



Message from the NWACA Board

Happy Valentine's Day! February is the month for LOVE!

“Love is the greatest refreshment in life.” Pablo Picasso.

What does NWACA love?

We love our neighbors who make up our neighborhood, including our homeless neighbors! Please read about the work that the Helping our Neighbors (HON) group and area churches are doing to help our area's homeless neighbors on cold weather nights.

We love the businesses who serve our neighborhood! Please read our business spotlight article and patronize the businesses who sponsor our events and who advertise in our newsletter, enabling us to send it to everyone in the neighborhood, free of charge. We know you'll love the new column in our newsletter, Gourmand's Corner, which gives updates on great food and drink finds in our neighborhood.

We love our neighborhood and Austin history! You can read about a long time Northwest Hills resident, a Northwest Hills pioneer, and other famous Austinites.

“Love is a canvas furnished by nature and embroidered by imagination.” Voltaire

We love our trees! Please don't prune your oak trees until July, and read the article in this newsletter about the transmission and prevention of oak wilt.

We love our parks and greenbelts! Please join your neighbors for “It's My Park Day” to clean up Stillhouse Hollow Preserve and Steck Valley Park on March 2nd. And, wildfire season will be upon us soon. We live in a high-risk area! Please read the Firewise article about how to prepare.

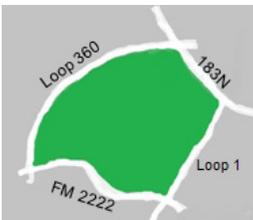
We love taking care of our environment! Please read the articles about property maintenance and recycling to stay up to date; there is even an Austin Household Sorting Guide that you can save. And, you can also read about how to protect your food supplies from flour beetles.

We love our safe neighborhood and want to maintain it! Please read about our Constable program.

“To love is to act.” Victor Hugo

(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!



ARE YOU A NWACA MEMBER?

Receiving the newsletter does not guarantee membership. Not sure? Visit www.nwaca.org/member to confirm!

Here are 5 great reasons to join today!

GREAT NEIGHBORS = GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

Together, we can continue to do great things for our neighborhood!

STAY INFORMED ABOUT ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU

We are actively involved in our community and advocate for our residents.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

We encourage friendships among residents through our events - July 4th parade, National Night Out, Recycling Collection, Garage Sales, and more!

PROTECT AND IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY

Learn about fire safety, crime prevention, oak wilt, environmental concerns, park development, wildlife management, zoning/planning, and more!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

We are deeply invested in building strong relationships within our business network to positively impact our neighborhood.

Together we can make a difference!

JOIN TODAY @ WWW.NWACA.ORG/MEMBER

NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

Feb 3, 2 PM

Parks Committee
Biderman's

Feb 12, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

NWACA Board Meeting
Galaxy Cafe

Feb 18, 8:00 AM

Communications Committee

Kneaded Pleasures

Feb 26, 5 PM

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

Mar 2, 9-Noon

It's My Park Day - spruce up the area, remove weeds and overgrowth; sign up link will be provided in the weekly NWACA Notes email
Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve, 7810 Sterling Dr.

Mar 2, 9-Noon

It's My Park Day - spruce up the area, remove weeds and overgrowth; sign up link will be provided in the weekly NWACA Notes email
Steck Valley Park

Mar 3, 2 PM

Parks Committee
Biderman's

Mar 12, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

NWACA Board Meeting
Galaxy Cafe

Mar 17, 2pm

Tree and Environment Committee
Kneaded Pleasures

Mar 18, 8:00 AM

Communications Committee
Kneaded Pleasures

Mar 26, 5 PM

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

From The Board (Continued from Cover)

We love NWACA members! If you're not already a member, please go to www.nwaca.org and act now! Membership is only \$25 per year! You can donate to the Constable Program while paying your dues and you can sign up for a free Firewise risk evaluation.

We love our volunteers! We always need volunteers! Visit our website, www.nwaca.org to see committees that might interest you, then email us at: nwacainfo@gmail.com. We will have upcoming events for students to earn service hours, too.

We love our board members! Congratulations to Ruven Brooks, who at the suggestion of our District 10 Councilmember Alison Alter, has been asked to represent NWACA on the Cap Metro Project Connect Multimodal Community Advisory Committee.

We love our schools! See public service announcements from many of our neighborhood schools.

What do you LOVE? Members, please look for our upcoming survey in your email boxes and tell us what you would like to help us work on. Stay tuned, we will have an event filled spring.

Save the Date, Sunday, April 28th, for the official groundbreaking of the **Loewy Family Playground** at Murchison Pool Park, featuring Austin dignitaries, fun family and competitive kickball games, and a "Concert in the Park." NXNW! Get ready!

"Love is all you need!" Sir Paul McCartney

Understanding City Code: Property Maintenance

— Alan Carson

This series discusses City of Austin codes and ordinances that affect our lives and property, some of which you may not be aware.

Section 10-5-21 of the City Code states that a person may not allow weeds or grasses in their yard to grow more than 12 inches high. This had occurred in our part of the neighborhood; a resident had not mowed his yard for over a year and the grass was knee-high. A neighbor called 311 concerning this and was told that a city inspector would notify the homeowner that he or she must comply with the code or the City would cut the grass at his or her expense. That call to 311 worked; within a week the lawn was mowed and the grass neatly trimmed.

This part of the Code also covers the accumulation of rubbish, brush, or any other unsightly, objectionable, or unwholesome matter. There is another resident nearby who does not properly dispose of fallen leaves. Leaves accumulate on his lawn and driveway in huge piles. I am surprised that someone hasn't called 311 yet.

