



## President's Message

– Chris Hajdu



It's hard to believe 2016 is half over. It's summertime now, and the heat is here in full force. Traffic has eased a bit with school out, but don't forget that utility work will be commencing soon on Far West and this will affect traffic patterns in the area. Let's all have patience during this time and work to make things as smooth as possible during this construction. Speaking of traffic, please look at the article in this newsletter related to the new traffic pattern planned for the Mesa/Far West intersection. We are also eagerly waiting for the opening of the northern phase of MoPac (a little behind schedule due to the extremely wet weather in May.)

We hope many of you were able to attend the open house events in June that showcased the improvements made at Murchison Pool and Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve. Thanks to Caroline Alexander and Janelle Medrano for shepherding these projects to such successful completions! Stop by Murchison Pool this summer to beat the heat and check out the new shade structures and picnic tables or take a hike in Stillhouse Hollow and check out the new deck and benches.

How many of you knew that Northwest Hills has its very own hidden dam?

Well, we do!! It's an earthen dam located in the heart of our neighborhood. Read the article this month on our very own Cougar Run Dam and the city's controversial plans to build a road from Far West to the dam in order to service and maintain the dam. The dam was built when the neighborhood was under construction and has since been overgrown with cedars and brush, so many don't even know it exists.

Do you have an idea for a neighborhood project that could benefit from matching funds or a small project that could use some direct funding? Be thinking about project ideas, as we will announce a community grant program next month. This NWACA program will fund well-deserving projects in our immediate NWACA area.

Also, this month we are also pleased to announce that we have a new board member, Julie DePalma. Julie, most recently has been the chair of the July 4th parade in 2015 and 2016. She has done a great job in this role and we are excited to have her as a member of the board. She and her husband have lived in Northwest Hills since 2013 and have a daughter who attends Doss Elementary.

## Cecelia Burke - NWACA Volunteer Extraordinaire!

– Stacey Brewer and Joyce Statz



For the last several years, the NWACA Board has honored a neighbor who provides outstanding service to the community. In 2014, we recognized Stanley Cavitt, who's been a Board member, a perpetual volunteer, and the host home for the start of the 4th of July Parade for decades. The person recognized in 2015 was Parker Blevins, for many years "Mr. Oak Wilt" for our neighborhood, watching out for the health of our trees – and now an exemplary Neighborhood Watch Captain.

This year, we are pleased to salute Cecelia Burke as our volunteer of the year. She's put in hundreds of hours in fruitful service to the neighborhood. Everyone's benefitted from her years of able organization and fundraising for the 4th of July Parade. The Board treasured her work as secretary – her recordkeeping set a standard others are having a tough time meeting! During last year's campaign to raise money to improve Murchison Pool, she helped us with her excellent networking skills, and easily brought in the most money. Many of us involved with NWACA can say that we're here because Cecelia tapped us on the shoulder one day and asked us to do "just one little thing!" Through it all, she brings encouragement and her inviting smile... so nobody can say "no!"

Thanks, Cecelia, for all that you do for this neighborhood we all love!

## Trial Changes at Far West and Mesa

– David Whitworth

The Far West / Mesa intersection has been re-striped and signed with temporary measures for a trial period that will continue until sometime in September. The goal is to alleviate confusion at this 4-way stop, well known for making people momentarily incompetent.

When approaching the intersection from any direction, there will be two designated lanes. The left lane can go straight or turn left and the right lane can only turn right (see graphic). This should prevent two cars from believing they can both go straight, then vying for

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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/departments/myaustincodestatus>  
APD District Representative, Office Darrell Grayson 512-974-5242

### 2016 NWACA Board of Directors

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David Whitworth  
Stayton Wright



Each of the Board members can be reached at:  
[nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com)

The NWACA Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except December. Please visit our calendar at [www.nwaca.org](http://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 get you on the agenda.

NWACA is bordered on the north by Spicewood Springs Road, on the west by Loop 360, on the south by RM 2222, and on the east by Mopac (Loop 1).

## ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make the NWACA News possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

(Continued from Cover)

position as the two lanes reduce to one just past the intersection. To further reduce this confusion, the striping exiting the intersection will be one lane only, instead of the short distance of two lanes that previously suggested two cars could go straight.

