

NWACA Platinum Business Sponsors 2014-2015

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message from the NWACA President • Calendar • Campaign for Murchison Pool Park • Update on Austin Oaks PUD • Update on the Overlook • A Fond Farewell to Northwest Hardware • 4th of July Parade is Near • Progress on Traffic Near Schools • Committee Spotlight – Events Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CodeNEXT Update • Free Household Shredding • Hazing Coyote • Stillhouse Hollow Hike – June 6 • Opportunities for Sponsorship • Crime and Safety Tip – VIN Etching • Special Thanks to members • Firewise Tip of the Month – Follow the CWPP • Wizzie Brown on Mosquitoes |
|---|--|

MESSAGE FROM THE NWACA BOARD PRESIDENT

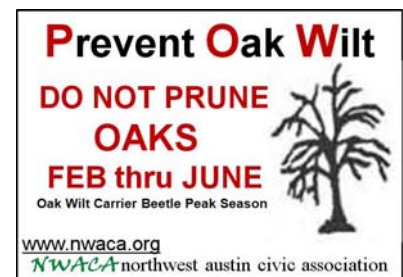
- Joyce Statz

There is a lot happening in NWACA these days, and the length of the newsletter shows it! Check out the articles and let us know how you want to get involved.

A quick reminder, too... this is the season of the beetle, so please avoid pruning your oak trees for the next two months. Our neighborhoods have suffered very expensive consequences from oak wilt, and we need to be sure everyone in the neighborhood is vigilant about caring for our trees. Much more detail available at www.nwaca.org

Next month's newsletter will be in a new format, with paid advertising that lets us print and mail copies to those who enjoy reading it in print, as well as delivering it electronically to those who prefer it that way. Be thinking about new columns or features you'd like to see included, and help us make that happen by gathering the information and/or writing about it!

In the last several months, Council Member Gallo has held Town Hall meetings in our district, covering parks issues, affordable housing, and traffic concerns. Several NWACA neighbors were unable to attend the meeting on



traffic in neighborhoods on April 18th and asked for a summary on traffic speed and traffic calming programs. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

NWACA and several other neighborhoods have proposed putting up speed monitoring devices, like that in the picture here, which could be semi-permanent. That is, they would be attached to a signpost (perhaps where there is already a sign as in this example), but they could be removed at some point and placed on another street; many are solar-powered, so that no utility hookup is needed. NWACA began working with the City on this idea in 2012, offering to pay for a sign and test its use for effectiveness, but the City had no process for handling such a sign. That process is still under development, and we were told to expect a process in about 6 months. Meanwhile, if there are streets on which we want to place temporary “speed trailers,” we can contact our APD District Representative (DR) to get one set up. Our new DR is Gary Griffin, who can be reached at gary.griffin@austintexas.gov or at 512-974-8392.



Traffic calming devices were discussed, with some wanting them and others opposed. The process for getting these control devices (speed bumps, speed cushions, turnouts, etc.) has changed. Unlike the original process, *residents of the street cannot stop the program by their opposition*. A request for traffic calming is assigned points based on a number of factors: level of speeding, speed-related car crashes, pedestrian or bicycle crashes, support of those who live or work on the street, and others. Requests which meet eligibility criteria and have the highest scores are put on a list for potential implementation. The City’s current Local Area Traffic Management (LATAM) is described here: <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/local-area-traffic-management>

NWACA and NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Date	Location	Event (items in italics are community-wide events)
May 1	Throughout NWACA	Teams begin fundraising efforts for Murchison Pool Park Project – various parties and events throughout the month
May 2	Throughout NWACA	Lemonade Day – Girl Scout and Boy Scout Fundraisers, with portion of proceeds to Murchison Pool Park Project
<i>May 2, 9 AM - 3 PM</i>	<i>JJ Pickle Research Campus</i>	<i>City-wide Wildfire Survival Symposium – National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day</i>
<i>May 2, 10 AM – 4PM</i>	<i>North Austin locations</i>	<i>NxNA Garden Tour – see announcement below</i>
May 3, 8 AM	Kneaded Pleasures	NWACA Parks Committee
May 4, Noon	Mangia Pizza	NWACA Zoning Committee
May 6, 8 AM	Kneaded Pleasures	NWACA Communications Committee
May 7, 8 AM	Kneaded Pleasures	Membership and Sponsorship Committee
May 14, 7 - 9 PM	Dell Jewish Community Campus	Annual NWACA Neighborhood Meeting
<i>May 16, 8 AM – 1:30 PM</i>	<i>ACC Highland Campus</i>	<i>Annual ARMA event for households in Austin – free shredding of household paper (only); see article below</i>
June 6, 8-11 AM	Stillhouse Hollow Preserve	Nature hikes and scavenger hunt as part of National Trails Day; the Preserve is at 7810 Sterling Drive, just off Burney Dr.

CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF FOR MURCHISON POOL

-- Caroline Alexander







The NWACA Parks Committee has secured a commitment from the City of Austin’s Neighborhood Partnering Program to contribute up to \$57,000 toward the Murchison Pool Project. The catch? We need to raise \$30,000 to share the costs of the full project.

The project includes a picnic pavilion in place of the old arbor. This pavilion will cover 8 new picnic tables, and a sidewalk will be constructed to connect the pavilion with the pool deck. In addition, 2 large cantilevered umbrellas will cover the 3 existing picnic tables. Finally, 5 new benches will be placed around the pool. The City just finished replacing the tile and coping in the pool itself. With these improvements, Murchison Pool will be almost as good as new!

There are many opportunities to get involved and donate:

- Neighborhood fundraising teams have begun planning events to reach out to their neighbors and neighborhood networks to support the project. Events are planned for the Rockledge, Greystone, and Highland Hills Drive areas. [Contact us](#) if you are interested in hosting or planning an event.
- On May 2 for Lemonade Day, young social entrepreneurs around the neighborhood are planning their lemonade stands to raise funds for and awareness of the project. Please [visit a stand](#), purchase some lemonade, and make a donation!
- On May 14, we will also be selling yard signs and accepting donations at the NWACA Annual Meeting. Come visit us at the Parks Committee table.
- Anytime, you can mail in a check or make a donation online at <http://murchisonpool.org/Donate.php>.

Only with your help can we make our fundraising goal! So, please join our growing list of sponsors:

Orca (\$2500 and above)	Dolphin (\$1000 and above)
 	   
Yellow Fin (\$500 and above)	
Austin Dermcare	Parents of the Magellan International School
Carol Dochen Realtors	The Shade Project
Seahorse (\$100 and above)	
Austin Emergency	The Banister Family
Cecelia Burke	Ann Denkler and Jett Hanna
Dr. Carrie Etheredge, DMD	The Glaser Family
The Herrin Family	The Medrano Family
PostNet	Joyce Statz and David Hogan

HELP PRESERVE THE MONARCHS!

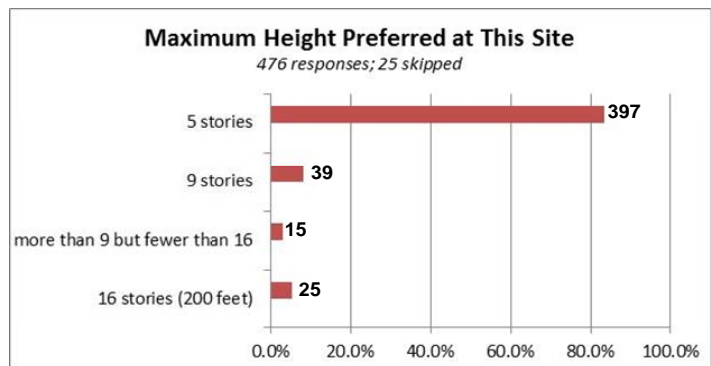
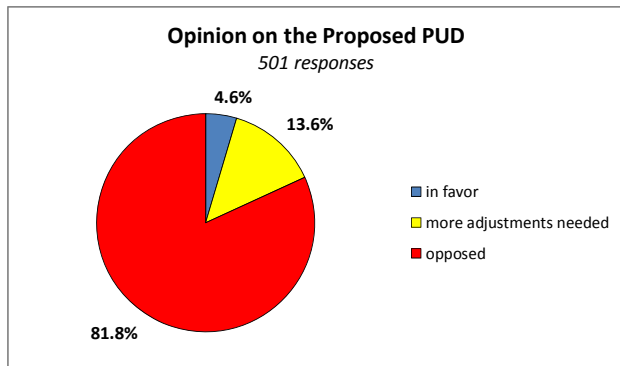
- John Warden

