



New to the Neighborhood?

If this is the first time you're seeing our newsletter, welcome to the NWACA neighborhood! This map shows our boundaries – 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.

President's Message

Chris Hajdu

It's March already and that means Spring Break and SXSW are right around the corner. This time of year, we always ask our neighbors to be on alert for property crime. March tends to be one of the times of the year where we see a spike in property crime. With SXSW happening downtown, police presence is understandably pulled into the downtown area. Given this and the number of people who leave town for Spring Break, we have a perfect recipe for an increase in crime, especially vehicle and residence burglaries. Please see our vacation crime and safety checklist (<http://nwaca.org/portfolio-view/summer-vacation-crime-prevention-tips/>) for some handy pointers to be aware of during this time.

On the Austin front, the city has been working on a revision to the Land Development Code for a number of years. They have finally published a draft version of CodeNEXT (the fancy name for the new Land Development Code.) If you'd like to review and make comments, please read the article in this month's newsletter about where to find the details and provide feedback.

A few of our residents have been working to reinvigorate the NWACA History Committee. The focus of this committee is to research the history of NWACA and our area and present our findings to the neighborhood. In the past, we've had great presentations on the history of our development at our annual meeting. For an example of this, go to the NWACA website (www.nwaca.org) and search for "History Chuck Stahl" and see the wonderful presentation on our neighborhood that Chuck did at a past annual meeting. We've also had some great history articles written in this very newsletter over the years.

Some of the things we'd like the committee to work on include:

- Collecting oral histories from current and former residents,
- Collecting copies of photographic and other print materials related to the history of the NWACA area,
- Visiting the Austin History Center to search for relevant neighborhood information,
- Researching other sources of information about the neighborhood including land development resources, etc.,
- Archiving the information on the NWACA website so that it's easily accessible to the community

(Continued on Page 4)

NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

Mar 1, 8:30 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Crime and Safety Committee

Mar 2, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Sponsorship Committee

Mar 4, 9-noon

Bull Creek District Park
It's My Park Day - spruce up the planted areas, pick up trash, remove weeds; sign up at:
<https://www.austinparks.org/volunteer/impd/>

Mar 5, 2 PM

Kneaded Pleasures
Parks Committee

Mar 7, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Communications Committee

Mar 8, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Mangia Pizza
NWACA Board Meeting

Mar 26, 2 PM

Huffman Hall, St. Matthew's, 8134 Mesa Drive
Town Hall meeting about Cap Metro Transit/Bus Plans

Mar 28, 5 PM

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

Apr 2, 2 PM

Kneaded Pleasures
Parks Committee

Apr 4, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Communications Committee

Apr 5, 8:30 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Crime and Safety Committee

Apr 6, 8 AM

Kneaded Pleasures
Sponsorship Committee

Apr 9, 2pm

Kneaded Pleasures
Tree and Environment Committee

Apr 11, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

McCallum High School, 5600 Sunshine Drive
Second Quarter APD Commander's Forum for Region 1

Apr 12, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Mangia Pizza
NWACA Board Meeting

April 15 8-10 AM (tentative date)

Doss Elementary Parking Lot
Electronics Recycling

Apr 25, 5 PM

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

Apr 30, 1 - 5 PM

Northcross Mall Parking Lot - spot TBD
Transit Adventure - take the bus down to Peter Pan mini-golf



