

nwacanews

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2018

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 9

President's Message

–Vicki DeWeese

It's fall and that means...

Signup continues for NWACA Garage Sales on Saturday, September 29th in your yard! 8:00 a.m.- 12 Noon! NWACA provides the advertising and signage, YOU keep your proceeds! Go to www. nwaca.org to register. For more information, contact: Mike Polston, Chair, at nwacainfo@gmail.com

Also, on Saturday, September 29th, join us for the First Annual NWCA Neighborhood National Night Out! Bring your lawn chairs and join us in the south end of the Randall's parking lot in

Mesa Plaza by Sweet Caroline's. NWACA is joining over 38 million neighbors across approximately 16 thousand communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide to celebrate National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships as well as neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

I want to give a special thank you to our National Night Out event sponsors! Randall's will be grilling hot dogs and serving cookies; we'll have Torchy's Tacos, queso, and guacamole; and Sweet Caroline's will have snowballs. School of Rock, Shirley McPhail School of Dance, and Journey Martial Arts will perform. Our neighbors from The Turquoise Table and Austin Yard Cards will be with us, and YPW

Am I a Member?

Since you get the newsletter, you're a NWACA member, right? Not necessarily! Thanks to our advertisers, every single-family household in the NWACA area receives the monthly newsletter.

Members pay annual dues of only \$25, ensuring that NWACA special events such as the Fourth of July parade, fall garage sales, recycling events, and summer pool parties continue. NWACA committees such as Wildfire Prevention; Crime and Safety; and Tree, Wildlife, and Environment depend on your dues to produce educational materials and programs. The Special Projects Fund helps improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. Want to get more involved? Go to www.nwaca.org and join a committee from the Get Involved tab.

If you're not sure you're a member, either go to www.nwaca. org and use the quick link on the home page or email us at nwacamembership@gmail.com. Thanks from all your neighbors! Spanish Immersion School and Central Barbershop will also help us celebrate our wonderful community. We'll have first responders and emergency personnel from the Austin Police Department, the Austin Fire Department, Travis County Sheriff's Office, Travis County Constable Pct. 2, Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin Independent School District Police Department, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Come have dinner with your neighbors, listen to some great music, watch some wonderful performances, and celebrate the new fall season at our neighborhood picnic! You can even register to vote! FREE Parking across the street, courtesy of First Presbyterian Church!

We'll also have an opportunity for you to sign up for Neighborhood Watch and for the National Child ID program. For more information about the NWACA event or Neighborhood Watch, contact Connie Lundgren at nwacainfo@gmail.com For more information about the National Night Out program, please visit https://natw.org For more information about the National Child ID program, visit www. childidprogram.com There will be a National Night Out poster

(Continued on Page 2)

New to the Neighborhood?



If this is your first copy of our newsletter, welcome to the NWACA neighborhood! The map shows our boundaries – Mopac, RM 2222, Loop 360, and US Highway 183 (Research Boulevard). There are about 13,500 households who are your neighbors and are happy you're here!

This newsletter is one way to know what's happening in NWACA, but there's much more. Check out the quick link For New Neighbors on the home page at www.nwaca.org Use the Contact tab to see how to get the weekly NWACA Notes, sign up on Facebook, and join NextDoor. Become a dues-paying member by using the form at the end of this newsletter, or you can join online.

Welcome to NWACA!

NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

September 6, 10 AM Doss Elementary School Groundbreaking for the new school!

September 7, 8-10 PM Bull Creek District Park Star Party, sponsored by Bull Creek Foundation and Texas Museum of Science and Technology

> **September 9, 2 PM** Biderman's - Parks Committee

September 11, 8:00 AM Kneaded Pleasures - Communications Committee

> September 12, 6:30 – 8:30 PM Galaxy Cafe - NWACA Board Meeting

September 15, 9AM - NOON

Bull Creek District Park - Monthly park beautification in the park and on trails; sign up at: https://www.givepulse.com/ event/72429-NWACA-Third-Saturday-Park-Clean-Up

September 25, 5 PM Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane, r.201 NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committee

September 29, Throughout NWACA Annual NWACA Garage Sales

September 29, 6-8PM

Mesa Plaza – Mesa at Spicewood Springs Rd. NWACA Neighborhood National Night Out event – visit with first responders and enjoy music, dance and martial arts performances, food, and conversation

> October 2, 7-9 PM Neighborhood areas - National Night Out

October 4, 6:30 PM Huffman Hall, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church; 8134 Mesa Dr. Candidate Forum – AISD District 4 candidates

> **October 7, 2 PM** Biderman's - Parks Committee

October 9, 8 AM Kneaded Pleasures - Communications Committee

> October 9, 6:30 – 8:30 PM Galaxy Cafe - NWACA Board Meeting

> > October 20, 9AM - NOON

Bull Creek District Park - Monthly park beautification in the park and on trails; sign up at https://www.givepulse.com/ event/72430-NWACA-Third-Saturday-Park-Clean-Up