The National Wildlife Federation recently launched a new "Butterfly Heroes Photo Pledge" to engage children and families in wildlife gardening. Those who do the pledge receive in the mail regionally appropriate **milkweed and nectar plant seeds**, a Ranger Rick Nature Notebook, and information on how to certify their butterfly garden as an NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat. Find out more here: <http://www.nwf.org/ButterflyHeroes>

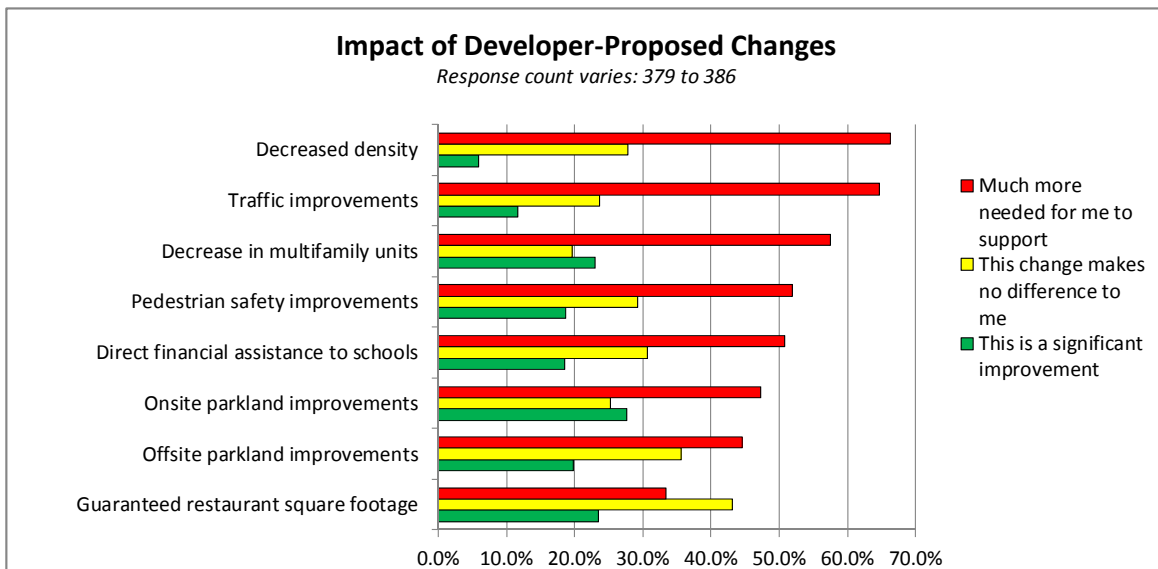
Since our last newsletter was published, NWACA completed the analysis of the survey we ran in March. That survey asked for neighborhood response to changes proposed by the re-zoning applicant in December, 2014. The overall results were very similar to those in the September, 2014 survey, with additional clarity on some of the key issues and feedback on the specific changes proposed. These charts summarize the key results. The full report is on the NWACA web site, along with the verbatim comments provided by survey takers.

Survey results were sent to City staff, the applicant (Drenner Group), the Zoning and Platting Commission, and to our Council Member, Sheri Gallo. We offered to meet with any of them to discuss these results further. We are in the process of setting meetings at this point with someone from the Zoning and Platting Commission and with the applicant. In each case, the NWACA Board has directed that those discussions will use the results of the survey as we vigorously represent the neighborhood on this important case.

The first chart shows the overall opinion on the proposed PUD, with December changes. The second shows the neighborhood’s preference regarding height, reflecting most support for the height allowed by current zoning.



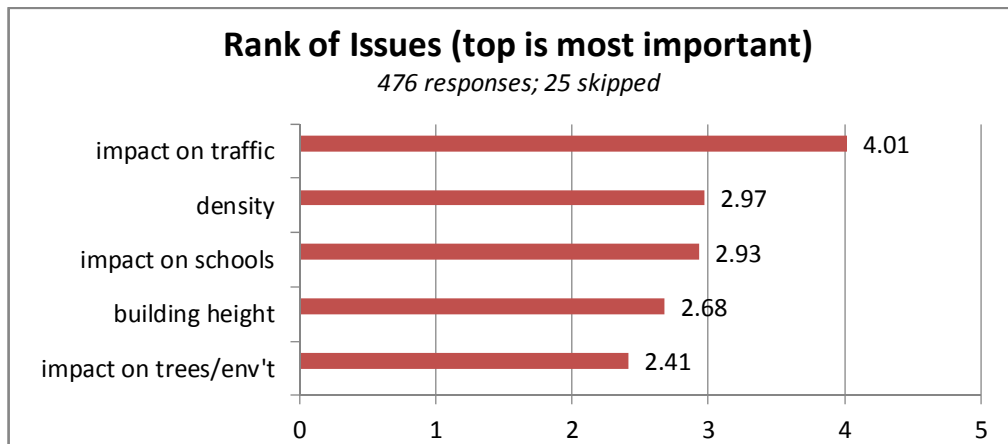
The chart below shows the neighborhood’s response to the set of changes proposed in December:



