



TARRYTOWN

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF TARRYTOWN
AND DEEP EDDY

NOVEMBER 2020

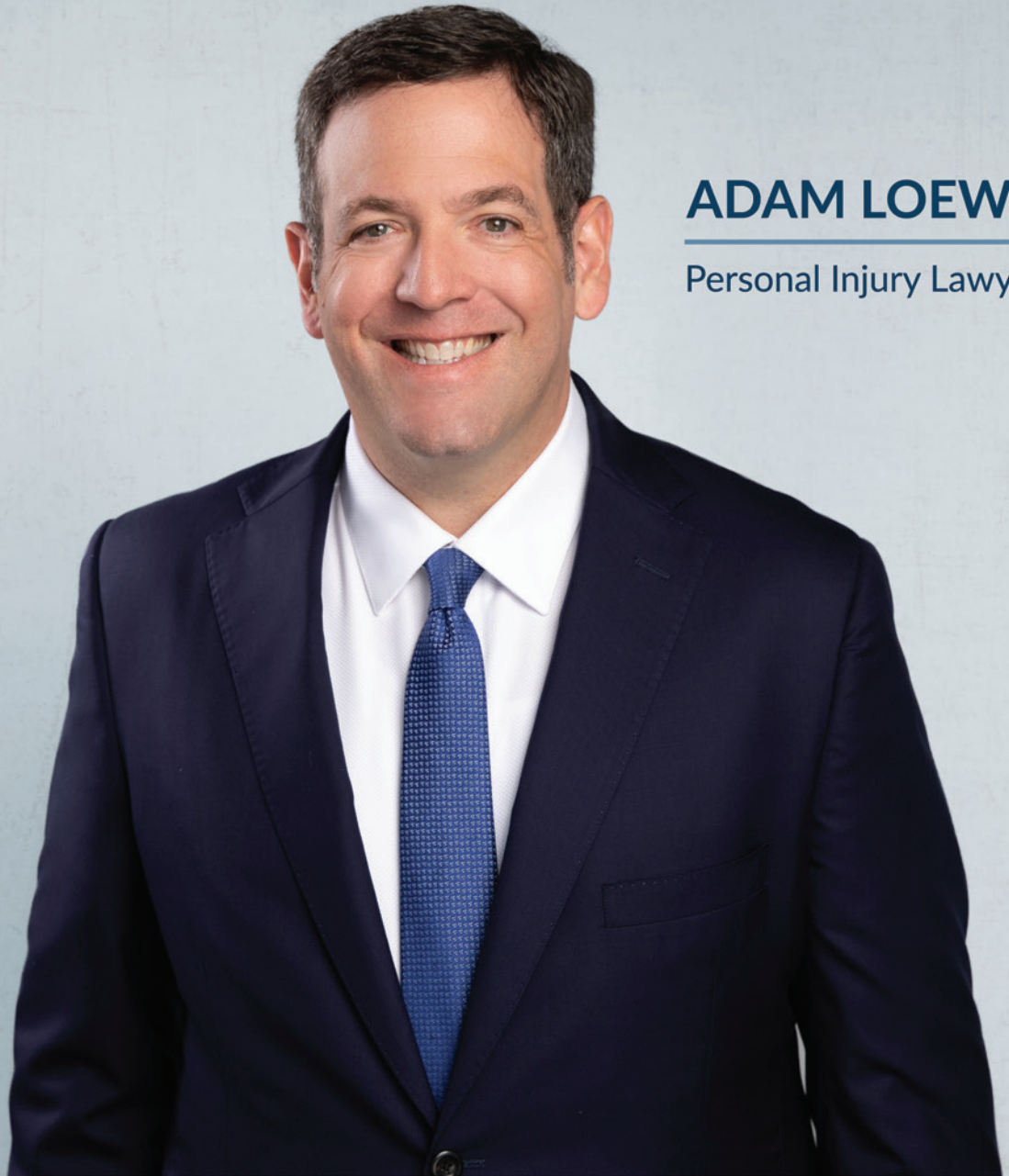
VOLUME 8 ISSUE 11

Happy Thanksgiving Tarrytown!

This year, we are
extra grateful
for our beautiful
community, wonderful
residents, and lovely life
we have in Tarrytown!



Bicycle Accidents | Boating Accidents | Car Accidents | Dog Bites | Drunk Driving Accidents
Injuries to Children | Motorcycle Accidents | Slip and Falls | Truck Accidents | Wrongful Death



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Ambulance.....	911
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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

Ausitn City Hall.....	512-974-7849
Ausitn 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

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LETTUCE RECYCLE!

by Dena Houston

IS THIS MY RECYCLING WEEK???