The City's concern is that the leaves will wash into storm drains and end up in our creeks. Their decomposition reduces the amount of available oxygen in the water and kills fish. Leaves may also clog storm drains and cause flooding.



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KEY CONTACTS

Austin Citywide Information Center.....512-974-2000 or 311
Emergency, Police..... 911
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) 311
To check status, go to: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/myaustincodestatus>
APD District Representative,
Officer Darrell Grayson...512-974-5242
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter.....512-978-2110
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)

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GOURMAND'S CORNER: Cielo Bistro Mexico

—Chris Hajdu

CIELO
BISTRO  MEXICO

Welcome to a new monthly column where we cover restaurants, breweries, food trucks, wineries, and culinary events around the Austin area. I'm starting with the places that have caught my attention, but if you have favorites to suggest, let me know at nwacainfo@gmail.com

Well, we've all been waiting patiently for something to open in the former El Arroyo space on Wood Hollow Drive, and that time has finally come! I sat down with Joel Morales (one of the Cielo Bistro Mexico founders) to learn a little about this new restaurant in Northwest Hills. Cielo Bistro Mexico is currently serving dinner from 6-10 p.m. each day as they get the restaurant started. The plan is to expand those initial hours to include happy hour (3-6 p.m.), weekend brunches, and eventually lunch service. Chef Charles Mayes (of Cafe Josie and Gilligan's fame) has created an amazing menu that includes regional dishes from Baja, West, and Northwest Mexico. Flour and corn tortillas are made fresh daily (the latter using non-GMO white corn grown in Mexico that is ground onsite). The menu is focused on fresh, clean ingredients and the bar is well stocked with wine, beer, and cocktails to compliment the menu. There have been extensive renovations done to the former El Arroyo site to the point that it's hard to believe it's the same location! Plans for the outdoor patio (opening later in the spring) include umbrellas, sun shades, and a play area for the little ones. For those who crave breakfast tacos, they are planning to bring them back soon for morning passersby.

Visit the website below, where you can join their email list to stay notified of upcoming announcements.

Location and Contact info:

7032 Wood Hollow Drive, Austin, Texas 78731
<http://cielobistromexico.com/>

Reservations: (512)599-4558-Note that Reservations via OpenTable will be coming soon

Interview with Barbara Earle

—Carol Jones

Back in the 1960s, Northwest Hills was just starting to get developed and was considered to be far out in the country. Barbara Earle and her husband Ronnie were living in southeast Austin at the time. When they had visitors to Austin, they would drive them out to Cat Mountain to see the gorgeous views.

To get to Cat Mountain back then, you drove up Balcones Drive and turned west on Ranch Road 2222. You would take the cut-off to Dry Creek and then turn on Mountainclimb to Sierra Dr, to Mesa. The roads around Mesa Dr into the Cat Mountain area were just starting to be built. (see 1966 map)

Barbara Earle remembers going to the Parade of Homes and house tours in the area. Glen Ridge Drive, near Mesa, was one of the first streets to get developed. Each house was unique, designed to show off the different builders' styles.

Two years later, as shown on this 1968 map, Far West Boulevard and North Hills Drive had been created. More roads were added around Glen Ridge Drive, but Mesa still didn't reach RR 2222.

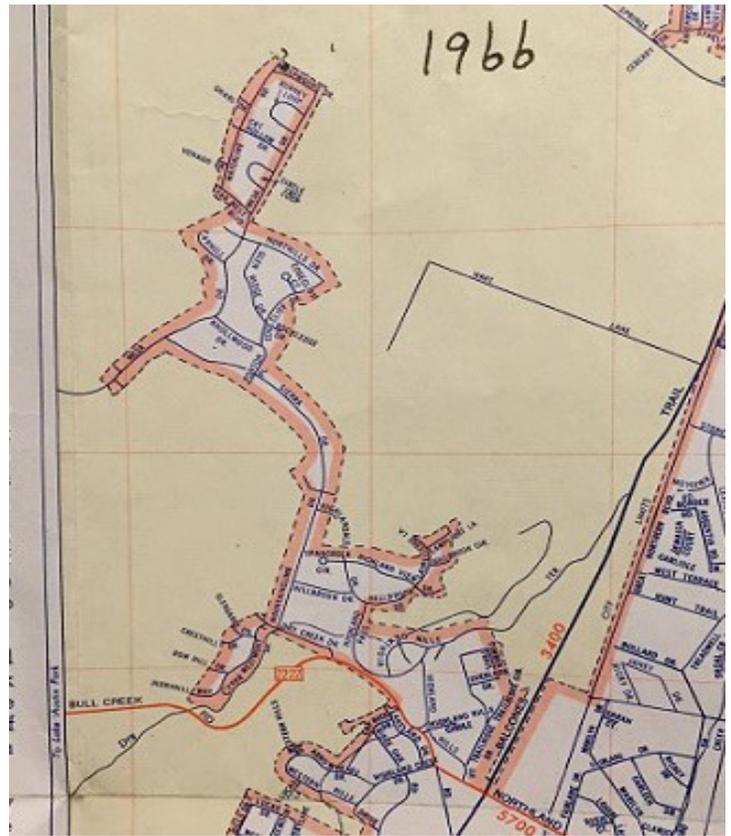
Later in the mid-1970s, the Earles bought one of the last houses to be built on Glen Ridge Drive. The most remarkable thing about that street was the number of professionals who lived there.

