





NWACA Newsletter

May 2014

NORTHWEST AUSTIN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 26654
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78755
www.nwaca.org

NWACA Platinum Business Sponsors of the Month

Thank you, sponsors, for supporting the annual 4th of July Parade and helping us to promote the interests of Northwest Austin!

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MESSAGE FROM THE NWACA BOARD PRESIDENT

- Joyce Statz

We look forward to seeing you at the NWACA Annual Neighborhood Meeting on Wednesday, May 21. We’re very excited to have Vince Torres, the AISD Board President, as our keynote speaker. Hearing him address the challenges and changes in our school system is an opportunity you won’t want to miss!

At the annual meeting you will also learn how you can participate in our key initiatives this year – Neighborhood Watch groups for crime prevention, work sessions and creative ideas for our parks and trails, wildfire prevention efforts, and more. See the article below and watch for more details about the meeting in the coming days.

Speaking of wildfire prevention, the “red flag days” this week reminded me to review the evacuation checklist that’s clipped to my refrigerator. Like others who’ve had a wildfire risk assessment and followed the tips provided, my home is well hardened against fire now. However, in case a wildfire does break out in the canyon behind my house, I know what I need to gather up and take with me as I leave, to really be safe. If you haven’t yet signed up for your free wildfire risk assessment, please go to the NWACA web site and do that now – the assessment takes less than an hour of your time, and the information you get can save lives and property. With our ongoing drought, high temperatures, and high winds, we’re as vulnerable as Bastrop, Steiner Ranch, and a whole host of other neighborhoods who’ve seen their homes go up in flames. Homes which were hardened with a defensible zone around them survived; make your home one of those survivors.

NWACA and NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Date	Location	Event
May 3, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	JJ Pickle Research Campus	City-wide Wildfire Prevention Fair –National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day
May 4, 2:00 PM	Kneaded Pleasures	Meeting of NWACA Parks Committee
May 4, 3:00 – 4:30 PM	Mangia Meeting Room	Neighborhood Watch Training, make-up session - <i>Crime and Safety Committee</i>
May 7, noon	Mangia Meeting Room	NWACA Monthly Communications Committee Meeting
May 8, 8 – 9AM	Kneaded Pleasures	NWACA Membership/Sponsorship Committee Meeting
May 13- 6:30-8 PM	Asian Cultural Center, 11713 Jollyville Road	APD Commander’s Forum for Region 2 – Northwest (for the portion of NWACA west of Mesa and north of Far West)
May 14, 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Mangia Meeting Room	NWACA Monthly Board Meeting
May 17, 8 AM – 1:30 PM	Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez	Annual ARMA event for households in Austin – free shredding of up to 5 boxes of household paper (only)
May 17, 9 AM-noon	Murchison Pool Park	Murchison Pool Park Work Day – <i>Parks Committee</i>
May 21, 7 – 9 PM	Dell Jewish Community Campus	Annual NWACA Neighborhood Meeting
May 28, 6:30 PM	First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa	Tree and Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting
May 31, 8 AM to 10 AM	Doss Elementary School Parking Lot	Recycling the Tough Stuff: BOPA (Batteries, Oil, Paint, Antifreeze) – <i>Tree and Environment Committee</i>

COMING SOON - NWACA ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

- Debra Danziger

**Wednesday, May 21
7PM – 9PM**

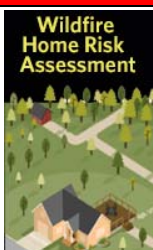
**Dell Jewish Community Campus, Community Room
7300 Hart Lane**

We’re delighted to announce that our ***keynote speaker is AISD Board President Vince Torres***. He’ll address the key issues we’re all concerned about with respect to our schools, and you’ll have a chance to ask questions.

You’ll also be able to meet and network with your neighbors, learn about key issues related to our community and get involved with NWACA membership and volunteer opportunities.

- Learn more about NWACA initiatives and topics related to our neighborhood
- Speak with representatives from AFD, APD, Code Enforcement, and other groups
- Join NWACA or renew your membership

IS YOUR HOME FIRE-HARDENED? SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT



The NWACA Wildfire Prevention Committee can help you minimize the risk to your home from wildfire. Certified assessors are ready to do a free assessment of your home with you, so you know how to harden your home.