The survey asked respondents to rank the key issues, with a rank of 1 indicating the most important issue. Results are shown here in two charts, the first a table with the percentages of responses at each of 5 ranks.

Rank	Building Height %	Density %	Impact on Schools %	Impact on Traffic %	Impact on Trees/Env't %
1	13.4%	15.5%	20.6%	43.7%	6.7%
2	14.7%	20.2%	20.4%	29.4%	15.3%
3	21.6%	26.7%	14.9%	15.1%	21.6%
4	26.5%	20.8%	19.5%	8.2%	25.0%
5	23.7%	16.8%	24.6%	3.6%	31.3%

A weighted average rank was computed from the responses on each issue, yielding the following chart. Results are sorted in order from most important to least important to the respondents.



On **Tuesday, May 5th** this case is expected to go before the Zoning and Platting Commission for an update to commissioners. The agenda for that meeting, which starts at 6 PM at City Hall, is not yet published, but we expect there to be updates provided by both the City staff and the applicant, as well as an opportunity for public comment. All interested neighbors are encouraged to attend and let your voice be heard.

ZONING UPDATE ON THE OVERLOOK AT SPICEWOOD SPRINGS - Joyce Statz

At the April 3rd City Council meeting, the (second) rezoning request for The Overlook At Spicewood Springs (4920 Spicewood Springs Road) came up for 2nd and 3rd readings. The request was to change the zoning from Single Family to Limited Office (LO), with the intention of building an 18,000 square foot office building. A valid petition was signed by business owners adjacent to the Overlook property, limiting the square footage, height, and usage; this was supported by HOAs and nearby neighborhood associations. Council approved the rezoning to LO, with a conditional overlay restricting the building size to 12,000 square feet, limiting traffic to 500 trips per day, limiting usages of the property, and limiting the height in front and back of the building.

The next steps in this case involve the site plan, which will need to go before the Environmental Board for any variances needed to build on the site, as well as appearing again before the Zoning and Platting Commission for approval of the site plan. Each of these meetings is open to the public, and our neighborhood will be notified.

A FOND FAREWELL TO NORTHWEST HARDWARE

-- Karen Sironi

By now all of you have heard that Northwest Hardware is closing its doors, an iconic fixture in our beautiful neighborhood. It was there long before my arrival in the early 80's. Before MOPAC, Loop 360, the Pennybacker Bridge, a double decked 183. Long before Michael Dell lived on Valburn Circle. Even before Steve Jobs worked from his garage, just to give you some perspective. What were you driving in 1972? 45 years ago is when this wonderful little place opened.



Sadly we, and I include myself, are responsible for not supporting the most eclectic hardware store this town had to offer. The customer service was friendly and top notch. Needed something special? They had it. Need the minutest washer, that unusual screw or bolt.... guess where we went, Northwest Hardware, not one of the big box stores. There was more stuff in such a small space which would pretty much fix or repair anything you needed done.

A knife sharpening, that special paint color to match a bluebonnet, or an old lamp that needed rewiring, we knew where to go. You could get answers to all your questions about projects. Every question was answered with a smile and a solution. Many a conversation happened in a rocking chair there. And you probably bought some of "Tracy's" dirt; you know what I'm talking about!

So many people have stopped by to ask why, and what can we do to help? But it was too late: had I known, I know "my" neighborhood would have come together to help out. Life is full of change and sometimes it hurts.

And now we must say goodbye to a beloved business, and friends we all love. You will be missed, and never forgotten in this 'hood! Enjoy what comes next in your lives.