October 21, 2 PM

Kneaded Pleasures - Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee

October 23, 5 PM

Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane, r.201 NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committee

President's Message (Continued from Cover)

contest held at neighborhood elementary schools, and middle school and high school students can earn service hours by helping with event setup. We're looking for volunteers to help with setup and cleanup and several duties during the event; if you're interested in helping contact Louri O'Leary at nwacainfo@gmail.com

Speaking of safety in our community, our recent survey of the neighborhood found that b oth NWACA members and nonmembers want NWACA to continue the Constable patrol program. The element of surprise may slow traffic, reduce the number of people ignoring stop signs, and help prevent break-ins. While we would like to think that our taxes should provide the police patrol that we need and want, it's a fact that our law enforcement is stretched thin! The survey showed that over two-thirds of participants want us to continue the program, while over a third of respondents wanted increased patrol, wanted NWACA to provide a way for donations to pay for the program (we have that online at www.nwaca.org), and/or wanted us to raise membership dues to pay for the program! In order to continue the program, we need your help. If only 10 people committed \$100 per month, the program would be funded at the current level, or if 20 people committed \$50 per month, the program would be funded, or if 40 people committed only \$25 per month, the program would be funded. Consider priorities.

Would you like to know more about the history of our neighborhood and your neighbors? The NWACA History Committee is doing interviews, the first of which is in this newsletter. If you know of someone we should interview, or if you would like to be interviewed, please contact us at nwacainfo@gmail.com

Lastly, in preparation for the upcoming November 6th elections, on Thursday, October 4th, come to the NWACA Candidate Forum for AISD District 4 candidates, 6:30 p.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. For more information, contact: Mike Polston at nwacainfo@ gmail.com

We are so fortunate to live in this special place and we look forward to continuing to build upon the community spirit of our neighborhood, working with both residents and businesses. Remember, we are a click away at www.nwaca.org or via email: nwacainfo@gmail.com





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KEY CONTACTS

Austin Citywide Information Center512-974-2000 or 311
Emergency, Police
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) 311
To check status, go to: http://www.austintexas.gov/department/
myaustincodestatus
APD District Representative, Office Darrell Grayson512-974-5242
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter
Enroll in the District 10 monthly 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 Tuesday 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 US Highway 183 (Research Boulevard), 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 <u>advertising@peelinc.com</u>. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

Buses and Back to School!

–Lauren Ward

It's Back to School time again for all of AISD! Things will be a little different in our NWACA neighborhood due to the construction of the new facility at Doss Elementary. By now you know that the current campus will be razed and a facility will be built over the next two years. During the construction, Doss students have relocated to Lucy Read (located on Richcreek Drive on the east side of Mopac).

Now that all Doss students are more than two miles from school, you will see an increase in bus traffic during the morning and afternoons. The buses will be traveling the neighborhood from 6:30-7:30 am to pick up students, and again from 3:00-3:45 pm. They will also be traveling on Spicewood Springs Road to get to the new campus. As always, there are other buses from neighborhood schools during the afternoons, too. Remember, all drivers must stop whenever a bus stops to pick up or drop off children. So be safe, and drive carefully during these peak times.



Star Party on September 7

Star Party at Bull Creek Bull Creek District Park FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH AT 8 PM FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.BULLCREEKFOUNDATION.ORG Come out to Bull Creek District Park and enjoy a star party with the Bull Creek Foundation and the Texas Museum of Science and Technology, September 7th from 8-10pm. We will have telescopes available. Register at https://www.givepulse. com/event/78136-Star-Party%21

Your suggested donation of \$10 per person or \$25 per

family directly supports the Bull Creek Foundation. You can donate here: https://austinparks.org/support-bull-creek-foundation/

For more information go to www.bullcreekfoundation.org Bull Creek Park is at 6701 Lakewood Drive, Austin, TX 78731.

NWACA 2018 Garage Sales September 29

–Mike Polston

If you haven't already done so, it's time to get ready for the annual NWACA Neighborhood Garage Sales. Do yourself a favor: walk around your home and see if there is anything of value that YOU DON'T REALLY NEED or WANT. Someone else might be very interested, so why not participate in the annual NWACA Wide Garage Sales?

Registration is open on the NWACA website www.nwaca.org until September 20. Registering allows us to connect with you for advertising the Garage Sale at your home. This year's NWACA Garage Sale day is Saturday, September 29, 2018, 8 am to 12 noon. NWACA will post the neighborhood sales locations on the NWACA web site starting September 20. On the weekend of the sale, ads will be placed in the Austin American Statesman and on Craigslist. We'll also put notices onto Facebook, providing everyone with information about the location of sales. NWACA will also deploy regional signs and local signs around the neighborhood by September 28. We anticipate supporting 40 to 60 Garage Sale locations. As you get ready for your sales, be sure you have enough change for purchases (dollars, fives, twenty's, quarters). Good luck!

