



President's Message

Chris Hajdu

First off, I want to thank everyone who came out to make our annual 4th of July Parade a great success. The participants and the crowd displayed so much enthusiasm it was contagious. The "Vets in Vettes" gave many the chills as veteran after veteran rode through a sea of applause. This aspect of the parade even got a mention in the Statesman (see the article later in this issue about this.) The Freedom Fest after-party at Doss was an amazing event with people enjoying music from The School of Rock, a plethora of face painting and games, an Austin Fire Department Fire Truck and food from several of our sponsors (including watermelon, breakfast tacos, and cookies) and much, much more! I also want to extend a sincere and heartfelt thanks to the many, many individuals and sponsors who make the parade a possibility. This includes the NWACA Parade committee members, our wonderful volunteers, and our business sponsors. These people help to make our 4th of July Parade the best in the city. Thanks again to all! And I promise, we will work hard to make sure the bunny in the tank is back next year.

Regarding our favorite subject, speed bumps, our District 10 representative, Alison Alter has announced a temporary hold on all pending installations of speed mitigation devices while the Austin Transportation Department looks into the process and the types of devices that are being installed. In last month's newsletter, I gave a little history of the LATM program and described how requests work through the LATM process. It's important to remember that this process is one that involves private citizens and the City. We will

work to keep everyone up to date on this situation as it unfolds. Stay tuned to the weekly email (NWACA Notes), Next Door, and our Facebook page for updates.

While on the topic of traffic and safety, the NWACA board voted to move forward with a 6-month pilot program to secure a Travis County Constable to patrol our area. We will be evaluating the impact of this program to determine if this could become a permanent program as it has in some neighboring communities. Please see the article in this month's newsletter that details more on this pilot program.

I'd also like to share some of the other great articles we have in this month's issue:

- Zoning - Learn how to discover your current property zoning and what your current zoning category indicates for your property
- Schools of the Future – Learn what some of our neighboring area schools are doing to support great learning environments for the 21st century
- Bull Creek History – Learn about the origin of the name for Bull Creek
- Paper Recycling – Learn the ins and outs of paper recycling including what paper products can go in your blue bins
- Chiggers – Learn about these annoying little creatures and what you can do to protect yourself from them

Thanks, and we hope you are enjoying a great summer!!

New to the Neighborhood?

If this is the first time you're seeing our newsletter, welcome to the NWACA neighborhood! 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

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!

Welcome to NWACA!



NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

August 2, 8:30 am

Kneaded Pleasures

Crime and Safety Committee

August 6, 2:00 pm

Kneaded Pleasures

Parks Committee

August 8, 8:00 am

Kneaded Pleasures

Communications Committee

August 19, 9:00 am-noon

Bull Creek District Park

Monthly park beautification in
the park and on trails

August 20, 2:00 pm

Kneaded Pleasures

Tree and Environmental
Stewardship Committee

August 22, 5:00 pm

Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane

NWACA Zoning & Transportation Committee

Sept 3, 2 pm

Kneaded Pleasures

Parks Committee

Sept 6, 8:30 am

Kneaded Pleasures

Crime and Safety Committee

Sept 12, 8 am

Kneaded Pleasures

Communications Committee

Sept 16, 9AM - noon

Bull Creek District Park

Monthly park beautification in the park
and on trails

Sept 26, 5 PM

Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane

NWACA Zoning and
Transportation Committee



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 APD District Representative, Office Darrell Grayson...512-974-5242
 District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter.....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

What a 4th, Y'all!

—Amy Hajdu, Parade Chair

And that's a wrap! We successfully celebrated the 45th Annual NWACA July 4 Parade and Freedom Festival. Many thanks to the hard work of the Parade Committee who ensured this year's neighborhood celebration was the best yet!