4TH OF JULY PARADE IS GETTING NEAR! - Julie DePalma

Mark your calendars for the 43rd Annual 4th of July Parade - July 4, 2015 at 9am - it will be here before we know it! Which means it is also time to start thinking about your floats. We will once again have a float contest, complete with blue ribbons and prize money! A small entry fee will be required to participate in the contest, so start gathering your group and planning your winning designs!

Love our parade and want to help? Many volunteers are needed to make this time honored tradition a reality every year. Contact Parade Chair, Julie DePalma by sending email to nwacainfo@gmail.com or call 512-799-1222 to see how your time and talents can help pull off this wonderful event!

Additional details about the parade, t-shirts, float contest and more coming soon to a mailbox (snail and virtual), website (www.nwaca.org) and Facebook page (NWACA - Northwest Austin Civic Association) near you!!

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



NWACA's Wildfire Prevention Committee can help you minimize the risk to your home from wildfire. Certified assessors will 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 use the Firewise Request link. If you do not have internet access, please mail us at: NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

PROGRESS ADDRESSING TRAFFIC ISSUES NEAR SCHOOLS

- Transportation Committee

The NWACA Transportation Committee continues to work on the Doss/Murchison Schools area traffic issues. The community requested that the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) perform a traffic assessment on the roadways surrounding the schools. ATD conducted the study late last year and developed a set of recommendations aimed at increasing safety and reducing congestion, particularly during pick up/drop off times. Based on ATD's engineering investigation, the following recommendations were completed.

Short Term

- Markings and Signs at the crosswalks at the intersection of Northledge Drive and North Hills Drive, near Thorncliffe Drive, and on Hart Lane: All existing crosswalk markings were enhanced. Additional pedestrian crossing warning signs were installed on the back of the current signs. As a result, the pedestrian crossing signs are visible from both travel directions.
- Extend the 'No Parking' zone on North Hills Drive to improve the sight distance: The existing parking prohibition was extended by approximately 100 feet to improve the sight distance for drivers approaching the pick-up/drop-off area.
- Evaluate the striping of a crosswalk on Chimney Corners at its intersection on Far West Boulevard: Due to the alignment of the curb ramps at this intersection, ADA requirements will preclude marking this crosswalk. Public Works Department (PWD) does not have a realignment project funded. ATD will mark a stop bar at the stop sign to reiterate to the desired stopping location.
- Evaluate the need for signs directing pedestrians to cross Far West Boulevard at Northledge Drive: ATD will install signs at the intersection of Chimney Corners and Far West Boulevard directing pedestrians to cross at Northledge Drive. Also, students and parents could be educated and requested to cross at the marked crosswalk through emails or school safety flyers.
- Request PWD to trim tree limbs obstructing the school zone flasher on North Hills Drive: The request to trim the tree limbs around the school zone flasher on North Hills Drive was sent to Forestry Specialist. We will conduct a field review and follow-up if tree limbs have not been cleared.

Long Term

The intersection of Far West Boulevard and Northledge Drive has been included in ATD's signal request list. If studied and recommended for installation, a funding source would have to be identified.

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT – NWACA EVENTS COMMITTEE

- Rebecca Leightman



Enjoy seeing people have fun? Like planning a big party? We have just the spot for you! The NWACA Events Committee coordinates our various neighborhood events, including the City's best 4th of July Parade and family-friendly events like summertime movies at the pool. We're looking for interested players to join us right now to put together this year's 4th of July event, and we're always looking for creative people who want to develop new adventures for our neighborhood.

Many hands make light work, so we want to build a large committee where each participant can be in charge of a small piece, so no one individual is overwhelmed. Send us a note at nwacainfo@gmail.com and let's talk!

CodeNEXT: EVOLUTION OF OUR LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE - David Whitworth, Zoning Committee

At the Code Advisory Group (CAG) meeting on May 20th, Matt Lewis was introduced as the new Assistant Director of Planning. Matt has had great success in his planning roles in Hutto and San Marcos before accepting the position with the City of Austin.

At this meeting, there was a general review of the working group output and discussion of forwarding the findings to the consultant, Opticos. [The three Working Groups cover 1) Affordability; 2) Infill, Compatibility, and Missing Middle; and 3) Obstacles for Small Businesses.] There was some unease that the city also has an ongoing "Green Infrastructure" work group and that the findings from this group will not have been integrated with the other work groups. However, the CodeNEXT process should allow for these various elements to come together in the future, and the CAG intends to keep an eye on the moving parts.