Neighborhood Watch Makes us All Safer

-Connie Lundgren

As part of the National Night Out activities, all residents are encouraged to hold block parties and get to know your nearby neighbors. Also, please consider setting up a neighborhood watch. Forty percent of the communities in the U.S. have neighborhood watch programs, and the Department of Justice has said they are effective in preventing crime. This is a good way to meet your neighbors and help make our whole community safer. As our city continues to grow, so does the crime. We can easily participate in spotting suspicious activity and stop a potential threat through the Neighborhood Watch Program. All the materials necessary are available. Please consider being a Neighborhood Block Captain. It is a very simple process and one that will also help create a sense of community. Contact us at nwacainfo@gmail.com to learn more.



Spot Crime.

Be a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain

Stop Crime!

More info: email nwacainfo@gmail.com

New Library Commissioner for District 10

-News Announcement

In July 2018, Council Member Alison Alter appointed Deborah Pardo-Kaplan as Library Commissioner for District 10, replacing former Commissioner Lynne Wiggins. Ms. Pardo-Kaplan has an educational background in library studies and journalism, and she has worked in public and academic libraries for fifteen years. For the past few years, Ms. Pardo-Kaplan has advocated for the renovation of the Old Quarry library.

Council Member Alter and Austin Public Library staff diligently worked toward including the library funding in the November 2018 bond package, which Austin city council recently approved: \$941,000 for the complete renovation of Old Quarry library. Howson library (also District 10) will receive (if the bond passes) \$994,000 for HVAC and controls upgrades. Thirteen other library branches will also receive funding pending the November vote.

The role of the library commissioner according to the city website is to "make recommendations to the city council on matters relating to the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the public libraries."

The public can attend library commission meetings on the fourth Monday of each month and they can also make public comment at those meetings. For a list of library commission meeting dates, agendas, and minutes, please visit: https://www.austintexas.gov/ librarycommission. Ms. Pardo-Kaplan can be contacted at: bc-Deborah.Pardo-Kaplan@austintexas.gov.





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connie.lundgren@evusa.com 512.619.4101



JOIN NWACA FOR OUR 1ST COMMUNITY



Saturday, September 29th

South end of Randall's parking lot 6-8pm

Bring your lawn chairs, listen to some great music, visit with your neighbors and first responders!

- Featuring

Randall's, Sweet Caroline's and Torchy's Tacos

LIVE MUSIC from the School of Rock PERFORMANCES from Shirley McPhail School of Dance and Journey Martial Arts

Vehicles from the Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, AISD Police Department and more



National Night Out Giveaways



Additional Details

Registration kits for National Child ID will be available.

National Ghild Identification Program

Prizes will be awarded to elementary school winners of the National Night Out poster contest Plus service hours for middle school and high school volunteers are available for those that help with setup and supervision Volunteers contact <u>nwacainfo@gmail.com</u> for more information

\star Please park across the street at the First Presbyterian Church \star



NORTHWEST AUSTIN

Special thanks to our Event Sponsors:

PLATINUM Randall's • Mesa Plaza, Ltd. • School of Rock • PostNet • Journey Martial Arts The Turquoise Table • Austin Yard Cards

GOLD Sweet Caroline's • Torchy's Tacos • Shirley McPhail School of Dance First Presbyterian Church • YPW Spanish Immersion School

SILVER Central Barbershop



12,000 Londoners Killed! Post WWII Tragedy!

When University of Texas Journalism Professor Kate Winkler Dawson came upon this, she began combing newspapers of 1952 for more information, expecting the story to headline, surprised to find another topping it.

London had a serial killer. Murdering women and burying their bodies in his backyard, John Reginald Christie eluded capture, his pretense of respectability as impenetrable as the smog.

Kate intertwines these concurrent events in her suspenseful, narrative non-fiction book, Death in the Air.

"The stories benefit from being told next to each other as they strangle the city—the air choking people to death, and Christie literally strangling his victims." They "run parallel to each other and collide in Parliament the next summer, changes made in the aftermath."

Christie killed a child and her mother; the father of the family wrongly accused of the crimes, was found guilty and executed. This hallmark of wrongful conviction leads directly to Great Britain abolishing the death penalty.

"The bigger impact is that Parliament passes legislation to clean up the air, even before the United States 1956 Clean Air Act... the blueprint for other countries to follow [but currently being dismantled here at home.]

Now a Senior Lecturer at UT's School of Journalism, Kate grew up in Northwest Hills and attended Doss, Kealing, and LASA. She fondly remembers spending her first 18 years trying to get out of Austin, and the rest of her life getting back, in that interim completing her formal education at Columbia and going on to write and produce for some of the country's top news organizations.