In these crazy times of “working at home” and “interesting school schedules”, it is often challenging to remember if a particular week is your **RECYCLING WEEK**, let alone what day it is. Because I am a recycling block leader, my neighbors often look at the cans at my curb to see if it is a recycling week. Therefore, there is a great deal of pressure on me to “get it right”. My secret is that every week at 11 AM, the day before trash pick-up day, I get a friendly reminder from the City notifying me of what will be picked up the next day. Here is the website to use so you too can get this helpful reminder: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/my-collection-schedule>. Just enter your address, click “Search”, and then click “Get a reminder!”. The website will then prompt you what to do.

HARD PLASTICS

Austin Resource Recovery recycles hard plastics. Some hard plastics do not have a recycling symbol but are recyclable. All metal must be removed from any hard plastic. Hard plastics can go into the blue recycling bin provided the lid can close. Below are examples of hard plastics that can be recycled:

- Cat carriers – all metal removed
- Laundry baskets
- Dish pans
- Buckets (including cat litter buckets) – metal handle removed

Hard plastic items that cannot fit into the blue bin can go to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. These items include the following:

- Plastic lawn chairs
- Plastic kiddie swimming pools
- Large toys like plastic playground equipment

Special note: PVC pipe cannot be placed in the blue recycling bin. It is however, accepted at the Habitat for Humanity Restore.

Continued on Page 3



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Continued from Page 2

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

HOW DO I RECYCLE POST-IT NOTES?

These can go into your blue curbside recycling bin (as long as they are at least the size of a credit card).

I HAVE A BUNCH OF 3-RING BINDERS. WHAT DO I DO WITH THEM?

The Austin Creative Reuse Center will usually take them. Please call ahead to make sure they have room for them. Here is their website: <https://www.austincreativereuse.org/>. These would also be great to donate to a local charity.

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY SHREDDED PAPER?

Shredded paper cannot not go into your blue recycling bin, even if it is in a paper bag. These bags tend to come apart and leave a mess of shredded paper in their wake. Please put shredded paper into your green compost cart. Be sure it is in a paper bag or compostable bag. Please do not include shredded plastic credit cards in your compost.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website that offers help in finding out how to recycle specific items: <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 me at this address: recycling@hpwbana.org.



MEXICAN HONEY WASPS



The Mexican honey wasp, *Brachygastra mellifica*, is a neotropical wasp that can be found in North and South America. Within North America, it can be found in Arizona and Texas.

Honey wasps are small, about 1/4 – 1/3 of an inch. These social wasps have teardrop-shaped abdomens striped in yellow and black, rusty wings, and a dark head and thorax. Like other wasps, female honey wasps are capable of stinging and will do so to protect the colony or if they are provoked.

Mexican honey wasps create a small, about 18 inches in size, basketball to football shaped nest out of a paper-like material. These nests are typically located in trees or shrubs, often higher up where they won't be disturbed. Nests can be home to 3,000-18,000 wasps. Unlike honey bees, Mexican honey wasps can have multiple queens in each colony. Clusters of colonies can be common in some areas and nests last about 3 years before they are abandoned.

These wasps are pollinators and collect nectar and pollen to feed larvae in the colony. Adult wasps feed on fluids and, sometimes, exoskeletons of other insects, especially Asian citrus psyllids when they are available.

If you need to manage these wasps, then you should contact a professional that has proper protective equipment, such as a bee suit.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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NATURE WATCH

GONE TO SEED

by Jim and Lynne Weber

*Flame acanthus seed*

Often used as an informal figure of speech meaning to deteriorate or go downhill, 'gone to seed' can have a negative connotation. But each seed contains a new beginning: a tiny plant just waiting for the right conditions such as water, warmth, and a good location, to germinate and grow. Seeds and seed heads form fascinating shapes, varying sizes, and intricate patterns, often adorning the fall and winter landscape.

Plants have many ways of dispersing their seeds, and most have evolved over millions of years. While many of the methods are tried and true, certain seeds have developed in very particular ways to take advantage of such methods, and some plants only release their seeds in response to specific triggers.

Wind helps seeds float or flutter away, often aided by seed structures such as thin wing extensions or long, feathery tails like those on the endemic Scarlet Clematis (*Clematis texensis*). Texas Bluebonnets (*Lupinus* sp.) employ the expulsion or explosion method, where the small, pebble-like seeds are forcibly expelled when the dried pods twist open in the warm sun. Similarly, Flame Acanthus (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*) has hood-shaped capsules enclosing seeds attached to a hooked stalk, and ejects the seed from the capsule when it dries and breaks open.