To arrange an assessment or to get more information about preventing wildfire, go to www.nwaca.org and click on the *Firewise Request* link at the left side of the home page. If you do not have internet access, please mail us at: NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

MURCHISON POOL PARK WORK DAY – MAY 17

Please join us on Saturday, May 17 – 9AM to noon at Murchison Pool.

We'll be getting things ready for summer!

- Mulch trees
- Install new benches & picnic tables
- Paint existing benches & picnic tables
- General beautification and clean-up



Bring your water bottles. This is a family-friendly event so bring the kids!

HELP US SHAPE NWACA'S NEW LOOK

- Debra Danziger

The NWACA Communications Committee is embarking on an effort to rebrand the association's image which will result in a new logo, website and supporting collateral.

We are asking for your participation in the process. It begins with a brief, 7-question survey to our neighbors for thoughts and comments about the area NWACA serves. Please take a few moments to answer the questions outlined in the survey via the link below. Your responses will be incorporated into the rebranding efforts.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NWACA>

Responses are due on or before May 28. Thank you in advance for your participation.

HUGE TURNOUT AT FIRST ANNUAL NWACA TREASURE EGG HUNT

- Shannon Meroney



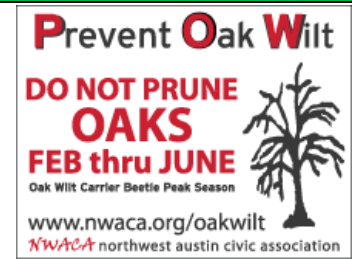
More than 100 families helped create a new NWACA tradition on April 19 at the 1st Annual Treasure Egg Hunt. The NWACA Events committee organized the event to celebrate the arrival of spring. The weather was darn near perfect and those who came were treated to fresh cold-pressed juices from event sponsor and NWACA business, Austin Skinny Limits, and cookies from our local HEB. The HEB Buddy was there handing out Buddy Bucks, and an egg-s-tra special mystery guest (who had a cotton tail but sounded a lot like Glen Ridge resident Robert Thomas!) arrived via fire truck along with several friends from Station 19 on Balcones Drive.

Two hunts were staged - one for preschoolers around the Doss Elementary Track and one for the big kids where the treasures required a little more hunting on the playground area. The big kids had a hard time waiting for the official start gun and took a little bit of a head start searching for the special "golden egg" grand prizes. Finders of golden eggs were able to cash in their winning tickets at the NWACA prize department where they chose from top prizes like a "Frozen" movie DVD and iTunes gift cards. Rumor has it some of the eggs contained real cash treasures, too! The kids had a great time showering their friends with confetti from the cascarones that were also available for sale.

Thank you to our generous sponsors who made this first year event special - Austin Skinny Limits, HEB, Sandy's Shoes, Synergy Financial, St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School, Jennifer and Craig Hopper and Meredith and Charlie Highsmith. And kudos to an amazing committee who gave their time to make the event a huge success. See you next year, hunters!

Have you seen a contractor's workers pruning a live oak or a red oak in recent weeks? Professionals should know better, but unscrupulous "tree trimmers" apparently don't know or don't care.

Do you have a new neighbor who might not know about Oak Wilt and the risk it poses to your neighborhood's oaks? About ten percent of NWACA homeowners are new to the neighborhood each year.



Pruning live oaks and red oaks between February and June doesn't just threaten the trees being pruned. It's also the greatest human-caused risk to surrounding oaks. That's why **you're justified in politely speaking to any neighbor who prunes or allows others to prune their oaks out of season.** Here are some talking points:

- They're risking exposing their oaks **and the neighbors' oaks** to oak wilt fungus. Fungicide treatment of infected *live oaks* is often successful, but always costly. Wilt-infected *red oaks* always die; there is no successful treatment.
- The oak wilt fungus can be transmitted to healthy oaks by insects which are attracted to the sap that's around any natural or human-caused cut or wound to the bark of a tree.
- A particular beetle that's a common transmitter is most active February to June.
- Wilt-infected red oaks develop 'fungal mats' under loosened bark where the beetle picks up the fungus. It can then transmit fungus to another red oak or a live oak when it contacts the sap at a cut.
- Pruning cuts (any time of year) should be painted over *immediately*. Cut-paint-cut-paint. It's virtually impossible to go through a tree canopy making pruning cuts and then go back and find all those cuts to be painted.
- Untrained workers and/or unscrupulous contractors likely don't sterilize their cutting tools before moving from one tree to another. If they don't, they can spread the fungus more dependably than the beetle.
- Cutting tools should be sterilized with bleach or Lysol before pruning oaks, and when moving from one tree to another.
- Even though insects are less active in the heat of summer (after June), the trees are still growing. Summer pruning causes new growth, typically called suckers. These don't enhance the natural appearance of the tree or add to the tree canopy where growth is most productive. It's best to prune only November thru January.
- Your oaks probably benefit from pruning only every five years or so, and then only to remove limbs that are too close to a structure or power line, too low, broken, or rubbing another limb.

That's the technical stuff. The typical NWACA property owner will probably be logical and shocked that they have been so gullible to have exposed their oak trees and their neighbors' oak trees to oak wilt.

Still not convinced? Maybe you're talking to more of a numbers person?

- Removal of a large tree can easily cost \$1,000, and certainly more if it overhangs a home, pool, other trees, valued landscaping or fencing, or if access is limited.
- Lost shade on a rooftop or window wall will substantially increase cooling costs (\$\$\$).
- The loss of shade will likely change landscape water demand (\$\$) and require different plant choices (\$\$).
- The replacement of a large tree with a large tree will cost additional thousands of \$\$\$.

- The loss of trees can affect the value of a home and place it at a disadvantage in the market.
- NWACA residents have already lost hundreds of live oaks and red oaks over several decades, incurring the dollar costs, intangible losses, and diminished values indicated above.
- Our NWACA neighbors have spent over \$500,000 on trenching to contain oak wilt outbreaks.

Beyond the biology and the big bucks (\$\$), let's be good neighbors.

- Picture your home without some of the oak trees in your yard or in mine.
- Our live oaks are probably connected more than we know (through grafted roots).
- You watch out for my oaks and I'll watch out for yours.

If you can't reach a homeowner while pruning is going on, ask a worker for the name and phone number of the crew supervisor (not the on-site foreman). The supervisor might be supervising multiple work crews. Remember, workers are only following orders. They might be open to your comments but are not likely to do or not do much at your request. If there's a language barrier, look for a company name on a vehicle. Persist until you can speak to the supervisor, the business owner, or the homeowner.

SAVE THIS. If it's hard to catch your neighbor, this can help you compose your own polite note to incorporate the points above that you think matter the most.

SHOAL CREEK CONSERVANCY WORKS IN OUR WATERSHED - Joanna Wolaver, Executive Director

The Shoal Creek Conservancy is a new non-profit organization dedicated to improving Shoal Creek for all Austinites – present and future. In recent years, condition in and around this unique Austin treasure have declined. By restoring and protecting Shoal Creek, we believe we can make Austin a more vibrant place to live, work and recreate.

Our work focuses in four areas: trails, parks, water, and history. We aim to enhance and expand the Shoal Creek trail, improve water quality and reduce flood risk, enhance habitat and create vibrant green spaces, as well as preserve and share Shoal Creek's unique history.

The Conservancy is a community of trail and park users, businesses and residents within the watershed as well as non-profit partner organizations. We work together to provide a voice for Shoal Creek, mobilize volunteers, partner with the City, and host public events along the trail. As a Shoal Creek-area resident, we welcome you to learn more about the Conservancy and join our growing community by becoming a member at www.shoalcreekconservancy.org. You can also contact us at info@shoalcreekconservancy.org or 512-474-2412.

BUSINESS SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR NWACA - Chris Hadju

NWACA is looking for business sponsors for 2014-2015. Interested in helping out? See our business sponsor information at www.nwaca.org/business-sponsor-info We offer several levels of sponsorship with great ways to get your business name out in front of the community and to support our activities.