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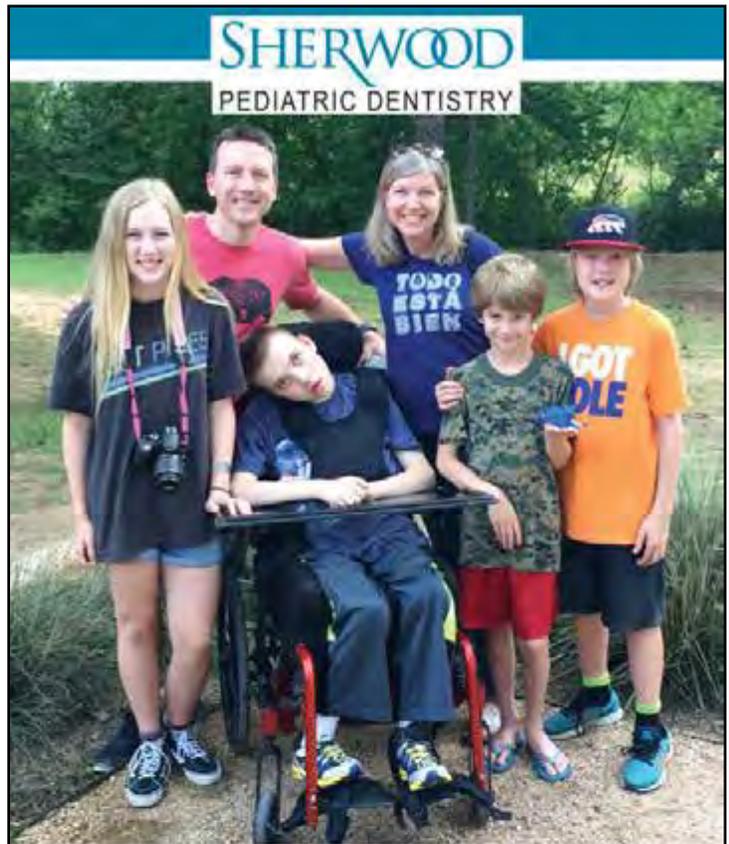
Each of the Board members can be reached at:
nwacainfo@gmail.com

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.



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NWACA News

(Continued from Cover)

If anyone is interested in getting involved in the History committee, please let us know by emailing nwacainfo@gmail.com and providing your contact information.

While on the topic of getting involved, I want to take this opportunity, to remind everyone that NWACA is a volunteer organization, and as such, needs a steady stream of individuals ready and willing to roll up their sleeves to help out. We are just about to ramp up our nomination committee in order to begin the biennial nominations process for board members for the 2018-2019 calendar year. If you or anyone you know would be interested in working to help out in any capacity whatsoever (including being a committee volunteer or business sponsor) please let us know by emailing us at nwacainfo@gmail.com. We'd love to have your help.



Changes coming to the Bull Creek Foundation

Rachel McGill

In recent years, the all-volunteer Bull Creek Foundation (BCF) has been the “one man show” of president and head cheerleader Richard (“Rick”) Brimer. Since its inception in 1994, the goal of the foundation has been to protect the riparian area along the full length of Bull Creek and keep Spicewood Springs Road west of 360 a “country in a city” corridor. With the onslaught of new Austinites discovering this beautiful hill country paradise right here in North Austin, we have seen all the hallmarks of increased use, as well as all the drawbacks. There has been a huge uptick in trash, habitat destruction, alcohol consumption, ground fires, and dogs off-leash. Keeping both the district park and the greenbelt healthy while still supporting community use is a job that keeps getting bigger, so the foundation has cause to grow its reach. In 2017, members of the community, including the Lakewood neighborhood and the Northwest Austin Civic Association, have been organizing to assist BCF in achieving its stated goal of promoting the balance among nature, recreation, and development in our 32-square mile watershed. In January, officers were elected, with Rick still the fearless leader and President; Rachel McGill, Vice President; Clark Gardner, Treasurer; Rebecca Breneman, Secretary; and Caroline Alexander, Communications Officer.

Over the course of the next year, we will formalize the organization by incorporating and registering as a non-profit in Texas and adopting by-laws. This work includes clarifying BCF’s mission, organizational structure, and strategic plan. We welcome any dedicated community members to join us in this endeavor, especially if you have relevant experience!

Our meetings will be held the last Monday of each month. At that time, we will meet to discuss issues and initiatives relating to the Bull Creek Watershed and to the establishment of the Bull Creek Foundation. Please email Rachel McGill at rpmcgill@gmail.com for location information while we look for a permanent meeting space.