Kate lives with her wife and their twin daughters "one song away" from Doss, the school she first attended. She describes her time there as the most valuable experience of her life and additionally expresses appreciation of today's Doss: the kind, giving friends, teachers, and principal, not only educating and inspiring her daughters, but also helping care for them, especially when her creative time is limited.

Death in the Air: The True Story of a Serial Killer, the Great London Smog, and the Strangling of a City, available at Book People and all major outlets, has garnered accolades from NPR, Kirkus, the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Alcalde. A riveting account, it surprises, enlightens and entertains, leaving the reader in happy anticipation of Kate Dawson's next book, *American Sherlock*.

BACK TO School

LET US HELP YOU BE AT THE TOP OF YOUR CLASS!

CAN YOU SOLVE THIS?

 $\widehat{n} + \widehat{n} + \widehat{n} = 21$ $\widehat{n} + \widehat{n} + \widehat{n} = 15$ $\widehat{s_{11}} + \widehat{s_{12}} + \widehat{n} = 10$ $\widehat{n} + \widehat{s_{12}} + \widehat{n} = 10$

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WINNERS ANNOUNCED ON NORTHWEST HILLS INFO FACEBOOK PAGE ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH!

TO ENTER:

JULIE WAIDELICH

I. LIKE FB PAGE NORTHWESTHILLSINFO.COM 2. PROVIDE YOUR ANSWER TO THE PUZZLE ABOVE 3. SHARE OR TAG A FRIEND "WINNER WILL BE SELECTED RANDOMLY.





WWW.NESTPROPERTIESAUSTIN.COM

Dead Dog Cave -Richard Denney

Recently the world held its breath as boys and coach of a Thai soccer team were stranded in a cave. Our neighborhood had its own cave drama, albeit not on the scale of the Thai soccer team. I'm referring to Dead Dog Cave ¹, its entrance now buried beneath Luby's parking lot near Steck and Mopac Service Road.

The cave was first brought to the attention of cavers about 1958. A gentleman exploring a sink hole crossed a ledge which gave way, climber and rock falling to the bottom of the sink. Subsequent exploration and removal of dirt, rocks, and dog bones (hence the name!) revealed a cave 175 feet long, with a depth of 91 feet.

The cave features tight crawl spaces only 8 inches wide; not for the claustrophobic! At one point a narrow vertical passage opens in the ceiling of a walking-size passage. The walking passage extends 15 feet to a six-foot drop into the "Big Room," a room 60 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 30 feet high. Big by Travis County cave standards! The drop into the Big Room is undercut and unclimbable without climbing aids. Inside the Big Room, from a fissure issues a small stream creating a waterfall which falls to the floor creating an area of flowstone. The water flows to a small drain at the lowest point in the cave, 91 feet below the surface.

Even though relatively few braved the difficult path to the Big Room, the cave had a reputation among cavers. The cave also had a reputation among teens!

July 5, 1978, three teenagers from the neighborhood decided to visit the cave. The trip was uneventful until the three attempted to exit. The boy in the lead became pinned in a two-foot-wide passage, 25 feet from the surface by a cave-in, rocks crushing his legs several inches below his hips. The exit thus blocked, his friends behind him were trapped as well. It was about 8:30 pm when the call went out for help from an adult who had gone with the teens, staying near the entrance, presumably for just this reason.

First on the scene was the Fire Department but they were unable to free the boy using a rope, at which time cavers from the Austin Cave Club were called in for assistance. The plan then was to dig out the loose rocks holding the boy in the narrow passage. The most effective implement was a coffee can from the Red Cross truck that had arrived to provide refreshment for the rescuers. After hours of digging the boy was freed about 12:30 am as applause rang out from a crowd of hundreds of onlookers. "All I could think of," said the boy "was that if the rest came down I would be dead."

That was not the first incident at Dead Dog Cave. Another gentleman told me he got stuck in 1959 when he was a 10th grader at McCallum High; once again cavers came to the rescue. But speculation on the 1978 incident was that construction activities for the extension of MoPac had destabilized the cave leading to the cave-in that pinned the teen. State highway engineers made plans to close the cave with concrete. Cavers talked with engineers, and they agreed to include a manhole cover to permit access to the cave. Unfortunately, when Luby's was built, the significance of that manhole was not appreciated and was paved over, cutting off access to the infamous Dead Dog Cave!