Not only was the street home to Ronnie Earle, State Representative and later District Attorney, Dr. Ralph Smith (pastor of Hyde Park Baptist church), Supreme Court Justice James Denton, Joseph Reichman (owner of Twin Oaks Camera Shop), UT professors and administrators, doctors, dentists, and clothing store owners lived there.

There were many notable Austinites within walking distance of Glen Ridge Drive. Nearby on Mesa, Nash Phillips built his home in 1963. (He and his partner Clyde Copus built many of the homes in Northwest Hills.) Other notables who called that section of Mesa home were Wade Spilman (State Representative), Davis Grant (General Counsel to the State Bar of Texas), Waggoner Carr (Attorney General of Texas), and Ron Mullen (former Austin Mayor).

Tom Kite, Sr. (Regional Director of the I.R.S.) lived on North Hills Drive near Mesa. He had a putting and pitching area in the backyard where his son, Tom Kite Jr., would practice his swing. Tom Kite played golf for McCallum High School and UT, and became a world-famous championship professional golfer.

It was delightful to talk with Barbara Earle about the early years of the Glen Ridge Drive and Mesa Drive sections of Northwest Hills! If you would like to share your memories, please contact nwacainfo@gmail.com.



1966 map of Northwest Hills streets north of 2222



1968 map of Northwest Hills close-up of area around 2222 west of Balcones Dr

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ENGEL & VÖLKERS

Texas Ranger Dick Preece. The Civil War.

—Richard Denney



*Preece wearing uniform of
First Texas Cavalry
(photo: Ladd Pattillo, descendant)*

This is part III in the story of Dick Preece, Bull Creek's patron Texas Ranger! Catch up on previous articles at <https://nwaca.org/newsletter/>

Do you remember the 2016 movie, *Free State of Jones*? Set during the Civil War and based on actual events, it is the story of Newt Knight, a defiant Southern farmer and his armed rebellion against the Confederacy. Banding together with other small farmers and local slaves, Knight launched an uprising that led Jones County, Mississippi to secede from the Confederacy, creating a "Free State of Jones."

Travis County almost had its own version of "Free State of Jones." When Texas seceded from the Union at the start of the Civil War, many of the settlers of Bull Creek were set on seceding from the Confederacy to remain in the Union!

A fact often overlooked: at the outbreak of the Civil War, many counties in Texas voted against secession, many of those being in the Texas Hill Country. For example, Travis, Williamson, Burnet, Mason, and Blanco counties all voted against secession from the Union.

Even Sam Houston, the "George Washington of Texas Independence" and serving as Texas Governor at the start of the war, opposed the secession of Texas from the Union. And when Texas did secede, Houston resigned (one might say was evicted), rather than take an oath of loyalty to the Confederacy.

During the Civil War, the Preece family like many in Texas, opposed secession from the Union, but secede Texas did. After secession, pro-Union men were being discharged from the Texas Rangers. This included Dick Preece and little brother Will. Refusing to join the confederacy, Dick Preece found himself a fugitive. Grandson Harold Preece says the remote location of the hollows and caves of Bull Creek provided a base for Union loyalists resisting

the Confederacy.

Dick Preece was a member of the "Texas Mountain Eagles," a Union guerrilla outfit fighting the Confederacy. Time and again, Harold says, Confederate irregulars invaded the hills west of Austin looking for boys and men to conscript, as well as cattle to help feed the Confederate cause. But time and again, Dick Preece, "chieftain of the Unionist irregulars," stopped them. Harold called the area we now know as Bull Creek an "un-surrendering patch of the United States," and Dick Preece the "very symbol of the Loyalist counter rebellion."

Author and historian Mike Cox wrote about the final "Bull Creek Battle" on his *Texas Escapes* blog: "By Jan. 1, 1862, only 40 of the Mountain Eagles remained in the hills. Their ammunition supply low, the men had holed up in a makeshift piled-stone fortress atop a prominence offering a good view of all approaches. Opting not to celebrate New Year's Day, [Texas confederate] forces attacked the Unionist stronghold." The battle that ensued between Confederate forces and the Mountain Eagles was the last; and the location of that makeshift fort came to be called "Dead Man's Peak," the location of which is still debated.

That fight ended the Mountain Eagles' resistance based out of Bull Creek; a number of the them, including Dick and little brother Will, headed to Mexico. From there they sailed to New Orleans, which was under Union control, enlisting in the Union army's First Texas Cavalry, a fact inscribed on his and brother Will's tombstones.¹

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

¹ Read more about the First Texas Cavalry in *Handbook of Texas Online*. Dick Preece's exploits as a guerrilla fighter against the confederacy were also documented in an earlier Harold Preece article, "Eagle of the Mountains: The true story of Ranger Dick Preece, who challenged Comanche and outlaw," *Texas Rangers*, Dec 1949. Mike Cox's "Bull Creek Battle" is online at <http://www.texasescapes.com/MikeCoxTexasTales/267-Bull-Creek-Battle.htm>



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Business Spotlight: Hao-Q Asian Kitchen

—Janice Green



The backstory of Hao-Q Asian Kitchen owners, Hong and Young Quach, is a saga of immigrant fortitude and contribution.

Hong's Chinese parents fled war-torn Vietnam in the 1970's and left everything behind -- "boat people" we called them in this country. Through the help of a Mormon family, they landed in American Fork, Utah. Their daughter, Hong, obtained her bachelor's degree in business, married Young Quach, whose family shared a similar immigrant journey, and moved to Austin where Young's family had settled. While Young was earning his bachelor's degree in accounting, he worked his way through all aspects of his family's restaurant businesses, including their Dobie Mall location -- from washing dishes, cutting and chopping ingredients, to cooking.