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Bull Creek District Park Plan Approved

NWACA Parks Committee

Bull Creek District Park is a unique park, with Bull Creek flowing through it, providing a popular swimming recreational spot for the community. The park also has trails that connect to a larger trail system in Bull Creek Greenbelt, which are popular with hikers and dog owners. The 48-acre district park was acquired in 1971 with federal funding and has a parking area, restrooms, water fountain, picnic tables, and a sand volleyball court. Over the last several months, the Parks and Recreation Department has developed a park master plan with 2012 General Obligation Bond funding. The overall budget for this project is \$750,000 for plan development, design, permitting, and construction. The plan features improvements to the restrooms, additional picnic areas, ADA access to picnic areas, pedestrian safety infrastructure along Lakewood Drive, an enhanced trail head, a nature play area, a creek access loop trail, and drainage and riparian zone enhancements with watershed protection. It was formally approved in January 2017.

The Master Plan was developed with the input of park-users and neighbors and in close consultation with Austin Watershed. Although elements of watershed improvement and protection are outside of the scope of this plan (in particular, the issues surrounding the Lakewood bridge), a number of improvements to the watershed were included. The removal of a portion of the existing concrete pad, which was used as a dance floor when the park was privately owned, will improve the health of the trees that it currently encumbers. These heritage trees are important both for their shade and erosion control. In addition, the partial removal of the concrete avoids the potential hazard of having blocks of this concrete wash downstream during flood events. In place of the concrete pad, riparian zone improvements are slated. Another area of enhancement and protection is the channeling of creek access into specific entry-points. This serves to limit the traffic around critical root zones of the large oaks in the park and helps control erosion on the creek bank. This design also leads park-users past signage that can provide updates on water quality and other park issues such as fire bans.

Now that the Master Plan is approved, PARD will begin the more detailed design and engineering. They hope to break ground in early 2018.

*The master plan can be seen at this web site:
<http://www.austintexas.gov/bullcreekplan>*

Travis County Poor Farm

Richard Denney



Back in the day, before the social safety nets to which we are accustomed today (food stamps, unemployment benefits, homeless shelters) there were “poor farms.” As Christy Costlow [1], Travis County Archivist, explains, “In the Constitution of 1869, the State of Texas directed the responsibility for the care of its indigent and poor residents to the

counties. Aside from general provisions, there were no special statutes governing in detail relief for the poor. Based on the tradition of the almshouse, many county governments established poor farms, which provided the means for destitute inhabitants to live and work in an agrarian-based institutionalized setting. Those who came or were sent to poor farms, unless physically disabled, were expected to work the land to help support the institution.”

Michael Barnes at the Austin American Statesman has written about the Travis County Poor Farm that was north of Windsor Road in what is now Tarrytown, but it was not the first. The first Travis County Poor Farm was here, right next to our Northwest Hills neighborhood.

If you recall from my January 2017 article, George Washington Davis, an early settler of this area, received a land grant of 3,154 acres from the Republic of Texas for his service in the Texas War for Independence at the Battle of San Jacinto; a good chunk of our neighborhood being on that old land grant. In 1879 Travis County purchased about 303 acres from Davis to establish the first Travis County Poor Farm.

This is the same poor farm Wilbarger referenced in his classic Indian Depredations of Texas in describing the abduction of the Simpson children by Indians (December 2016 newsletter): “After the Indians had gone some six miles from Austin [they arrived at]

(Continued on Page 6)



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NWACA News

(Continued from Page 5)

Spicewood Springs, which is situated in the edge of the mountains, opposite where the poor farm of Travis County is located."

So where exactly was the poor farm? 1898 road maps, part of the Travis County Clerk's records, shows the location and layout. The west side was bounded by today's MoPac railroad (then the Int'l and Great Northern; hence the name for Great Northern Blvd!). The northern boundary was a continuation of today's Spicewood Springs Road east of the tracks running all the way to today's Burnet Road. This portion of Spicewood Springs Road was a combination of today's Foster Lane with a short jog north up to what is probably today's Anderson Lane. The eastern boundary was today's Burnet Road (then called Upper Georgetown Road; no I-35 back then... this was how you got to Georgetown). And the southern boundary was what appears to be today's Greenlawn Pkwy; one map shows it running all the way from the western side of the farm, next to the tracks, to Burnet Road, just as it does today. Shoal Creek ran north to south through the farm, no doubt providing a source of water for crops.