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

1. The cave is officially known as Dead Dog Cave #2 (yes, there is a Dead Dog Cave #1), and also as Steck Cave. Here I'll refer to it simply as Dead Dog Cave. My thanks to Jerry Atkinson for his help on this article, and William Russell for use of his write-up, "Major and significant caves and karst features of Travis County, Texas." Texas Speleological Survey,





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Be a Good Neighbor

Public Service Notice



From an August 2 NextDoor posting from the City of Austin – Do You Know How to Spot Common Code Violations:

City codes and ordinances have been created to protect the health, safety, and quality of life for the citizens of Austin. The Austin Code Department makes sure these codes are

met so Austin continues to be a safe and livable city. We do this by educating, collaborating and partnering with neighborhoods, local businesses, non-profits, and other City of Austin departments.

Common code violations include carts left at the curb, work without permit, and accumulated trash. If there is a property with potential code violations in your neighborhood, use the Austin 311 app or call 3-1-1 to submit a service request and an inspector will come to investigate your concern. And remember, you can always call anonymously. Learn more: www.austintexas.gov/code

Some supporting details from the Austin Code Department, Austin Resource Recovery, and Public Works Department web pages:

• Garbage carts must be returned to their storage area on private property by 10:00 p.m. on the designated collection day. They should be placed at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on collection day, but not prior to 8:00 p.m. the evening before.

• Do not rake or blow leaves, grass, or other trash into the streets. This is prohibited by City ordinance.

• Sidewalks: Limbs and vegetation must be trimmed back from the edge of and at least 8 feet above sidewalk.

• Streets/Alleys: Limbs and vegetation must be trimmed back from the curb line (edge of street or alley) and at least 14 feet above street or alley.

• Grass and Weeds: Maintain grass and weeds at a maximum height of 12 inches throughout property to the edge of the street or alley.

• Corners: Maintain vegetation at a maximum of 2 feet above ground within a 10-foot setback from the curb line (edge of street) and 40 feet along the curb line from the street intersection.

• Fire Hydrants: Remove trees or plants within 5 feet of fire hydrants.

And, while it's not a code violation, it would be best if trash cans are kept in places where they can't be seen from the street, unless they're out for pickup. It makes things look a little tidier for everyone.

Get to Know your Precinct Chair

-Rachel Lance

As we approach the 2018 general election on November 6, 2018, your local Democratic and Republican parties are each coordinating efforts to help their candidates. Travis County is divided into 463 voting precincts and each precinct has a Democratic and a Republican precinct chair, though some chairmanships are currently vacant. Precinct chairs wear many hats, but in general, chairs are the party's boots on the ground representatives responsible for turning out voters and recruiting election day poll workers.

Precinct chairs are always looking to connect with their neighbors and grow the volunteer ranks. If you'd like to get involved in your local party's get-out-the-vote efforts, feel free to email your precinct chair! A list of Democratic precinct chairs can be found here: https:// www.traviscountydemocrats.org/travis-county-precinct-chairs/, and Republican precinct chairs here: https://sites.google.com/site/ travisgop/precinct-chairs-directory. If you need to look up which precinct you're in, or if you want to learn how to register to vote, go here: https://www.votetravis.com/.



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NWACA News - September 2018 9

NWACA History interview with Debbie Pearson

– Carol Jones

Debbie was born in Austin in 1947, and she grew up in Tarrytown. Her father, Hyman Samuelson, owned the Slax Menswear store on Burnet Rd for over 50 years. He served as president of the Jewish Federation of Austin and of Congregation Beth Israel, and he was the first contributor toward having a Jewish Community Center in Austin.

Debbie can remember when the Austin city sign showed a population less than 100,000. In 1964, when she was in high school, her family moved to Northwest Hills. At the time, it felt like they were moving out to the country. Balcones Drive was considered to be a distant road, far out of the city. There were few houses in the area, and no schools, churches, or stores. The only road into the neighborhood was Dry Creek, with a single gas station at Dry Creek and 2222. Debbie was able to finish her high school years at the downtown Austin High School on Rio Grande Street. When she started college, she could drive from Sierra Drive to UT on surface streets in about 15 minutes. In 1973, Debbie moved to her own house in Northwest Hills. By this time, Doss Elementary School and Murchison Middle School had been built and her house was close enough for the kids to walk to school. Later, the neighborhood high school kids were bused to Johnston High School on the east side of town. Her kids didn't mind at all. But the schedule was difficult because they had to be at the curb for the bus by 6:30 a.m., in the pre-dawn darkness.

She remembers that most people in the neighborhood were opposed to the building of the Mopac highway. Why would there need to be a highway going right through their area? There wasn't much traffic at all. Everyone thought that it was ridiculous to imagine that there would ever be enough traffic there to justify the expense of a highway.

It was delightful to talk with Debbie, and hear her memories of the old neighborhood! Do you have memories you would like to share? If so, please contact us at nwacainfo@gmail.com



Fire Season Remains. Stay Vigilant!

– Joyce Statz

The fire season for Central Texas (and most of the U.S.) this year is July through November, so we wall need to stay vigilant – keeping our eyes open for potential risks, keeping the brush and debris under control, and observing the NFRDS Fire Danger ratings at the fire stations and on the TV weather reports.

