



From The Board

Baby, It's Hot Outside!

New Board Officers

Welcome to our newly elected NWACA Board Officers: Co-Presidents Joanie Arrott and Robert Nash; President-Elect Julie Rawlings; Vice-President Chris “Kaz” Wojtewicz; Co-Secretaries Julie Waidelich and Bridget Keating; and Treasurer Mike Polston. These wonderful community volunteers begin their terms in August, and we are so appreciative of their commitment to our neighborhood. Please go to www.nwaca.org, to learn about our committees to see where you can join in to help.

July 4th Parade

As you likely noticed, this was the first time in nearly 50 years that NWACA did not host the annual July 4th parade. It was with great regret, but also with commitment to public health and safety, that we had to cancel the festivities this year.

We applied for, but were unable to obtain, a parade permit; we couldn't even get a permit for a car parade. After consulting with local officials and evaluating tentative state and federal timeframes for the restoration of holding large gatherings and public events, we determined that this year's celebrations could not occur.

We understand how much our neighborhood looks forward to coming together as a community every year (and maybe hoped to more this year than any year in our recent past) to celebrate our history and traditions. Unfortunately, the various obstacles to planning a 2020 event in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the board being forced to cancel the event this year. But, the parade and festival will be back next year bigger and better than ever!

NWACA Area Businesses

During these difficult times, we want to encourage you to

support NWACA Business Members. As more businesses re-open, please let us know, so that we can spotlight them through our social media.

Summer Crime

Property crimes typically increase during the summer. It will be interesting to see what happens this summer since many people are taking staycations or are working from home. If you're interested in participating in the NWACA Neighborhood Watch program, please email Connie Lundgren at nwacainfo@gmail.com. Please also go to the NWACA website: www.nwaca.org to donate to the Constable Fund. Every little bit helps continue patrols through our neighborhood.

Be Firewise

Fire risk increases during the summer, so now is a great time to sign up for a free home wildfire risk evaluation. You don't have to clean your house. The evaluators will stay outside, so social distancing is maintained as well. You can sign up on our website: www.nwaca.org or email Joyce Statz at nwacainfo@gmail.com.

Dog Days

During these “dog days of summer,” please remember to take extra care of your four-legged friends, being mindful of paws on hot streets and heat exhaustion. See the chart in this newsletter for guidance. It's amazing how quickly Texas heat can become dangerous.

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

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/departments/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

2020 NWACA Board of Directors

Vicki DeWeese, President
Chris Hajdu, Vice-President
Chris “Kaz” Wojtevicz, Secretary
Julie DePalma, Treasurer

- Caroline Alexander
- Joanie Arrott
- Roger Bolick
- Ruven Brooks
- Tracey Fine
- Charlie Galvin
- Richard Grayum
- Bridget Keating
- Connie Lundgren
- Robert Nash
- Robin Nunis
- Louri O’Leary
- Mike Polston
- Julie Rawlings
- Christopher Roddy
- Teri Schock
- Julie Waidelich
- Monique Wright

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 put 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)

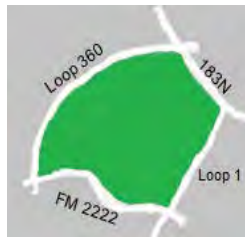
Peel advertising

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. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

New to the Neighborhood?



Welcome to NWACA!



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 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.



ARE YOU A NWACA MEMBER?

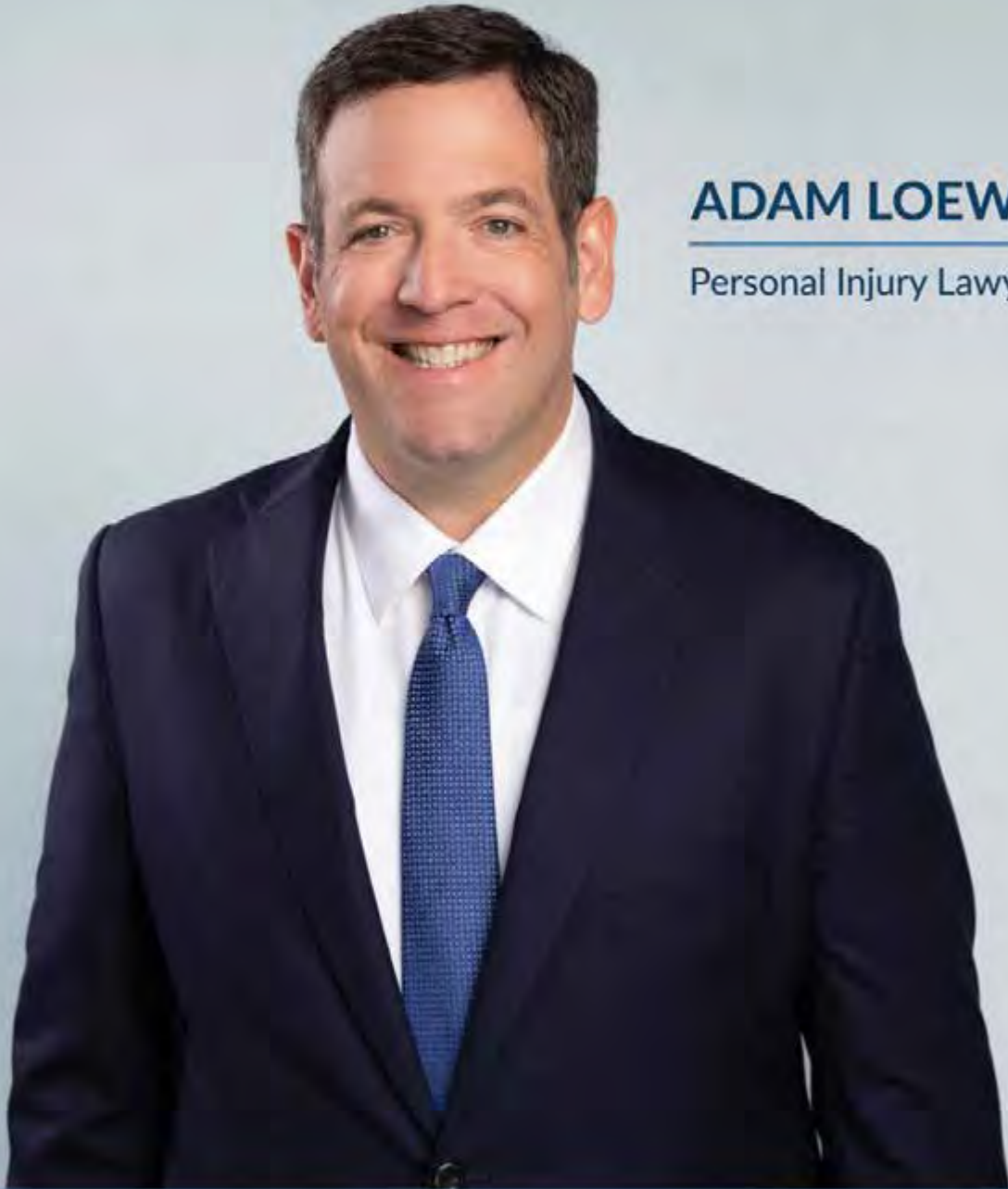
Receiving the newsletter does not guarantee membership.
Not sure? Visit nwaca.org to confirm!