Eight years ago, after the Dobie Mall location was sold outside the family, Young and Hong tapped their business acumen, invested in a Northwest Hills opportunity, and opened Hao-Q. In case you were wondering, Hao means "good" and is also Young's father's first name. Hong is the "front woman" while Young's bailiwick is the

food prep, menu and recipe selections, and all things kitchen related.

Everything in their Asian cuisine is made daily on-site. For example, one woman's sole role is to wrap the crab puffs, wontons, and egg rolls each morning. Other than soups, each menu selection is made when ordered. Young's pride is his secret recipe for Vietnamese Pho, which involves a long process to produce his trademark clear broth. Their emphasis? Fresh ingredients. And if an item does not sell, off the menu it goes to make room for a new one created by Young's culinary talents.

Hong speaks affectionately about her customers; many have been returning for years. There's the "neighborhood men's group" who gather around the same table every Thursday and who enjoy having Hong pre-select their menu. She addresses the regular Northwest Hills customers by name when they come through Hao-Q's front door. Their banter with Hong is full of personal updates akin to a family member or close friend. And Hong carefully attends to special dietary requests.

From 60% to 80% of their business is take-out and delivery. Anderson High School students (many are children of customers) vie for the delivery jobs which are often their first job. The challenge

(Continued on Page 9)



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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



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(Continued from Page 7)

is keeping those orders hot upon arrival, and Young skillfully meshes the food preparation and delivery times to accomplish that goal.

Hao-Q's menu, available on their website, is extensive and offers adventuresome choices. Starting with the predictable delicacy of the wonton soup and the spicy, crispy orange beef, I have now expanded into new territory with the delicious tamarind soup, vermicelli bowl, and pho. Consistency, freshness, and surprising flavor combos are their mainstays.

You may have noticed that the Quach's daughter, Char, is no longer a regular waitress at Hao-Q, and that is because she now attends law school, adding yet another chapter to the family's remarkable back story.

For hours and menu: <http://haohaofarwest.com> 3742 Far West Blvd #113, 512-338-6003

Northwest Cold Weather Shelter

—Joyce Statz

In last month's article about how Northwest Austin is supporting the spectrum of homelessness, I mentioned that a coalition of churches is working on a plan to provide a cold weather shelter (CWS) for homeless neighbors in our area of Austin. That plan is now in hand, and we would like to tell you how it operates.

When the overnight temperature in Austin is predicted to dip to 35 degrees or lower (and the weather is wet) or 32 degrees or lower (with dry conditions), Front Steps, which operates the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), declares it a CWS Day. In collaboration with the Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management Department (HSEM), they check in with all the providers of overnight shelter: about 10-12 different churches, Salvation Army, the ARCH, and Austin Parks and Recreation (for space in recreation centers). After they've determined how many people can be housed overnight at all their candidate spots, they hold a lottery at the ARCH, where homeless neighbors attempt to get a spot. Those who get tickets are bussed in the evening by CapMetro from the ARCH to their overnight location, from which they are returned to the ARCH in the morning.

That process works for the homeless who live in central and downtown Austin, but it's not viable for the 40-50 homeless people who live in Northwest Austin. Most of our homeless neighbors refuse to go downtown, some afraid of the drug scene, some because of the history of fighting or bad encounters they've had there. Instead, people in our neighborhood stay out under the bridges or behind the buildings in the severe cold.

To alleviate this problem, four area churches, Westover Hills Church of Christ, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, St. Theresa's Catholic Church, and Mosaic Church are establishing the Northwest CWS. The Northwest CWS will shelter men overnight at Westover, and it will shelter women at St. Matthew's. Volunteers from the four congregations will staff the various tasks at the shelters. Some will

transport the homeless neighbors to the shelter about 5 p.m. on a CWS day, and return them to their usual spots at 7 a.m. the next day. Be assured, our homeless neighbors will be anxious to get back to their usual spots, since they need to protect whatever belongings they've left behind, not to mention access to what is probably a preferred location.

Once at the shelter, our neighbors will be provided with access to restrooms, a warm meal, and an opportunity to visit with volunteer social hosts, until lights go out at 9:30. They are awakened at 6 a.m. and provided with a take-away breakfast.

The schedule we're using is essentially the same as what is used downtown. We will be coordinating with Front Steps and HSEM, so they will know that our shelters are open. They will ensure that the Austin Police Department is also aware that we are one of the CWS locations. In addition, we will hire our own security services to provide support to both CWS sites.

We have reviewed our process with staff from Front Steps and HSEM and with leaders from several of the churches that provide CWS for the downtown program to get their advice. We have worked through a myriad of details, but we're sure that we'll keep learning and adjusting as we go along, but no matter what small glitches we may have at the start, being in our shelters will be much better for our neighbors than being on the street in freezing weather!

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Where Do My Recyclables Go?

– Joanie Arrott



Every two weeks homeowners push their giant blue recycling bins to the curb for the city trucks to empty. While that may be the last chapter for recyclers, the story doesn't end for the recycled material. After recyclables are collected, Austin Resource Recovery

staff transport the materials to two local materials recovery facilities (MRFs), or recycling processing facilities. MRFs use automated systems to sort and bale the recyclables before they are sold to manufacturers to create new products.

