



A Message from the NWACA President

– Chris Hajdu

First, I'd like to start by thanking Robert Thomas for his service on the NWACA Board. I personally have Robert to thank for recruiting me onto the NWACA Board a few years ago, and many of our current NWACA board members can say the same. We are sad to see Robert leave the board, but we collectively thank him for his involvement and wish him the best. Please see our article this month that details some of the many wonderful contributions that Robert Thomas has made over the years to the NWACA neighborhood. Many thanks, Robert!

As December approaches, we are entering "Package Season," that time of the year when UPS and FedEx trucks roam the neighborhood dropping off holiday packages. While home delivery is a wonderful way to avoid traffic and lines at the mall, please know that there is a negative side to all those packages sitting on doorsteps. There have been many package thefts in our area this year as in years prior, especially during the holiday season. Please be on the lookout for anything suspicious and be aware that some of the larger package delivery services will use rental vehicles to supplement their delivery fleets during this season due to the high volumes. Please take a look at our article in this month's newsletter that details some handy tips to keep your packages safe and sound.

We are still patiently waiting for the end of water utility construction on Far West. Weather and some unexpected issues have resulted in an extension to the schedule. We want to ask people to continue to have patience and take their time when travelling in this area to ensure that all are safe, especially our school children and other pedestrians on foot and on bikes. While it's easy to get upset at the city as they work on this project, please know that our Council Member and City Staff have been extremely responsive to the issues raised by neighbors and by the administrators at Doss Elementary. There have been numerous adjustments to work schedules and protective measures over the duration of the project. Should you have any issues or concerns with this construction, please contact nwacainfo@gmail.com and we will work with the city to address them.

As we enter this season of many holidays, I wish a Happy Holidays to all of you from the NWACA Board. Enjoy time with family and friends and be ready for a great 2017!

New to the Neighborhood?

If this is the first time you're seeing our newsletter, welcome to the NWACA neighborhood! Our boundaries are Mopac, RM 2222, Loop 360, and Spicewood Springs Road. There are about 4100 other households who are your neighbors and are happy you're here!

This newsletter is one way to keep up with what's happening here, but there's a lot more available, too. Check out the quick link For New Neighbors on our web site at www.nwaca.org Then, please join us as a dues-paying member; there's a form you can use at the end of the newsletter, or you can join online.

Thank You, Robert Thomas!

– NWACA Board of Directors



After serving on the NWACA Board since January of 2012, Robert Thomas resigned his position in September to be able to deal with the many other things competing for his time, among those being his current role as Chair of the Texas Facilities Commission.

The Board wishes to thank Robert for all the work he's done for the neighborhood and for the Board over the last several years. He began his work with NWACA on the Crime and Safety Committee, helping organize the neighbors around him to keep each other informed when they detected problems. He advocated for improvements to traffic safety around Doss, like the upcoming pedestrian beacon. Robert has been an active participant in NWACA events for families, even being politely coerced into donning an Easter Bunny costume on a pretty warm day during our treasure egg hunt at Doss!

He and several others guided the NWACA Board to update the bylaws regarding elections and term limits. Robert chaired the Nominations Committee composed of both neighborhood members and Board members, selecting a diverse Board slate during the last two election cycles.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Emergency, Police..... 911
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) 311
To check status, go to: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/myaustincodestatus>
APD District Representative, Office Darrell Grayson...512-974-5242
District 10 Councilmember, Sheri Gallo.....512-978-2110
Contact to enroll in the District 10 weekly newsletter:
.....district10@austintexas.gov
.....www.district10austin.com

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Each of the Board members can be reached at:
nwacainfo@gmail.com

The NWACA Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except December. Please visit our calendar at www.nwaca.org to see the specific time and location. If you wish to speak at a Board meeting, please send email a week before the meeting, so that we can 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. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

NWACA AND Neighborhood Events

DEC 4, 2PM

Kneaded Pleasures
Parks Committee

DEC 6, 8AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Communications Committee

DEC 7, 8:30 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Crime and Safety Committee

DEC 10, 9 AM TO NOON

Bull Creek District Park
Monthly NWACA Work day at the park;
sign up at www.nwaca.org

NO BOARD MEETING (NO MEETINGS IN MAY AND DECEMBER)

JAN 3, 8AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Communications Committee

JAN 4, 8:30AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Crime and Safety Committee

JAN 8, 2PM

Kneaded Pleasures
Parks Committee

JAN 11, 6:30-8:30PM

Mangia Pizza
NWACA Board Meeting

JAN 24, 5PM

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

The Death of Jane Simpson at Spicewood Springs

– Rich Denney

172 years ago this month, on December 31st, 1844, the Congress of the Republic of Texas passed by joint resolution a ransom for the recovery of William and Jane Simpson, kidnapped by Indians.