The city traffic engineer noted that the queue could get longer with designated lane functions, however our hopes are that the better functioning intersection will mitigate any queuing.

This trial period is meant to allow drivers to get accustomed through the summer, into the beginning of the school year so Doss parents can see how it works during the school commute. Expect to receive an electronic survey from your Doss Blast or NWACA email list after the school year begins, so we can give feedback to the city transportation department before the changes become permanent. NWACA and the PTA plan to work closely on spreading the word and gathering information.

It is expected that this striping combined with traffic calming scheduled on Mesa and Far West will help to reduce the speeding and unsafe driving through the area. If this fails, the next step would be traffic signals; however, the city engineer does not feel this is appropriate for this location.

Note: Greystone/Mesa is an identical intersection and while it does not have the problems of Far West and Mesa, any successful improvements can be implemented at this nearby intersection as well.

Mesa Drive and Far West Boulevard

Sketch of Proposed Lane Designation



Austin Transportation Department

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# NWACA AND NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

**JULY 4, 9 - 11:30 AM**

*Farhills Drive and North Hills Drive*  
44th Annual 4th of July Parade

**JULY 5, 6:30 - 8 PM**

*Cornerstone Church, 1101 Reinli St.*  
Region 1 APD Commander's Forum for third quarter

**JULY 5, 8 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Communications Committee

**JULY 6, 8:30 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Crime and Safety Committee

**JULY 7, 8 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Sponsorship Committee

**JULY 13, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

*Mangia Pizza*  
NWACA Monthly Board Meeting

**JULY 26, 5PM**

*Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane*  
NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committee

**AUG 2, 8 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Communications Committee

**AUG 3, 8:30 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Crime and Safety Committee

**AUG 4, 8 AM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
Sponsorship Committee

**AUG 7, 2 PM**

*Kneaded Pleasures*  
NWACA Parks Committee

**AUG 10, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

*Mangia Pizza*  
NWACA Monthly Board Meeting

**AUG 15**

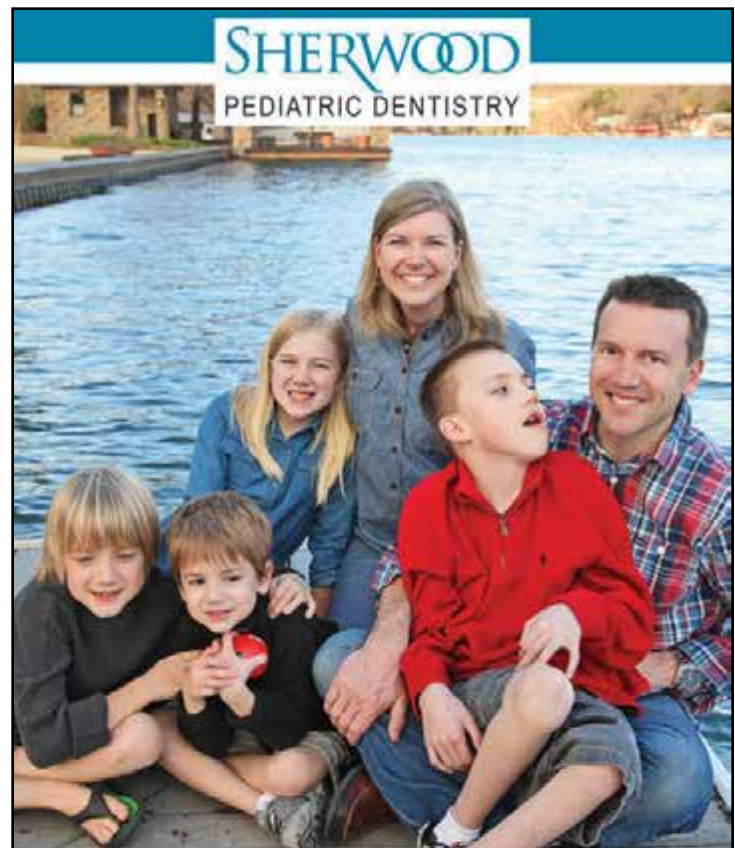
*NWACA web site*

Registration opens for NWACA Annual Neighborhood Garage  
Sales that happen on September 17

**AUG 23, 5PM**

*Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane*  
NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committee

*Note: For each of these events, please check our web site for the latest  
information, since meetings may be rescheduled because of other conflicts.*



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## MINOR CHANGES TO CURRENT WATER RESTRICTIONS

— Joanie Arrott

In early May, Austin City Councilmembers voted to implement recommendations from Austin Water including making Stage 2 water restrictions permanent. Some amendments to the original restrictions were offered to homeowners as a concession. We are now allowed to wash our cars as often as necessary as long as it's with the use of a bucket or auto shut-off hose. Homeowners with sprinkler systems or irrigation systems were already allowed once-per week watering under Stage 2, but now, you can also water an additional day per week if using a hose sprinkler.

The main reasoning for staying with Stage 2 water restrictions is to maintain the current levels of conservative water use as we head into the hottest months of the year for our area. It may be difficult to understand restricting water use when we've been inundated with record rainfall these past months. However, maintaining conservation of such an important resource is just as necessary in times of heavy rainfall. Part of our responsibility in conserving this precious resource is also reporting water wasting. Report violations by calling 3-1-1 or by submitting a 3-1-1 report online. Failure to follow the water restrictions may result in enforcement action, including fines of up to \$500 per violation.



**CONSERVATION STAGE**

**COMMERCIAL/MULTI-FAMILY**

**AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION**  
Even Address: **Tuesday**  
Odd Address: **Friday**

**HOURS**  
Midnight - 10 AM  
7 PM - Midnight

Tree Bubblers, Hand-Held Hose, Drip Irrigation: Any Day/Time



**CONSERVATION STAGE**

**RESIDENTIAL**

**AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION**  
Even Address: **Thursday**  
Odd Address: **Wednesday**

**HOSE-END SPRINKLERS**  
Even Address: **Thurs, Sun**  
Odd Address: **Wed, Sat**

**HOURS**  
Midnight - 10 AM  
7 PM - Midnight

Home Car Wash Allowed with Bucket or Auto Shut-Off Hose

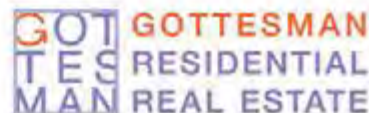
Tree Bubblers, Hand-Held Hose, Drip Irrigation: Any Day/Time



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# HELPING OUR COMMUNITY'S REFUGEES

-- Deborah Pardo-Kaplan

On Tuesday May 31, the Northwest Hills community banded together to create a "free shopping" day for refugees at their apartment complex on Wood Hollow. Local resident, Nancy Barton, who had been offering her garage as storage for more than a year, decided to bring her collection to the refugees. She wanted the families to have the opportunity to choose items for themselves, she said. Many other residents also dropped off donations that day.

Nancy and more than 35 volunteers, including a group of students from Anderson High School, Austin ISD representatives, Doss parents, members of Austin Christian Fellowship and Congregation Agudas Achim helped unpack, set up, and clean up donations on the tennis courts of the complex. Posters were translated into Arabic, Farsi, Swahili, and Kinyarwanda announcing the details in advance.

From 10:30 a.m. to past noon, the refugees selected shoes, clothing, toys, toiletries, and some furniture to take back to their homes. Nancy Barton would like to thank all who donated over the past year. She is now asking for specific needs only such as sewing machines, blenders, gift cards, vacuum cleaners, and pots and pans. All must be in very good condition. No clothing for now. Please contact her for further information at [nancymillerbarton@austin.rr.com](mailto:nancymillerbarton@austin.rr.com)

In light of recent news about Austin ISD losing its federal grant to support its refugee support personnel next year, our schools will need more community support. So please consider the following opportunities.

Murchison Middle School would like to establish a shed on its campus to house future donations. If someone would like to donate a shed (and plastic shelving) or offer donations toward the purchase of a

shed, please contact Betsy Markman at [betsymarkman@gmail.com](mailto:betsymarkman@gmail.com)

Next year, Doss Elementary will continue its Mosaic program on Fridays. It offers snacks, team building activities, soccer, music, library activities, and reading buddies for the refugee kids. If you would like to donate funds to Mosaic go to [www.cisv-atxsa.org](http://www.cisv-atxsa.org), or if you have questions contact next year's Mosaic Chair, Cheryl Stephens, at [cherstep@gmail.com](mailto:cherstep@gmail.com). Doss could also use more funding for their part-time ESL teacher. Please contact Principal Janna Griffin at [janna.griffin@austinisd.org](mailto:janna.griffin@austinisd.org) if you would like to donate to expand the ESL teacher's hours.

Photo credit: Julie Williford. Anderson High Senior in photo: Leah Friedlander.



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## GOOD GUTTERS PREVENT WILDFIRES AND HANDLE HEAVY RAINS

– Al Simmons

Gutters are not very often thought of as a wildfire prevention device, but rather as water diverters when they work well, and as leaf catchers when they don't. As leaf catchers, they provide a source of fuel for flying wildfire embers, bringing fire in immediate contact with roofing materials (wood trims, plywood roof decking, tarpaper, etc.), damaging that material and allowing fire access into your attic and the air spaces under the roofing.

This danger also applies to the valleys of your roof where more leaves may wait for flying embers to land and start fires in the valley, or to slide down into the metal gutters and start fires there. The solution for both of these problems is simple: clean out the leaves on a regular basis, put them in paper yard bags or garbage cans, and put them out for city trash pickup.

Standard sheet-metal gutters are generally a standard size of 6" wide by 8" deep with the top of the gutter a little wider than the bottom. Some gutters are continuously open at the top so rainwater can run off the roof into the gutter for the entire length of the roof edge. There are also gutters made with a sheet metal lid that curves from the roof down to the gutter front edge, allowing rainwater to run into the gutter while shedding the leaves from the roof out into the yard below, thus keeping leaves from collecting in the gutter and stopping up the gutter. Almost all standard gutters have either circular or rectangular sheet metal downspouts approximately 2" to 3" in diameter at the ends of the gutters to allow water to reach the ground at the yard level.

These types and sizes of gutters generally handle average rainfalls well. However, when we have hurricanes or record floods as in the last two years, your gutters may not be able to carry the levels of water, and they may overflow. I had this happen in one portion of my house (a 41' x 40' roofed garage area or 1640 sq. ft.), and the soil below became saturated and caused some seepage problems in the garage area. I enlarged the gutter for that area of the house to 12" deep by 9" wide at the top and 8" wide at the bottom (custom-made at a metal shop) and 41' long. This gutter slopes to one end of the

garage and has a 6" diameter PVC pipe diverting the large volume of rainwater and flushing leaves onto a driveway, to the street and a city curb-cut drain. Since doing this work, we have had one hurricane with over 8" of rain in one night and all the recent heavy rains – so far, no problem has recurred.

The common solution to all of these problems – be sure that the gutter can flow continuously, no matter how much rain is falling!



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–Austin Business Journal



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# COUGAR RUN DAM DISCUSSIONS

– Roger Bolick

Cat Creek Valley may soon have a new visual feature, a “Dam Ramp,” running to the Cougar Run Dam. The 40-foot dam blocks dry Cat Creek, forming a detention pond. The Austin Watershed Protection Department (WPD) proposes to build an elevated roadway from Far West Boulevard across Cat Creek to enable access by WPD to the dam. There is a need for one-time renewal and yearly maintenance.

The approach being proposed appears to be excessive in cost, disturbs a large area of the environment, and requires the taking of two parcels of private property (one of them my lot and one a property of the Marbry’s Ridge HOA).

Issues with the approach have been raised with WPD and Sheri Gallo’s office, in a meeting I attended on May 24, along with NWACA President Chris Hajdu and a Marbry’s Ridge representative. Results were not conclusive, with answers still needed regarding when the project might be done (it’s not considered a critical project), what rights the City has to gain access from Far West through HOA property, and how the area residents will be apprised of plans for the work. Another meeting is planned in 30 days with more information.

Meanwhile, if you would like to see more about the status or history of this situation, please search for the article on Cougar Run Dam on

the NWACA web site, [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) If you have any information about prior history of this dam or maintenance of its ponds, or if you want to participate in a discussion about this effort, please send email to [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com)

# MORE WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS COMING

– Public Service Announcement

Austin Water is in the planning stages of a project to upgrade water transmission in the northwest area. The area affected is roughly from Far West Boulevard to Crestway Drive. The area is currently supplied with a single 12-inch line. The new main will be a 16-inch line and will improve the level of service and allow Austin Water to decommission the aging Highland Park pump station and reservoir. Highland Park reservoir is no longer in use, and the pumps are used as an in-line booster station only.

Benefits to the area include less pressure fluctuations during peak demand times and improved fire flow for the area. The project is scheduled to go into design this fall and construction is estimated to begin in 2018.

For more information, call Jill Mayfield, 512-585-0474, [jill.mayfield@austintexas.gov](mailto:jill.mayfield@austintexas.gov)



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## LEAVE NO PILE BEHIND—POOP POLLUTES!

- Julie Sanford

The neighborhoods of NWACA are full of people who have pets. Our dog companions encourage us to get out, get exercise, breathe some fresh air, say Hi! to the neighbors—all good things adding to the quality of life here. But pet waste left on the ground is a problem. It is estimated that the typical dog excretes between one half to three quarters of a pound of waste per day—or about 180-274 pounds per year. With 250,000 dogs in Austin, that adds up to approximately 150,000 pounds of dog waste produced throughout the city every day! Since no one can safely walk, bike, or play in areas littered with poop, dog owners have to behave responsibly.

It's About Health and Water Quality. Cleaning up after your dog is not just good manners. It's vital for protection of our groundwater and our health. Poop left on sidewalks, gutters, streets, yards (including your own backyard), hiking trails, or parks can be washed away by over-irrigation or rainwater and carried into storm drains or directly into creek beds. Unfortunately, like human waste, animal waste may contain harmful bacteria, viruses, and organisms that can cause human illness and harm our environment. These could include Giardia, roundworms, and Salmonella. It takes only one teaspoon of dog feces in a water body the size of an Olympic pool to make the water unsafe for swimming. Pet waste also contains nutrients that will accelerate the growth of nuisance algae in creeks and lakes. In addition, as animal poop decays in water, it can use up the dissolved oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to breathe to survive.

How can you help? Keep pollutants out of storm drains. Pick up after pets to prevent their waste from entering the storm drain system. Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows UNTREATED directly into our creeks, rivers, and lakes.

Wherever you are, pick up animal waste promptly using plastic bags, scoops, or shovels. Even in leash-free areas (ESPECIALLY in leash-free areas), you are responsible for picking up after your pet. Carry plastic bags with you on every walk or trip to the park. Seal dog poop in a plastic bag and throw it in the trash.

SCOOP THE POOP, AUSTIN – for Cleaner Creeks ... Cleaner Streets ... Cleaner Feet! Remember the steps:

1. Bring It! Carry scooper bags when you walk your dog.
2. Scoop It! Use the baggie like a glove, scoop the poop, invert and seal the bag.
3. Toss It! It belongs in the trash.
4. Place It! Put a "Scoop the Poop" sign in your yard to encourage your neighbors to scoop it up too! To request a free sign in the NWACA area, just send an email to [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com).

Visit the City of Austin site, [www.ScoopThePoopAustin.org](http://www.ScoopThePoopAustin.org) for more information.

## HOW DO I GET RID OF INK OR TONER?

- Joanie Arrott



Did you know there were several businesses around town that accept used ink and toner cartridges for recycling? Most office supply stores have self-service kiosks available for used cartridges. I have used the Office Depot location on Anderson Lane for such services, and I know the same opportunity is provided at all Office Max and Staples locations. These businesses also offer free rewards programs and provide points for recycled cartridges. One place I did not know accepted such materials was Target. I appreciate convenient recycling while out running other errands.

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# 30 Day Sales Summary

SOLD										
ADDRESS	# S	# Bd	# Bth	# G/P	# POOL	YB	ACRES	SQ.FT.	LIST PRICE	
6910 Hart #212	1	1	1/0	0/1	Yes	1973		655	\$137,700	
6910 Hart #911	1	2	1/0	0/2	No	1973	.053	967	\$145,000	
3840 Far West #224	1	1	1/0	1/0	Yes	1982	.024	596	\$169,000	
6600 Valleyside #B-8	1	2	2/0	0/2	No	1984	.099	991	\$192,000	
6533 E Hill #20	2	2	2/1	2/0	No	2010	.064	1,568	\$479,000	
7625 Rockpoint	M	3	2/1	2/0	No	1975	.276	1,956	\$525,000	
4326 Far West	2	3	3/0	2/0	No	1984	.585	2,522	\$569,900	
5807 Overlook	1	3	2/0	2/0	No	1958	.245	1,782	\$590,000	
3710 Greystone	1	4	2/1	0/0	No	1971	.273	2,707	\$615,000	
4214 Cat Hollow	1	4	2/0	2/0	No	1967	.222	2,636	\$615,000	
6202 Bon Terra	1	3	2/1	2/0	No	1964	.275	2,432	\$629,900	
7204 Sungate	1	4	3/0	2/0	No	1965	.269	2,613	\$649,000	
5822 Trailridge	1	4	2/2	2/0	Yes	1959	.553	3,179	\$708,620	
7110 Running Rope	2	4	3/0	2/0	No	1973	.245	2,833	\$750,000	
3608 Hillbrook	1	4	3/0	2/0	No	1969	.383	2,714	\$779,000	
7608 Parkview	2	5	3/1	2/0	No	1973	.366	3,632	\$835,000	
6310 Ledge Mountain	2	4	3/1	2/0	No	1997	.325	3,126	\$875,000	
4604 Cat Mountain	2	4	3/1	2/0	Yes	1976	.329	4,112	\$1,195,000	
6100 Ledge Mountain	1	4	3/1	2/0	Yes	2016	.485	3,700	\$1,450,000	

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## Prevent Oak Wilt

**PLAN AHEAD - PRUNE**

**NOV thru JAN**

- **Beetles Inactive**
- **Dormant Season**
- **Coldest Months**

## 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, congestion, etc.).
- 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 this newsletter and much, much more!

## Help Keep our Wildlife Wild!

NWACA advises residents to NOT feed wildlife. Many well-intentioned individuals do so out of concern for the wildlife they are feeding. However, intentional and unintentional feeding of wildlife attracts predators to the wildlife being fed. Additionally, an association with humans and food contributes directly to habituated behaviors of animals like coyotes and feral hogs, which then become aggressive in pursuit of a food or prey attractant. Please eliminate food attractants from your yards for the safe enjoyment of our streets, parks and playgrounds for neighbors and pets.

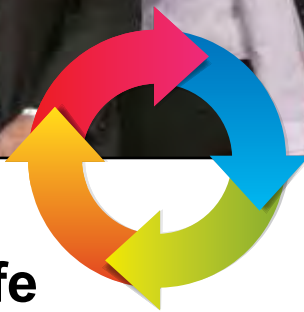


**PET WASTE POOLLUTES**  
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# NWACA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 going to [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org),  
selecting the Get Involved Tab, and choosing Join/Renew*

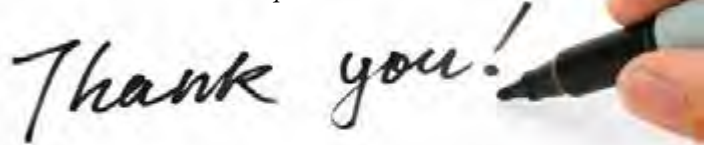
**Volunteers are always needed on our committees.**

**Please mark those on which you'd like to actively participate.**

- Civic Engagement
- Communications
- Crime and Safety/Neighborhood Watch
- Events/ 4th of July
- History
- Parks
- Sponsorship
- Transportation
- Tree and Environment
- Wildfire Prevention

## SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBERS

Membership Committee



NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the Oak Wilt Fund, the 4th of July Parade Fund, and the Park Fund, between May 13, 2016 and June 14, 2016.

Donations to the Oak Wilt Fund provide financial assistance to property owners dealing with oak wilt. 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 in NWACA with projects such as cleanup days.

- Julie and Rob Cowan
- Helen Dawson and Brooks Myers
- Janice L. Green
- Bill Hudspeth and Sheri Gallo
- Marcy Howard
- Camille and Daren Nix
- Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Orbach
- Roslyn Phillips
- Jeffrey Russell
- John and Dorothy Strance
- Jami and Travis Turner

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