Many recyclables will become the same product in what is known as closed-loop recycling. For example, glass, aluminum, and steel can be used to make new bottles or cans. Many fibers, such as those from cardboard, are used to make new boxes, and cereal boxes can be converted into board games. Most common household items contain some recycled materials. For example, recycled plastics are turned into new bottles, combs, and hairbrushes. Some recycled items are back on the store shelf in as little as 30 days.

People should pay close attention to what they throw in the recycling bins. Incorrect items placed there cause contamination, disrupting the recycling process and precipitating safety hazards. The staff at each MRF does their best to sort everything correctly, however contaminated materials still sometimes find their way through the system, often at the expense of the MRF operator and the City.

Remember to know before you throw:

- Do not place recyclables in a plastic bag. Plastic bags are not accepted in our curbside recycling program and contribute to contamination.

- Do not place garden hoses or wire hangers in your recycling container. Like plastic bags, they get tangled in machinery and halt production, adding to the cost of recycling.

- Do not place broken glass in your recycling container. It is a safety hazard for collection crews and MRF employees.

- Plastic foam, Styrofoam block, or packing peanuts do not belong in your recycling container. They easily break up during processing and end up as small pieces contaminating paper, aluminum and other recyclables.

NWACA's Tree and Environmental Stewardship Committee will be hosting our next collection event in spring 2019 at Anderson High School, and we will be accepting used electronics, batteries, and the same types of plastic foam accepted by the City's Recycle and Reuse Center. This event will save NWACA members a trip the city facility. More details will be posted in upcoming newsletters.

Austin Household Sorting Guide
Did you know? 90% of items are compostable, recyclable, or reusable in Austin.

- Food Scraps & Compostables:** Food scraps, Dry paper, cardboard & napkins, Plants & yard trimmings, Wood products & pallets.
- Mixed Recycling:** Hard plastics, Clean paper & cardboard, Single-panel containers, Glass containers.
- Donate:** Clothing, Furniture, Appliances & electronics, Tires & equipment. (Note: There are many donation centers around town. You can also use your Single Recycling Bag for clothing and furniture.)
- Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center:** Clean plastic film & bags, Clean electronics, Electronics & appliances, Appliances materials.
- Landfill Trash:** Dirty machine targets, Dues & bags, Coated paper & containers, Diapers & pet waste.

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Funding the Constable Program

– Connie Lundgren

We are all fortunate to live in Northwest Hills and Westover Hills. Our tree-lined streets offer convenience to all of Austin and make our neighborhood more walkable, bikeable, and beautiful. We are blessed with good schools; established families, both old and new, that share pride of ownership; and a strong and active neighborhood association, the Northwest Austin Civic Association (NWACA) that works for the betterment of our community, bringing families together.

An important effort for keeping our neighborhood safe and enjoyable is the Constable Program in which NWACA pays an off-duty Travis County Constable to patrol our streets. The presence of the Constable's vehicle on our streets is a message to would-be troublemakers that we take the safety and security of our residents seriously. We began this program two years ago, expecting to spend about \$1,000 per month for 16-20 hours of patrolling each month; because of vacations and Constable time off for training, the cost has actually been a bit lower.

This program is intended to be funded by donations specific to the Constable Program. Currently, only a small percentage of NWACA residents contribute to the program while everyone benefits. If each of our approximately 6,500 households would donate just \$1.00 to the Constable Program, we could be assured of the continuance of this program. Join me in helping to keep our neighborhood safe. Make a donation to the constable fund. Donations can be processed any time on the www.nwaca.org website.

Firewise Considerations for Spring

– Joyce Statz

After seeing plants and shrubs die back for the winter, avid landscapers are looking forward to the greening of spring. As you plan what to add or change in your landscape, keep these points in mind to help make your home more Firewise, that is more wildfire-resistant.

- Limb up the trees around your home, so that branches are at least 6 feet off the ground, to eliminate the possibility of a ground fire going up into your trees. If there are small shrubs or other plants under your trees, remove them, or cut them short enough that they don't form a ladder for fuel to climb into your trees.

- Be sure that branches are at least 6 feet off your roof, so they don't scrape the roof during windstorms and damage the roof. Raised shingles are a great space for embers to lodge during a wildfire.

- Trim all the dead material out of shrub and flower beds, and mulch with care. For beds that are near the walls of the house, use stone mulch in the first 18-24 inches. If you put wood mulch next to the house, embers can lodge there and start a fire which can cause windows to break and nearby wooden portions of the home to ignite. It's fine to use wood mulch away from the house.

(Continued on Page 12)



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NWACA News

(Continued from Page 11)

- Review the layout of your landscape. Are there barriers in place that would stop a ground fire from approaching the house? Sidewalks, water features, stone pathways, short stone walls, brick barrier walls? These and other landscape features can break the landscape into pleasing arrangements, while improving the wildfire resistance of the landscape.

- Examine the plants nearest the house to see if they are Firewise. Avoid having oily plants like rosemary and sago palms close to windows and wooden walls; they are very flammable. Use the www.nwaca.org web site search function, looking for “Firewise Plant” to see guidance on what to plant. Note that one of the lists also indicates levels of deer resistance (though keep in mind that not all deer have read that list!).

- While you’re out working on the landscape, take a look at what’s stored under decks or near the house. Clear out flammable debris, deteriorating lattice work, and other material that might be good kindling for wildfire embers.

- Of course, clean out the gutters, too. That’s a major source of home ignition in times of wildfire.