Information about the working group process is here: <https://austintexas.gov/department/working-groups>
See results from the working group meetings here: <https://codenext.bloomfire.com/>

Phase 2 of the City's contract with Opticos has not yet been executed; that contract should include the "public draft" incorporating mapping and the "code adoption" phases. The city will hold a Charrette with Opticos from October to November and there will be 6 public events covering the code update. Then Opticos will prepare an administrative draft of our new code before the public draft is released. Code adoption is anticipated to be early in 2017.

To monitor the ongoing activity with the Land Development Code, see this City web site:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/codenext>

The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan that underpins these efforts can be found online here:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/our-plan-future>

FREE HOUSEHOLD DOCUMENT SHREDDING – MAY 16

- Public Service Notice

A free shred day is being offered by the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA), Balcones Shred, Iron Mountain, and Shred-It:

- Saturday, May 16, from 8 AM to 1:30 PM
- ACC Highland Campus, 6101 Airport Boulevard



Only dry paper packed in cardboard boxes no larger than 24x24x36 inches with fitting lids will be accepted. All of the shredded material and cardboard boxes are recycled. **No** hard plastics, **no** plastic bags, **no** electronic media, and **no** three-ring binders. Monetary donations will be accepted, with half of the donations going to the Capital Area Food Bank. For more information, see <http://www.austinarma.com/shred-day>

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.

HAZING COYOTE

- Carolyn Abernathy, Wildlife Management Committee

Throughout this year, the NWACA Wildlife Committee will provide education about how to minimize conflict with and damage from coyotes in our neighborhood. Each article will be archived on the NWACA web site for quick and easy access, in the Coyote References files.

“A habituated coyote is a potential problem coyote.”

-Jonathan Way, Wildlife Biologist

As coyotes adapt to our presence, they progressively lose their natural fear of humans. This is called habituation. Hazing is an important tool for re-instilling that fear. When you utilize hazing, you are teaching the coyote to avoid humans. This practice promotes the safe enjoyment of our yards, streets, parks and playgrounds.

Here are some suggested hazing techniques:

- shout loudly
- clap hands
- wave arms
- be as big and loud as possible
- throw rocks (sticks will do, but rocks are better)

Items around the house and yard that are useful in hazing include:

- a water hose
- repellent spray
- paintballs
- vinegar in a water gun

Teach your children never to approach wild animals or dogs they don't know. Suggested hazing for older children is to Stomp Feet, Wave Arms and tell it to GO AWAY in a loud voice. Children should never run from a coyote as it triggers the instinct to chase. If the coyote remains in the area, call for help and slowly walk out of area keeping the animal in sight.

NWACA does not encourage the practice of hazing by small children or any individual who does not feel safe doing so in any given situation. Any coyote exhibiting aggressive behavior toward a person or pet should be reported to 311 immediately.

Source: Colorado Parks and Wildlife brochure: “Your Guide to Avoiding Human-Coyote Conflict,” 2/2013.

STILLHOUSE HOLLOW HIKE ON JUNE 6

- Stephannie Behrens

The NWACA parks committee, along with the Austin Parks Foundation is hosting a birding and nature walk through Stillhouse Hollow Preserve on National Trails Day - June 6, 2015. Jane Tillman will guide a group through the preserve that morning.

It's a great opportunity to rediscover one of our neighborhoods most wonderful parks. Signups will be available starting May 11 at <http://austinparks.org/ntd.html>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPONSORSHIP

- Chris Hadju, Membership/Sponsorship Chair

NWACA Business Sponsorship

It's that time of year again. We are ramping up for our biggest event of the year, the Annual 4th of July Parade. Events like our parade and others do not happen by themselves. We rely on help from our NWACA Business Sponsors.

If you'd like to be a NWACA Business Sponsor, or know someone who would, please email: nwacainfo@gmail.com.

Murchison Pool Park Improvement Fund

The NWACA Parks Committee has taken the lead on raising money to improve the area around our neighborhood pool at Murchison. We are looking for neighbors and businesses to help with the Murchison Pool project. For each \$1 donated to the Murchison Pool project (which is done via the Austin Parks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization), the City of Austin will provide almost \$2.

Visit www.MurchisonPool.org to learn more about this effort and get involved!