It was earlier that year Austin suffered what one might call the “Yogurt Shop Murders” of its day. Nancy Simpson, a widow who lived on West Pecan (6th Street now), about three blocks west of Congress Avenue, had two children – a daughter 14, a son 12—abducted by Indians while the children were in the adjacent Shoal Creek valley [1].

As described by Wilbarger in his classic book, *Indian Depredations of Texas* (1889), the Indians “seized the children, mounted their horses and made off for the mountains... going in the direction of Mt. Bonnell.” A group of citizens from Austin gave pursuit, but lost the trail on the rocky ground of Mt. Bonnell. After eluding capture, the Indians rested at Spicewood Springs where Jane was killed and scalped. William was ransomed and returned to his mother in 1845, recounting the story at Spicewood Springs. Local citizens were led by the boy to the spot near Spicewood Springs where his sister had been killed and identified her remains.

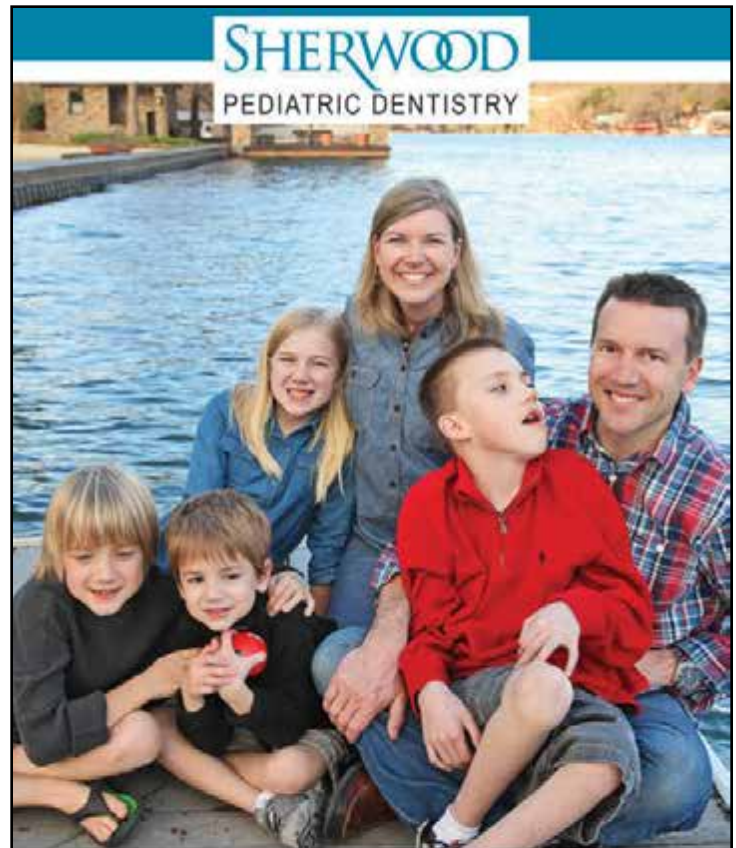
This incident was understandably one of the defining moments in the relationship between the citizens of the young city of Austin and the Native Americans who still claimed the area as their own. This story was told and retold in all the Texas history classics of the late 1880s: *Indian Depredations of Texas*, *Recollections of Early Texas*, *Indian Wars and Paioneers of Texas*, *Texas Indians Papers*. The story still captures the imagination of modern Texas historians, retold in recent publications such as *A Fate Worse than Death*, and our Northwest Hills neighbor and resident historian Dr. Jeff Kerr’s *The Republic of Austin*.

But as many times as this story has been told, there is a mystery that remains: what happened to the remains of Jane Simpson; where was she buried?