Thanks to Christy Costlow, Travis County Archivist, for help in researching this article. Map shown is from 1898 Travis County Clerk Records: Road Book, Precinct 2. Purchase of land for poor farm is in Travis County Clerk Records: Commissioners Court Minutes D, p 218.

CodeNEXT Update

David Whitworth

The new draft of the city's land development code, known as CodeNext, was released at the end of January. The new code unveils a new format that attempts to usher in "form-based code" which focuses on the physical forms of the buildings more than traditional use-based zoning (Euclidian zoning). However, the draft appears to be a hybrid of both. Two new terms you will hear are "transect zones" and "non-transect zones." The concept of transect zones originates from the natural sciences, to describe the transition between environments (i.e.: from the gulf, to brackish tributaries, to marsh/wetlands, to plains, to hill country). Transect zones appear to address areas that range from commercial corridors to urban residential areas. Non-transect zones thus far appear to replicate auto-dependent single-family, suburban, and rural zoning types. What zoning applies to specific parcels of the City will be seen when mapping of the new zones is released in April. Everything is on the table for review and revision. City staff and consultants are taking comments into account. Please visit the city website to read the new code and add your own comments at this link: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/draft-ldc-review-and-comment>

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Parking and Riding the Bus

Ruven Brooks

Geographically speaking, most people in Northwest Hills don't live within walking distance of a bus stop. Does this mean the bus system is useless for you? To the contrary, driving to a local bus stop, parking there, and then taking the bus the rest of the way to UT or downtown can give you more free time and save considerable amounts of money.

Where Should I Park?

The best places to park are along Hart Lane and Wood Hollow Drive. Along both streets there are dedicated parking lanes that don't block bike lanes. Because the apartment units in these areas provide tenant parking, the street parking is mostly unused.

Both streets have covered bus stops that serve the current routes and will also serve the planned future routes.

Which Bus Should I Take?

There are three bus routes that serve these stops. Which one should you take?

If it's during the week and UT is holding classes, the answer is always take the 661 UT shuttle. It runs every 5-10 minutes, so you never need to look at a timetable, and it takes only 20 minutes to get to the UT campus. If you need to go downtown, a one block



walk will take you to bus stops for five other routes which will take you the rest of the way downtown. One or the other of these buses will come along within 15 minutes.

If you walk an additional block you can take the MetroRapid 801 or 803 which will take you across the river and along South Congress or South Lamar respectively. On weekdays, both routes run with 15-minute frequency.

If you have to look for parking downtown, the combination is still about as fast as driving yourself and you can catch up on Facebook on the way.

What about weekends or when UT is not in session? The 19 route, which will still be around at least through 2017, runs about every 45 minutes to both UT and downtown. (The future 323 route will run from the same stops as the 661 and will run on weekends more often and continue until later in the evening.)

How Much Does It Cost and How Do I Pay?

Parking along Hart and Wood Hollow is free. UT parking has gone up to \$15 a day.

A one-day pass, good for travel in both directions and transfers on all of these buses costs \$2.50. You can pay with cash, but you need exact change. You can also pay with an app on your smart phone. No credit cards, though. For comparison, the 2017 IRS mileage rate is \$0.535 so your seven-mile trip to UT and back will cost you around \$7 in wear and tear on your car. The wear and tear on you from having to drive is probably worth a lot more.

TRANSIT TOWN HALL MEETING

NWACA will be holding a town hall meeting with representatives from Cap Metro. They have been asked to orient their presentation toward the programs and services most relevant for the NWACA area. They will also talk about Cap Metro's proposed Connections 2025 plan, a major restructuring of the bus network. The event is March 26th at 2 p.m. in Huffman Hall at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, at the corner of Steck and Mesa.