CRIME AND SAFETY TIP – DO YOUR PERIMETER CHECKS

- Robert Thomas

Home intrusions and neighborhood crime have been very active topics in our community lately. With the increase in awareness of break-ins around the neighborhood, let's take a moment to talk about simple things we can do to make our homes less likely to be a target.

It is helpful to think about home security in two layers: **Outer Perimeter** and **Inner Perimeter**

Outer Perimeter Check: Securing your home's outer perimeter is critical to deterring potential intruders and for early notification of possible threats. Study the outside of your home, looking for vulnerable areas. Do you have shrubs, brush, or other landscaping blocking your windows or doors? A burglar will use shrubbery as cover to hide a broken window that he wants to use to access your home. This was the case recently at an attempted burglary of a home on Rockledge Drive. Other areas of potential weaknesses are burned out motion lights and unlocked gates.

Once a month during growing season, walk the outer perimeter of your home to ensure that your landscaping does not prevent a clear and unobstructed view of your windows from the street. A simple weekly trimming is all that it takes. Weekly, check to ensure your security lighting is working properly and that your gates are closed and properly locked. An unlocked gate is no security deterrent at all. And, if you have cameras, make a habit of reviewing the video files weekly to ensure that all cameras are working properly and that there is sufficient memory available for the coming week.

Inner Perimeter Check: The inner perimeter of your home provides another physical line of defense against a potential intruder. Taking the proper monthly and weekly precautions will make your home a less attractive target to a potential intruder. First, if you have an alarm system, follow the instructions from your monitoring company and perform a monthly system check to ensure that it is working properly. If there is any issue, contact your alarm company to schedule a repair. Second, it is important to perform a nightly inner perimeter check. Start by ensuring that your garage door is down and locked, and that any outside doors leading to your garage are locked with deadbolts that extend as far into the door frame as possible. Follow this same check on the door from your garage into your home. If you have a dog door, make sure that the dog door is closed and locked. Many dog doors, particularly for medium and large dogs, are big enough for a slight build intruder to breach the security of your home. Next, verify that your front porch light is on, and that any light switches for outside motion lights are also in the "on" position. During our beautiful spring weather many people are using doors and windows to allow fresh air into our homes. Therefore, it is critically important to also check every door and window nightly to confirm that they are all properly closed and locked. Finally, ensure that your camera system is on and functioning, and turn on the alarm.

Performing an outer and inner perimeter security checks are easy, and they are important steps in minimizing the chances that your home will be burglarized.

SEE A GREAT DROUGHT-RESISTANT LANDSCAPE? TELL US!

- Joyce Statz

For about a year, we've been featuring a neighbor's landscape that gives us ideas about things we can plant that are drought-resistant and look great, too. This month... no article... ***we need your nominations!***

If you have a landscape to share with us, or you want to nominate one of a neighbor, please let us know. If you see an inspiring example as you drive through the neighborhood, tell us about that one, too, and we'll contact the neighbor to get their story. With our persistent drought, we really need a lot of new ideas!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS**- Membership and Sponsorship Committee**

NWACA would like to thank our members who have so generously contributed to the Oak Wilt Fund and/or the 4th of July Parade Fund between March 31st, 2014 and April 26th, 2014.

Donations to the Oak Wilt Fund provide financial assistance to property owners dealing with oak wilt. With this assistance, NWACA can reimburse forty percent of a homeowner’s expenses, up to a maximum \$1,000 reimbursement. NWACA policy requires that a property owner obtain an assessment of oak wilt infection, or risk of infection in healthy oaks, from an arborist with ASI oak wilt certification.

Donations to the 4th of July Parade Fund help NWACA to host the best 4th of July parade in Austin! This year we will be celebrating our 42nd Annual parade on July 4th 2014.

• Nancy-Jane and Tom Griffith	• Phuong and Ron Kampa
• Jim Lodwick	• Tracy and Dan Mitchell
• Mary Uren	• Monique and Stayton Wright

NEED A VARIANCE FROM THE WATERING RESTRICTIONS?**- Joyce Statz**

As we put in new landscapes or replace water-loving grass by something else, that new vegetation may need more than a once per week watering. Rather than being a scofflaw, you can get a variance from the City for as long as 40 days (which can be extended once). With the variance, you can legally water daily, if needed, for a limited period, then twice a week for several more weeks. Such a watering schedule is essential for seeding new grass, such as the Wildflower Center’s Habiturf, which once established, requires much very little water.