Warmer Temps = Oak Wilt Risk

– Joanie Arrott

Warmer temperatures awaken plant life and wildlife, a pleasant change for our area. That being said, the warmth also brings some risks that require our attention. Plants and trees transition from their dormant stage and grow, while insect activity increases, raising the risk for disease transmission. Such is the case for oak wilt.

Oak wilt is a virulent, infectious disease that can easily spread throughout a community of trees. Currently, it is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the U.S. Once a tree is infected with the fungus that causes oak wilt, death is assured. Awareness of disease transmission mechanisms and prevention measures are our best allies in an on-going battle to protect the beautiful urban forest in our neighborhood.

While all oak tree species are susceptible to the disease, there are certain ones that are most at risk, including varieties of live oaks, white oaks, and red oaks. The fungus can be spread by beetles moving between infected trees and uninfected trees with fresh wounds. Oak wilt can also move between infected and uninfected trees through their interconnected root system, especially with regard to live oaks. As trees wake up to warmer temperatures, the disease can spread and reveal symptoms.

What are steps you can take to help protect our beautiful village of trees? Learn the basics about oak wilt, how to identify it, and who to contact for help. If you contract with a landscaping or tree trimming company, scrutinize their operation to ensure proper practices are being followed. Make sure they staff a certified arborist, and if you have oaks, ask if their arborist is Texas Oak Wilt-Qualified (a special certification on how to identify and manage oak wilt).

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) recommends hiring a tree service company that has ISA-certified professionals on staff. It has developed two easy-to-use tools to assist homeowners in locating an arborist (Find an Arborist tool) and in confirming whether an arborist has an ISA credential (Verify a Credential tool). Access them here: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/arboristsearch.aspx>.

Any work or pruning involving oak trees should not occur in warmer temperatures. Historically, forest specialists would recommend no pruning from February 1st to June 30th. However, each year the climate cycle changes, and this timeframe is not always appropriate. As a result, we’re not just watching strict dates; we’re also paying attention to the climate during which beetles are more active and could spread the disease.

The best times for tree work and pruning include the coldest days of winter or the hot days of summer. Even then, proper measures should always be used on any fresh oak tree wounds. This includes painting the wounds to protect against insect contact and properly cleaning all tools.

You should see “Prevent Oak Wilt” signs placed in yards throughout the neighborhood as a reminder of oak wilt season. The sign campaign is managed by the NWACA Tree and Environmental Stewardship Committee to support efforts to battle the oak wilt fungus which has

(Continued on Page 14)

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WHY AGE 7?

**Why are so many elementary kids in braces these days?
We get this question all the time! Here's the scoop.**



Contrary to popular belief, the increase of children in early braces is NOT due to parents overly-concerned with aesthetics, or practioners "pushing" treatment. Orthodontists have been doing early treatment for decades. However, when you and I were young, they used more appliances (think big removable chunks of plastic and metal). Today, we tend to choose braces over appliances. In addition, the pediatric dental profession has grown tremendously. With their specialized training, fewer children that need early orthodontic intervention are missed.

The American Association of Orthodontics and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentists recommend that all children be evaluated for orthodontic needs at age 7. This does not mean that all children need early treatment. Since some orthodontic problems can cause irreversible damage and some can only be treated before the skeletal structure is mature, it is important to identify which children may need treatment:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Early or late loss of baby teeth |  Asymmetric face |
|  Underbite |  Severe crowding |
|  Overbite, or protruding upper teeth |  Crossbite in the front or back |
|  Prolonged finger sucking habit |  Irregularly erupting permanent teeth |

In many instances, Dr. Arnold and Dr. DeSantis will recommend postponing orthodontics until all the permanent teeth are in, usually around middle school. We will monitor your child's growth and development over the following years until orthodontic treatment timing is right. These visits are always complimentary. If we do recommend an early round of treatment, it is often for one or more of the following reasons:

- Lower the risk of trauma to teeth and gums
- Reduce the chance for permanent tooth extraction
- Correct oral habits that alter the shape of the jaw bones
- Reduce the need for jaw surgery
- Simplify adolescent orthodontic treatment
- Improve appearance

Bottom line - you have nothing to lose by having your child evaluated for orthodontics. At a minimum you can rest assured that either no early treatment is needed, or if it is, that we didn't miss the window to intervene.

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Dr. Gerard DeSantis & Dr. Erin Arnold

NWACA News

(Continued from Page 12)

infected several parts of our neighborhood for decades. Reminder signs will not help our new neighbors who recently moved here, so please share this information with others. Let us know if you're interested in hosting a sign in your yard.

More information about oak wilt can be found here:
<http://texasoakwilt.org/>

The City of Austin Oak Wilt Suppression Program staff can also help:
<http://austintexas.gov/page/oak-wilt-suppression>



PREVENT OAK WILT

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Three Texas Mavericks

– Kenneth Ashworth



Few Austinites know who those three old men in bathing suits are in that statuary at Barton Springs. They sit there in all their wrinkles, preserved in bronze, climbed over by rambunctious kids and stroked by hands of passing adults. They are three Texas troublemakers.

I met each of them. As a teenager I paid little attention to them. I had no idea who J.

Frank Dobie, Roy Bedichek, or Walter Prescott Webb were.

I saw Webb when I was 19; I was on leave from Navy boot camp and about to go to Korea. I was camping on his property at the Friday Mountain Ranch (now a Hindu temple in southwest Austin).

I met Bedichek one Christmas when he dropped by to leave us a sack of pecans he had collected from Waller Creek and the Capitol grounds. He sat in our kitchen chatting over a cup of coffee with my

(Continued on Page 15)



February is American Heart Month!