Looking back at the fire season of 2011, there are uncomfortable parallels with Central Texas in 2018. We have a similar level of drought after several years with wonderful growing seasons; that means we have lots of wildfire fuel out in the green spaces. We have hot, dry days, sometimes with a lot of wind. That's what it was like in 2011, too, when we had nine wildfires burning in our immediate area on Labor Day weekend. From an article in the Austin American Statesman on August 12, 2018: "As of August 9, the Forest Service tallied 893 wildfires in Texas in 2018. That's higher than the number of wildfires in each year from 2012 through 2017 — save 2013, which had 899 fires."

And more fires are on the way.

There are simple things you can do to minimize the risks to your life and property:

• Embers from a wildfire pose the greatest danger to homes and property – thus, to lives. Eliminate fuel for embers by keeping your gutters clean, regularly removing accumulations of leaves and debris around the foundation of your home and within 30 feet of your home.

• Remove dead plants, brush, and tree limbs throughout your landscape.

• Use only rock mulch around the perimeter of your home; wood mulch makes good kindling for embers.

• If you leave your home for an extended period during the fire season, move flammable doormats indoors; they, too, can nurture embers into a threatening fire.

• Keep hoses connected to the hose bibs of your house. In case of fire, you or a firefighter will find them very helpful to put out spot fires.

Be sure that you've signed up at https://warncentraltexas.org/ to get emergency notifications, just in case disaster strikes. You can get a call, a text, or email, whatever works best for you.



REWISE L

Residents reducing wildfire risks

Special Thanks to Members

– Membership Committee

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the 4th of July Parade Fund, the Park Fund, and the Constable Fund, between July 20, 2018 and August 14, 2018.

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. The Constable Fund helps us provide the patrol activities of the Travis County Constable.

- Stacy Daniels
- Paul and Judith Hickey
- Michele Meadows
- Daniel and Janet Teal
- (and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)



Common questions we are asked:

- What should I be doing with my cash?
- How can I lower the fiduciary risk of my 401(k)?
- Can I afford an investment rental property?
- How can I pay less in taxes?
- Are my investments aligned with my life goals?
- How can I create a business succession plan?

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Asps/ Puss Caterpillars

- Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Did you know that some caterpillars are able to inflict a painful sting? Various caterpillars have urticating hairs or spines that are connected to a poison gland. When part of your body comes into contacts with the hairs, they can stick in the skin, injecting venom, and sometimes causing a rash.



Asps, also known as puss caterpillars, are about an inch and a half long when fully grown, teardrop-shaped with long, silky hair. They are usually tan, but can be anywhere from pale yellow to grey. Smaller instars (stages of the caterpillar) are yellow in color while later instars turn pale green to white. Spines containing venom are concealed in later instars by long, soft-looking setae (hairs). Asp caterpillars are typically found on trees and shrubs around homes, and

generally do not cause long-term harm to plants.

If stung, pain will immediately be felt and blood-colored spots may form at the sting site. Other symptoms that may occur are nausea, headache, vomiting, or respiratory distress. To remove spines from the skin, cover the sting area with strong tape and peel tape off to pull out spines from skin. Repeat tape process as needed to remove all spines. Applying an ice pack to the sting area may help to sooth the skin. An oral antihistamine may also be taken to relieve itching. If respiratory distress occurs, seek medical attention.

If you have large populations of these caterpillars and want to manage them, you can try Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki (this targets caterpillars only, but will also kill "good" caterpillars). You may also look for active ingredients such as spinosad or azadirachtin (both naturally-derived products). These products tend to work best on smaller instars. Another option would be a residual pesticide labeled for caterpillars that is also labeled for use on plants.

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.urbanipm.blogspot.com



NWACA REAL ESTATE

NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET REPORT UPDATE

Listings	This Month			Year to Date		
Listings	July 2018	July 2017	Change	July 2018	July 2017	Change
Single Family Sales	30	27	11%	147	176	down 17%
Condo/TH Sales	15	15	0	96	108	down 11%
Total Sales	45	42	7%	243	285	down 15%
New Homes Only	0	0	0	2	2	0
Resale Only	58	47	23%	170	190	down 11%
Sales Volume	\$24,550,628	\$20,367,546	21%	\$82,180,969	\$93,786,450	down 12%
New Listings	29	34	down 15%	237	222	7%

Average	This Month			Year to Date		
Average	July 2018	July 2017	Change	July 2018	July 2017	Change
List Price	\$765,562	\$701,520	9%	\$814,017	\$749,684	9%
List Price/Sqft	\$274	\$263	4%	\$279	\$267	5%
Sold Price	\$818,354	\$754,354	9%	\$759,970	\$722,164	5%
Sold Price/Sqft	\$269	\$251	7%	\$278	\$260	7%
Sold Price/Orig LP	97.3%	96.4%	1%	98.1%	96.4%	2%
DOM	32	48	33%	41	67	down 39%