- Abby Karp and Liz Merkle, Logistics
- Tom Arbuckle, Parade Marshal
- Emma Garrett and Kelly Popelka, Volunteers
- Mindy Arbaugh and Tracey Fine, Freedom Festival
- Lissa Hutchinson, T-shirts
- Jill Klucher, Hydration Stations and T-shirt Distribution
- Mandy Niles and Sue Rubio, Float Contest
- Tracy Darrow, Coordinator of Grand Marshal
- Joyce Statz, NWACA Representative
- Shannon Meroney and Debra Danziger, Communications
- Kirk Ashy, Julie DePalma and Caroline Alexander, Sponsorships

A special thanks to the Angie and Gary Huels family for hosting the Opening Ceremonies again this year; to Senator Kirk Watson, Master of Ceremonies; Cub Scout Pack 2 for leading the Flag Ceremony and carrying the NWACA July 4th Parade Banner; Dan Giradot and Family for singing the Star Spangled Banner and American the Beautiful;

Constable Adan Ballesteros and Austin Fire Department Engine 21 for leading our parade; to Kirk Divine for driving the Grand Marshal and to Boy Scout Pack 59 for carrying the Grand Marshal banner; and to Atria at the Arboretum, Boy Scout Troop 511, Austin Corvette Club, Scott Strance, Mike Hart for coordinating and accompanying our Military Veterans!

It's getting more competitive and fun than ever! Thankful to our Celebrity Parade Judges; Rev Merrill Wade, Mr. Miles Erlanson, Ms. Bonnie Lang, Ms. Laura Burkhart and Mr. Bradley Clark and all of the groups who registered and entered the Float Contest! Congratulations to the top three winners:

- Grand Champion: Gnarly Gneighbors (second year in a row!)
- Most Patriotic: St Theresa Girl Scouts
- Team Spirit: Front Yard People

Without an amazing group of community businesses to financially support and help offset parade expenses through in-kind donations, our parade just wouldn't be as fantastic as it is every year! Please help us thank our sponsors for their ongoing support of our neighborhood and continue to support them by frequenting them and buying from them!

Platinum Sponsors: A+ Federal Credit Union, Arnold and DeSantis Orthodontics, Austin Emergency Center, Austin Yard Cards, Bleu Nail Café, Carol Dochen Realtors, College Nannies and Tutors, Freytag's Florist, Idee Kwak Piano and Composition, Journey Martial Arts, Lawn Pop, Mangiz Pizza, OH-15 Imaging, PostNet, Ready to Run, School of Rock, Shalom Austin, St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School, Tacodeli, and Tomlinson's.

Gold Sponsors: A Jones for Organizing, Coach Mo's, Daily Juice, Epoch Coffee, Far West Liquor, Frost Bank, Galaxy Café, Kasey Gilliam - Realtor, Hat Creek Burgers, Judge John Lipscombe and Judge Jan Breland, Redfin Real Estate, Vivia Robertson - Realtor, Larry Sauer - Attorney, and Studio Mantra.

We're always looking for volunteers to share in the fun of organizing and implementing the parade! Don't be shy...there is something for everyone. And, it's not too early to let us know if you're interested in working on the July 4, 2018 parade.

Thank you for being such an awesome neighborhood and helping us put on the best July 4th parade in the City of Austin!

Honoring our Veterans on the 4th

—from Austin American Statesman

In case you didn't see it in the July 11, 2017 Letters to the Editor in the Austin American Statesman, here's what one of the World War II veterans had to say about our "vets in Corvettes" in this year's parade. See the Photo Gallery at www.nwaca.org to see examples of what he describes.

"On July 4, there was a parade in Northwest Hills – and it was my pleasure and privilege to ride in one of the cars provided by some patriots who love sports cars. Thank you, Mrs. Kayla Williams-DiNardo.

It made me so proud of Austin and Northwest Hills to be a part of this outreach of recognition of our World War II veterans. To see thousands of parents and children of all ages thanking us for our service was really overwhelming! It's so gratifying to know that they still care." Winn Pinkston, Austin



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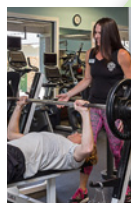
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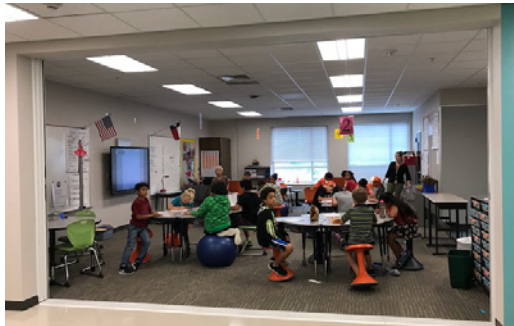
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Schools of the Future

—Julie Cowan, AISD Trustee District 4



The 21st Century requires our children to collaborate, demonstrate creativity, communicate effectively, think critically, and be culturally competent. It also calls for learning environments that enhance the practice of these skills.