The application for a variance is available on the web and can be submitted there. Mine was processed in just a day, and the new grass is coming up nicely! Check out the details here:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/variances-drought-response-stage-2-regulations>

GOLF AT WALTER E. LONG, ANYONE?**- Announcement from the City of Austin**

You are invited to attend a community engagement meeting on to discuss the future development of a golf course at Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park:

Tuesday, May 6, 2014; 6:30-8:30 PM
Turner Roberts Recreation Center
7201 Colony Loop Drive 78724

For further information, please contact 512-974-6700.

FIREWISE TIP OF THE MONTH – ACCUMULATING YARD DEBRIS IS A FIRE HAZARD - Al Simmons

Each month we feature helpful information about ways to make your home more fire-adapted, better able to prevent wildfire destruction. The full set of tips is archived on the www.nwaca.org web site.

We all now know that fire embers are a secondary starter of fires and they can fly as much as a mile from a wildfire source...starting new fires.



Piles of dry tree limbs and other trimmings, brush, lawn debris, leaves, dry oak blooms, dry cuttings of groundcover and other vegetation are ideal targets for flying embers and other sources of fire...ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE PILED AGAINST A DRY WOODEN FENCE! Do you or your neighbor do this, saying, "I'll put them in the paper yard sack or yard barrel for City trash pick-up this week." Then two weeks later, and after three or four reminders from your spouse, you might get it picked up and to the curb? What do you tell your insurance company if that pile becomes a fire, lighting the wooden fence wicking to your house, or your neighbor's house, inflicting fire damage, or worse, burning the

house down? Oops! (Insurance companies love that answer!).

Avoid piling rubbish in your yard and in the green space behind your yard...put it at the curb for city trash on your regular day or on big brush pickup days. If your neighbor is bad about gathering and leaving piles of debris across the fence, become his very best friend. Either get permission from him to carry his mess to the curb for him, or better yet, get HIM to carry his own mess to the curb by explaining the very real threat of embers!

APD QUARTERLY COMMANDER'S FORUM SCHEDULE

The NWACA area is included in two districts of the Austin Police Department, thus we have two District Representatives, and we are served by two of the quarterly Commander's Forums.

Region 1, Central West (B4), District Representative Darrell Grayson – covers Baker Sector: (a) the area from Spicewood Springs to Far West, Mesa to Mopac, plus (b) all of the area south of Far West, from 360 to Mopac. The upcoming Region 1 Commander's Forums for 2014 for Central West:

- Tuesday, July 1, 2014 - 6:30 - 8 p.m. - Cornerstone Church, 1101 Reinli
- Tuesday, October 7, 2014 - 6:30 - 8 p.m. - McCallum High, 5600 Sunshine Drive

Region 2, Northwest (A3), District Representative Joe Hebbe – covers Adam Sector, the area from Spicewood Springs to Far West, 360 to Mesa. The next Region 2 Commander's Forum for 2014:

- Tuesday, May 13, 2014 - 6-8:30 p.m. - Asian Cultural Center, 11713 Jollyville Rd.
- Tuesday, August 12, 2014 - 6-8:30 p.m. - Anderson Mill Community Center, 1500 El Salido Parkway
- Tuesday, November 11, 2014 - 6-8:30 p.m. - Great Hills Baptist Church, 10500 Jollyville Rd.

REMINDER ABOUT NOT FEEDING THE DEER

Some new neighbors may not be aware that feeding deer is prohibited in Austin. If you see someone feeding deer, let them know that it's bad for the deer, and it's a violation of a City ordinance. If the feeding persists, you can report it by calling 3-1-1. The Code Compliance Department will send someone to talk with the neighbor.

ROVER ANTS

Each month we feature helpful information from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program, provided by Program Specialist Wizzie Brown.