Median	This Month			Year to Date			
wiction	July 2018	July 2017	Change	July 2018	July 2017	Change	
List Price	\$735,000	\$648,950	13%	\$750,000	\$685,000	9%	
List Price/Sqft	\$273	\$259	5%	\$274	\$262	5%	
Sold Price	\$763,500	\$707,500	8%	\$735,00	\$671,250	10%	
Sold Price/Sqft	\$259.34	\$256	1%	\$277	\$258	7%	
DOM	13	10	30%	11	19	down 42%	

Price Range	This Month			Year to Date		
Frice Nalige	New Listings	Sales	DOM	New Listings	Sales	DOM
\$250,000 - 300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$300,000 - 350,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$350,000 - 400,000	1	0	0	4	2	6
\$400,000 - 450,000	1	0	0	3	2	30
\$450,000 - 500,000	1	2	54	5	4	47
\$500,000 - 600,000	1	5	23	26	23	61
\$600,000 - 700,000	10	5	14	62	38	34
\$700,000 - 800,000	6	8	15	56	33	19
\$800,000 - 900,000	5	2	30	32	18	55
\$900,000 - 1,000,000	0	3	67	20	9	47
\$1,000,000 +	4	5	56	34	18	61

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR UPDATES, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT JULIE. WWW.NESTPROPERTIESAUSTIN.COM

SOURCE: ABOR MLS including data through July 31, 2018. Data based on NWACA Boundaries MOPAC/HWY. 360/2222/SPICEWOOD SPRINGS

Northwest Hills Observations

FPT

- The greatest number of single family home sales have occurred between \$600,000 and \$800,000 with relatively strong demand up to \$1,000,000+.
- Compared to last year, the average list price of single family homes has increased from roughly \$750,000 to \$814,000 through July 2018.
- Despite higher pricing, the number of single family homes sold between July 2017 and July 2018 increased 11% with the days on market dropping from 48 days to 32 days.
- The area within the NWACA boundaries continues to see positive momentum, but it is expected the market will slow a bit now that school is back in session and the holidays are approaching.

Please contact Julie if you'd like to understand how this relates to the value

of your own h

CONSTRUCT NORTH BUR NORTH VEST NILLES ALLANDALE

JULIE WAIDELICH BROKER|OWNER, REALTOR®

Help Keep our Wildlife Wild!

NWACA advises residents to NOT feed wildlife. Many wellintentioned 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.





If you would like this yard sign, please send email to nwacainfo@gmail.com







Offering both 1 on 1 and small group (3-5 athletes) wide receiver development training sessions weekly throughout Austin and the surrounding areas.

Mission statement: To take what I've learned from playing at both the collegiate and professional level and bridge the gap between what's being taught at the highest level of play to those even as young as 4th grade.





TODAY TO TAKE YOUR GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Head Lice

- Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Head lice can become a problem brought home from summer camp or during the school year. These insects are small, tan to gray, and wingless. Eggs, also called nits, are glued to the hair shaft near the scalp. Nits are dark in color until they have hatched and turn white. It takes 7-11 days for eggs to hatch. Females lay 3-5 eggs each day and live from 7-10 days.

Head lice reside on the hairy part of the head. If they drop off, they only live for about 2 days. They are incapable of surviving on pets and are not known to transmit any diseases from person to person.

Several states, including Texas, now have what are being called "super lice." Essentially, these lice are resistant to pesticides commonly found in over-the-counter lice treatments. If you are using an overthe-counter treatment for lice and they are not dying, then you need to see a physician. Doctors are able to prescribe other treatments that can kill the lice.

To manage lice:

1. Use an effective treatment. Head louse shampoos contain insecticides so they must be used properly and with care. Wash the infested person's hair in a sink or basin so insecticide does not come into contact with other parts of the body. The person shampooing should wear rubber gloves. Do NOT use off label products such as flea and tick shampoo, other insecticides, or gasoline. Only treat the infested person(s), but check everyone in the household.

2. Hair combing is an extremely important step in controlling head lice. Shampoos may not kill all eggs, so thorough combing can help remove eggs from the hair shaft. Wet hair and use a special metal louse comb to comb through small sections of hair. Remove debris from the comb with a tissue and place it in a plastic bag that can be sealed and disposed of when you are finished combing through all hair. Hair should be combed daily until no more lice or nits are found.

3. Clothing and bedding of the infested person should be washed in hot, soapy water at the same time as the treatment. If items cannot be washed, try dry cleaning. For items that cannot be laundered, place them in a sealed plastic bag in the freezer for at least 24 hours.

4. It's important to contact anyone your child has had close contact with, to let them know of the head louse infestation. This can help everyone manage the problem at the same time so there is less chance of re-infestation occurring.

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 News - September 2018 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month 2018

During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

Hispanic Heritage Month, whose roots go back to 1968, begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day (Día de la Raza) is October 12.

The term Hispanic or Latino, refers to Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. On the 2010 Census form, people of Spanish, Hispanic and/ or Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin." Today, 57.5 million people or 18% of the American population are of Hispanic or Latino origin. This represents a significant increase from 2000, which registered the Hispanic population at 35.3 million or 13% of the total U.S. population.

Share in this special annual tribute by learning and celebrating the generations of Hispanic and Latino Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.





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Health Highlights September, Healthy Aging Month

No matter what your age, you can stay at your personal best with these expert tips.

1. Get moving

Exercise regularly to maintain a healthy body and brain.

2. Stay social

Take a class, volunteer, play games, see old friends, and make new ones. 3. Bulk up

Eat beans and other high-fiber foods for digestive and heart health. 4. Add some spice

Add herbs and spices to your meals if medicationsdull your taste buds. 5. Stay balanced

Practice yoga or tai chi to improve agility and prevent falls.

6. Take a hike

Brisk daily walks this September can bolster both your heart and lungs. 7. Sleep well

Talk to a sleep specialist if you don't sleepsoundly through the night. 8. Beat the blues

If you've been down for a while, see a doctor. Depression can be treated. 9. Don't forget

To aid your memory, make lists, follow routines, slow down, and organize.

Expert Tips on Healthy Aging

Tips from Gary W. Small, MD, professor of psychiatryand biobehavioral sciences, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and director, UCLA LongevityCenter

*Take a daily brisk walk with a friend -- you'll get an aerobic workout, and the conversation will exercise your brain and reduce stress.

*To help control the urge to overindulge, just imagine eating that sweet treat. Research shows the fantasy dessert will satisfy you, and you'll actually eat less.

Tips from Carla Perissinotto, MD, MHS, assistant professor of medicine, division of geriatrics, department of medicine, University of California, San Francisco

*Every few months, review your over-the-counter drugs with your doctor for any potentially unsafe ingredients. I do this for my parents whenever I visit their home.

*Try yoga. All types help maintain physical and emotional health. My favorite is Kundalini yoga, which focuses on meditation and strengthening.

Tips from Elizabeth Eckstrom, MD, MPH, director of geriatrics, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Ore.

*Follow a Mediterranean diet to help prevent memory impairment and heart problems. I love salmon covered with fresh thyme and lemon slices and grilled on a plank.

 $^{*}\mathrm{I}$ do tai chi three days a week, and it dramatically improves my balance. Seniors can do it, too, and cut their risk of falls by almost half.

Partnerships For Children



On Thursday, September 20, 2018, Partnerships for Children will host the 7th Annual Girls and Giving at The Hotel Van Zandt in downtown Austin. It will be an evening of giving back as we enjoy food, signature cocktails, exciting raffles, live music, and dancing!

Last year our event sold out, so it you have not already reserved a spot, we encourage you to act now – you don't want to miss this opportunity,! You can view a complete listing of sponsorship benefits and purchase your tickets on our website - www. partnershipsforchildren.org.

As a nonprofit in Central Texas, Partnerships For Children leads a collection of programs that offer resources, support, and comfort for foster children and families in our community. Our accessibility to Child Protective Services, efficient practices, and ability to connect with kids at all stages in their lives allow us to better serve those who need us most by providing real and impactful solutions.

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NWACA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Send annual dues of \$25 with this form to: NWACA, P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

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Street Address: _____

Email #1 (kept private; print): _____

Email #2 (kept private; print): _____

Phone (with area code):_____

Date: ____

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(Optional) 4th of July Parade Contribution: \$10____\$20___Other ____

(Optional) Parks Fund Contribution:

\$10____\$20____Other ____

(Optional) Constable 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

Why Join NWACA

The Northwest Austin Civic Association is your neighborhood association. NWACA represents you on issues like crime prevention, transportation congestion and excessive speeds, zoning concerns, and wildfire prevention. NWACA plans the annual 4th of July Parade, organizes election forums, sponsors an annual neighborhood garage sale, recycles household waste, publishes this newsletter, and much more! Your support makes it all happen! Join us.

Prevent Oak Wilt

PLAN AHEAD - PRUNE

NOV thru JAN

- Beetles Inactive
- Dormant Season
- Coldest Months

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Inside Austin Monthly Magazine reaching more than 140,000 readers per issue?

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VIA MAIL WITH A BEAUTIFUL **JUST LISTED** MARKETING PRESENTATION IN A HAND STUFFED ENVELOPE, NOT A POSTCARD?

ONLINE WITH YOUR OWN CUSTOM WEBSITE AND ON NUMEROUS WEBSITES?

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