In late May, Austin ISD invited principals, administrators, FABPAC members and trustees to visit schools in Leander ISD and Round Rock ISD. Because both of these districts are experiencing enrollment growth and building new schools, they also have the latest and greatest new learning environments. As AISD brings to voters a bond for consideration Nov. 7, 2017, we have the opportunity to begin updating our students' learning spaces. It's exciting and our children are worth the effort.

Take a look on this page at learning spaces found at Joe Lee Johnson Elementary in Round Rock, Tom Glenn High School in Leander, and Westlake High School in Eanes. Passage of our bond would be the first step in moving ALL of Austin's facilities into the 21st century. Keep in mind that the average AISD school building is over 40 years old and in great need of modernization and energy efficiency. Indeed, Murchison is 50 years old this fall!

1. RRISD elementary classroom. Glass doors slide into the walls to create fluid learning spaces. Varied seating options allow kids to "wiggle" while learning, if needed.

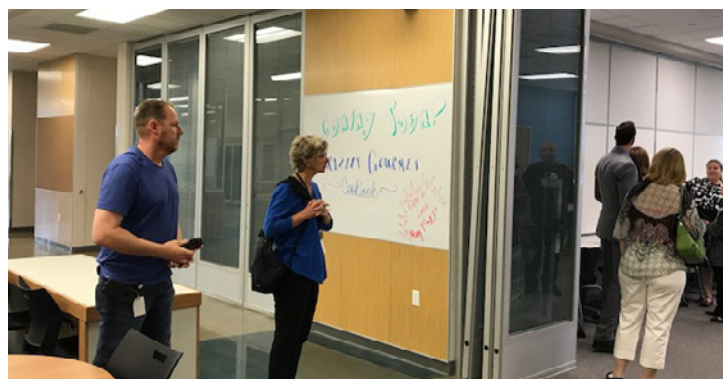
2. RRISD group learning also takes place in the open space between classrooms. Students share technology and collaborate as they work on projects together.

3. LISD classroom with walls that open into collaborative learning spaces and between classrooms so teachers can share students and team teach.

4. LISD teacher work area. Rather than each teacher having his/her own classroom, they are assigned to different classrooms throughout the day and have personal workspace in the hubs.

5. Westlake's Incubator classroom. The interesting thing about this program is that Westlake shares teacher resources and access to experts with students in Elgin HS - remotely!

Please feel free to contact me at jscowan@aol.com or 512-659-8593 if you have questions or comments.



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ENGEL & VÖLKERS

Bull Creek: where did the name come from?

—Richard Denney

Last month we asked why is there a road named Bull Creek Road that is nowhere close to Bull Creek? That mystery solved, this month we ask where did the name come from?

Let's start with the standard explanation, e.g. from the Austin History Center website: "Bull Creek Watershed is one of the most beautiful natural areas in Travis County. Once called Cascade, the name 'Bull' is said to have come from the last wild bison shot near the creek in the 1860s. Another source relates the name to the many longhorn cattle that once grazed in the area."

The valley of Bull Creek also used to be called Pleasant Valley, not to be confused with Pleasant Valley in South Austin. There was a Pleasant Valley School, AKA Bull Creek School, about where RM 2222 and Loop 360 meet. But let's focus on the debate about Bull Creek vs. Cascade Creek (which came first), and does the "Bull" refer to a buffalo or longhorn?

A Texas General Land Office (GLO) map as early as 1861 shows the creek as "Bull Creek", but indications are it was going by both names. Here's a snippet from a letter to the editor of an Austin newspaper in 1866:

"Mr. Editor: It has often been asked, 'What's in a name?' ... We are of those who do not think that 'a rose by any other name would smell as sweet'... [there is a beautiful stream among the adjacent hills ...]. It is known in common parlance as 'Bull Creek,' but the enterprising and aesthetic map publishers, recognizing the principle that we advocate, have very properly ignored such an antediluvian term, and with a spirit worthy of the age and 'land in which we live,' have adopted the pleasing and enticing name of 'Cascade Creek.' [Signed] Many Citizens."