Rover ants are tiny (~1/16" long) and brownish-black. They have 9 antennal segments, which differentiate them from many other ants; but you'll need a good hand lens or microscope to count antennal segments. The abdomen of rover ants is pudgy and the ants have a "humpbacked" appearance.

For great photos you can go to the following site:

<http://myrmecos.wordpress.com/2008/05/27/rover-ants-brachymyrmex-patagonicus-an-emerging-pest-species/>

Colonies, or nests, are small and have a single queen. They can occur inside structures in places such as wall voids, usually in areas of moisture- kitchen, bathrooms and near plumbing leaks. Outdoors, people often find the ants nesting under and/or inside flower pots, under stones and landscape timbers or running quickly up and down patio furniture or other vertical surfaces.

Worker ants will often be seen foraging on plants, and are often mistakenly identified as damaging the plant. The workers are tending honeydew excreted by insects such as aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies and scale insects. Controlling the honeydew-producing insects in the landscape can help cut down on ant problems.

The ants can be somewhat difficult to manage since they don't respond well to most solid baits. They do appear to take liquid baits fairly well. Sprays should not be used to treat for rover ants since this can split the colony up and make the ants more difficult to manage.

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

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas AgriLife Research is implied. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

SOMEONE'S DOG POOP MESSING UP YOUR YARD?

- Joyce Statz

The City of Austin has a pet waste ordinance:

§ 3-3-7 DEFECATION BY DOGS OR CATS.

"It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by a dog or cat being handled by that person on property, public or private, other than the premises of the owner or handler of such dog or cat."



Sometimes a neighbor just needs a gentle reminder, and the City of Austin can help. You can get a free yard sign from the City's Watershed Protection Department. We'll have some to distribute at the May 21 NWACA Annual Meeting, but if we run out before you get yours, you can order one here:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/online-form/order-your-scoop-poop-yard-sign>

FREE HOUSEHOLD DOCUMENT SHREDDING – MAY 17

- Notices from ARMA and City of Austin



A free shred day is being offered by the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) and City of Austin Resource Recovery:

- Saturday, May 17, from 8 AM to 1:30 PM
- Austin High School Parking Lot at 1715 West Cesar Chavez.

Households can bring up to **five** boxes of paper records per household for shredding. All of the shredded material and cardboard boxes are recycled. Please make sure your records are **paper only** and are not wet or moldy (**no** hard plastics, **no** plastic bags, **no** electronic media, and **no** three-ring binders). Monetary donations will be accepted with a portion of the proceeds going to ARMA Austin and the Capital Area Food Bank.

Things you might want to get rid of:

- older than 3 years – bank statements, cancelled checks [depending on how long your bank retains electronic copies]
- older than 5 years – medical insurance no longer in force
- older than 7 years – tax records
- older than 10 years – home repair bills and contracts; papers on properties you no longer own.

Note that shredded paper is **not** acceptable in City recycling bins. Here is a notice from the City web site:

In a recent update to our program, we ask that residents do not place shredded paper in the blue recycling cart. It's very hard to capture small particles, like shredded paper, during the recycling processing, even if placed in a paper bag.

We encourage residents to find an alternative use for shredded paper. For example, shredded paper can be a valuable addition to a home composting system. Shredded paper can also be repurposed and reused in other creative ways, as well. For example, it could be used to help package a gift. For more information about composting at home and a schedule of free City of Austin composting classes, visit

<http://austintexas.gov/composting>.

NWACA FACEBOOK GROUP AND NOTES YAHOO GROUP – SHARING AT ITS BEST!

Are you on Facebook? Join our Facebook group and be part of neighborhood conversation on everything from local events to lost dogs, reporting suspicious criminal activity, and exchanging referrals on residential services (as well as feedback on negative experiences). Get to know your neighbors online!

Due to the group's huge popularity NWACA now also has its own community Facebook page dedicated to NWACA events! "Like" us to keep up with everything going on with our organization and important news that impacts our neighborhood. An easy way to stay in the know about the Northwest Austin.

If you're already on Facebook, you can find us at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/299472207877/> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/NWACA-Northwest-Austin-Civic-Association/563320463775985> or search for "NWACA - Northwest Austin Civic Association." If you're not on Facebook, you can easily establish your own Facebook profile, then search for us and join us.