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/MEMBERS

Bicycle Accidents | Boating Accidents | Car Accidents | Dog Bites | Drunk Driving Accidents
Injuries to Children | Motorcycle Accidents | Slip and Falls | Truck Accidents | Wrongful Death



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NWACA Events Calendar

These events are as planned on June 15. As you consider participating in one of the events listed, please check first with the organizer, since the Covid-19 outbreak may affect the ability to conduct the event. Some may occur in a virtual fashion; others may be postponed or canceled.

July 4

4th of July Holiday - NWACA Parade cancelled this year

July 8, 6:30PM

NWACA Board Meeting
Virtual - Zoom

July 12, 2PM

Parks Committee
Virtual - Zoom

July 18, 9AM-Noon

Monthly park beautification in the park and on trails. Sign up at: <https://austinparks.givepulse.com/recurring/804435?event=Bull+Creek+Park+Cleanup>
Bull Creek District Park

July 19, 2PM

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee
Epoch Coffee

July 28, 2PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees Joint Meeting
Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane, r.201

August 2, 2PM

Parks Committee
Biderman's

August 11, 6:30PM-8:30PM

NWACA Board Meeting
Galaxy Café

August 15, 9AM-Noon

Monthly park beautification in the park and on trails; sign up at: <https://austinparks.givepulse.com/recurring/804436?event=Bull+Creek+Park+Cleanup>
Bull Creek District Park

August 25, 5PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees Joint Meeting
Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart Lane, r.201

Clarifying NWACA Membership Dues Approach

- NWACA Membership Committee

It has been customary for NWACA members to pay their dues throughout the year, but there has been a change. To simplify tracking, this year we moved to a common annual renewal date of January 1st. That is, everyone's membership dues for 2020 were due to be paid in January. Therefore, we no longer send out renewal reminders throughout the year. This pattern will repeat each January, and we will send out reminders each January about dues for that year.

If you've forgotten whether or not you've paid your dues for this year, go to www.nwaca.org and use the green Membership button to find out; just follow the instructions on the page that comes up.

A Happy Accident of the Times – Gail Sneden

Ever since Covid-19 arrived, and social distancing and shelter in place became the norm, subtle changes seem to be taking place. House by house, street by street, block by block – have you noticed changes in our neighborhood lately? As someone who has lived in the area for over 30 years, I am enjoying what I see. What's up?

It may have begun earlier -- parents of young children placing turquoise picnic tables in their front yards -- but the number of tables seems to be growing by happy accident of the times. We seem to be moving outdoors, from backyards to front yards, and to neighborhood streets, walking, running, visiting at socially acceptable distances, and running into neighbors on a casual and more frequent basis. And even more exciting is seeing school-age children outside riding their bikes with both family and friends.

On one of my daily walks, I couldn't help but notice the number of homes that had effectively "hung out the welcome mat," placing comfortable chairs in their front yards. So, as anyone might do, I pulled out my cell phone camera and took random photos of "front yard welcome mats" that I passed along my way from Running Rope, to Greystone, to Mesa, up and around Waterline and West Rim, and to Far West Boulevard. I took over fifty shots in 1 hour – here is a sample.

So, what is the happy accident? Instead of taking our children to and from afterschool sports/ lessons/meetings by car, waving at neighbors as we came in and out of our garages, we find ourselves running into each other "at socially acceptable distances," -- at first exchanging a small wave and a smile, then actually a few words, until we gradually start getting to know them.

Photos Continued on Page 5



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Steve Brougner
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2605 Buell Ave

"A Happy Accident..." Continued from Page 4



I live in 78731.

I work all over Austin.

● Brian Copland's recent real estate activity (sold, pending or active)

RA REALTY AUSTIN

Multiple Clients Are Looking to Buy in 78731

Are you thinking about selling your home? I have multiple buyers who are looking to purchase homes in 78731 and surrounding areas. I think they would be a great addition to our neighborhood.

Would you consider selling to my clients? I'd love to share your home with them.

Buyer Rep
SOLD

714 East 45th St
FOR SALE

318 Le Grande Ave
FOR SALE



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IDEE KWAK'S

Writers' CORNER

Lisa Mersky, *Poet*

The spark to write a new poem comes to Lisa Mersky as a welcome but unexpected guest. Always delighted by these visits from her writing muse, she titled her first

published collection of art and poetry *Unexpected Guests*.

Lisa says inspiration can come to her from a song or dream or memory; often it comes during her daily walks with her dogs along Bull Creek.

Having journaled and edited *The Voice*, the Austin Group Psychotherapist Society's newsletter, she wasn't a writing novice when, in 2017, she participated in an Omega Conference in idyllic Hudson Valley, New York. Taught by author-artist Lynda Barry whom she had long admired, the intensive classes in art and writing propelled Lisa toward poetry, unleashing a new, expressive creativity.

A native Austinite with her psychotherapy office on Spicewood Springs Road, Lisa loves our neighborhood. She moved here from the Barton Hills area about six years ago and says she enjoys the lack of traffic and the abundance of natural beauty here in Northwest Hills.

This is one of her poems inspired by the pandemic:
PARADOX AND DISSONANCE. CORONAVIRUS POEM #59

We are living our daily lives,
Smaller and larger than before,
We are luxuriating in the ordinary existence of ordinary people,
We are evoking impermanence,
We are consumed with an
Intense consciousness of our mortality.
There is my inside world
And there is my outside world:
I crave insulation.
The membrane between the private and the public is too porous.
Since we cannot travel,
I explore portals to other worlds,
I practice at the altar
of the fantastic everyday.

For a copy of Lisa Mersky's book, *Unexpected Guests*, contact her at lisamersky@icloud.com

In these times, the arts bring not only entertainment and beauty but solace and hope. Every day professional musicians, dancers and actors pour their hearts out online, sometimes with introspection, sometimes in anger, sometimes as a prayer, but always with heart, mind, and carefully honed craft. They continue to share their ephemeral gifts with us even though their future seasons are cancelled.

They work without pay. Please donate to the arts. Our performers can't survive without us.

On an uplifting note of grace, Austin's Blue Lapis Light is now screening *Impermanence*, even more poignant now than in 2009 when it was presented live and recorded. In gentle evening breezes, with 40-foot silks, cables, and an 80-foot zip-line, the performance illuminates aerial dance across the face of the J. J. Pickle Building and through the air above its plaza. The message: eternal love survives amidst life's ever-changing journeys.

To see *Impermanence*, go to <https://www.bluelapislight.org/home-screening> and view the video posted there.

History Interview: Kerry Kennedy

-- Carol Jones



Kerry Kennedy

Kerry Kennedy is a native Austinite, born in 1950. In 1959, his parents moved from the Brentwood area to 5701 Marilyn Dr. A dream move! Kerry and his friends waded in nearby Shoal Creek, catching frogs and crawdads. In their backyards, they played Home Run Derby (based on a 1960 TV show), pretending to be Mickey Mantle and other baseball idols. They rode their bikes for miles and were gone for hours. Most of the time, their parents had no idea where they were, but they didn't worry. The boys always came home for dinner.

Their parents gave the boys dimes and quarters to ride the bus downtown. They had so much fun seeing the movies at the State or Paramount Theaters, then walking to Woolworth's at 6th and Congress (where One American Center is now). Kerry said he would have never allowed his kids or grandkids to go downtown by themselves. But the world was simpler then.

On the other side of the railroad tracks, the undeveloped wilderness that would soon become Northwest Hills was perfect for hunting and camping for Kerry and his friends. They clambered through the enormous rock quarry (present-day Far West Blvd) and climbed up into the hills. They brought their rifles and practiced target shooting at trees and rabbits. Rabbits were more challenging! I asked Kerry if they ever brought their bounty home with them. "No," he laughed. "We were not little Davy Crocketts, and our mothers would not have liked us bringing dead rabbits to the house."

Kerry's first job in high school was at the Fox Theater on Airport Boulevard (now a Mercedes-Benz dealership).

Continued on Page 8

NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET REPORT UPDATE

TRENDS	This Month			Year-to-Date		
	May 2020	May 2019	Change	2020	2019	Change
Single Family Sales	19	31	-38.7%	83	105	-21.0%
Condo/Townhome Sales	15	22	-31.8%	59	84	-29.8%
Total Sales	34	53	-35.9%	142	189	-24.9%
Sales Volume	\$16,765,025	\$25,621,425	-34.6%	\$94,674,076	\$105,444,984	-10.2%

AVERAGE	This Month			Year-to-Date		
	May 2020	May 2019	Change	2020	2019	Change
List Price	\$921,907	\$801,301	15.1%	\$936,563	\$848,328	10.4%
List Price/Sqft	\$310	\$297	4.4%	\$320	\$298	7.4%
Sold Price	\$882,370	\$826,498	6.8%	\$896,372	\$785,086	14.2%
Sold Price/Sqft	\$323	\$291	11.0%	\$323	\$292	10.6%
Sold Price/Original List Price	97.00%	99.30%	-2.3%	100.00%	97.60%	25.0%
Days on Market	19	33	-42.4%	30	54	-44.4%

MEDIAN	This Month			Year-to-Date		
	May 2020	May 2019	Change	2020	2019	Change
List Price	\$849,000	\$712,495	19.2%	\$849,000	\$727,900	16.30%
List Price/Sqft	\$304	\$293	3.8%	\$307	\$292	5.1%
Sold Price	\$900,000	\$710,000	26.8%	\$841,800	\$710,000	18.6%
Sold Price/Sqft	\$330	\$291	13.4%	\$320	\$286	11.9%
Days on Market	10	8	25.0%	6	14	-57.1%

HIGHLIGHTS

- **YEAR-TO-DATE SALES** Volume is down 10.2% from the same period in 2019.
- **TOTAL SALES** in May 2020 are down 35.9% from May 2019.
- **AVERAGE SALES PRICE YTD** in 2020 is up 14.2% during the same period in 2019.
- **AVERAGE SOLD** Price/Sqft is up 11% from the same period in 2019.
- **MEDIAN SOLD** Price/Sqft is up 13.4% from May 2019.

LET'S TALK

*Your home has never been so important and now is a great time to buy or sell in Austin!
Julie would love the opportunity to be your trusted real estate advisor.*

In a changing market, it's important to choose a real estate professional who has knowledge of your market and is someone you can trust. And, when it comes to service and commitment, Julie is known for dedicating herself to providing you the very best. She truly appreciates that buying or selling a home is one of life's most important decisions and takes great pride in being able to assist her clients seamlessly throughout the process. Julie's reputation for putting the client first and exceeding their expectations has resulted in her being a consistent top producer at Nest Properties Austin. The foundation of her career is her exceptionally loyal clientele, her personal referrals and repeat business. If you would like a personal, no-obligation consultation, call Julie today. 512.784.1990

Julie would love the opportunity to be your trusted real estate advisor.



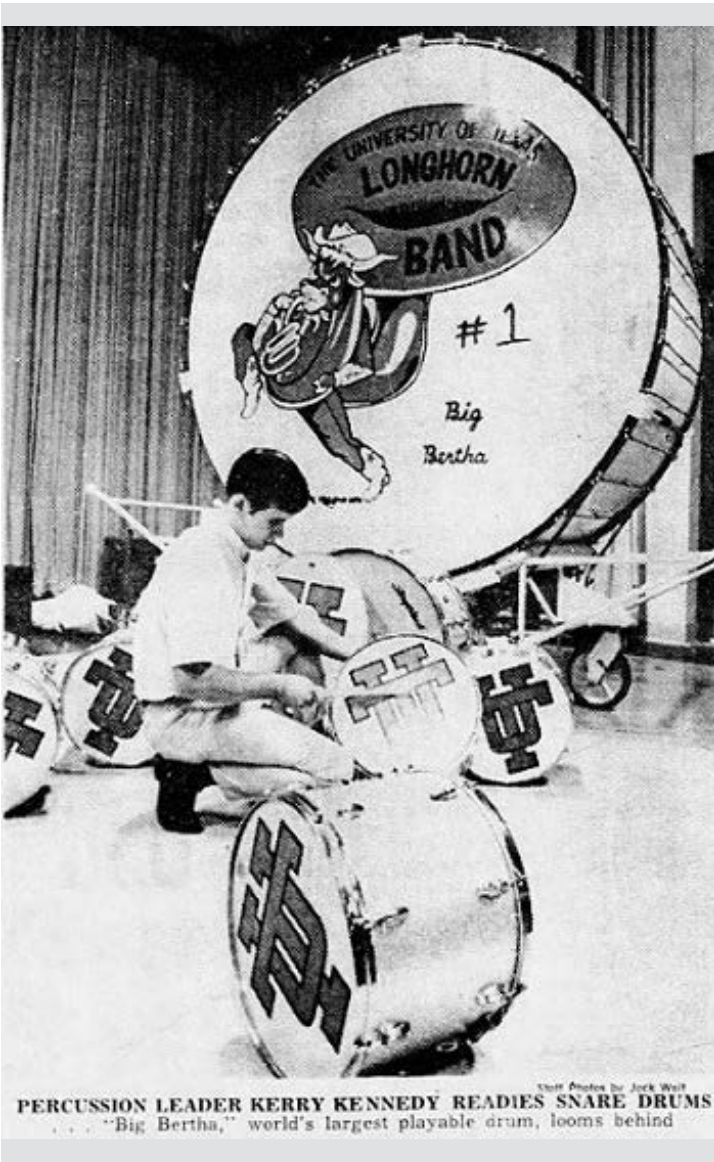
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NWACA News

"History Interview...." Continued from Page 6



1970-08-23 Kerry Kennedy in *The Austin American*

The theater had 998 seats with one huge screen. The first movie shown in 1967 was *To Sir, With Love*.

Kerry loved his time at the Fox Theater. At 17, he became an assistant manager. His mentor was Jack Fleming. Jack taught Kerry all aspects of the theater business, how to manage people, and what it meant to be a leader. Kerry learned how to do payroll, inventory, banking, and advertising.

In those days, movie theaters promoted their movies with newspaper ads. One time, Jack had to travel, leaving Kerry in charge. Kerry discovered the scheduled movie changed to the last showing of *The Sound of Music* before getting archived. He created a brand-new ad from scratch, and the movie broke box office records. The management and life skills learned from Jack served Kerry well in his future careers.

In 1968, Kerry's parents built their dream home for \$35,000 at 4109 Burney Drive in Northwest Hills. At the time, Mesa stopped at Burney Drive and a dirt road led north to Spicewood Springs Road. Kerry entered the University of Texas at Austin (UT) in 1968. The UT campus was huge even back then. Vietnam War protests were happening on the Drag. Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy (no relation) were assassinated. It was a tumultuous time. Kerry found a home on campus in the Longhorn Band playing drums, and in the School of Business.

Kerry's father, Joseph C. Kennedy, was the first Director of Human Resources for The University of Texas System. He designed many of the benefit programs for UT employees. Kerry had a varied career and followed in his father's footsteps. He was influential as the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs for The UT System, and recently retired as Vice President for Business Affairs at UT San Antonio. Kerry lives in Georgetown now, but has many fond memories of growing up in Austin.

It was delightful to talk with Kerry! If you have memories to share, please contact nwacainfo@gmail.com.



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Burnet Road Drive-In

-- Richard Denney



A Opening, Gala fireworks, 1950

If you are a history nut you know how it goes: research on an old Republic of Texas pioneer leads to curiosity about an old drive-in theatre.

I was doing research on George Washington Davis, who in 1841 received a land grant of 3,154 acres from the Republic of Texas for service at the Battle of San Jacinto. His grant straddled land on either side of today's MoPac including much of our Northwest Hills neighborhood. He had a home, a granite quarry used for building the

capitol, and a family cemetery, all near Northwest District Park.

While researching the Davis house location using old aerials photos (extant until the house burned in 1944) I found myself drawn to something completely unexpected, an old drive-in theatre on his grant, not far from his home, now a self-storage business. What's more, after decades of storing its 4th of July party supplies and dozens of yard signs in the garages of NWACA Board members, the Board decided about 5 years ago to rent a storage unit to hold such goodies. And where did they land? Burnet Road Storage at 6400 Burnet Road, the very site of the old drive-in.

NWACA synchronicity at work. I was sucked in and wanted to know more: What was it called? When did it start? When did it end? Is there anything left?

What individual of my generation of Baby Boomers doesn't have fond memories of drive-in theatres! As kids our parents took us, and we played on playgrounds at the foot of the big screen. Later with a driver's license we learned of their function as "passion pits." Then as young parents we took our own kids to drive-ins until they went the way of the dinosaur.

The 1950 "gala" opening of the Burnet Drive-In (aptly named) featured fireworks and a double bill: *South Sea Sinner* and *Sitting Pretty*, plus a cartoon.

Here's an ad from the Austin American-Statesman, June 22, 1950:

"Austin's newest drive-in theater, the Burnet, on the Burnet Road, will open Friday at 6:30 p.m., rain or shine, Karl Stroud, manager, said Thursday. Under construction for the past several months, the Burnet represents the latest developments in modern drive-in theatre engineering.

It will be the first theatre equipped with the new electric traffic control system ... An indicator board at the head of each ramp will let persons know at a quick glance if there are speaker vacancies. This feature was invented and patented by Albert H Reynolds, general manager of Ezell Drive-In Theaters,

operators of the Burnet Theater as well as the Chief Drive-In.

There will be 750 latest type In-car speakers, and the newest model projection machines throwing the most powerful light beam yet developed for the large screen.

The new theater will feature a children's playground equipped with two merry-go-rounds, elephant slides, and a number of other playground devices.

The snack bar, 25 by 50 feet, will be located in the center of the grounds, using the double cafeteria system around a horseshoe counter."



Burnet Drive-In 1952



Burnet Drive-In Today

The Burnet Drive-In was state-of-the-art and had a good run from 1950 until 1976 when its closing was mourned in the paper: *"Another Austin drive-in bites the dust, but the memories will remain."*

The final question: does anything remain of the old Burnet Drive-In? Indeed. The snack bar appears to have been repurposed as the office of the Burnet Road Self Storage. So, the next time you are by

Burnet Road Storage, pull into the parking lot down to the old snack bar, close your eyes and imagine *South Sea Sinner* up on the big screen. Perfect drive-in movie fare (but maybe the kids should go to the playground?).

Richard Denney is now part of the Travis County Historical Commission. For more on this topic and other local history, visit <https://traviscountyhistorical.blogspot.com/>. A blog on this topic with additional photos can be seen at <https://traviscountyhistorical.blogspot.com/2020/05/burnet-drive-in-theater-1950-1976.html>

Business Spotlight: More Small Business Coping Strategies

– Janice Green

Once again it is time to check in with two more of our local small businesses to see how they are coping with the pandemic.

Tomlinson's Feed, <https://tomlinsons.com/>, 512-291-7910, 3563 Far West Boulevard #114

Ramping up and expanding home delivery services, curbside pickup, and customer service are three adjustments described by Julia Christensen, manager of our local Tomlinson's. Deemed an “essential business” during the pandemic, they did not shut down, but the challenges kept coming ... like ... “Help! I need a long-lasting toy or chewy to entertain my dog while I'm in Zoom meetings!” Pet adoptions are at a peak and people are spending more time with their dogs and cats – two results of staying at home.

One of the goals for Austin's homegrown pet store is bringing delight and joy to their customers. But how could that happen during a time of limited interaction? Well, staff came up with the idea of writing thank-you cards to curbside and home delivery customers, along with original artwork drawn on customers' bags. In fact, fun competition

arose among the employees for the best messages and art.

The bathing station is up and running with safety measures in place such as longer periods for thorough cleaning, disinfecting, and airing out. Resuming special events and normal hours is targeted for July. The crisis has brought an opportunity for employee education and growth such as more digital training. This has hardly been a situation where employees were bored or complacent – no time for that!

People who have adopted new pets, as well as experienced pet owners, may have questions and may not feel comfortable coming into the store yet. “All they need to do,” encourages Julia, “is give us a call and we'll help them problem-solve and find the product or service they need.” Tomlinson's doesn't just sell pet food and toys, but it also has trained staff ready to answer tough questions.

Shirley McPhail School of Dance (SMSD), www.smsdance.com; 512-345-1284, 8020 Mesa Drive

SMSD has become a “hybrid studio” that offers both in-studio and virtual classes – another example of innovation afoot. Their virtual dance classes – over 80 live/prerecorded classes per week – are provided through Zoom and have been met with great results. Teachers communicate directly with students, offering critiques and instructions. The classes occupy children and provide time off for exhausted parents.

In-studio classes resumed in June but are limited to 4 or 5 students. SMSD gave lots of thought to the safety and cleaning protocol they adopted: a one-way entrance and exit, taking temperatures before students enter, masks upon entering, no street shoes in the dance rooms, and 15 minutes between classes for time to sanitize areas that have been touched.

This year SMSD was planning a huge 50th Anniversary Recital Event and Reception in June, but that celebration will instead be a 51st Anniversary affair next year. Instead, this year there were virtual and in-studio performances to celebrate the end of the season. Virtual and in-studio camps and summer classes start on July 6. Check their website for schedule and registration information for these summer events and, later, for fall classes.

Judy McPhail and Edwina McPhail Worley described the learning curve for their employees, all of whom have been retained. Teaching via video, producing music and sound, conducting a class by looking at a screen, and holding staff meetings online are just a few of their new skills. Students and families know SMSD is working hard to gain their continued business.

“Like the grocery stores, we're now in the delivery business – we deliver happiness to homes in the form of dance! We eagerly look forward to the day we can dance in person together again; but in the meantime, we're taking it one day at a time, dancing all the way!”

Neighbors, please remember all of our area small businesses need our patronage and support now more than ever.



ARR PSA: Reducing Organics

- Tammie Williams, Austin Resource Recovery



As we continue to Stay At Home – Work Safe, Austinites have taken to their yards to improve the homes that have become their offices in recent weeks. As such, the amount of yard trimmings collected by Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) has reached an all-time high. Between March 30 and April 3, ARR received 89% more yard trimmings than over the same time last year!

While impressed by the efforts of Austin residents to keep their outdoor spaces fresh, ARR operators are being taxed by the large volumes of material they collect, sometimes working up to 13-hour shifts. Here are some useful tips that will help you “recycle” your yard trimmings at home instead of discarding them in your green cart or lawn and leaf bags.

1. Instead of bagging your grass clippings, try “grass-cycling.” Grass-cycling allows you to leave clippings on your lawn to decompose. Grass

clippings contain moisture and valuable nutrients that can help nourish your lawn.

2. Try your hand at backyard composting. Composting is a great way to recycle your kitchen scraps and yard trimmings, reduce your trash output, and generate a free, rich soil conditioner.

3. Recycle your yard trimmings into mulch. Shredded fallen leaves and grass clippings work as a great mulch around shrubs, plants, and at the base of trees to prevent weed growth and keep your yard and garden healthy.

4. Finally, know what belongs in your composting cart. Download the Austin Recycles app, which allows customers to search for items they are unsure of what to do with and learn how to dispose of them properly. It also provides reminders about regular trash, recycling, compost and other curbside collections, as well as alerts about collection delays or service interruptions. The app is available for iOS and Android.

Thank you for keeping Austin beautiful, even in this time of uncertainty. Happy mowing, trimming and mulching!

Useful links:

Composting information - <https://austintexas.gov/department/home-composting-rebate-program>

Download Austin Recycles App from <http://austintexas.gov/page/my-collection-schedule>

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Understanding City Code: GIS Maps

– Alan Carson

The City of Austin has an interactive website that provides a plethora of information on our city using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps. I viewed each of the 13 maps and I recommend that you familiarize yourself with them as well. Accessing the site is easy; just enter *Austin GIS* in your web browser. The information on these maps is extensive, so I'll only give you the highlights.

Council District Map

Each district is shown; NWACA is in District 10. Our councilmember is Alison Alter. You can enter any address to see the district to which it belongs.

Jurisdiction Web Map

Using an address, you can determine a location's jurisdiction, i.e., city or a city's extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). All of Travis County is included. The map identifies full purpose and limited annexations, with full purpose having all municipal services, paying assessed taxes, and having city ordinances and regulations enforced. Residents in full purpose annexations may vote in all city elections and run for office. For limited purpose annexations, Austin does not collect taxes and does not provide municipal services; residents may vote in city elections but may not vote in bond elections or run for office. The ETJ is the unincorporated land within five miles of Austin's boundary that is not within the city limits or ETJ of another city. No taxes are collected, no municipal services are provided, and residents cannot vote in city elections, but they must meet minimum standards for development of property.

Property Profile

This map provides information on a specified property, and you can run a report on that property. The report for my home contained 27 pertinent items. I was pleased to find that I am not in a floodplain, but I had suspected that, as we are located on a hill.

Parks Web

This map is difficult to describe because it contains so many features. After playing with it for a short while, I found that it is a valuable source of information. For example, perhaps you like to hike, but don't know where to find the nearest trail to your home. The interactive map will identify the trail(s), with details such its name and dimensions. It will even show the location of benches along the trail.

Icons are provided to see a layer list, legend, and navigation aids. The layer list icon allows the user to turn off and on various layers of detail. The legend contains icons for picnic

tables, tennis courts, rest rooms, cricket pitches, frisbee courses, and 97 more such amenities. Just click on an icon to obtain a detailed description.

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department put a huge amount of work into this map!

Zoning Profile Report

With this map, you can validate the zoning, zoning cases, zoning ordinances, zoning overlays, and future land use and regulating plan information that is associated with a property. If you are involved with real estate, this map is for you!

AE (Austin Energy) Storm Center

This is a customer outage portal, showing the location and severity of power outages across the city. Of course, if the power is out at your house and your computer needs the power line, you won't be able to learn much during an outage!

Downtown Map Viewer

This map contains overlays and districts specific to downtown. Floodplain and Watershed maps
There are three maps concerning watersheds and flooding.

Traffic Viewer

The Traffic Viewer displays a feed from the Austin Police Department (APD), refreshed every five minutes. It shows minor, moderate, and severe traffic incidents. Clicking on an incident symbol will provide time and location details about the incident.

Crime Viewer

This map provides an interface to an APD crime search database. You can filter the information by APD sector or by council district, type of crime, and date range to see a list of crimes committed that fit the filters.

Cartographic Style Reference Guide to Details of the GIS

In case you are interested in the design of the maps, this segment provides that level of detail.

If you have a question or concern about a City code that we haven't yet covered, send us email at nwacainfo@gmail.com, and we'll have Mr. Carson check it out. It may become the topic of an upcoming article.

Summer Tree Care

- Joanie Arrott

As we head into the dog days of summer, hot, dry conditions will become common, bringing stress and sickness to trees if they are not properly managed. Here are several tips to ensure your trees are prepared for changing climate conditions:

- Water wisely. Austin Water provides water-saving tips, rebates for irrigation systems, and instructions on how to mulch on their website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/growgreen/TreeCare.pdf>.

- Water trees to the canopy dripline.
- Compost to enrich the soil, but do not fertilize during dry conditions.
- Properly mulch the root zone.
- Expand mulched areas as far out to the canopy dripline as possible, but do not place mulch against the trunk.
- Limit pruning to broken and/or dead branches that might be a safety hazard. Cover all wounds and clean tools while pruning.
- Avoid using weed and feed products, which can damage trees. Always read product labels for proper use instructions.

Keeping Our Neighborhood Safe

- Connie Lundgren

This has been a year of change for our world, our families, friends, children, schools. All have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently the movement to defund police across the country. If you are like me, you are constantly asking yourself what I can do to stay safe. Sometimes going back to basics is the best place to start, and NWACA has programs in place to help keep crime at bay in our neighborhood.

Our Neighborhood Watch has worked closely with the Austin Police Department (APD) to cut down on crime in our neighborhoods. Officer Darrell Grayson introduced the 9 PM Routine at a specially called meeting of residents in February. Using this simple routine at 9:00 each evening can help you stay safe.

- Remove valuables and garage door opener from your vehicles
- Lock your vehicles
- Close your overhead garage door
- Lock the door between your garage and house

Continued on Page 14

Are Your Eaves Firewise?

- 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. All of the fact sheets issued to date are on the NWACA web site for you to peruse; go to www.nwaca.org and enter “fact sheet” in the search bar. This article deals with the Under-Eave Construction fact sheet.

The eaves on your home are of either open-eave construction or soffited-eave construction. The soffited ones are safer than the open-eave construction. You can tell which style you have by looking at the underside of the eaves. If you can see roof rafters extending beyond the exterior wall, you have open-eave construction. This approach is less expensive than closing the eaves and using soffit vents for ventilation, which is why builders use open-eave construction in many homes.

The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) has done many tests of home construction methods and materials to see how they withstand fire. IBHS research on eaves shows soffited eaves are the better choice. Using noncombustible materials like concrete board for these eaves is recommended to minimize risk to the roof and attic. It is also important that soffit vents have small mesh screening behind them, preferably 1/16th inch screening like metal window screen. If your eaves were built many years ago, you may want to check the soffit vents to be sure they are adequately screened; a side benefit is that such screening also keeps out small insects.

If your home has open-eave construction, you may want to consider enclosing the underside of the roof overhang of those eaves. See the fact sheet on the NWACA web site for more details.

No matter what type of eaves you have, remember that you want to keep combustible materials, such as flammable shrubs and plants, away from the foundation of your home and out from under the eaves. Ensure that the “immediate zone” (0 to 5 feet from the walls of the home) is free of anything that can support a fire; where wind-blown debris gathers now, embers will land from the wind of a fire.



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Residents reducing wildfire risks

*"Keeping Our Neighborhood Safe..." Continued
from Page 13*

- Close and lock all external doors
- Ensure windows are shut
- Turn on an exterior light

According to APD, burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Removing the opportunity is the best prevention; there is not much that can be done after the fact. It is well known among Austin police that when petty thieves find success, they brag to their friends, which can lead to another incident. Follow the 9 PM Routine to remove opportunities for would-be thieves, and everyone will benefit.

The Neighborhood Watch program has proven over time to be an effect way to fight crime. When residents learn who their neighbors are, we all benefit. A key element of the program is the Know Your Five strategy, by which each neighbor gets to know those living on either side of them, and three across the street. There is a need within our boundaries for more Neighborhood Watch Block Captains, especially in the 78759 zip code. If you would like to get to know your neighbors or become more involved in keeping our neighborhood safe, please contact me by sending email to nwacainfo@gmail.com. As we continue to stay indoors, reaching out to your neighbors could be just the thing they need.

Another safety strategy is the Constable Program. Through your annual membership dues of \$25.00 and designated contributions, NWACA pays to have a Travis County constable patrol our streets. This program was piloted in 2017; for the last several years, NWACA has been able to budget about \$1,000 per month for 16-20 hours of patrolling. You can help by joining NWACA, and/or by making a contribution to the Constable Fund at www.nwaca.org

PSA: SPEED REDUCTIONS COMING TO AUSTIN

- Austin Transportation Department

Reduced speed limits in Austin neighborhoods and for certain urban core streets were unanimously approved on June 11th by the Austin City Council to improve safety for all travelers. Data collected by Austin Transportation Department's Vision Zero program shows that speeding is the primary contributing factor in one-quarter of traffic crashes resulting in death. Based on a year-long comprehensive engineering study of speed limits on City roadways, the City Traffic Engineer determined that roadway speeds should be reduced to achieve safe and prudent speeds on a wide range of roadways in Austin.

These speed management changes are designed to improve safety and enhance the livability of Austin streets for all road users, including people riding bikes and walking, and those who are mobility impaired. In addition, the changes create a more uniform approach to speed limits and enforcement. Currently, speed limits vary from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Initial speed limit changes will be phased in over the next few months with ample time for public awareness efforts to take place. The first change travelers will notice is the installation of new speed limit signage and digital messaging displays informing people of the changes. Some speed limit changes may be accompanied by other roadway treatments like restriping to narrower lane widths or assignment of portions of the street for alternative uses such as biking or parking uses to create a space more conducive to lower speeds. An updated interactive map showing a preliminary view of the speed limit changes is now available for the public at <https://tinyurl.com/speedmapcompare>. (Editor's note: A screen shot from that map for the NWACA area is included here, along with the legend for the colors of the streets in the map.)



Speed map legend



NWACA future speed map

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"PSA..." Continued from Page 14

The proposed speed limit strategy is outlined in three parts:

- **Neighborhood Streets** – Streets that are approximately 36 feet or less in width and have primarily front-facing residential land uses will be posted at 25MPH. Some neighborhood streets wider than 36 feet will also have reduced posted speed limits.
- **Urban Core Arterials** – Most major arterial streets within the city urban core bounded by US 183, SH 71, and Loop 1, will be posted at 35MPH or less, with a few exceptions.
- **Downtown Streets** – Most streets within the area bounded by N. Lamar Blvd., Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, I-35, and Lady Bird Lake will be posted at 25MPH. Guadalupe St., Lavaca St., MLK Jr. Blvd., 15th St., Cesar Chavez St., and Lamar Blvd. will be posted at 30MPH.

Each year, more than 10,000 people lose their lives to speed-related crashes in the United States. In Austin, speeding is the primary contributing factor in one-quarter of traffic crashes resulting in death. To save lives and create streets that support safe and convenient travel by everyone—whether they are in cars, on bicycles, walking, or using assisted mobility devices—effective speed management is critical.

To learn more about the recommended modifications, view the full presentation that was made to City Council on June 11th at <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=340469>.

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Optional Contributions:

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 Constable \$10 ___ \$20 ___ Other ___
 Parks Fund \$10 ___ \$20 ___ Other ___

To join:

go to **www.nwaca.org** and pay online via credit card or PayPal
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 NWACA P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

Volunteer!

Please check a committee on which you would like to participate:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime & Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree, Environment, and Wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning and Transportation |
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For more info email us at: nwacainfo@gmail.com



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Originally, Dawn spent several months showing us houses in 2016 before we realized we could not yet afford the home of our dreams. Then we began looking again in the fall of 2019 and Dawn spent another 6 months showing us houses.

Buying a home in the current Austin market is extremely stressful, and we honestly can't imagine getting through this process without her. She was a constant source of insights, calm, and wisdom, and made us feel like we were her only clients. As we finally found our new home in March, it was becoming clear that business as usual would be coming to an end.

Dawn helped us expedite not only the closing on our new home ahead of the local and statewide lockdown orders, she also sold our previous home over asking price with a hefty option check in about a week getting us taken care of just under the wire.

We can't wait for the opportunity to recommend her to all our friends."

Ann Letch Hahn and Paul R. Hahn III, P.E.



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