The letter concludes "We should be pleased to have you drive out and enjoy the beauties of nature so bountifully provided, and take a cup of tea with you." So common parlance was Bull Creek, but "Many Citizens" (like the Chamber of Commerce or land speculators) didn't find that name pleasing and enticing. That would suggest it began as Bull Creek and Cascade Creek was a rebranding ploy? But wait, buried in the Travis County Deed Records, for a survey in 1835, back when Texas was still a part of Mexico, there it is in Spanish, a reference to what may be the creek's very first name: Arroyo Cascadero; translated, Cascade Creek.

Next debate; does the "bull" in Bull Creek refer to buffalo or longhorns? This one is a bit tougher. This year, 2017, marked the 150th year celebration of the Chisholm Trail. From a website celebrating the 150th year anniversary: "The Chisholm Trail was the major route out of Texas for livestock. Although it was used

only from 1867 to 1884, the longhorn cattle driven north along it provided a steady source of income that helped the impoverished state recover from the Civil War."

The iconic longhorn cattle drives of Lonesome Dove were a post-Civil War, Reconstruction era phenomena. And as the General Land Office map from 1861 shows, the name Bull Creek was clearly in use before the Civil War ended. Among the early Anglo settlers to Bull Creek were the Preeces. In an article from Real West Magazine (1964), Harold Preece claims the name is attributed to the killing of a male buffalo on Bull Creek by his great grandfather, William Martin Preece who came to Texas ca. 1838, while other materials at the Austin History Center cite his grandfather, Richard Lincoln Preece.

On the other hand, longhorns had been wandering around Texas since the days of the Spanish who introduced them.

So the jury is out? Well hold on. The USGS shows over 500 place names with "Bull Creek" in them, in more than 40 states including Alaska. I am guessing there were no longhorns in Alaska, but the original distribution of bison in North America ranged from Alaska to Mexico, and in some latitudes nearly coast to coast. I'm betting on the buffalo.

For more on this topic and other local history, visit Richard Denney's blog at <http://txcompost.blogspot.com/>





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Constable Patrol Pilot is Underway

—NWACA Board

As was described in the President's Message and the article about the NWACA Traffic Survey, a pilot project was proposed several months ago to employ a part-time Travis County Constable to enforce traffic laws in our neighborhood. The proposal was supported by concerns voiced by the neighbors in our traffic survey, including especially speeding, inability to use 4-way stops, running stop signs, and other unsafe driving practices. After extensive discussion and information gathering about how such a program would work, the NWACA Board approved the pilot project at its July monthly meeting. The project will cost \$6,000.

The project is one of those funded in part from Project Reserve Funds (see descriptions of that program on the NWACA web site and in May 2017 monthly NWACA Newsletter). Half of the fees for this 6-month program will come from the Project Reserve Funds, and half will be donated by neighbors who submitted the project proposal.

Here is how the program works. An off-duty Constable will patrol areas of our neighborhood in 2-hour blocks several times a week, for a total of about 25 hours per month. The hours are likely to be the busy ones, but at random times and random days of the week. The officer is paid \$45/hour and Travis County is paid \$15/hour for the use of a Constable-marked car. We have asked the officer to focus on traffic violations, pointing out from our survey that neighbors are concerned especially about



speeding, inability to use 4-way stops, running stop signs, and other unsafe driving practices. The officer has the results of the survey, which show the streets and intersections of greatest concern, but is able to patrol throughout the neighborhood as appropriate.

We are likely to have the same Constable working with us throughout the pilot, so he will become quite familiar with our area. Each time he comes on duty, he will check in with the APD Dispatcher, so APD knows he is here. That provides an interesting benefit to the neighborhood; if there are any 911 calls while he is here, those calls will likely go to the Constable if he is closer to the situation than any APD patrol officer. If there's a situation requiring backup, the Constable can call on APD; and similarly, if APD is fielding a call, the Constable might be called on for backup if he's in the area. While the focus is on traffic law enforcement, the Constable can also handle other 911 situations that arise.

Tickets issued by the Constable are Travis County tickets, and fees go to the Travis County Justice of the Peace Court for the precinct in which the offense occurs; for most of the NWACA area, this is Precinct 2, while parts of the neighborhood are in Precinct 5.

The Constable's office will be providing the NWACA Board with a report of their activities, and we will pass on a summary of that to the neighborhood, so everyone can see whether or not the pilot project is having an impact. We are hopeful this pilot will result in a reduction of the traffic violations our neighbors have reported seeing regularly, as well as neighbors feeling safer in their homes. If you have questions about the project, please send email to nwacainfo@gmail.com and we will do our best to answer them.