Oakwood, Austin’s oldest city-owned cemetery, was not yet in use. And while Austin became the Capital of Texas in 1839, the seat of government was temporarily moved to Washington on the Brazos in 1842, when Mexican troops invaded Texas taking over nearby San Antonio. Between 1842 and 1845 when Texas joined the Union, Austin was by some accounts “almost deserted.” Given the remoteness of Spicewood Springs at the time, and the dire conditions in Austin, Jane may well have been buried where her remains were found, near Spicewood Springs, just as the Webster massacre victims were interred at the site of their death near present day Leander.

But there is another tantalizing possibility, my own theory, which I’ll talk about next month in conjunction with one early settler of

(Continued on Page 4)



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NWACA News

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our area, George Washington Davis.

Footnotes: [1] Year and names of the children vary by source. The date was almost certainly 1844 given Congress' resolution to appropriate a ransom. The names William and Jane were used in the resolution. Image is from the Texas National Register, Washington, TX (temporary seat of government at the time), January 18, 1845. Some sources cited the Indians as being Waco, but a good case has been made in A Fate Worse Than Death the Indians were Comanche.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Making an appropriation of
William and James Simpson.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas in Congress assembled, That the sum of three hundred dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated and placed at the disposition of the President, for the redemption of William and Jane Simpson, (children of Mrs. Simpson,) now held in captivity by the hostile Indians.

Sec. 2. Be it further resolved, That this Joint Resolution take effect from and after its passage.
Approved, December 31st, 1844.

Bus Support in NWACA - The St. Johns Bus (#320)

– Jonathan Kaplan

This month we continue our series of articles on how to access the Capitol Metro transportation system by looking at the only cross-town bus to serve our neighborhood, the #320 bus route. Next month (or perhaps in two installments), we will conclude our series by discussing the changes to the Capitol Metro system proposed in the Connections 2025 plan and the impact that it will have on public transportation in the NWACA area.

The eastbound #320 originates at the bus stop directly in front of the Old Quarry Branch Library adjacent to H-E-B on Village Center Drive. After briefly running on Far West Boulevard and Wood Hollow Drive, the route runs along North Hills Drive until turning southbound on Balcones Drive and then heading eastbound on 2222/Northland Drive. Those wishing to park-and-ride using the #320 (as well as the #19 and #661/Far West Shuttle) can use free street parking along Wood Hollow between Far West Boulevard and North Hills Drive.

During normal operations, the #320 runs every 30 to 40 minutes depending on time of day between 5:40 AM and 11:14 PM Monday

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(Continued from Page 4)

through Friday. The route runs at similar intervals on weekends and holidays, though it begins operating later in the morning and concludes service earlier in the evening. Consult the Capitol Metro website for exact scheduling information.

The #320 bus can take riders to a surprising number of locations. The bus crosses Burnet and Lamar enabling riders to transfer to the #801 and #803 Metro Rapid routes for faster service to downtown. Beginning January 8, 2017, riders can purchase a day pass for the 320 and also use it on the Metro Rapid 801 and 803 for the same fare.

Further along the route, riders can get off at Austin Community College's Highland Mall campus, where riders can also transfer to the Metro Rail. The bus then passes the U.S. Social Security Office on the other side of I-35 before turning south towards Bartholomew District Park, the Dell Children's Hospital, the Thinkery, and the Mueller Development. After leaving Mueller, the bus continues south through East Austin before crossing the Colorado River near the Riverside Golf Course and finally terminating on Oltorf. The #320 returns to Far West along the same route. A map of the #320 route and a complete schedule are available at www.capmetro.org.

If you have specific questions about Capitol Metro service that you want addressed in future issues, please send a note to nwacainfo@gmail.com. Next up, Connections 2025 and its proposed impact on residents of the area served by NWACA.



Prevent Package Theft

– Crime and Safety Committee

As we enter this season of gift giving and its related package delivery, here are some tips to keep in mind.

If you regularly get packages delivered via UPS, and you know you won't be around your home to receive deliveries, you can sign up for a My Choice account at www.ups.com and specify in your profile how you want all deliveries handled – perhaps delivered to a UPS Store nearby for you to pick them up, or delivered to another address. Note that there are some deliveries which cannot be diverted: perishables, prescription meds, and high value items. There are also options (such as Delivery Intercept) that you can use for individual package deliveries, rather than your current standard options.