Gravity plays a part in many plants seed dispersals, where weighty seeds fall off the plant and roll to a new location. The best example of this are the round, heavy fruits that simply fall off a plant when ripe, such as those on Mexican Plum (*Prunus*

mexicana) or Texas Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*). If the fruits have a tough outer shell, they may travel some distance from the parent plant, and if they have a soft skin, they may break open where they fall and scatter the seed or seeds within.

Some plants produce very light seeds, seeds with buoyant fluff, or seeds with air trapped in them, so they can float away from the parent plant that grows in or around water, like Common Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) or Black Willow (*Salix nigra*) or Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). Others employ the assistance of animals, which can come in the form of seed or fruit eating (where the seed can pass undigested through the animal), seed caching or burying, or seed transportation. Common examples of seed and fruit eating include Cedar Waxwings and American Robins consuming juniper and yaupon berries, and seed burying is a common practice of both ground and tree squirrels, who eat and cache acorns. Often unbeknownst to the animal, some seeds can be covered with tiny hooks or spines that catch on a passing animal's fur, eventually transported to and rubbed off in another location.

This fall and winter, let the seeds linger, at least until early spring. Not only do they provide much needed food for wildlife, but leaving them allows for some beautiful and mysterious patterns in your winter landscape, and the promise of renewing the cycle of life that begins again each spring!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our books, Nature Watch Austin, Nature Watch Big Bend, and Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies (all published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.

*Scarlet clematis seed*

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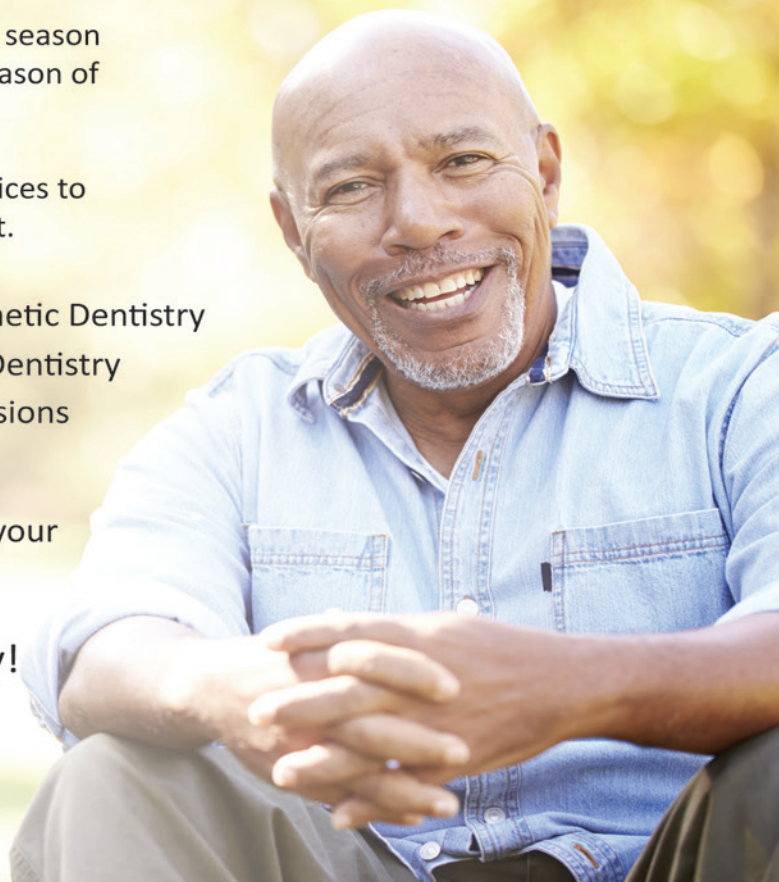
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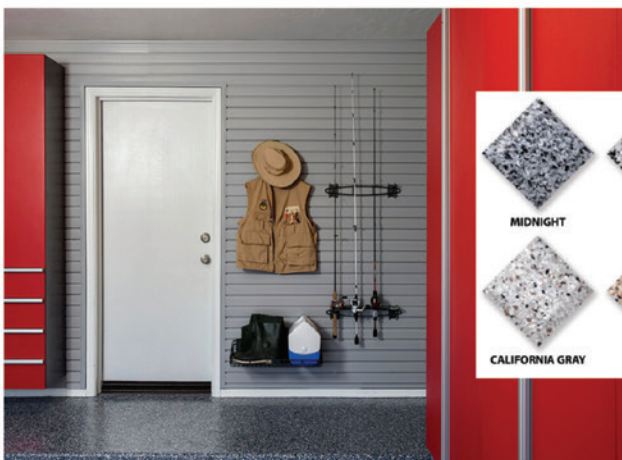
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And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.
- Oscar Wilde





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