CRIME AND SAFETY TIP – Free VIN ETCHING APRIL 28

- Cuatro Groos, Crime and Safety Chair

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Event Location: One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road

All vehicles have a federally assigned vehicle identification number. The etching of a VIN on the windows of a vehicle deters thieves because it is more difficult to dispose of property that is identifiable. It is time-consuming and expensive for thieves to replace the windows which have been marked with the VIN.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

- Lock your car and take your keys
- Never hide a spare key or a second set of keys in or around your car. Extra keys are easily found by car thieves.
- Invest in vehicle and motorcycle theft deterrents – wheel locks, tracking devices, kill switches, etc.

Please call Nelson Andrade with the Austin Police Department for further information on VIN-etchings at 512-974-5713 or visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/auto-theft>

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, the 4th of July Parade Fund, or the Park Fund, between March 27, 2015 and April 26, 2015.

Donations to the Oak Wilt Fund provide financial assistance to property owners dealing with oak wilt. NWACA can reimburse forty percent of a pre-approved homeowner's expenses, up to a maximum reimbursement of \$1,000. NWACA policy requires that a property owner must first 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!

The Park Fund helps us revitalize parks with cleanup days and other activities at several of our parks.

• Nanette and Robert Sechler	• Mary Uren
• Nikki and David Zern	

FIREWISE TIP OF THE MONTH – Follow the CWPP!

- Joyce Statz

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.

Over the last two years, two plans have been developed that help residents and homes of NWACA prepare to survive a wildfire. Each plan is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The overarching CWPP was developed by a joint task force of Austin and Travis County entities, providing guidance for the entire area. Released in November 2014, that plan is now being implemented by a joint team from these same entities – including all of the fire departments, emergency services departments, and various other City and County organizations. The plan is here: <http://www.austintexas.gov/wildfireprotectionplan>

Leveraging the Austin/Travis County Joint CWPP, the NWACA Wildfire Prevention Committee created a NWACA CWPP, which will soon be posted to the NWACA web site and will be described at the May 14th NWACA Annual Neighborhood Meeting. This plan covers:

- Community Profile - our general landscape, climate, vegetation, population, land use, fire response capabilities, and facilities of concern
- Fire Environment - the areas of NWACA most at risk from wildfire (about 40% of the population lives on the wildland urban interface (WUI), though all of NWACA is at risk from wildfire embers)
- Risk Assessment – a summary of the NWACA-wide wildfire risk assessment that was done by the Texas Forest Service and the Austin Fire Department’s Wildfire Division in late 2013
- Mitigation Strategies - how NWACA will educate residents, provide guidance on how individual homeowners and businesses can harden their property against wildfire, reduce wildfire fuel in our green spaces, and establish plans for evacuation or sheltering in place when a fire occurs
- Implementation – how we will deploy this plan by facilitating development of Firewise Communities throughout NWACA, with a starter kit for HOAs and street-level groups of neighbors

Each Firewise Community will have its own small CWPP, identifying the work of that community to get its homes and green spaces fire-hardened. This plan is reviewed by the AFD Wildfire Division and then is submitted for national review and recognition through the Texas Forest Service. Once a Firewise Community is active and homes are being hardened, the AFD Wildfire Division will work with the neighborhood to help reduce wildfire fuel in City or County-owned green spaces in their area. Using this incremental approach, we plan to gradually make all of NWACA less vulnerable to wildfire.

Learn more about this at the May 14th NWACA Annual Meeting. To take part as a Firewise Community, send email to nwacainfo@gmail.com and to learn how to harden your home, sign up for a risk assessment on the NWACA web site using the Firewise Request link.

NWACA FACEBOOK PRESENCE – COMMUNICATING AND SHARING

Join our Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/299472207877/> to be part of neighborhood conversations 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).

NWACA now also has its own community Facebook page dedicated to NWACA events at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/NWACA-Northwest-Austin-Civic-Association/563320463775985>

There is also a special-purpose Facebook group for information about the Austin Oaks PUD at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/213579268812724/>

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

Mosquitoes can be very irritating and disrupt outdoor activities. They also are able to transmit various diseases to humans and animals. Mosquitoes are known to transmit heartworm in dogs and cats, and they can spread encephalitis (including West Nile Virus), Chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever, malaria and filariasis among humans.

