



## Message from the Board

School's out and summer is upon us. That can mean just one thing – Independence Day is just around the corner! We look forward to seeing the whole neighborhood celebrate our country's birthday at the NWACA Fourth of July Parade and the party that follows. See the article by Joanie Arrott to find ways you can participate. Then, get a new 2019 t-shirt and join in the fun!

Check out Caroline Alexander's update on the Loewy Family Playground; she has a nice photo from the groundbreaking, as well as details on what's happening next.

We were pleased to see so many people at our Annual Meeting in May, but if you missed it, you can see the evening's presentations by going to our web site, [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org), and using the Annual Meeting Presentations link in the Hot Topics section.

All of us would like our neighborhood to be a very safe one. The Neighborhood Watch program is a well-accepted approach to building a community that watches out for each other. Connie Lundgren tells us what it takes to be a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain. Read her article, and if your street doesn't yet have an active Neighborhood Watch, contact her and get one started.

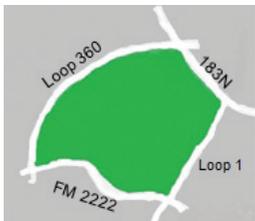
As we mentioned last month, we're making some changes in the

communication vehicles used by NWACA. The NWACA Facebook group, where members can discuss a wide range of topics and share advice about living in our neighborhood, is now a closed group restricted to NWACA members only. We're in the process of making that change; it will take a few weeks. If you're already a member, nothing will change for you, but if you're not a NWACA member, please go to our website [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org), and click on Membership. NWACA members who aren't already part of our closed Facebook group can go to the group and apply to join. Please also like our public page on Facebook. If you are already a NWACA member and are unable to access the Facebook group, please email us at [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com).

NWACA Notes, which is sent weekly by email, will also be sent to NWACA members only. Moreover, we are changing mailing list services. These changes will occur during June. We'll notify all current NWACA Members when the change happens, explaining how to get your name onto the new list. Each of these lists requires that people opt in, so we'll need your help to be sure you stay informed.

We really appreciate your patience as we go through these changes, ones we hope will greatly benefit our members.

## 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](http://www.nwaca.org) and visit our public Facebook page. Use the **Membership** button on the home page, or use the form at the end of this newsletter to become a member of NWACA. Members have access to the weekly **NWACA Notes** and the ability to join the NWACA closed Facebook group, to keep in touch with each other and with the latest news about NWACA.

**Welcome to NWACA!**



### ARE YOU A NWACA MEMBER?

Receiving the newsletter does not guarantee membership.  
Not sure? Visit [nwaca.org](http://nwaca.org) 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 @ [NWACA.ORG/JOINRENEW](http://NWACA.ORG/JOINRENEW)

# NWACA EVENTS CALENDAR

**June 2, 8:00 AM**

Parks Committee  
Biderman's

**June 6, 5-7 PM**

Celebrate the Opening of the Pool with Kona Ice  
Murchison Pool

**June 11, 8 AM**

4th of July Parade Planning Meeting  
Epoch Coffee - 3900 Far West Blvd

**June 11, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

NWACA Board Meeting  
Galaxy Cafe

**June 15, 9AM to Noon**

Monthly park beautification in the park and on trails; sign up at:  
<https://www.givepulse.com/recurring/364988?event=NWACA-Third-Saturday-Park-Clean-Up>  
Bull Creek District Park

**June 17, 4 PM**

Communications Committee  
Galaxy Cafe

**June 25, 8 AM**

4th of July Parade Planning Meeting  
Epoch Coffee - 3900 Far West Blvd

**June 25, 5 PM**

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

**July 2, 8:00 AM**

4th of July Parade Planning Meeting  
Epoch Coffee - 3900 Far West Blvd

**July 4, 9AM - 11 AM**

4th of July Parade and After-parade Party  
Far West Boulevard and Epoch Coffee/Coach Mo's

**July 7, 2 PM**

Parks Committee  
Biderman's

**July 9, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

NWACA Board Meeting  
Galaxy Cafe

**July 15, 4 PM**

Communications Committee  
Galaxy Cafe

**July 20, 9AM to Noon**

Monthly park beautification in the park and on trails; sign up at:  
<https://www.givepulse.com/recurring/364989?event=NWACA-Third-Saturday-Park-Clean-Up>  
Bull Creek District Park

**July 20, 5:30-8:00 PM**

Burgers and Pool Party!  
Murchison Pool

**July 21, 2 PM**

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee  
Kneaded Pleasures

**July 23, 5 PM**

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

## Did Someone Say Fireworks?

— Joanie Arrott

NWACA volunteers are hard at work planning the 2019 July 4th Parade and Freedom Festival. This will be our 47th year to cheer, celebrate, and give thanks to those who fought for our country. Mark your calendars and start planning your involvement!

Again this year, the parade will start promptly at 9AM, and the route will follow Far West Boulevard, starting at Waterline Road and finishing at Chimney Corners. The Freedom Festival will begin right after the parade in the parking lot outside Epoch Coffee.

### Here's how you can get involved:

**Enter a Float** – Decorate, celebrate, and compete in this year's Float Contest. Prizes include cash and braggin' rights for an entire year—what more could you want? See our website for sign-up and to pay registration fees: <https://nwaca.org>.

**Participate in the Parade** – We've got room for community groups, scout troops, businesses, car clubs, and neighbors from every corner to take part in our biggest event of the year! Sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/GnczOFt>.

**Bring your Veteran** – Do you have a member of the armed services that you'd like to celebrate? Email us at [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com) and we'll add them to our veteran procession in the parade.

**Volunteer** – If you've attended this event, you know it's a large affair. We always need help lining up participants, controlling traffic, and festival work. Only have one hour to give? —we'll take it! Sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/GnczOFt>.

**Sport your T-shirt** – Support NWACA and your 'hood by picking up both adult and kid's shirts with this year's July 4th design. More details and purchase options can be found on our website: <https://nwaca.org>.

# JULY 4TH PARADE



9:00 AM

Visit [NWACA.org](https://nwaca.org) for Parade  
Route, Float Contest, Freedom  
Festival, and more!





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APD District Representative,  
Officer Darrell Grayson...512-974-5242  
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter.....512-978-2110  
Enroll in the District 10 monthly newsletter: .....  
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.....www.district10austin.com

## 2019 NWACA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Each of the Board members can be reached at:  
[nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com)

The NWACA Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, except December. Please visit our calendar at [www.nwaca.org](http://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)

## PEEL ADVERTISING

Please support the advertisers that make the NWACA News possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact THE PEEL sales office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

## UPDATE: Loewy Family Playground at Murchison Pool

– Caroline Alexander

On April 28, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the Loewy Family Playground. Joined by Allison Alter and the NWACA Board, we recognized the hard work of the Parks Committee, the many families and businesses that donated to the playground, and the Loewy Family's generosity.

Now, we wait for the actual groundbreaking. We have received our permits, chosen contractors, and ordered the materials and equipment. In June, site preparation and construction is expected to begin in earnest. If all goes well and the weather cooperates, we'll have a completed playground by the end of summer. Stay tuned for updates and for an invitation to the ribbon cutting!

If you donated for a brick, we will be reaching out to you in the coming weeks to finalize how you want to be recognized on your brick. For any questions or concerns about the bricks or donor recognition, please email us at [NWACAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:NWACAinfo@gmail.com).



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IDEE KWAK'S  
**Writers  
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EarthX

Life in Northwest Hills is beautiful. We are surrounded by the natural beauty and have weather that, while sometimes uncomfortably hot, is normal. Birds sing; bees buzz; flowers bloom. We breathe clean air while taking shady walks and are refreshed with pure water taken right from the faucet. Water is usually abundant enough for lawns and car washing. But we know the greater our bounty, the more we have to lose. In the pall of global change, we worry; we grieve.

We are also however sometimes comforted, as by EarthX. Not the Marvel comic books Earth X but the EarthX2019 Conference and Expo. (<https://earthx.org>)

An international, nonprofit, environmental organization, the EarthX has a wonderful mission: “to inspire and energize the global community in ways that help create a sustainable world for all living things, and a better, cleaner, healthier world for future generations.” But they go far beyond uplifting platitudes on their website, providing a global forum where students and families meet educators and activists to learn what actions they can take in their daily lives; where scientists and environmentalists interface with business people and government officials to initiate change; where innovators and entrepreneurs find funding from foundations and capitalists so they can continue this race against time.

The Conference and Expo, an annual Dallas event, took place this year from April 25th through 29th. There were talks, panels, and films, along with presentations, meetings, and galas

at the Hilton Anatole; there were booths, demonstrations, and inter-activities across many venues in Fair Park. Started on Earth Day, 2011, EarthX now covers over 500,000 square feet; more than 175,000 people attend.

This year’s keynote address was given by Rick Perry, followed by Lindsey Graham (R) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D) discussing America’s environmental future. Global interests were represented by four United Nations ambassadors.

Musical entertainment was provided by The SeaStars, five women, leaders in their ecological fields who also compose and perform songs about environmental issues. <https://theseastars.org/music-1>

A gala featured halls bedecked with \$35,000,000 worth of Asian art opposite vast lobbies with marble floors, statues, fountains, and plants. The guest speaker was Joel Sartore who presented his slides and videos about his Photo Ark. <https://www.joelsartore.com/gallery/the-photo-ark/>

A National Geographic photographer, Sartore takes pictures of endangered animals in zoos. Many of the animals in his first Photo Ark are now extinct. We may someday say the same of those now being photographed for his second book. (There are four copies of Photo Ark in the Austin Public Library and copies have been recently donated to Doss Elementary, Murchison Middle, and Anderson High Schools.)

The weekend also featured Fabien Costeau, grandson of Jacques Costeau, who talked about ocean conservation; a New Braunfels start-up selling CBD analgesic cream; Chanda Chevannes’s award-winning film UNFRACTURED; and vegan food served with biodegradable silverware. It was an inspiration and a comfort to attend the conference, and as I look forward to next April’s EarthX in Dallas, I look at our beautiful neighborhood and feel hope for its future. Want to help? Join 350.org and take a look at the New York Times bestseller, Drawdown, by Paul Hawken. The book describes the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming, and one of the singing SeaStars was project manager.



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# NWACA News

## GOURMAND'S CORNER:

### Westwood Gastropub

—Chris Hajdu

A few months ago, a friend suggested we grab a drink at the newly opened Westwood Gastropub, operating in the old Peony space on Balcones Drive.

I was very interested, as I'm a big fan of local places that make it easy to head out for a drink or dinner without going downtown. A local place that offers craft beer, great cocktails and up-level pub grub sounded like a great fit for our area.

The first thing I noticed when I walked in was the transformation from the Chinese restaurant décor that previously occupied this spot. Dark colors and wood accents provide a warm atmosphere.

The drink menu consists of craft beers (many from regional breweries), a good wine selection, and an intriguing cocktail menu. A few things that jumped out at me were the Westwood Old Fashioned (using homemade pecan bitters) and a cocktail with a nod to local legend Willie Nelson, called appropriately enough, The Willie Nelson.

The food menu is essentially standard pub grub, but everything is made using top notch ingredients. Gastropub's are known for providing a higher level of cuisine than a standard pub and this place delivers.

Their burgers are made with a brisket/short rib blend which makes them juicy and super flavorful. They have multiple burger options, but I prefer the Highland Park Pico Burger, with spicy jack cheese, grilled jalapeños, grilled onions, and pico de gallo.

I highly recommend the duck fat fries. If you've never had fries cooked in duck fat you are in for a real treat. They also offer duck fat fish and chips which I hope to try on an upcoming visit. Appetizers include wings, fries cheese curds, calamari, and other shareable selections (even a cheese plate).



There are fish tacos and a variety of sandwiches, including a BLP, a sandwich that uses pico de gallo instead of tomato, hence the "P." For those looking for lighter fare, there are a few salad options. Nightly specials, a catch of the day, and a soup of the day round out the menu.

The ownership is local and the crowds seem good so far. On a recent night, the entire place was packed. The Westwood Gastropub serves weekend brunch and is open for lunch as well. They also just opened a patio, which should be a great place to sit on a nice day and enjoy a cold beer or two...

*Open 11am-12am daily, except Monday.*

*5308 Balcones Drive*

*<https://www.thewestwoodtx.com>*



  
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# History Interview: Lucille Casner

– Carol Jones

"For God so loved the world that he didn't form any committees." This was just a taste of Lucille Casner's rollicking sense of humor. She has had a rich and full life and has served on many wonderful committees over the years. Her special brand of humor is delightful. Many people in this neighborhood have a special place in their heart for Lucille.

Lucille Casner has dedicated her life to Christian education and instilling a love of learning and a love of our country into young students. Casner Christian Academy has many fun programs reflecting her beliefs. She often greeted children with "Red, white,

and blue, God loves you!" Lucille has since retired and is now Headmaster Emeritus. The school, named for her in honor of her decades of service, continues to be a thriving place for children to learn and grow.

Lucille grew up in Galveston, Texas and refers to herself as BOI (born on the island), a term of endearment for Galveston natives. She began her career as a public school music teacher in Galveston and Texas City. She and her husband, Stanley Casner, a WW II veteran and physician, drove from Galveston with a balsa wood miniature

*(Continued on Page 9)*



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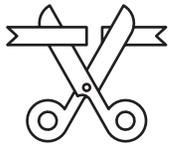
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replica of the house they eventually built.

In 1954, Stanley had bought 30 acres along Spicewood Springs Road with help from the Veteran's Land Board. At the time, it seemed quite distant from Austin, but Stanley recognized good property when he saw it. He had grown up in west Texas and knew how to tame wilderness. He set about digging a well and bulldozing. They built their house in 1961 on the portion of the land with the biggest oak trees. Then he built his medical practice on an acre of land along Spicewood Springs Road, within walking distance of their house. There were no roads in the portion of the neighborhood that is now known as Williamsburg Charleston Place.

Living there was an adventure for a small-town girl. Lucille knew how to shoot, and got herself a shotgun for killing coral snakes and copperheads around the new house. They built a tennis court in the back yard to give their kids a safe surface to play on, where Lucille could see if a snake came slithering nearby.

Deep underneath the houses in the area lay a vast network of limestone caves. Back in those days, of course, kids spent all day playing outdoors. Lucille discovered much later that her children were very familiar with the underground caverns and took their friends on tours, sometimes emerging all the way over on Steck Avenue, near the dip in the road by Mopac. The cave openings, for

safety reasons, were covered over in the ensuing years.

She tells great stories. One time, she sent her son on his bicycle to check her husband's mailbox. He came pedaling back with nothing. "Was there mail in the box?" "Yes." "Well, why didn't you bring it back with you?" "You asked me to see if any mail was there, so that's what I did!" Another time, while loading the car and closing the car doors, she told her daughter, "Watch your hands!" Turning around, she saw her daughter with her hands spread, carefully watching them.

Very likely, there could be an entire book written of stories by the many children who knew first-hand of Lucille Casner's kindness and warmth. One of my own relatives remembers that one day when he was sick at school, Lucille let him stay with her in her office, and she gave him some toys to play with. When I told Lucille about this memory from 15 or more years ago, she immediately asked me about all of his siblings and parents by name, and remembered details about them.

Lucille has seen a lot of changes in the Northwest Hills neighborhood over the years. But she still loves living in the same house that she and her husband built so many decades ago. It was delightful speaking with Lucille about her memories! If you have memories of the neighborhood that you would like to share, please contact [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com).

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**Business Spotlight:  
Cordovan Art School &  
Pottery Parlor**

— Janice Green



Our community is about to have an infusion of art and creativity, thanks to the arrival of the Cordovan Art School & Pottery Parlor. After my chat with John Howell, artist, teacher, and founder of Cordovan, I was buoyed by the possibilities it will offer children and adults in our neighborhood. His enthusiasm is contagious.

Mesa Drive is the fifth location of Cordovan. The school offers enough classes, workshops, summer camps, and events to make one's head spin. For starters, check out their website for details on adult, teen, and children's classes (e.g., oils, acrylics, watercolor), as well as special events (e.g., fundraisers, private parties).

Great care is put into selecting Cordovan teachers because about 75% of their students are first-time artists. The teachers are artists themselves and they try to build a sense of community with the students. Students develop friendships at the school.

Developing one's right brain has value in strengthening problem-solving skills. Even those in the business world identify creativity as the most important quality of a CEO. Further, the healing power of artistic endeavors, the visual enhancement to our lives, and the calming effect art can have go far in counteracting our high-anxiety cultural noise.

Student art in myriad mediums is displayed in Cordovan's spacious, light-filled classrooms and studios. John described a popular summer camp where the model is a live animal such as a kangaroo, humongous turtle, lemur, porcupine, or hedgehog. Plus, there is an annual juried art show at a special events venue for the students who want to submit their artwork. Picasso put it well: "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

You can also drop in to the pottery parlor for instruction in the art of pottery painting. Select a piece of pottery from their shelves, make a design, and glaze and fire it on site. There is a variety of vases; why not paint a personalized one for the flowers you take to sick friends or to dinner parties?

Not only is Cordovan a place for the restless retiree to find refuge, for jump-starting a latent talent, or for a parent to drop off a child for some "extended care" hours before and after summer camps (in lieu of daycare), it also has a history of giving back to its wider community. The Chalk Walk event in Round Rock, started by Cordovan, where artists are given a designated sidewalk space to draw

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scenes with chalk, has been a huge success and now has grown into a two-day art festival sponsored by Round Rock Arts. (Of course, I couldn't help but imagine a Northwest Hills Chalk Walk as a July 4th Parade side event.)

To paraphrase Thomas Merton, if you want to find yourself and lose yourself at the same time, engage in the arts. Perhaps Cordovan will become our neighborhood's "lost and found."

For more information: 8108 Mesa Dr., Suite B-102, 512-275-4040, <https://cordovanartschool.com/austin/>



## How to Be a Block Captain

– Connie Lundgren

In today's world, crime awareness and prevention are everyone's responsibility. Fortunately, in 1972, the National Sheriff's Association established the Neighborhood Watch crime prevention program that is now well-known and respected. The program provides resources to citizens so that they can assist local law enforcement.

To make Neighborhood Watch work well within NWACA boundaries, we need more Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. The tasks involved are straightforward, and we provide a guidebook and other resource materials.

These are the primary Neighborhood Watch Block Captain tasks:

1. Collect the names and addresses of everyone on your street. A good resource for this is the

Travis County Appraisal District. Simply go to: <https://www.traviscad.org/property-search/>

and enter the name of your street.

2. A form letter, provided in the Block Captain Guidebook, explains what you are doing and enables you to collect contact information from everyone living on your street. Mail or hand deliver this introductory letter to your neighbors. (If your street is particularly

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(Continued from Page 11)



long, enlist the help of another neighbor.) This one-time mail expense is the only expense I have incurred as a captain.

3. After the forms are returned to you, compile a list of the residents and their contact information. Now that you have email addresses, distribute the list and the "Neighborhood Guidebook" which has an explanation of the program and how it works.

4. Very simply stated, the crux of the Neighborhood Watch program is to "KNOW YOUR 5". Your "five" are the

two families living on either side of you and the three who reside in front of you. It is helpful to know who your neighbors are, who their children are, and which cars belong on your street. If there is an emergency, you will be ready for it.

5. This program fosters friendships and a strong community. As you get to know your neighbors you can pick up their newspapers when they are out of town, return trash cans after the trash is picked up, offer to park your car in their driveway if they are out of town, and just keep an eye out for suspicious activity. An informed community is a safe community.

6. As a Block Captain you can send out a reminder around holidays for residents to alert their "five" if they will be out of town. This way, watchful eyes will be on their house.

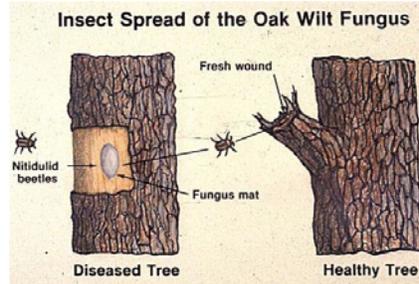
7. For a fun activity and to get to know everyone, plan a block party. Ours was on a Sunday afternoon, 4-6 p.m. in a neighbor's driveway. Everyone brought a lawn chair and what they wanted to drink and eat. We used name tags to get to know the new residents on our street and had a 100% turn out. Being a Block Captain is fun!

This is a very simple program that can bring big results. By the year 2000, roughly 40% of the U.S. residential population was covered by Neighborhood Watch programs. A 2008 study showed that the crime rate in areas with a Neighborhood Watch program was 16% lower than in other neighborhoods.

If you are interested in this program, please send email to Connie Lundgren at [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com). Training is available and all materials are provided.

## Don't Buy What They're Selling You

— Joanie Arrott



Tree trimming companies are busy soliciting business in NWACA neighborhoods. Don't buy it when they tell you it's not a real problem or they can protect against it. We have six identified active

oak wilt zones within the NWACA boundaries, and it is assumed there are more that have yet to be identified.

Don't let the companies prune your live oaks or red oaks before July. Fresh tree wounds, whether by pruning or storm damage, are great entry points for oak wilt fungus spores or insects that may carry the spores. Infected trees can give off a fruity odor that attracts insects, such as sap beetles, which can pick up spores while feeding. Fresh wounds commonly produce sap which also draws insects. It is easy to spread the disease between infected and healthy trees when "bugs" don't have to travel very far.

Oak wilt research tells us why waiting to prune during a certain time is recommended. The fungus does not tolerate high temperatures and often dies back in smaller limbs during summer weather. The spore mats in infected trees, which produce the fruity odor, are especially active in the spring and early summer months. The peak activity period for sap beetles is early February through late May, before temperatures begin to increase. Oak wilt fungus and sap beetle life cycles overlap, which is why there is so much emphasis on not pruning.

If your trees have been damaged by storms or high winds, quickly trim any broken limbs and paint the wounds immediately with commercial tree wound dressing or latex paint. Disinfect tools between each cut with isopropyl alcohol to prevent spreading diseases.

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## School's Out; Time for Anderson High School Summer Camps!

– Teri Schock

**Summer of Success Freshman Transition Camp:** Learn the ins and outs of freshman year before 9th grade begins!

Last Name A-M: June 3 or 4 from 9 am–1pm.

Last Name N-Z: June 5 or 6 from 12–4pm.

**Band Camp:** for Anderson Band Students, 9th-12th

**Dance Guard and Percussion:** July 22-26, 8am-5pm

**Leadership Camp:** July 24-25

Band Camp for full band and Dance Guard: July 29-Aug 2, 8am-5pm

Registration Day: Aug 3, 9am-12pm

**Band Camp:** Aug 12-16 8am-12pm. Parent Show Off Aug 16, 7pm [www.andersontrojanband.com](http://www.andersontrojanband.com);

[andrea.k.gonzalez@austinisd.org](mailto:andrea.k.gonzalez@austinisd.org)

**Debate Camp:** Aug 5-12, Students who have signed up for debate (8am-3pm)

[andersonspeechdebate@gmail.com](mailto:andersonspeechdebate@gmail.com)

**STEM/Robotics Camp:** June 17-21, 24-28, July 8-12, 15-19, Grades 3rd-7th

[www.techlab.camp](http://www.techlab.camp) Cost \$325,

**Theater Camp:** July 15-19, Grades 1st-8th (9am–4:30pm)

[justin.lavergne@austinisd.org](mailto:justin.lavergne@austinisd.org)

Cost \$250 by May 31st; \$300 after May 31st

### Anderson Trojan Sports Camps

**All Anderson Sports Training Camp** – Monday - Thursday at Anderson High School

**BLUE SESSION:** June 3-27 / **GOLD SESSION:** July 8 – August 1

7-9 am (grades 10th-12th) / 10am –12pm (grades 7th – 9th)

### Football Camp

July 30–August 1 8-10:30 AM (3rd-8th) / 11am -1:30pm - incoming 9th grade

### Boys & Girls Soccer Camp

June 3–7 (U5 – U15) 8:30-11:30am

### Baseball Camp

June 10–13 (1st–5th) 9am-12pm

June 17–20 (6th–9th) 9am-12pm

### Trojan Cheer Camp

June 10-13 (K–8th) 9am–4pm

### Tennis Camp

June 3-6 (10yrs–9th) 9-11:30am

### Anderson Basketball Camp

July 15-18 (1st–5th) 9 am-12pm

July 15-18 (6th–9th) 1-4:00pm

### Lady Trojan Basketball Camp

June 3-6 (3rd –9th) 10am–1pm

### Brandon Perryman Basketball Shooting Camp

June 10-13 (7-16yrs) 8:45am–4:45 pm

### Volleyball Camp

July 29–31 -10am–12pm (3rd-6th grade) / 12:30–2:30pm 7th-8th grade / 3:30–5:30pm– incoming 9th grade

### Trojan Belles Camp

June 17–20 (elementary ages) 9am–4pm; 5:30 show on June 20

June 17–20 (middle and high school ages) 12:30–4pm; 5:30 show on June 20

### Softball Camp

June 10 – 13 (4th -9th grade) 9–11:30am

### Trojan Wrestling Camp

June 1-July 30; Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30–7pm (no camp week of June 16) Grades 6th –12th

### Open Gyms & Weight Room

Grades 6th- 12th, M-TH, June 4-July 18, 2–6pm – no charge. (No activities June 28-July 7) [richard.sanford@austinisd.org](mailto:richard.sanford@austinisd.org)

For camp registration forms and info go to [www.andersononline.org](http://www.andersononline.org)

Athletic Camps can be found at <http://Trojanpride.net>



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## NFPA Fact Sheets on Decks

— Joyce Statz

Over the last several years, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has issued a series of fact sheets that help homeowners harden their homes against wildfire. The nine fact sheets issued to date are posted on the NWACA web site for you to peruse; go to [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) and enter “fact sheet” in the search bar.

The fact sheet titled Decks answers a number of common questions about materials to use when building a deck and emphasizes the importance of debris removal on and below the deck. Commonly used decking materials such as cedar and treated pine are quite vulnerable to fire, while more dense woods like ipe are less vulnerable. Fiber cement, tile, and metal decks are non-combustible. Composite materials tend to fall between these two extremes, being more resistant to ignition than the softer wood, but still vulnerable. Combustible surfaces are a significant factor in wildfire situations, since even smoldering fire on deck boards can travel to house walls, igniting them or causing windows to burst and fire to enter the house.

A key factor for ignition of wood or composite decking is the spacing between the boards. Research shows that accumulation of embers landing in spaces, perhaps resting on a joist below, is what generally enables ignition. The fact sheet titled Fire Spread on Ember-Ignited Decks points out some important tips regarding deck design:

- Whether deck boards run parallel or perpendicular to the house, fire spreads between the boards, as well as along the boards themselves
- Boards placed ¼ inch apart are more resistant to ignition than those placed 1/8 inch apart
- Joist spacing of less than 16 inches is much more vulnerable than spacing that is greater; research shows that 24 inches is best, to minimize the number of landing spots for embers.
- Applying a foil-faced flashing tape to the top of joists reduces the opportunity for flame to spread along the joist

If you're planning to renovate your deck in the near future, you'll want to study these fact sheets and consider the design and type of materials you use. Choose metal railings and posts, if you can; minimize the use of vulnerable wood.



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## Residents reducing wildfire risks

## How Do I Get Rid of Household Batteries?

— Joanie Arrott



Did you know that Austin Resource Recovery works with libraries and retail stores around town to act as drop-off locations for household batteries intended for recycling? Residents of Austin and Travis County can properly dispose of used batteries by taking them to any of Austin's 21 library locations. Batteries accepted include: alkaline

batteries, rechargeable batteries, hearing aid or button batteries, and smoke alarm and carbon monoxide batteries.

Nearby businesses that collect and recycle used batteries include: Batteries Plus, Precision Camera and Video, Fresh Plus, Whole Earth Provision Co., and Whole Foods. A list of battery drop-off locations can be found here: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/battery-drop-off-locations>. City of Austin and Travis County residents can always drop off used batteries, as well as other hazardous items, for free at the Recycle and Reuse Drop-Off Center located at 2514 Business Center Drive, Austin, TX 78744.

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## Questions from Neighbors

— Joyce Statz, aggregator

Here are questions we gathered this month. If you have questions you'd like answered, please send them to us at [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com).

When will we see improvement to the intersection of Hart Lane and Spicewood Springs Road?

This intersection has been a concern for years, given the difficulty of seeing oncoming traffic and the pace at which traffic moves through that intersection. As part of the PUD agreement with the owner of Austin Oaks, money was deposited with the City to pay for the Austin Transportation Department's plan for changes to the intersection. Talking with City staff recently, we learned that work is underway. The Public Works Department is now designing the improved intersection and expects construction to take place in 2020.

If trees on my property overhang the street, what requirements are there for trimming them?

From the City of Austin web page <https://austintexas.gov/cleartherow> we get this answer:

Prune your trees and trim or remove any vegetation that obstructs or grows into sidewalks, streets, or alleys. Use the following quick guidelines to help keep the right-of-way clear:

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

- 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.

- Multi-use Trails: Limbs and vegetation must be trimmed back from the edge of and at least 10 feet above multi-use trails.

- 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.



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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 April 15, 2019 and May 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.

- Karen and David Brenner
- Larayne Dallas
- Sandra Dilly
- Roby and Pat Dollar
- Jason Florey
- Margaret Friese
- David Hart
- Verna Hazlewood
- J. Edward Jones
- Shannon Jones
- Jill Klucher
- Marjorie Mulanax
- Kevin and Beth O'Farrell

- Jim O'Leary
- Bob and Sydney Paver
- Karen and Bran Reagan
- Farrell and Sally Rowe
- Bobbi and Ernie Saulmon
- Robert and Nanette Sechler
- Steve and Jetty Tomhave
- Mary Urnen
- Dianne Wheeler
- (and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)



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## Understanding City Code: Garage Sales

– Alan Carson

Some years ago I was living in another state, in a small city about the size of Georgetown. Our neighborhood was working class, consisting of mostly single-family homes. While driving around, I would often see garage sales in progress. In fact, these sales were at the same homes every day, weather permitting. I knew of at least six such instances. Some had erected permanent display tables in their yards. I never stopped to see what the merchandise was, but at a distance, it appeared to be inexpensive clothes, household goods, and toys – what you would find at Woolworth's. These were actually businesses being conducted from yards and driveways. The city never took any action, although the local newspaper sometimes asked how this could continue when it was certainly illegal. No doubt, the city council members were concerned about losing votes.

What are the rules for Austin? More than four garage sales per calendar year is a violation of the Austin City Code and is considered a home-based business (Home Occupation, Section 25-2-900). Note that participation in the annual NWACA Neighborhood Garage Sales does count as one of the four sales

allowed annually. In addition, signs advertising a garage sale may be posted only on the property where the sale is occurring and for no more than three consecutive days.

A violation of this Code could probably result in a friendly visit from an Austin Code Compliance Officer.



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# What You Need to Know When Your Parents (or You) are Aging

– Debbie Pearson

We are all aging; it is a fact of life. Are you prepared for your parents or even your own last stages of life? Do you know your loved ones' wishes? These topics are often not thought of or spoken about because of fear – or not wanting to face realities.

Many Austinites are aging without a plan. **Do you have answers to the following?**

1. **Who** is named as your parents' responsible party? Have you completed Power of Attorney forms? Do you have these legal documents **in your possession** for immediate access in an emergency?

2. **What** is the plan when your folks' independence wanes? What specific medical interventions do they want? Have you developed any type of strategy, or are you assured of chaos?

3. **When** will their financial resources evaporate, making this your economic problem? Have you ever been permitted to peek into their finances?

4. **Where** will your parents live when they can no longer care for themselves? Are you guaranteed a life of traveling back and forth to their home every time "the call" comes in? Or, will they move in with you?

5. How will you juggle your current responsibilities plus the care of dependent, medically fragile parents?

If you answered **no to any of these** questions about your parents or yourself, you're not alone. Join your peers in the exercise of holding your breath and waiting for "the call." The big surprise is that landing in this stage is not confined to a single event. Although it may start with one call, the number of calls tends to increase with each passing week, month, and year. The aging years can span decades.

Are you addressing this issue with your parents now? Has it become an exercise in frustration? When did your parents become so unreasonable, so obstinate? You might as well understand that entrenchment goes hand-in-hand with aging, making your parents an immovable rock, your immovable rock.

Decades of lessons learned have crafted a path to follow; a way to quiet the storm and regain some order. It's called planning in advance of the crisis. For some, the planning will start urgently. But that's often your window of opportunity. You can ask your loved ones some of the questions above or reach out to a professional who understands the landscape ahead and can walk by your side in crafting a blueprint to follow, a path of peace for all involved.

*Debbie Pearson is an author, speaker, and founder of CareFor.*

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# Millipedes

– Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service



Millipedes are often mistaken for worms. While millipedes have elongated bodies similar to worms, they have lots of legs which worms lack. Millipedes have a long, cylindrical body, a pair of antennae and two pair of legs on each segment of their body. They often curl into a spiral as a way to protect themselves

when threatened.

Millipedes live in moist environments such as soil, leaf litter, and compost piles, under mulch, rocks or wood. Millipedes most often feed on decaying organic matter, though some are carnivorous. They are not typically thought of as pests, but more of a nuisance although they may occasionally damage seedling plants by feeding on stems and leaves.

Large numbers of millipedes may move into structures after

heavy rainfall or during periods of drought. If millipedes do wander indoors, they usually die quickly due to lack of moisture.

Tips to prevent millipedes from moving indoors:

- Move objects providing harborage (compost piles, firewood, stones) away from structures
- Create a band of gravel between the home foundation & landscape beds
- Adjust watering schedules if overwatering
- Turn mulch so it dries out
- Seal accessible areas where millipedes can move into the home-around doors & windows; pipe penetrations, etc.
- Ventilate crawl spaces to allow for air flow

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](http://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.

## Austin Fire Department on Fireworks

– Public Service Announcement

Each year in late June and early July, the Austin Fire Department reminds Austin citizens that fireworks are illegal within the Austin city limits. Statewide, there are hundreds of brush, grass, and structure fires started by fireworks annually, doing millions of dollars in damage and risking the lives of innocent bystanders. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there are more fires on a typical Fourth of July than any other day of the year. Fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other cause. In addition, the risk of fireworks injury is highest for persons aged 15-24.

It is illegal to possess fireworks within the City of Austin, and to use or sell fireworks within the City of Austin and within 5,000 feet outside the city limits. The Austin Police Department responds to fireworks complaint calls made to 311. Do not call 911 for fireworks complaints; call 311.

The U.S. Department of Transportation does not classify the following items listed as common fireworks, and their use is allowed within the City of Austin:

- (some) Wire Sparklers
- Smoke Bombs
- Glow Worms and Snakes
- Poppers, Trick Noisemakers, Snappers

However, sparklers can reach temperatures of 1,800 degrees and smoke bombs shoot a flame of 2 to 3 inches when ignited; even though these items are legal, they can still be very dangerous.

Be especially vigilant around dry grasses, brush, and the green spaces that surround our homes; with our intense spring rains and summer droughts, there is a lot of wildfire fuel throughout Austin, which can lead to tremendous destruction and threat to lives. Fireworks are not Firewise.





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(Optional) 4th of July Parade Contribution:

\$10\_\_\_ \$20\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

(Optional) Parks Fund Contribution:

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(Optional) Constable Fund Contribution:

\$10\_\_\_ \$20\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

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**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

## Big Brush Pickup in July

– Public Service Announcement



As we carefully care for our oaks, we observe a “Do not Prune” season from February 1 through June 30. The City’s Big Brush Pickup is scheduled for our area the week of July 8. So, as you finish celebrating our nation’s birthday, do some pruning where it’s needed. Put out the trimmings and any other large brush from around your house, so you can minimize the risk from wildfire in our community.



**Spot Crime.**

**Be a Neighborhood Watch  
Block Captain**

**Stop Crime!**

**More info: email [nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com)**

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# NWACA REAL ESTATE

## NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET REPORT UPDATE

JUNE  
2019

Below is an year-over-year overview of single family home sales in Northwest Hills. For the purpose of comparison, the grid includes data from January 1 through April 30 over a 5 year period. The market continues to show healthy demand with a steady increase in home prices and sales activity.

LISTINGS	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Single Family Homes	54	72	79	66	73
AVERAGE					
List Price	\$667,138	\$762,434	\$727,702	\$810,424	\$874,439
List Price/Sqft	\$248	\$259	\$262	\$281	\$302
Sold Price	\$613,706	\$694,860	\$684,439	\$718,939	\$760,447
Sold Price/Sqft	\$245	\$254	\$255	\$276	\$286
Sold Price/Original List Price	97.0%	98.0%	96.6%	98.5%	97.4%
Days on Market	44	51	53	57	62
MEDIAN					
List Price	\$620,000	\$704,285	\$659,950	\$749,900	\$753,000
List Price/Sqft	\$246	\$258	\$257	\$280	\$294
Sold Price	\$569,500	\$665,000	\$645,000	\$693,668	\$695,000
Sold Price/Sqft	\$242	\$249	\$256	\$274	\$278
Days on Market	19	12	22	11	16

\*Data includes single family home sales from January 1 through April 30.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Median Sales Price for 2019 is up 22% from the same time period in 2015.
- Transactions in 2019 are up 35% from the same time period in 2015.
- Average Sales Price in 2019 is up 24% from the same time period in 2015.
- Median List Price/Sqft is up 20% and Median Sold Price/Sqft is up 15% from 2015.

### CONSIDERING A CHANGE IN 2019?

**NOW** is a great time to start the conversation. Feel free to contact me for a **FREE** market analysis or to discuss the best updates to consider for a future sale.



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR UPDATES, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT JULIE.  
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**JULIE WAIDELICH**  
BROKER/OWNER, REALTOR®

SOURCE: ABOR MLS including data through May 13, 2019. Data based on NWACA Boundaries: MOPAC/HWY 360/2222/SPICEWOOD SPRINGS



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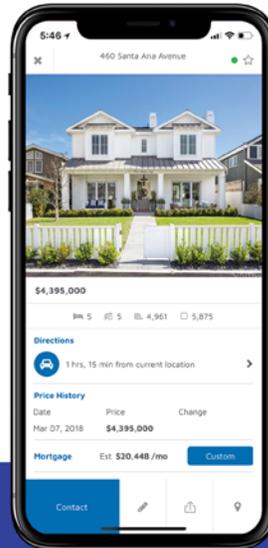
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