If your deliveries come from FedEx, you can register for an individual account at www.fedex.com and use the a profile option to sign up for FedEx Delivery Manager. Here you can specify delivery instructions, with options such as hold at a FedEx facility for up to 5 days, or hold for a vacation duration. You can also schedule specific delivery times.

If you want deliveries to come to your home, but may not be near the door when someone rings the bell or leaves something, you might consider a product like Ring Video Doorbell, which sends your smart phone an alert each time someone presses your doorbell or triggers the motion sensor. You can then talk remotely with the delivery person and explain what to do with your delivery.

No matter what approach you take, stay vigilant for your neighbors and yourself. If you see something suspicious, share it with neighbors. A Neighborhood Watch group is a great way to do this – where each person on your street has contact information for all others and communicate about incidents like package theft. To learn more about setting up a Neighborhood Watch group, go to www.nwaca.org and search for Neighborhood Watch, or send an email to nwacainfo@gmail.com

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Austin Oaks PUD Update

– Joyce Statz

Since July 2014, NWACA has kept the neighborhood informed about rezoning requests for Austin Oaks, and we have relayed the neighborhood's responses to the City. We did three surveys of the neighborhood in 2014 and 2015, and we know from those that if the neighborhood had a choice, there would be no redevelopment at Austin Oaks. But no development is not reality; that property is underutilized and it will be redeveloped. The current zoning entitlements allow for more than double the office space there now, with very similar traffic, with less work on the site's water quality, and without any amenities for the neighborhood. The important questions are: What does the neighborhood want there? And, how can we be sure the neighborhood's wishes are respected?

From our surveys, email, conversations, and the charrette process, we know that the major issues are traffic increases, tree removal, and density from tall buildings. Surveys and other input also say that the primary things the community wants on that site are parks, restaurants, retail, and new/renovated office buildings. All of this input was incorporated into discussions with the applicant in 2014 and 2015 – with some improvement to the proposal, but not enough.

As this “bring me a rock” approach wasn't working, a charrette was discussed as a way to bring the community and owner together – discussions among various neighbors, including leaders of the other nearby neighborhood associations. Because the development sits within NWACA boundaries, the NWACA Board passed a formal resolution asking the City and developer for a charrette. That was agreed to in October 2015, followed by open community meetings to explain the process and gather input for the charrette design workshop held in January 2016. The input echoed the issues and preferences we saw in the surveys, plus provided creative ideas about other possibilities.

While few efforts by a group of people will yield a perfect result, charrettes have been very helpful around the nation. When the process is followed, it yields a consensus outcome. (Note: I did not say unanimous.) The charrette in January used all the community input and followed the charrette process. It yielded a plan very different from what the owner would have created on his own, he says, but one that he will accept because it's the will of the community.

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(Continued from Page 6)

Since the charrette, the applicant has submitted successive drafts of a proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) with supporting documentation to codify the outcome of the charrette. (Note: All of this material is on the Charrette page at the NWACA web site.) A subcommittee of the NWACA Zoning Committee spent hundreds of hours reviewing the submissions to ensure adherence to the outcome of the charrette. We met with City Staff and with the owner's representative to discuss the issues found. There were dozens of changes we asked be made, and those were made.

The answer to "How can we be sure the neighborhood's wishes are respected?" is that those wishes need to be in a PUD ordinance that's put into law by City Council. The agreements in the ordinance last forever; the agreements in the ordinance are what the owner must follow; he (and anyone he sells to) – cannot just change their minds. The wording we now have in the submitted documents says that any change – be it substantive or not – must come to the neighborhoods before it's decided upon; we will have a voice. This goes beyond current City code, which doesn't require the neighborhoods be notified of administrative changes.

Elements of the proposed ordinance that are vital aspects of the charrette outcome, like the parks, the affordable housing for teachers, the creek restoration details, and the matter of changes described above, are being explained to City Council members by representatives of the NWACA Zoning Committee and NWACA Board.

The submission is a complicated set of documents, requiring expertise to be sure nothing is missing and that the wording is strict and can be enforced. Hiring an expert was recommended by several neighbors as a prudent move to protect the neighborhood's interests, and we agreed. The NWACA Board engaged Alice Glasco to help us track and understand language in the to-be-written City Legal Department PUD ordinance and attachments. (see the September 2016 Board meeting minutes, posted on our web site.) Alice Glasco

came highly recommended from neighbors who are experienced in land use and development; she used to run the Planning and Zoning Department, so she knows this work very well.

City Staff from the many departments which reviewed the application rated the PUD application as superior (that is, it provides the City with more benefits than could be achieved with current zoning), and they recommended approval of the PUD application, with a set of conditions. Although the Environmental Commission couldn't reach a consensus either for or against the PUD application, the Zoning and Platting Commission voted 8-3 in favor of the submission, adding some conditions to those of City Staff. The case now goes to City Council for a decision.

As this case moves forward, we encourage anyone who has a concern – positive or negative – to express your concern. Council is scheduled to have a public hearing on the case at its December 15th meeting. You might speak there, or you might send a letter or email to any or all of the Council members.

For background information on the case, go to the NWACA web site www.nwaca.org and look at the Quick Links on the home page. The Austin Oaks Summary Chart is an overview of key aspects of the case, showing what is true at the site today, what was in the initial PUD application, what came out of the charrette, and what is in the current PUD submission. Items in the first column indicate what is true today – but that will not remain; development will happen on this site. The rightmost column represents the result of a huge effort to balance all these elements, based on the charrette outcome.

More detail is available via the Quick Link to the Austin Oaks Charrette page, including the materials provided to the City's Environmental Commission and its Zoning and Platting Commission.

If you should want to speak to the Board, there is an item at the start of each NWACA Board meeting for Citizen Communication from any NWACA member. Also, any member is welcome to attend Board meetings (second Wednesday of the month, except May and December). Our next meeting will be January 11, 2017.

The advertisement is a rectangular graphic with a white background. On the left side, there is a photograph of a family of five people (two men, two women, and a child) smiling. To the right of the photo is a list of services in a blue box with white text: "Free Estimates on New A/C Systems", "Fast 7-Day A/C Repairs", "Energy Audits • Weatherization", "Duct Repair & Replacement", "Home & Handyman Repairs", "Remodels & Additions", "Senior Accessibility Upgrades", "Painting / Staining", "Drywall & Popcorn Removal", and "Decks & Fences / Install & Repairs". Below this list is a quote: "We have been keeping Austin comfortable for over 35 years." – The Yamin Family. On the right side of the ad, there is a logo for "A+ ENERGY MANAGEMENT" with a stylized "A+" in a blue circle. Below the logo is the text "AIR CONDITIONING & HOME SOLUTIONS" and the phone number "512.450.1980 • www.AplusAC.com". At the bottom right, there is a cartoon character of a man in a blue cap and yellow shirt. A large orange coupon reads "\$20 off ANY A/C Repair or Handyman Service!". At the bottom of the coupon, it says "Cannot be combined with other offers. Check our website for additional coupons & discounts." In the top right corner of the ad, there is a small logo for "TACL #B5235C" and a "BBB" logo.

Business Spotlight: Studio Mantra

— Janice Green

What exactly is a mantra? A word, phrase, even an action, that motivates and removes obstacles. So where and how can you find your mantra? Try Studio Mantra, tucked in a corner of Mesa Woods Shopping Center.

Founders Reena Kaven and Amy Hogan met through their young children and discovered they had a lot in common. Both had transitioned from hard-charging careers. Reena, who began her professional life as an attorney, became a National Certified Massage and Bodywork Therapist. Amy left the hectic world of corporate sales to become a Certified Yoga Instructor. Both were motivated to help others strive for wellness. Two years ago they joined forces and, so to speak, followed their mantra to birth the concept and to create the space called Studio Mantra.

When you pass through the front door of Studio Mantra, the reception area's ambiance engages your five senses – a décor in cheery jewel tones, a light scent of incense and taste of tea. In the background you hear friendly banter as a yoga class ends. A compact and stylish retail area tempts your sense of touch with soft yoga apparel and other gift items for celebrating one's wellness milestones. Beyond the reception room are the spacious yoga studio and private massage rooms.

Studio Mantra reflects an inclusive community – sans cliquishness and competitiveness – encouraging a range of clientele: women, men, seniors, teens, mothers-to-be, athletes, those seeking a release from and antidote for stress, and those fashioning their own journey to improve health.

The classes and services are expansive. Studio Mantra's user-friendly website provides an overview of the five main foci: yoga, massage, acupuncture, educational workshops, and special events, as well as the Mantra Corporate Wellness Programs. There you find the specifics about private and group classes in the styles of Vinyasa Flow, Hatha, Kundalini, Yoga Nidra, Restorative, Yin and Chair Yoga, as well as Mat Pilates, Mantra Barre and Mantra Sculpt (yoga with weights and other props), and Mantra Fit (a bootcamp-style class).

The site's massage pages describe therapeutic massage techniques

and the other bodywork practices offered: deep tissue, myofascial release, trigger point, thai massage, pregnancy massage, lymphatic, craniosacral, and Zero Balancing. Studio Mantra also offers experienced and pain-free acupuncture for relief of pain, anxiety, and allergies, among other ailments.

Check out Amy and Reena's Corporate Wellness Program that takes yoga, massage and acupuncture to the workplace. And there's always a line-up of creative workshops and special events to pique your curiosity and participation – e.g., infant massage, sound healing, gratitude, and yoga.

Bios of the experienced and well-trained instructors and therapists are featured on the website where you can smoothly navigate the scheduling of sessions.

For your holiday shopping, consider Studio Mantra's services and emporium for unique gift ideas. And remember. Now is the time to find your motivating mantra to shed your Old Year's obstacles and engage a healthier New Year's lifestyle.

Studio Mantra's website: www.mantraaustin.com; open 7 days a week; 8127 Mesa Drive, 512-960-4660.



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Watering Tips for Cooler Weather

– Joanie Arrott

Just as we change from shorts and sandals to pants and jackets, we also need to adjust our outdoor watering habits as we move into winter. Usually, we don't need to water our lawn in cold temperatures, but when it's really dry, once a month usually provides all the moisture necessary. Even though the grass is dormant, the roots do grow slightly, so some water helps ensure a healthy return in spring. If the periodic rainfall keeps up, that will be enough to see us through. If it doesn't rain, watering depends on many factors such as soil types, slope, and plant or turfgrass type. Use a soil probe, spade, or screwdriver to determine the depth the water actually reaches by sticking it down a few inches to see if there's any moisture. A good rule is to wet the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches to reach the root system of the plants.

The best time to water all landscape plants is early morning or late evening when winds are calmer and temperatures are lower, resulting in less water loss to evaporation. It's important to give leaf surfaces time to dry before nightfall to deter disease and decay. Soil type, amount of rainfall, and season of the year all affect the amount of water you need to apply. New plantings require more frequent watering to establish strong roots. Keeping your grass tall helps retain moisture. Reducing your water use also saves money on your utility bill, reduces the electricity required for water and wastewater services, decreases the need and expense for water infrastructure, and ensures clean water for future generations.

Trees also require care before and during the winter for ideal health. Make sure trees are given a hefty drink when it's time. Rather than simply running a hose at the base of each tree, instead water in the area from just outside the trunk to the extent of the longest branches. Water slowly, with a sprinkler or soaker hose. Healthy trees have deep root systems that need water 12-18 inches below the surface. The best time for winter watering is on warm days, when the temperature is above 40 degrees. Freezing ground temperatures can slow the water circulation of your trees and damage root systems. Most arborists recommend watering trees twice a month in cold or winter months. Newly planted trees may need even more frequent watering. Add mulch to reduce soil evaporation, improve water absorption, and insulate against temperature extremes. Apply two to four inches of wood chips, bark or other organic mulch near the base of the tree, but not against it.

Consider guarding the trunks of younger trees or thin-barked trees up to the first branches using commercial tree wrap. Leave the wrap on until danger of frost is over. This will help prevent bark damage, sunscald, and frost cracks caused by drastic winter temperature fluctuations. Late winter is the best time for pruning most tree species, but it can be done whenever trees are dormant over the winter months. Remember to always paint wounds when you trim oak trees.

Wildfire Prevention

– Al Simmons

After a very dry October, here we are in November with a lot of rain. (I have had 4 inches over the last 4 days. All of my vegetation is lush and it's still raining!) If we see a repeat of last year, November and December will be wetter than normal, and January and February will be very dry again. If this occurs, we will have a lot of vegetation growth in the warmer months and dry, dead vegetation in the colder months of January and February. This sets up a heavy groundcover of dry, dead wild grasses and brush in our valleys...a very flammable environment. This can mean several actions for us.

1. We will need to be more vigilant in watching for smoke, burning smells, and the velocity/direction of wind coming from our beautiful valleys.

2. If we have the right to gain access and can work in our valleys, we should cut down, bundle and carry the dry grass/brush out of the valleys and have it picked up by either City of Austin trash services or have it carried off by handymen or do it ourselves.

3. Regardless of whether we can remove the dead flammable materials from the valleys, we should concentrate on the environment around our homes and neighborhoods. We should remove all flammable materials from our yards, off the surface of our decks, and out from under our decks. And, we should harden the components of our homes vulnerable to flying, burning embers – the eaves, the attic vents, any cracks and crevices.

And, finally -

4. If you and your neighbors have a valley next to you, you should make sure that the Austin Fire Department is aware that you are concerned about the potential dangers of the valley to your homes and your families, and that you are willing to do whatever you can to enhance the protection for your families and your property. They are well aware of the difficulties with urban wildfires and will assist you in any way they can.



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It's My Park Day - Fall 2016

– Caroline Alexander and Janelle Medrano

Following years of successful park improvements in their annual “Spring It’s My Park Day,” the Austin Parks Foundation instigated the Fall It’s My Park Day on November 5th this year. Cleanup events were held at many parks throughout the City, including Allen Park and Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve in our area.

At Stillhouse Hollow, seven community volunteers joined three NWACA parks committee members and Rene’ Barrera, the preserve manager for Austin’s PARD, to pull out cut brush and downed limbs away from the trail and parking lot and clean up trash in the upper part of the preserve. 2.57 tons of brush and tree trunks were loaded on a trailer which was taken to the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant to be recycled into Dillo Dirt. Workdays like this one help maintain the preserve for visitors, mitigate fire danger, and honor the stewardship commitment made to APF which funded the addition of a kiosk and benches in early 2016.

At Allen Park, about a dozen volunteers cleaned the picnic areas, cut down a dead tree, dug out weeds, and trimmed brush and limbs along the trails. This park is still in transition from being a Travis County park to being a City of Austin park; it has very nice picnic facilities and interesting trails, right in the middle of Highland Hills.

At Bull Creek, there has been monthly trash cleanup and trimming that’s been underway since August. Watch the newsletter for It’s My Park Day next Spring, as well as the regular cleanup days that will happen at Bull Creek District Park next Summer.



Prevent Oak Wilt

PLAN AHEAD - PRUNE

NOV thru JAN

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

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, feel free to sign up online to receive the newsletter via email. Visit www.PEELinc.com, click 'Residents', then click 'Receive Your Newsletter.' You can customize your newsletter subscription at that page.

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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 October 28 and November 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.

- Thomas B. Coopwood, Jr.
- Eddy Eubanks and Orin Winn
- Maria and Roger Nasr
- Sydelle Popinsky and Charles Mandelbaum

Thank You

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.



Burn-up the League!



Visit www.FireFan.com to REGISTER & be the first to get the app!
Enter Access Code "WinEveryday"

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,
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



IPM - Integrated Pest Management

– Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the blending of effective, economical, and environmentally-sound pest control methods into a single flexible approach to manage pests. When utilizing IPM, we hope that you can avoid or reduce pest problems.

Here are some things to reduce the number of pests in your home:

- Reduce food or water resources for insects:
 - o Encourage family to eat in one location. This makes it easier to clean since spills and crumbs are not spread around the house.
 - o Clean up any spilled food or drink as soon as possible.
 - o Sweep and vacuum regularly. This helps to remove food crumbs, pet hair and other things that insects may feed upon.,
 - o Do not leave dirty dishes in the sink overnight. Even small bits of food can be a meal for insects.
 - o Do not leave pet food out overnight. Again, it can be a free meal for insects.
 - o Remove old newspapers, magazines, and books that are unused. Silverfish love to feed on these.
 - o Repair plumbing leaks to get rid of water sources required by insects.
 - o Use a plastic bag to line garbage cans to make garbage easier to remove.
 - o Remove garbage on a weekly basis, possibly more during warmer times of the year.
- Reduce areas where insects may live:
 - o Clean the drains with a stiff brush and then flush with boiling water. There are small flies that can grow in the slime layer of drain pipes. The stiff brush will loosen the slime and the boiling water will flush it away.
 - o Remove tree stumps and any dead branches in the yard to avoid carpenter or acrobat ant populations living in these areas.
 - o Move debris (firewood, bricks, stones, etc.) away from the home. These areas can be inhabited by a variety of arthropods including spiders, scorpions, and cockroaches.
 - o Clean closets on a quarterly basis to reduce the chance of spiders moving in.
- Reduce moving insects into the house:
 - o Inspect all items for pests before bringing them into the house. Insect pests can be brought into the home with items such as

(Continued on Page 15)

(Continued from Page 14)

potted plants, boxes full of things inherited from a family member, used clothing or furniture, among other things.

o Prune tree limbs that touch or overhang the home and prune back any shrubs that touch the home. When shrubs or trees touch or overhang the home, they can be used as bridges for insects to get onto the home and then move inside.

o Seal entry points on the outside of the home with sealant, expanding foam, or copper mesh screening. Pipe penetrations, weep holes, or cracks can allow insects, spiders, or other animals move into the home.

o Store food in sealed plastic or glass containers to keep pantry pests out.

o Keep screens, weather stripping, and door thresholds in good repair. Many insect pests are very small, so even a small tear in a screen or crack under a door can allow them to come inside.

o Use yellow bulbs in outside lights to reduce the number of insects coming near doorways.

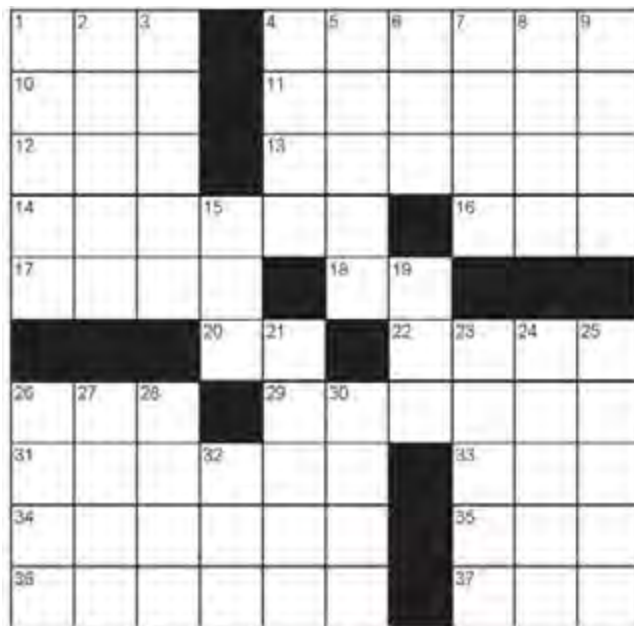
For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

NWACA Window Decals

– Debra Danziger

NWACA window decals are now available for \$3. Show your neighborhood pride and spirit with an official NWACA membership window decal, perfect for your vehicle. The decal measures 3"x3" and sells for \$3 online at: <http://nwaca.org/donations/>
Order yours today!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Ornament
4. Sacred poems
10. Morse code "T"
11. Cover Girl's competitor
12. Hubbub
13. Docket
14. Searching for metal
16. Put
17. Ratify
18. Year (abbr.)
20. Kansas
22. Wager
26. Tax agency
29. "___ and World Report"
31. Harry
33. Pock
34. Lush
35. Whiz
36. Military attack
37. Downwind

DOWN

1. John ___ (U.S. President)
2. Radiuses
3. Leather strip
4. Frame
5. Waterlogged
6. To be
7. Glasses part
8. Fixed
9. Louvre
15. Pen stuff
19. Dashed
21. Japanese dish
23. Asian country
24. Again
25. Sugar-free brand
26. Pixies
27. Rolled chocolate candy brand
28. Mumble
30. Eye infection
32. Eastern Time

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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