Most female mosquitoes require a blood meal for egg production whereas males feed on nectar and do not bite. Eggs can be laid on the surface of water or in dry locations that are occasionally flooded by water. Some eggs are able to remain dormant under dry conditions for several months. Eggs hatch into larvae, or wigglers. Mosquito larvae live in water and feed on organic debris or microscopic plants and animals. Larvae molt into pupae which do not feed. Mosquito pupae spend the majority of their time at the surface of the water, only moving when disturbed.



Female mosquito.



Mosquito larvae (left) and pupae (right).

Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish.

Avoiding peak hours when mosquitoes are active is probably the best method to avoid being bitten. When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves and long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when evening activities cannot be rescheduled. Other products such as citronella candles will also repel mosquitoes, but work best in enclosed areas.

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.

HAPPENING BEYOND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

– Public Service Announcement

Here is an event that a group has asked us to publicize to our neighbors.

May 4th is International Firefighter's Day, a good day to let a firefighter know how much they're appreciated! We have these fire stations in and near NWACA; when there is a fire, the station nearest is the first one dispatched to the fire:

- Fire Station 19 – 5211 Balcones Drive, 78731
- Fire Station 21 - 4201 Spicewood Springs Rd, 78759
- Fire Station 31 – 5507 RM 2222, 78731
- Fire Station 33 – 9409 Bluegrass Drive, 78759

May 6, 7:00 PM, Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center – Imagine Austin session on the South Central Waterfront Initiative; Guest speaker Alan Krieger will speak on the principles for creating vibrant, beautiful and welcoming waterfronts. Visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/waterfront> for more information about the initiative.

May 16, 1:00-3:00 PM, Ridgetop Elementary Auditorium, 5005 Caswell Avenue – Imagine Austin a panel discussion and self-guided tour of "missing middle" housing types- such as duplexes, townhouses, or accessory dwelling units - in the North Loop neighborhood. RSVP at <https://walkthetalkatx.eventbrite.com>

May 29, 2015, San Marcos, TX: Urban Deer Workshop 2015 – Addressing Conflict with Deer in our Communities, An Interactive and Engaging Workshop, presented by Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Texas State University. Details here: <http://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/events/urban-deer-workshop>

CAN WE SEE YOU? CAN YOU SEE US?

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? Please remind your family and friends, as you are out walking and running in the street that you need to be facing the traffic. It's the law for a reason - it's the safe way!

On some of our streets, the best place to be is the sidewalk – even if you're not facing the traffic. On streets that are marked for bicycles (perhaps also with a parking lane), there's too little space for walkers and bikes and cars; so use the sidewalk if one is available there.

When out at night on the street, please wear something reflective, to help drivers see you in the dark or dusk. Thanks!



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SHERI GALLO'S OFFICE**- Public Service Notice**

Office line: 512-978-2110 **Web site:** <http://district10austin.com/>

Office Staff:

Tina Cannon, Policy Aide for Audit & Finance, Austin Energy, Economic Opportunity, Health & Human Services, Public Safety and Public Utilities: Tina.Cannon@austintexas.gov

Suzie Chase, Constituent Liaison: Suzie.Chase@austintexas.gov

Taylor Smith, Policy Aide for Housing & Community Development, Mobility, Planning & Neighborhoods and Open Spaces: Taylor.Smith@austintexas.gov

Melanie Loftin-Smith, Communications Coordinator

Council Meeting Dates

Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month

Council Work Sessions: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of the month

Council Zoning Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month

Austin Energy Council Committee Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month

Council meetings schedule details: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/council-meetings>

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.

CITY OF AUSTIN "SCOOP THE POOP" SIGNS AVAILABLE



Some of our neighbors have expressed an interest in yard signs that remind dog-walkers to pick up after their dogs. The City of Austin has provided us small free yard signs that can be used to remind our friends to 'scoop the poop' as they walk their dogs.

We have a batch of those signs for distribution to anyone who'd like one. If you would like one, please let us know at nwacainfo@gmail.com or send us a message via U.S. mail.

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, APD, 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>

The City also has a smartphone 311 app now. See this link for more information:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/311/smart-phone-app>

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 (43rd Annual in 2015!), organizes election and issues forums, sponsors an annual neighborhood garage sale, publishes a newsletter and much, much more!

NWACA Membership Form

Send annual dues of \$25 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): _____ Date: _____

Annual Dues: \$25

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

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

(Optional) Parks 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"/> Sponsorship |
| <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/ 4 th of July | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks | |