in Austin, are normally dry and are used to slow down stormwater flow to reduce downstream flooding and erosion. Retention ponds hold a permanent pool of water as they are constructed in areas with a high groundwater table, and the bottom of the pond is excavated below this elevation. They are also referred to as “wet ponds.”

There are several types of wet ponds, such as those that capture and hold stormwater runoff to allow settling of suspended solids and removal of pollutants through plant uptake. These are not intended for recreational activities such as swimming and fishing. A good example of this type of pond can be found on the south side of the Arbor Walk Shopping Center, on the MoPac frontage road just north of the 183 intersection. Other types are for retention irrigation and for biofiltration. There is virtually no discharge of runoff from wet ponds, which mimic the undeveloped watershed condition.

The Save Our Springs Ordinance (SOS) was adopted in 1992 and its purpose was to protect the quality of water in Barton Springs. Since part of Northwest Austin is in the Barton Creek recharge zone, those regulations concern us.

For more information, search for “Austin Watershed Protection Ordinances” in your web browser.

If you have a question or concern about a City code that we haven't yet covered, send us email at nwacainfo@gmail.com, and we'll have Mr. Carson check it out. It may become the topic of an upcoming article.

Special Thanks to Members

– Membership Committee

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the 4th of July Parade Fund, the Park Fund, and the Constable Fund, between February 15, 2020 and March 15, 2020.

Donations to the 4th of July Parade Fund help NWACA to host the best 4th of July parade in Austin! The Park Fund helps us do events in our parks and revitalize parks in the NWACA area. The Constable Fund helps us provide the patrol activities of the Travis County Constable.

- Susan Gentz
- Maisel McGlone
- Edward and Judy Parken
- Nanette and Robert Sechler
- (and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)

Watch Out for Wildlife with Their Young Ones

– Wildlife Management Committee



It's springtime in Northwest Austin, so we'll soon be seeing does with their young fawns in the neighborhood. Please be careful as you drive, since the young ones move a bit unpredictably. In addition, be wary of getting near the mother deer while out walking or running, since they may become

defensive to protect their babies. Finally, if a doe leaves a fawn in your yard, please don't touch or move the fawn. The mother deer will be back to retrieve it.

If you find a fawn that is sick, injured, or in an unsafe area, call Austin Wildlife Rescue at 472-WILD (471-9453)

Now is also the time to be aware of coyote pup rearing season.

- Coyotes breed in February and March; pups are born about 60 days later.

- During this time, territorial male coyotes do not tolerate other canines in their territory; many conflicts between coyotes and domestic dogs result from this territorial behavior.

- An average coyote litter contains 4 or 5 pups, born in dens. In urban environments, dens can be in storm drains, under storage drains, in holes dug in vacant lots, parks, golf courses, or any other dark, dry place.

- Coyote pups are cared for, fed, and protected by both *parents*. The pups mature quickly and can eat meat and move about well by the time they are a month old.



- Food requirements of the nursing females and the growing young remain high until late summer. As people and their pets spend more time outdoors during this time, the possibility of a coyote encounter increases.

- It is not unusual to observe a family of coyotes traveling through urbanized areas.

- If food is deliberately or inadvertently provided by people, the pups quickly learn not to fear humans and develop a dependency on easy food sources.

As a reminder, evaluate what food attractants you may be inadvertently providing. Pick ripe fruit from trees and off the ground, secure garbage and compost bins, don't feed pets outdoors, don't throw food scraps for wildlife, keep bird feeders from overflowing, and eliminate artificial water sources. Additionally, close off crawl spaces under porches, decks, and sheds!

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Parks Fund \$10 ____ \$20 ____ Other ____

To join:

go to **www.nwaca.org** and pay online via credit card or PayPal

or send this form and payment to:

NWACA P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

Volunteer!

Please check a committee on which you would like to participate:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime & Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree, Environment,
and Wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning and
Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks | |

Members, please request to join our **Facebook Page** and sign up for **NWACA Notes**, our weekly email.

For more info email us at: nwacainfo@gmail.com



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"Every sale has five basic obstacles: no need, no money, no hurry, no desire, *no trust* (the most difficult obstacle to overcome)." - Zig Ziglar

January 16, 2020, Pam & I welcomed "Realtor", Dawn Lanier, into our home for the first time. During the next 36 days, Dawn grew from serving as our Realtor to being a **trusted** friend.

Is Dawn a team player? We never saw her interact with other Realtors. We did experience, repeatedly, her array of professional contacts ranging from a photographer, to plumbers, landscapers, to moving company recommendations (the list goes on). They are all a part of Dawn's team and each one of them provided us quality customer service. Dawn's team helped us feel confident in our original decision that we had selected the right Realtor to sell our home of almost 32 years.

During the highs-and-lows over the past weeks, we came to appreciate and respect these qualities in Dawn's life...

- excellent communicator • proven business expertise/focused and determined • strong people-skills
- knows how to build trusting relationships • highly creative • friendly and positive attitude
- her caring heart, touched our lives when we needed the encouragement the most
- her professionalism came through repeatedly... she wanted the very best outcome for us... our needs truly mattered to her

Yesterday, as Pam and I sat beside Dawn at the closing of the sale of our home, we felt reassured all things had worked together for good. We sold our home for a reasonable price. And, Pam and I developed a new friend, Dawn Lanier... we are thankful for the impact she has made in our lives.

Kind regards, Bill & Pam



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