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NWACA Board Nominations Underway

—NWACA Board

The NWACA Nomination Committee is now gathering nominees for the NWAC Board for 2018-2019. The Committee includes both members of the current Board and NWACA members at large:

- Vicki DeWeese, NWACA Board Member
- Joyce Statz, NWACA Board Member
- Caroline Alexander, NWACA Board Member
- Stacey Brewer, NWACA member at large
- Cuatro Groos, NWACA member at large
- Kay Whitney, NWACA Member at Large

Everyone is invited to identify candidates for the NWACA Board, sending email to nwacainfo@gmail.com or sending a letter to NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755. Please submit your nominations by August 1. Thank you!

Recent Central Texas Wildfires

—Al Simmons



Wednesday, July 5, 2017: Cedar Creek had 4 brush fires burning close to 20 acres alongside of county roads, but the Bastrop Fire Department kept the fires under control. No people, property, nor pets/animals were harmed!!

The same Wednesday morning IN AUSTIN, the fire department said they had responded to 67 grass, trash, and related fires in the past 24 hours.

Folks, it is July and it is HOT, DRY AND THE WIND IS BLOWING!! Don't be fooled by the random, light rain showers of 1/4" to 3/4" that have been coming through the Austin area... the ground is bone-dry and absorbs those small amounts in short order, particularly in our sloping valley floors. These are all dangerous conditions. Please watch your use of flames, particularly smoking and barbeque pits...keep a water bucket close by!!!

Thanks for being vigilant and helping protect our neighborhoods!!

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Paper Recycling—Don't Overthink it!

—Joanie Arrott

Sometimes remembering what can and cannot go in your curbside blue bin is frustrating. Let's cover a few details that pertain to loose paper. Paper materials should always be dry before placing in your bin. Wet paper can gum up the recycling machines.

What goes in the Blue Recycling Bin?

Glossy and matte paper, Coupons, Envelopes, Posters, Junk mail, Newspapers, Greeting cards, Paper bags, Catalogs, Wrapping paper (non-foil), Sticky notes and Magazines

One note of confusion: shredded paper should not go in your blue curbside recycling bin, not even when placed inside a plastic or paper bag. Throughout the curbside pick-up process, all your recyclable materials become crushed several times. Bags will easily break or tear open leaving tiny bits of paper to blow in the wind. Pre-shredded paper should be taken an appropriate collection facility cited here: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/shredded-paper-drop-locations>. Please note some of the businesses listed charge a fee for accepting pre-shredded paper and some do not. Always call to confirm details before making a special trip.

Drowning in junk mail? Consider opting out of unwanted mailers, magazines, and other mail clutter through <https://www.catalogchoice.org/>. After signing up and selecting your specific mailings, this no-cost service sends merchants an opt-out request on your behalf. While they have no ultimate control over how and when merchants will process your opt-out request, I personally have had success in stopping four magazines out of six requests since signing up.

Extra curbside recyclables will be collected at no extra charge. If you cannot fit all your recyclables in your cart, place additional items in a cardboard box or reusable container next to your cart. The only exception is larger plastics, which must be broken down to fit inside your blue recycling cart with the lid closed, or they will not be accepted.



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Learning About Your Zoning

—Ruven Brooks

A useful place to start to learn about the zoning on your property is the City of Austin Zoning Profile Report: <http://www.austintexas.gov/GIS/ZoningProfile/>

For most people in the NWACA area, if you enter your address, it will show a map of your property and the column on the left will say that your zoning is SF-3. To learn what that means, you can read more here: https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Planning/zoning_guide.pdf

For SF-3, the most common zoning in our area, a more detailed, up to date explanation is here: https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Planning/CodeNEXT/Code101_CurrentZoningRegs.pdf

(If you are reading the online version of this newsletter, you can cut and paste these addresses.)

What else might you see?

You might see several different addresses for your property. This is often the case for shopping malls where each store has an address, but it might also show up in office complexes or if a property has entrances on two different streets. These are called “address points” and they are used by the City’s 911 system to

direct help. If the address you’ve been using differs from this address, it’s worth going to the City’s Address Management Services department to see why.

You might also see several different zoning codes. In Austin, it is possible for a property to be split across multiple zoning classifications. The original Kerby Lane Restaurant on Kerby Lane is zoned LR, CS, and GR. This kind of splitting is most common on older, commercial properties but it can occur anywhere.

Two other things you might see are entries for zoning cases and zoning ordinances. When a property is brought into the City, it is given a zoning category (district). Owners of the property may apply to have the zoning changed, and this entry records what happened to the application. A successful zoning case will result in the passage of a City ordinance changing the zoning, but there may be other reasons for passing a zoning ordinance as well, for example, including a property in a neighborhood plan.

Last but not least, there might be some Zoning Overlays. These are zoning requirements above and beyond the base zoning. The one you are almost certain to see is Residential Design Standards, more commonly known as the McMansion ordinance.

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THANK YOU!

Special Thanks to Members

—Membership Committee

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the 4th of July Parade Fund and the Park Fund, between May 24, 2017 and July 13, 2017

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 do events in our parks and revitalize parks in the NWACA area.

- Tim and Kay Bradley
- Craig and Sylvia Casper
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- Jason and Lauren Fischer
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Chiggers

—Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Chiggers are the immature stage of a mite. They climb onto people walking through infested areas, crawl upwards, and wander around the body seeking a good site to settle down and feed. Feeding preference for these mites is in areas where skin is thinnest or where clothing fits tightly, such as the ankles, waist, behind the knees, and the groin area.

Chiggers do not burrow into skin as many people believe, so “smothering” them with nail polish is useless. When chiggers feed, they inject a digestive enzyme that breaks down skin cells which are then eaten. Itching and redness is caused by our body reacting to the enzymes injected into our skin. Itching typically begins 3-6 hours after being bitten, peaks at 24 hours, and can last up to two weeks.

The best way to avoid getting chiggers is to avoid infested areas. Since this is not always possible, here are some other things to try:

- Wear protective clothing- tightly woven items that fit loosely; including long sleeves & pants; shoes or boots
- Tuck pant legs into boots
- Avoid sitting on the ground
- Remove and launder clothing ASAP after being in infested areas
- Shower/ bathe after being in an infested area; scrub vigorously with a washcloth
- Use an insect repellent with DEET or picaridin

To treat chigger infestations around the home try the following:

- Keep lawn trimmed
 - Maintain vegetation; do not allow weeds to grow up, and keep brush cleared
 - Use targeted residual pesticide sprays, usually pyrethroids
- For chigger bites:
- Do not scratch pustules; opening pustule might lead to infection
 - Use oral antihistamines or topical anti-itch creams to relieve itching sensation

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 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.



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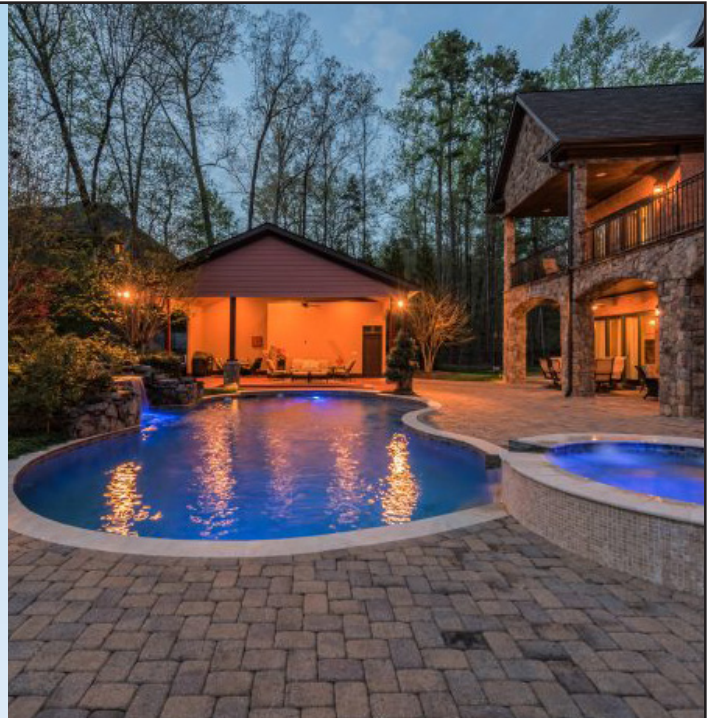
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