A large advertisement for Rainbow Play Systems, Inc. The top half features a black and white photograph of a complex wooden playground structure with slides, ladders, and platforms. Several children are seen playing on the structure. Overlaid on the image is a large, bold, white text banner that reads "HUGE DISPLAY INVENTORY CLEARANCE SALE!". To the right of the banner is the Rainbow Play Systems, Inc. logo, which includes a rainbow and the text "RAINBOW PLAY SYSTEMS, INC. FINE RESIDENTIAL PLAY EQUIPMENT". Below the photograph, the text "HURRY IN! WHILE SUPPLIES LAST" is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath this, it says "SAVINGS UP TO \$2500 OFF SELECT" in a large, bold, white font. To the right of the "\$2500" text, a list of items is provided: "DISPLAY MODELS, USED SYSTEMS, INVENTORIED ITEMS, SPRINGFREE TRAMPOLINES, & GOALSETTER BASKETBALL GOALS". At the bottom of the advertisement, the contact information "1-800-RAINBOW • RPSofTexas.com" is displayed in white text. The very bottom of the ad has a black background with white text that reads "BRING THIS AD IN FOR A NEW CUSTOM NAMEBOARD".

The Impact of Terrain and the Elements on Urban Wildlife

Al Simmons

For the last few years, we have concentrated on what you, a homeowner living in NWACA, could do to your home and your property to protect it as much as possible from an urban wildfire. Many of you have successfully hardened your homes and adapted your landscaping concepts to protect against flying embers from a wildfire. However, we have been tardy in our comments and recommendations regarding the thick, lush, beautiful, wild vegetation in the large valleys surrounding our neighborhoods. It makes a spectacular view from our homes, enhancing the value to potential buyers. However, the valleys are also perfect fuel for a wildfire!

This is the first in a series of pieces to acquaint us with the characteristics of our valleys: the physical shapes and conditions of the valleys; the types of plants common to our area; the common wind directions in a valley, particularly with an urban wildfire roaring within the valley; the various land slopes within a valley and how they affect the movement of the fire and embers within that valley; and finally, what we can and what we can't do inside a valley to discourage urban wildfires.

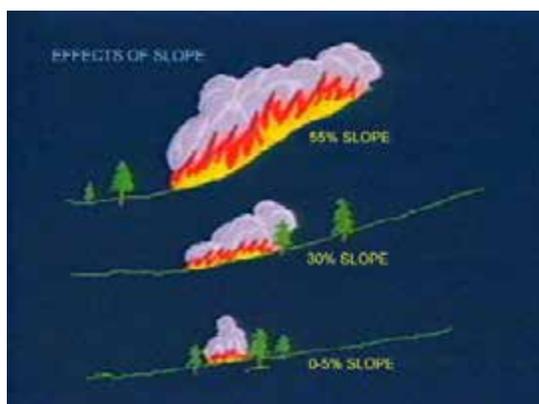
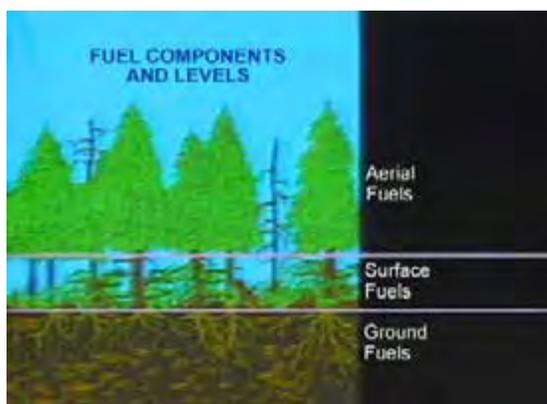
Most of our valleys are in the shape of an irregular bowl, or a partial bowl, with a reasonably flat water-worn ravine of soil, rock, and plant growth, forming a somewhat gentle slope through the bottom of the valley that captures and carries off rainwater and/or spring water. The gullies in our valleys seem to transition from a slight, gradual slope at the ravine up to vertical hard-rock cliffs, and everything in between!

These transitioning slopes, combined with wind, can have different effects on fire and the embers from those fires. The accompanying graphics show the effects of varying degrees of slope on the size and height of fires and amounts of embers.

See the accompanying pictures of slopes in Buzzard Valley (south of the Meadow Mountain community off Far West) with plant material and large quantities of tree debris in our local valleys. These pictures were taken January 3, 2017, following the +/-20-degree freezes. That plant material had record amounts of rain from September to early-December - great growth before the freezes, leaving large amounts of dead wildfire fuel. (Red lines on the photos show the slope of the hillside.)

In many of our valleys, we can't do much about removing that wildfire fuel because the owners and/or the government regulators of those valleys restrict our access. The owners, generally speaking, are developers who won't give us access to their property to remove the dead material. The regulators are protecting endangered species of birds, other animals, and plants found in several of the valleys, which are land owned by the City of Austin or are part of Balcones Canyonland Preserve.

In next month's article, we may outline ways we are studying to handle the low-lying flammable materials and tree debris shown in the valley photos, to better protect our homes.





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Kitchen and House Fire Actions

Henry McCown

A House Fire requires very fast action to notify AFD, grab clothes and only top priority items, and get out of the house. A kitchen stove fire (usually from a pan heating oil) is the biggest cause of home fires. Others include electrical short circuit in a switch, lint fire in a dryer exhaust line, or lightning strike.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

- If smoke alarm(s) go off, treat as if threat were real and make a fast inspection
- If fire is detected, Call 911 first

STOVE-TOP BURNER FIRE:

- Turn off the burner
- Then put on oven mitts and smother fire with pan lid or flat cookie sheet
- Use an extinguisher ONLY IF fire has spread and you may be able to retard it
- For oven or microwave fires, keep the door shut so that no air can get in to feed the fire. It should go out on its own.

CAUTION: DO NOT

- Use fire extinguisher on the contents of a burning pan or pot; this may turn it over and spread the fire
- Throw water on a kitchen stove fire. This will cause it to explode
- Throw sugar or flour on fire, as they are combustible
- Try to move the burning pan. This can burn you and make a bad situation much worse
- Remove the lid or cookie sheet. Never remove until burning pot or pan is cool
- Use a wet dishtowel – never use a wet dishtowel to put out a grease fire

FIRE EXTINGUISHER LOCATION AND USE

Keep your extinguisher handy, in a kitchen cabinet or your dry goods pantry, and check the valve every six months to make sure pressure is OK. Do not keep it near the stove. If you need to use the extinguisher:

- Stand six (6) feet from fire
- Pull plastic pin on extinguisher
- Aim at base of fire – the source of the flames
- Squeeze handle lever and maintain the pressure
- Sweep from side-to-side and from front to rear on the source of flames until extinguisher is empty

MAKE YOUR OWN FIRE PLAN

Every household is different, so take some time to think about the problem

- Do your research on the internet
- Make your own fire plan – discuss it and write it down!
- Sources of further information:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/fire-extinguishers>

<http://www.fire-extinguisher101.com/hazards.html>

<http://www.windsorfire.com/portable-fire-extinguisher-guidelines/>

Coming Soon: Used Electronics & Styrofoam Collection Event

Joanie Arrott

Start gathering those outdated computer monitors, old microwaves, iPhone 3s, and blown-out stereo equipment. NWACA's Tree and Environmental Stewardship Committee is proud to host our annual Used Electronics Recycling event, and this year we will also be accepting Styrofoam! The event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 15th, from 8:00-10:00 a.m., pending approval from the school administration. This event is open to NWACA members only, and if you're not a member, you can join at the event.

We will be collecting materials such as: computers and related supplies, printers, batteries, cameras, phones, LCD televisions, routers, stereo equipment, microwaves, and refrigerators. We will be accepting all consumer electronic devices and appliances except for TVs with wooden frames or rear projection TVs. If it plugs in, we will probably accept it.

With regard to Styrofoam, we will be accepting most solid forms including: plastic foam made from polystyrene (commonly found in egg cartons, food packaging, meat trays, to-go containers, disposable plates and coffee cups, foam ice chests and in shipping and packaging materials) and plastic foam made from polyethylene (commonly used in shipping and packing items such as electronics).

Make sure your plastic foam is clean and dry before dropping it off. It may be necessary to rinse containers to eliminate any food contamination. We will not accept food-contaminated foam containers. We will not accept packing peanuts or soft foam, such as the foam typically found in mattress pads or plastic foam that is attached or glued to other materials, like cardboard or plastic film.

We will not be accepting household hazardous wastes including: used oil, paint, light bulbs, or chemicals. An event for those materials will be held in the fall.

After the event, the collected materials will be taken to the Austin Resource Recovery facility in southeast Austin.

We're always looking for volunteers for our collection events. We need folks to corral the cars, unload vehicles, load the collection truck, and assist with separating the collected materials. If you're looking for a great opportunity to help serve your neighborhood, meet your neighbors, and protect the environment, come join us! Any questions or volunteer sign-up can be sent to: nwacainfo@gmail.com



Business Spotlight: Saffron *Janice Green*



offering fine Indian and Nepalese dining that is attracting folks inside and outside our 'hood.

Recently I sat down to chat with one of Saffron's owners, Thiniso Tashi, an engaging fellow justifiably thrilled about Saffron's stellar reviews in all the local newspapers and online reviewing sites. The praise has led to crowds and lines -- a challenging double-edge knife for a dining establishment that prides itself on fresh cuisine and patient hospitality.

In 2016 Tashi and his business partner, Rajesh Ghmire, opened Saffron, introducing Austin to Nepalese cuisine. Tashi brings his Tibetan and Nepalese heritage to the table, along with his 15 years working in the NYC and LA restaurant scenes. Rajesh adds his Indian heritage to the mix. When Tashi and his wife (who is in IT) opted

to escape the fast pace of Los Angeles, they were purposeful in their move to Austin's saner rhythms and found the recently vacated Far West location.

Neil Kallou is the general manager smiling and nodding at the neighbors frequenting Saffron. His goal for ambience is a blend of Austin "down home" hospitality with professional waitstaff who can guide customers into new culinary geography. As Tashi explains, Indian and Nepalese use similar spices but the Nepalese go with a lighter, more subtle touch; plus, Nepal borders China so the Nepalese dishes reflect the Chinese influences.

Saffron's two chefs, one who specializes in Indian cuisine and the other in Nepalese cuisine, insist on using fresh ingredients and making small batches of dishes from scratch. They even make their own yogurt. Their tandoori is tender and moist, and the rosemary-parmesan naan is to die for. Explore the Nepalese menu section and try new versions of steamed dumplings, barbecued lamb, fried chicken and chow mein! The Bombay Brussels in a creamy mustard sauce are an addictive appetizer, but save room for the Darjeeling Green Tea Crème Brulee.

Saffron offers a lunch buffet that blends the standards with the unexpected. Catering is available if you are looking for a new twist to celebratory meals. Saffron offers free corkage. Check their website for hours and menus: <http://saffronaustin.com/>



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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 December 23, 2016 and February 14, 2017.

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.

- Pat Armstrong
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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!



Red Imported Fire Ants

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

I was making dinner the other night and my kiddo was outside playing. He came rushing in panicked. He discovered the fire ants of the season. While I knew it was inevitable, I was hoping that it would occur a bit later in the year. But, it's true. Fire ants have begun to yet again, dot the landscape with their mounds.

Spring time is usually when people see fire ants swarming (although it can also happen in the fall). Swarming is a reproductive process that usually occurs on warm days after a rain event. Winged males and females leave the mound and fly into the air to mate. After mating, they fall to the ground where males die and females break off their wings and search for a location to establish a new colony (see photo of fire ant queen without wings). Mated females dig a small chamber in soil, lay a few eggs and rear those young by themselves until the young become mature worker ants. At that point workers take over colony functions and the queen continues to expand the population of the colony by laying more eggs.

While searching for a new colony location, many mated fire ant queens are killed by lizards, birds, spiders, other ants, and often by my shoe stomping on them. Queens that survive can be managed by broadcasting fire ant bait over your entire property. New colonies are usually very small and may not have substantial mounds to easily locate for individual treatment. When worker ants forage for food, they would have the opportunity to locate, pick up, and carry fire ant bait back to the colony to share with other ants, including the queen.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at:

www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com





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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

Kids' Club

Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:

Peel, Inc. - Kids Club
308 Meadowlark St
Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

DUE: March 31st

Be sure to include the following so
we can let you know!

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