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(Continued from Page 14)

mother, one of his secretaries at the University Interscholastic League.

I saw Dobie when he showed up to tell stories around a campfire.

Webb, Bedichek, and Dobie were a historian, a naturalist, and a folklorist. Noteworthy authors, they were also philosophers and social critics. Their inclination to say what they thought caused governors, legislators, and regents to declare them first-class UT troublemakers.

Dobie angered conservatives and racists. He said, "When I get ready to explain homemade fascism in America, I can take my example from the state capitol in Texas." Dobie despised censorship; no censor had ever advanced the cause of the intellect. After three decades of service to the University of Texas the regents fired him.

Among many objectionable things Bedichek said was: "I've noticed that when the matter of academic freedom comes up, it's always the brilliant men who are fired first." His salary was frozen as punishment for his contrariness.

Webb irritated the state's politicians when he said, "It is the business of some members of a University faculty to deal with the venom of rattlesnakes, the deadly effects of drugs, the diseases of smallpox and cancer, and the destructive power of the atom; it is the business of others to deal with ideas, ideologies, and all sorts of theories about human relationships as they exist in the world. This does not mean that the first group are advocates of venom, strychnine, smallpox, or atom bombs, nor does it mean that the second group are advocates of comparably destructive but more elusive forces operating in society." Webb's punishment was slow promotions. He reached full professor after 34 years of opposition by the regents.

In 1959, Roy Bedichek died at home while waiting for his cornbread to bake. Walter Prescott Webb was killed in a car accident on the Austin-San Antonio highway in 1963. J. Frank Dobie died in his sleep in 1964.

That life-size statuary at Barton Springs catches the three troublemakers plotting some new attack on those who would limit free speech.

Mulch Time at Anderson High

– Public Service Announcement

It's MULCH TIME! Support the Anderson High School Trojan Band and Dance Guard, by placing your order online at <http://andersontrojanband.com/mulch> by March 26th. Deliveries on April 6th!

We are offering two of the most popular types of mulch - Hardwood and Black Label. Bags of mulch are priced at \$5/each, including FREE delivery (10 bags or more) to homes zoned to Anderson High School. Pick up at Anderson High School is available if you live outside of our delivery area.

Thanks for supporting the Anderson High School Trojan Band and Dance Guard!

Please e-mail Julie at julieswaidelich@gmail.com with any questions.

Highland Park Elementary Kinder Orientation 2/11

– Public Service Announcement

Do you have an incoming kindergartener next school year? Come and find out what kindergarten at Highland Park is all about!

Date: 2/11/19

Time: 11:15 am -12:00 pm

Place: HP Library

Questions/More Information: See www.hpscotties.org or contact welcome@hnppta.org

Hill Elementary Pre-K and Returning Student Registration

– Public Service Announcement

Hill Elementary is now registering students for the Pre-Kindergarten Tuition program. Registration is open until January 31st. Applications may be completed online and required documents may be taken in person to the Hill Elementary office. Camp Registration opens on February 2! You can go to dillocamp.webs.com to take a sneak peek at the classes!!

Online Registration for students returning to Hill Elementary next year is also now open. An online registration is required for student placement in their 2019-2020 school year classes.

For questions or further information please go to <https://www.hillelementary.com/>

Calling Future Doss Owls!

– Public Service Announcement

If you have a new incoming Pre-K or Kindergarten student, and you currently live in the Doss attendance zone, you can pre-enroll your child online now for the 2019-2020 school year.

To complete your child(ren)'s registration, bring the required documentation in person to the Doss cafeteria on Saturday, March 2, between 9 a.m. and noon to verify eligibility. We are currently located at 2608 Richcreek Road, Austin, TX 78757.

Please visit <https://www.austinisd.org/technology/parent-cloud/student-registration> for more information. For questions, email patricia.minford@austinisd.org

Happenings at Murchison Middle School

– Public Service Announcement

February brings an array of opportunities to get involved at Murchison Middle School (MMS)

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NWACA News

(Continued from Page 15)

• Course Fair night: Our annual Choice Sheet Night on Tuesday, February 5, from 5:30 to 8:30. This is an opportunity to meet with teachers from every content area and ask questions about curriculum and more.

• Annual Book Fair: Join us February 4-8. This is an exciting opportunity to create or continue a family commitment to literacy.

• Coffee with The Principal: first Thursday of the month: • Feb 7 • Mar 7 • April 4 • May 2

• MMS Hot Topics: Frenemies, Dealing with Challenging Friendships, 5:30 to 7 pm, February 13. The MMS PTA is excited to host Barb Steinberg. This presentation is open to the community. Joinus!



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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 December 18, 2018 and January 14, 2019.

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.

- Kathryn Forrest Clark
- Al and Sandy Cumming
- Joel and Cathy Douglas
- Steve and DeDee Norman
- Eva and Raymond Orbach
- Edward and Judith Parken
- (and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)



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Flour Beetles

– Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service



There are two types of flour beetles that may be encountered in the home- red and confused. These beetles are small (about 1/8" in length), reddish-brown to brown in color with a somewhat flattened body. Adults can be long-lived and survive up to 3 years. To tell the difference between the two, you would

need to look closely at the tip of the antennae; red flour beetles have a distinct 3-segmented club while confused flour beetles have a gradually formed 4-segmented club. Fortunately, you don't really need to get that detailed in identification to manage them as they feed on similar foods and are often found in the same areas.

Flour beetles feed on grain dust and milled grains, but can also feed on undamaged grains. In homes they may be found in cereals, flour, pasta, dried beans, chocolate, nuts, herbs, spices, crackers, dried pet food, dried flowers and cake mix. With large populations of the insects, they may cause a foul taste and odor to infested products due to a secretion from their scent glands.

Red flour beetles are able to fly while confused flour beetles cannot, so it is possible for them to move to different areas of the house. If you are having a problem with flour beetles, but cannot locate the source

in your pantry, check other areas of the home such as where pet food is stored or areas with dried flowers or potpourri. Sometimes people see flour beetles during or after they have had a rodent infestation because the beetles can eat grain that may be in rodent baits or eat food from rodent nests where food was stored.

Management tips:

- Inspect all food items and get rid of anything infested. If you do not want to throw away infested food, you can either put in in the freezer for a week or heat in the oven at 200 degrees for 2-3 hours to kill off insects.
- Clean all pantry areas, making sure to get any grain dust out of cracks and crevices. Use a cleaning solution after all debris is removed. Seal any cracks where grain dust may accumulate with a sealant product.
- Do not buy damaged or expired items from the grocery store.
- Use products promptly. If you go away for a period of time (a week or more), store items in the freezer.

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

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



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(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
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- History
- Parks
- Sponsorship
- Transportation
- Tree and Environment
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NWACA REAL ESTATE

NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET REPORT UPDATE

FEBRUARY
2019

Below is a summary of 2018 market activity compared to previous years. Last year was another strong year for Northwest Hills. Prices for single family homes and overall sales have continued to rise. Listing prices increased 8.7% since 2017 and 27% since 2014. Sales prices have increased 9.7% since 2017 and 25% since 2014.

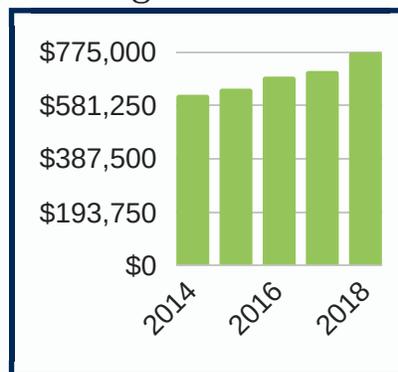
Days on market in 2018 decreased 19% from 59 days on market in 2017 to 48 days on market in 2018. We expect to continue to see high demand for homes in our area in 2019, but with a possible slow down in home price growth. Look for updated information online at <https://www.nestpropertiesaustin.com/>.

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES	NWACA BOUNDARIES	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
List Price	Average List Price	\$642,770	\$677,834	\$740,318	\$753,042	\$818,539
	Median List Price	\$599,000	\$635,000	\$689,500	\$695,000	\$750,000
Sold Price	Average Sold Price	\$617,110	\$639,374	\$683,124	\$703,627	\$772,012
	Median Sold Price	\$590,000	\$607,500	\$639,500	\$652,000	\$727,500
List Price/Sqft	Average List Price/Sqft	\$229	\$245	\$261	\$269	\$283
	Median List Price/Sqft	\$226	\$241	\$260	\$267	\$277
Sold Price/Sqft	Average Sold Price/Sqft	\$224	\$242	\$253	\$262	\$275
	Median Sold Price/Sqft	\$221	\$240	\$252	\$262	\$272
Days on Market	Average Days on Market	46	46	48	59	48
	Median Days on Market	17	17	21	19	22
Sold Price/Original List Price		97.2%	96.9%	97.5%	96.3%	97.1%

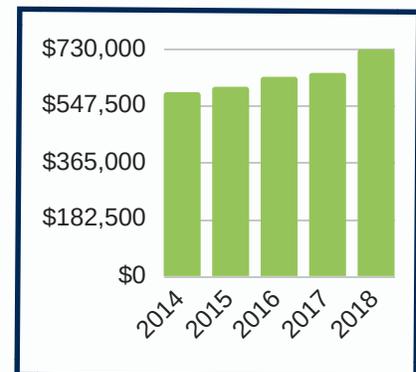
Number of Sales



Average Sales Price



Median Sales Price



If you are interested in learning more, you can subscribe to my newsletter for updates or find additional information online at <https://www.nestpropertiesaustin.com/>.

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WWW.NESTPROPERTIESAUSTIN.COM

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

About Dawn

Dawn Bohls Lanier, a lifelong Austin resident, is intimately familiar with the city and its surrounding communities. Upon graduation from Baylor University, her career began in real estate lending. She then worked for two prominent real estate investors and developers. Dawn managed their transactions as well as the staff plus she leased and managed the office building they owned and occupied.

Next, she was employed by the largest State of Texas landlord, John Byram. At Byram Properties, Dawn wore many hats and was the Legal Coordinator. There were numerous office building, apartment complex and land deals that occurred during her tenure. She utilizes this extensive experience with various real estate transactions to guide her clients through the sale and purchase processes knowing that each deal is different.

You will find Dawn's knowledge and skills in walking you through the transaction to be extremely helpful. Her grasp of the myriad of paperwork involved, her astute negotiating skills coupled with her ability to remain patient and calm under pressure, plus her willingness to go "above and beyond" for her clients will prove to be true assets.

Real estate is a relationship-based business. Dawn's performance and client satisfaction based on trust and confidence continue to earn her numerous referrals and a consistent place in the Million Dollar a Month Club year after year. When you are ready, Dawn looks forward to putting her network base, strategic knowledge, creative problem solving and people skills to work for you.

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