Our NWACA Notes Yahoo Group is another vehicle for trading messages, news, and trends. You can join by sending an email to: NWACANotes-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. The bigger the group the more valuable the info!

CAN WE SEE YOU? CAN YOU SEE US?

Walk Left
Run Left



Be Seen
Be Safe

If you're walking or running in the street, are you able to catch the eye of the driver of the car or truck or motorcycle in your lane? If not, you're probably in the wrong lane!

Please remind your family and friends, as you are out walking and running that you need to be facing the traffic. It's the law for a reason - it's the safe way! When out there at night, please also wear something reflective, to help drivers see you in the dark or dusk. Thanks!

TAP SIGNS AVAILABLE

The Traffic Awareness Program (TAP) signs are a very visible way for you to raise awareness about the excessive speeds on our residential streets, cautioning drivers to slow down. To show your support, place a free "Please Slow Down" sign in your front yard!

If you would like a sign, please contact us at nwacainfo@gmail.com



CALL 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The 9-1-1 emergency number gets you a response for a wide variety of issues:

- Life-threatening issues – house on fire, person having a heart attack, burglary in progress, etc.
- Health-related crises – someone can't catch their breath, incapacitated person needs a lift out of the bathtub, and more.
- If you're unsure, err on the side of caution!

Call 9-1-1 and you will get a quick and kind response from EMS, Austin Police Department, and Austin Fire Department personnel.

CALL 3-1-1 FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ANY NON-EMERGENCY ACTION BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN

The City of Austin provides one number, 3-1-1, that citizens may call for things like the following:

- Coyote sightings or howling – provide an exact street address, so the trapper can locate them
- Reporting trees that have fallen and block roadways or sidewalks, or those that drag on power lines
- Reporting dead animals for pickup; they must be placed at the curb, though; City personnel are not allowed to enter our yards to gather them
- Problems with loose dogs or traffic signals not working
- Reporting instances of people feeding deer.
- And more.

Call 3-1-1 or file a request at <http://austin-p1csrprodcwi.motorolasolutions.com/Home.mvc/Index>

NWACA MAILING LIST – IT'S FAST AND FRIENDLY!

If you're among the NWACA members getting this newsletter by U.S. mail, but you also have an email address, please let us know your email address and let us deliver the newsletter and other news to you that way. You can easily click on the many links in the newsletter to find more detailed information, and you'll get your news much sooner than if you wait for it from "snail mail!" When we sign you up for the email list, we'll give you a clear explanation of how to set up your options.

WHY JOIN NWACA?

The Northwest Austin Civic Association is your neighborhood association! NWACA represents YOU on issues like:

- Crime (how to prevent car and home break-ins, interacting with APD on issues)
- Transportation (raising awareness about excessive vehicle speeds and tracking new traffic lights).
- Zoning concerns
- Wildfire Prevention (helping homeowners harden their homes against wildfire)

NWACA plans the annual 4th of July Parade (42nd Annual in 2014!), organizes election and issues forums, sponsors an annual neighborhood garage sale, publishes a newsletter and much, much more! Membership is voluntary but **we need your input and financial support** to provide what our neighborhood needs. Please join us and also volunteer on a committee to help us create a neighborhood where we can all help each other.

NWACA Membership Form

Send annual dues of **\$25 (renewable each January)** with this form to: NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

Homeowner Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____ Zip _____

Email #1 (kept private; print): _____

Email #2 (kept private; print): _____

Phone (with area code) _____

Annual Dues: \$25

(Optional) 4th of July Parade Contribution: \$10___ \$20___ Other ___

(Optional) Oak Wilt Fund Contribution: \$10___ \$20___ Other ___

(You can also pay via PayPal by following this link on our web site: [Join NWACA](#))

(If you've already paid your dues for this year, please pass this on to a neighbor who is not yet a member.)

Volunteers are always needed on our committees.

Please mark those you'd like to know more about, and a Committee Chair will contact you.

Thanks very much!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime and Safety/Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree and Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership and Sponsorship | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning |