

nwacanews

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2021 VOLUME 12, ISSUE 03

Spring Greetings from the NWACA Board



By the time this edition of the newsletter reaches you, Murchison Middle School will have just held its virtual open house. The entire community was invited to see the beautiful, modernization project that was completed there as part of the 2017 Austin Independent School District Bond Program. Anyone who would like to learn more about the improvements can go to a story about the open house at www.nwaca.org

And, of course, this important milestone comes in the wake of the completion of both the brand-new Doss Elementary School, just up the slope on the other side of the football field, and Doss Park, open for use by the whole community when school is not in session. All good news in the neighborhood.

Some additional good school-related news: the NWACA Board approved a proposal from the Doss PTA to fund a community bicycle fix-it station. Once the fix-it station is in place, it can be used by anyone who needs it. We also approved an Anderson Band Boosters Association request for a significant contribution toward a trailer to replace (and greatly improve upon) the Anderson Trojans Band and Dance Guard's 30-some-year-old trailer, which was recently destroyed by an errant passing vehicle while it was parked in the school parking lot.

Continued on Page 2

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 @ NWACAORG/MEMBERS

Key Contacts

Austin Citywide Information Center512-974-2000 or 311
Emergency, Police
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) 311
To check status, go to: http://www.austintexas.gov/department/
myaustincodestatus
APD District Representative,
Officer Darrell Grayson512-974-5242
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter512-978-2110
Enroll in the District 10 monthly newsletter:
district10@austintexas.gov
www.district10austin.com

2020-2022 NWACA Board of Directors

Joanie Arrott and Robert Nash, Co-Presidents
Julie Rawlings, President-Elect
Chris "Kaz" Wojtewicz, Vice President
Bridget Keating and Julie Waidelich, Co-Secretaries

Robyn Nunis, Treasurer

- o Ruven Brooks
- o Iulie DePalma
- o Vicki DeWeese
- o Carol Dochen
- o Charlie Galvin
- o Richard Grayum
- o Jessica Halich
- D I 1
- o Ben Luckens

- o Connie Lundgren
- o Louri O'Leary
- o Chris Roddy
- o Teri Schock
- o Joyce Statz
- o Anita Tulsiani
- o Monique Wright

Each of the Board members can be reached at: info@nwaca.org

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 <u>advertising@peelinc.com</u>. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

"Spring Greetings..." Continued from Cover

Last year, Covid-19 put a stop to many of the usual NWACA activities, but despite the pandemic, we've been able to provide a significant gift that will last decades. We'll have more information about the trailer (as well as an update on the modernization project at Hill Elementary School) in a future issue of NWACA News.

Thank you to all those who attended our 2021 annual meeting by Zoom. The meeting presentations are archived for anyone who would like to view them at their leisure; they can be found at www.nwaca.org; use the Resources tab and check in the Library under the NWACA General category.

This column wouldn't be complete without mentioning that it was composed just hours before the arrival of what meteorologists expect will be the deepest, possibly most damaging, extended freeze to hit Austin since 1989. Many NWACA neighbors have to this point experienced power outages of more than 24 hours. So, we can expect that establishing solutions to be better prepared for this sort situation (albeit extremely rare) will be a subject for conversation within our community in the weeks and months ahead. Hopefully this newsletter finds you enjoying the beginning of what will be a beautiful spring.

NWACA will hold its annual meeting virtually via Zoom on February 23. Look for additional information in the calendar in this issue, on the NWACA website, and in the weekly NWACA Notes.

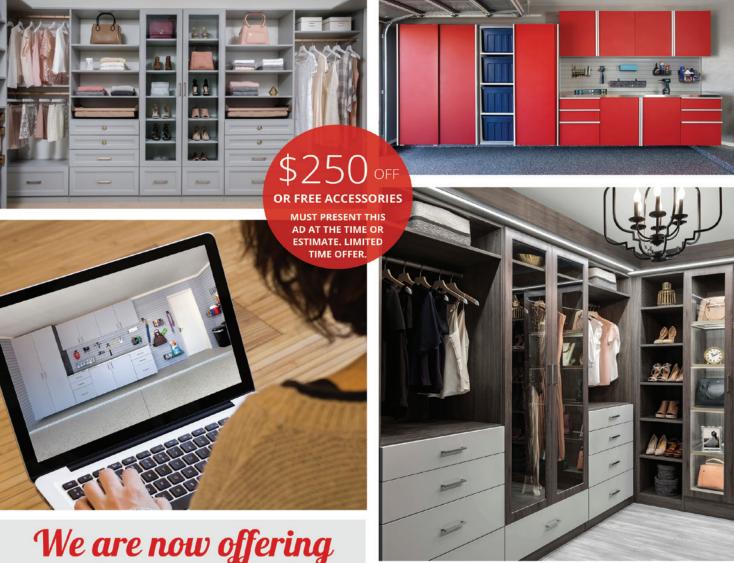
It's also the time of year to remind everyone of the catchy and important slogan "Do Not Prune February through June." That's an important strategy we can all employ to fend off Oak Wilt and protect the majestic canopy that makes the NWACA area so special.

Due to public health guidelines, we have had to indefinitely postpone our planned Batteries, Oil, Paint, and Antifreeze (BOPA) recycling effort, but please hold on to those things for a bit longer rather than disposing of them improperly. We'll do our best to reschedule and publicize that event as soon as we can.

Despite the challenging environment we've all lived through, brighter times seem to be not too far off now. See the story inside about entrepreneurs pushing against headwinds and opening several new restaurants in our area this year. We also always like to express our deepest appreciation to NWACA business members and encourage members to support them in any way you can. We are hopeful that we might be able to return to some of our legacy neighborhood traditions this year. We'll keep a close eye on public health guidance and keep everyone apprised.

Also, just a reminder, January is membership renewal month. If you haven't already, we invite you to renew. More information can be found at www.nwaca.org; click on the green Membership button.

GARAGES CLOSETS AND MORE! EPOXY



FREE VIRTUAL CONSULTATIONS!

GIVE US A CALL TO GET YOUR PROJECT STARTED!

512-791-7453

VISIT US ONLINE www.fortitudehomesolutions.com







NWACA Events Calendar

These events are as planned on January 15. As you consider participating in one of the events listed, please check first with the organizer.

March 9th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

NWACA Board Meeting

Virtual

March 16th, 7:00pm

Parks Committee

Virtual

March 20th, 9am-Noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park - sign up

at

https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/225432

Bull Creek District Park

March 21st, 2pm

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee

Virtual

March 23rd, 5pm

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees Joint

Meeting

Virtual

April 13th, 8:00pm

NWACA Board Meeting

Virtual

April 17th, 9am-Noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park - sign up

at

https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/225432

Bull Crek District Park

April 20th, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Austin Wildfire Symposium - presentations and discussions on wildlife prevention

Virtual

April 20th, 7:00pm

Parks Committee

Virtual

April 27th, 5:00pm

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees Joint

Meeting

Virtual

History Interview: Paul Hickey

- Carol Jones

Paul Hickey promised himself when he was young that he would collect as many experiences as possible in his lifetime. He planned to visit as many cities, states, and countries as he could. He managed to fulfill those goals.

His new book, "A Lifetime of Collecting Experiences," has just been published. His memoir is full of fabulous and funny anecdotes from a very interesting life. It's a great read!

Paul was born in Kentucky at the beginning of the Great Depression. Their family finally got electricity and running water when Paul was in the 6th grade. He could not have imagined, as he grew up milking cows and doing farm chores every day, that his life trajectory would take him around the world. Or that he would become a very influential person in technological advances that few could have foreseen.

While serving as a naval officer during the Korean War, he visited 22 countries and 4 continents. Soon after, he began his career at IBM. Paul became an award-winning salesman, traveling and living all around the world. He had direct influence with IBM entering the market of electric typewriters, composers, copiers, ink-jet printers, word processors, and later, computers.

Paul's IBM job brought him to Austin in 1970. He and his wife Judy bought their new home at 7708 Shadyrock, when Northwest Hills was still on the outskirts of Austin. Their house was always so busy. With 5 kids, their school buddies, and a constant stream of friends and relatives staying there, it was nicknamed "The Hickey Hotel."

His memoir has anecdotes about Westover Hills Club, the local caves, and an amusing encounter with an armadillo. The Hickeys made tons of lifelong friends here. They were regular attendees at St Theresa's Catholic Church, but also attended Spanish Mass at other churches. They wanted their kids to be open-minded and have friends from different backgrounds.

In Kentucky, Paul and Judy were very involved in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. When Austin began its cross-town busing program, they were very supportive of it. They wanted their kids to attend school with a diverse set of students. Paul and Judy became involved with the Johnston High School PTA, and their kids enjoyed having friends and school events all over town.

When Paul formally retired from IBM in 1991, he became a contractor for IBM's global consulting services. This brought him in contact with The Open Group, offering him a position as Director of Asia Pacific with an office in Hong Kong, and 18 years of extensive world travel. He says that he has now been to all 50 states, and every continent except Antarctica.

As much as the Hickeys have loved traveling the world and having adventures, their family is the most important part of their lives. They adore spending as much time as they can with their kids and grandkids. Paul and Judy plan to stay at The Hickey Hotel for the rest of their lives.

You can buy a copy of Paul's memoir, "A Lifetime of Collecting Experiences," at Amazon and other online booksellers. I highly recommend it!



Most of the printed books we read are from the big five: Penguin Random House, Hachette Livre, HarperCollins, Macmillan Publishers, and Simon & Schuster. There are far fewer houses than in

earlier decades; self-publishing and audiobooks changed the industry enormously. (www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2011/04/how-book-publishing-has-changed-since-a984/237/184/)

The big five consider manuscripts that are pitched to them by literary agents. A new author finds an agent to represent him by pitching their book in a query letter or at a conference in person. And what is a pitch? It's pretty much the same as the all-important, two- or three-sentence description you read on the book jacket or on Amazon.com when considering a purchase.

Our neighbor, New York Times bestseller Sarah Bird, and

established authors like her, have no problem putting out a new book, with favorable terms set by the publisher. It's jaw-dropping, however, when an author's first book, like our neighbor Ernest Cline's Ready Player One, is caught in a bidding war amongst houses!

The most likely scenario for the new author: only after completing the entire novel, she will try (perhaps for years) to find an agent; if lucky enough to get one, she will watch the agent toss a pitch out a few times for nibbles. The pitch may lead to sending out the manuscript. If one of the houses actually reads it and chooses it for publication, 13% of profits will be offered to the author.

On the other hand, self-publishing on Amazon will give her 70%. She must design the cover, pay for the editing, generate the publicity, promote sales, and work to see her book prominently placed in competitions, reviews, book-signings, and book fairs. For someone who likes to sit home by herself writing, these business ventures aren't always attractive.

Until talking to our neighbor, Tom Blanton, I didn't know much about indie publishers. (www.writersdigest.com/.amp/getting-published/indie-publishing-truth). For his grandson's ninth birthday, Tom wrote the boy a book, The Message in the Painted Rock. A friend who read it was impressed, and at his suggestion, Tom sought publication.

Continued on Page 6



Continued from Page 5

Quickly tiring of the agent search, he began sending query letters directly to smaller publishers. After a mere ten of these, his first novel was accepted by Black Rose Writing, a small publisher in Castroville, Texas. They published both the first book and its sequel, The Witch of the Spring.

Black Rose supplied the cover art and submitted the works to contests and reviewers. They did not, however, edit, merchandise, or promote the book. (Almost all brick-and-mortar stores require buy-back of copies that don't sell, an expense difficult for a small publisher to assume.) Like many independent publishers, Black Rose does offer its authors additional services but for a price.

Tom's books, available on Amazon and at Terra Toys, have won the Pencraft Award and the 2019 NYC Big Book Award. They are set in fictional Coronada Springs, situated in the Hill country between the Uvalde and Frio Rivers. The adventures of the young hero and heroine involve shamanism, legends, and cave paintings; inspiration coming from the rock shelters in the area of the Devils, Pecos, and Rio Grande Rivers.

Tom didn't get to Texas until 1964 when studies at the University of Texas brought him to Austin. He's lived in our neighborhood for the past 33 years and loves Northwest Hills, he and his wife taking special pleasure in watching its rejuvenation as younger families with little children move into our area.



Book Covers

Business Spotlight: Luster Hair Lounge

– Janice Green



Asta Luster

TACL #B5235C

When Asta Luster, founder of Luster Hair Lounge, was growing up in Lithuania, two interests emerged: teaching and braiding hair. Her grandmother taught her the art of braiding, and because Asta was a fast learner, she began braiding her cousins' hair. One of her first jobs was in a

hair supply store that led her to attend a styling show where she saw a fellow cutting hair on stage and educating other stylists. That's when she realized she could blend her two compelling interests!

Hair styling schools in Lithuania require two years training, longer than in the U.S. After graduation she moved to Germany where she learned about working with the variety of ethnic hair textures. She and her former husband relocated to California and then Austin, where she continued her styling career.

Over six years ago, Asta Luster opened Luster Hair Lounge on Far West Boulevad. Her use of the word "lounge" is significant because it connotes relaxation, a key goal for her clients. Asta, an award-winning stylist, lives and works in Northwest Austin and loves this community because of all the conveniences it offers. As a member of Camp Gladiator, she's also developed a work-out community in our 'hood.

Asta's teaching skills led her to become an educator with Eufora International; she travels and instructs stylists about healthy hair products, classy and edgy cutting techniques, and styles for all ages and genders.

Continued on Page 8



Free Estimates on New A/C Systems
Fast 7-Day A/C Repairs
Energy Audits • Weatherization
Duct Repair & Replacement

Home & Handyman Repairs
Remodels & Additions
Senior Accessibility Upgrades
Painting / Staining
Drywall & Popcorn Removal
Decks & Fences / Install & Repairs

"We have been keeping Austin comfortable for over 40 years." – The Yamin Family





TOP 2021

FEATURES FOR HOME BUYERS TODAY



DEDICATED HOME OFFICE
OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE
WALLS OF WINDOWS
MULTIPURPOSE SPACES
HARDWOOD FLOORING
ENERGY EFFICIENCY
GREIGE AND WARM WHITES
WAINSCOTING & WALL PAPER
EAT IN KITCHENS
LUXURY MASTER SUITES



nest

Thinking about buying or selling? Call Julie.
NESTPROPERTIESAUSTIN.COM | 512.784. 1990

5-Star Client Rating | Seller Representative Specialist | Certified Negotiation Expert | Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist

Continued from Page 6

What sets her apart is showing clients what they can do at home -- in other words, she educates and empowers her clients to maintain a healthy hair condition and style between salon visits.

For her team of stylists, Ashlee Alumbaugh and Chelsie Hutcherson, Asta has created a work environment that nurtures life goals and skills, grounded in gratitude. If her staff is treated with respect and love their work, guests will benefit. She does not believe in stylists dumping their problems on those held captive in their chairs; instead, Asta and her team focus conversations in her lounge on positive and upbeat topics (but not politics!).

In the beginning the pandemic was scary because Luster Hair Lounge was closed for two months. Asta had always worked and had never been at home that long. She checked on clients to be sure their food and other needs were met. She learned from her Eufora mentors not to panic and obtained all the necessary PPE for a safe work environment. Focusing on what she was able to learn and changing what she could, she revised her training manual and website, enjoyed zoom workouts with her Camp Gladiator buddies, and spent time on morning runs with her three dogs. Once Luster Hair Lounge reopened in May, Asta and her stylists discovered their energy and commitment to hair and teaching were renewed.

Asta's strikingly clear blue-green eyes, peering over her Covid-19 mask, reflect a peaceful happiness derived from following her dual dreams and staying her course through tough times.

Contact: 3720 Far West Blvd., Suite 107: www.lusterhairlounge.com, 512.377.1792



Horticultural Curiosities - Jon Plum



Acorn

Hello from one of your neighbors. I live in Highland Hills on Trailridge Drive; I'm a real estate broker with a degree in botany from the University of Texas. Long ago, I was the manager for Gardens Nursery on 35th Street, so I have experience with horticulture and plant disease. In my current line of work, I see many neighborhood trees. I've noticed something peculiar and I'm hoping to solicit your help in identifying the issue.

There is a curiosity in Northwest Hills, and it could be a threat to the balance of this ecosystem. It involves the acorns - the nuts that fall from the live oak trees in fall and winter. They stain concrete and get smashed under car tires. Most years they are so thick they make a mulch in the flower beds. These acorns are an important winter food source for area wildlife, including deer, squirrels, other small animals, and birds. In fact, over 100 species of vertebrates eat acorns. Not to mention, "Mighty oaks from little acorns grow."

The live oak acorns I have seen this year are malformed and do not contain the fully developed nut inside the "cupule" or cup - the structure that holds the acorn nut on the tree and typically falls from the tree after the nuts fall. Instead, the cups are attached to the undeveloped nut and surrounded by long, thin brown leaflets. In some cases, the nut interior has been eaten by insects, but it usually remains untouched in the center of the cup. This situation seems prevalent in live oaks and does not affect other species of oaks nearby, such as the Shumard red oak or white oak species. I'm guessing it is an infection rather than insect damage. As part of my investigation, I've reached out to the Travis County AgriLife Extension Service Master Gardeners, but they are not aware of the cause and are very interested to learn more. An important aside, the live oaks seem otherwise healthy and free from diseases like oak wilt.

What happened to the acorns? If you have noticed a similar phenomenon at your property, I would be pleased to hear from you.



Acorns

I am compiling a list of addresses to map the afflicted area. I will keep contact information confidential, and it will only be used for this purpose. I plan to share the map I compile with the Master Gardeners. If you have noticed malformed acorns and you are willing to participate, please email your address to jplum@rocketmail.com If you can, please take a photo of your acorns and send that as well.

I plan to make this column a regular contribution to our neighborhood newsletter. If you have a horticultural question, curiosity, or contribution, please share it with me and perhaps I can include it here. Thank you!



Find your happy place in Northwest Hills







Don't just love where you live. Love how you get there.

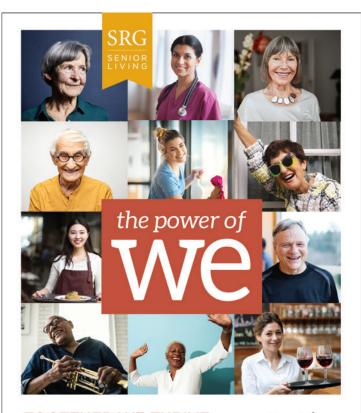
With over 20 years of experience and insight, we reduce the stress and uncertainty of the real estate process so that you can be happy buying or selling your Northwest Hills home. Real estate happiness starts here.



Paul & Marquette Reddam

512.789.0869 paul@homesville.com homesville.com





TOGETHER WE THRIVE. Connection is key to a longer and more vibrant life, and powers everything WE do at Maravilla at The Domain senior living community. It's like being part of a super supportive family of waiters, chefs, housekeepers, ZEST® activity coaches, care and wellness teams, and even a bunch of really friendly & fun neighbors, all helping you thrive. It's all here at Maravilla at The Domain.

Please call **512.387.8315** to schedule a personalized tour.





INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING. MEMORY CARE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

> MaravillaAtTheDomain.com 11001 Austin Lane, Austin, TX 78758 512.387.8315

Located in The Domain at Austin Lane (formerly Newman Drive) & Kramer Lane

ASK ABOUT OUR **EXCEPTIONAL SAVINGS SPECIAL!**









Cleaning a Garage

- Carol Jones

Many of us in Northwest Hills are fortunate enough to have garages. But if you're not using your garage to contain your car, you might fall victim to midnight thieves and vandals. It's a good time of year to think about cleaning out and organizing your garage. Why do we keep our expensive cars in the driveway, but use our garages to store unwanted junk?

As a professional organizer who loves cleaning out garages, here are my best tips for cleaning out your garage.

Have large items hauled away.

If you have unwanted furniture or large appliances, it's worth paying to have them hauled off. Austin Junkluggers will come out and give you a free estimate. They recycle and donate as much as they can.

Wear close-toed shoes.

You're going to be shifting heavy things around, so protect your feet in case you drop something.

Wear sturdy gloves.

You might encounter loose, sharp things like razor knives or saws while rummaging in a box. Ask me how I know!

Drink water.

Even if it's not hot outside, you can get dehydrated quickly working in your garage.

Pull everything out into the driveway.

This lets you see what you actually have, versus what you think you have. Sometimes you find things you've been searching for!

Sort similar things together.

This lets you discover, for instance, that you have more ice chests or more sports equipment than you thought you had. Decide which ones to keep and donate the rest.

Ditch the cardboard boxes.

Cardboard boxes can crumple, get wet, and attract bugs. Clear plastic bins protect the contents and let you see what's inside. Smaller clear bins are easier to access and store on shelves than large bulky opaque bins.

Label everything.

I like to label bins on BOTH sides. That way, it doesn't matter which way you put them back on the shelf when you're done.

Continued on Page 11

Continued from Page 10

Use all of your vertical space.

Don't skimp with short shelving units. Get the tallest adjustable shelving unit you can find that will fit on your wall. Intermetro shelving is sold separately so you can buy as many shelves as you need. For typical storage of smaller garage and household items, get 6 shelves for a 6-foot high unit.

Consider wall-mounted Elfa shelving.

Elfa is the easiest to customize and adjust, and it can be installed anywhere on drywall. Other brands require installing into wall studs.

Consider overhead ceiling racks.

If your ceiling is high enough, store less frequently used items like holiday decorations up there. Garage Monkeyz can give you a free estimate.

Make a home for things.

Having designated spots for things like wasp spray and household tools makes them easy to find, and easy to put back.

For more tips and information, you can contact me at ajonesfororganizing@gmail.com.

Please note: Names of products and service providers are illustrative only, not endorsed by NWACA.

Warmer Temps = Oak Wilt Risk

- Joanie Arrott

Warmer temperatures that awaken plant life and wildlife also bring some risks that require our attention. Plants and trees transition from their dormant stage and grow, while insect activity increases, increasing disease transmission risk. Such is the case for oak wilt.

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

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

Continued on Page 12



"Oak Wilt" Continued from Page 11

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

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

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

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

More information about oak wilt can be found here:

www.nwaca.org - Search for oak wilt

http://texasoakwilt.org/

The City of Austin Oak Wilt Suppression Program staff can also help:

http://austintexas.gov/page/oak-wilt-suppression

PREVENT OAK WILT DON'T PRUNE FEB-JUNE OAK WILT CARREIR BEETLE PEAK SEASON NWACA.ORG

Dryer Vents Can be Fire Hazards

- Joyce Statz



Lint buildup inside dryer

When we do home wildfire risk evaluations, we check the condition of the vents all around the house – attic vents, kitchen exhausts, and dryer vents (dampers). The ones which most commonly need maintenance are dryer vents. Unless the exterior vents and the hoses leading to them are cleaned regularly, they can get clogged to the point of pushing the vent flap open, exposing matted lint. Lint is prime kindling for wildfire embers.

Professionals recommend cleaning out the

vent and the vent exhaust hose at least once a year – more often, if you use the dryer a lot.

Several things gleaned from a 2010 FEMA report include:

- 2,900 home clothes dryer fires are reported each year in the U.S., causing an estimated five deaths, 100 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss.
- Failure to clean the dryer (34%) is the leading cause of home clothes dryer fires.
- More clothes dryer fires occur in the fall and winter months, peaking in January.

Some of the ways you can tell that the exhaust line is clogged include:

- An error code is displayed on the dryer. (Dryers sold in the U.S. since the 1980's must have a thermal fuse that will stop the dryer's operation due to heat buildup.)
 - Clothes are extremely hot when you take them out of the dryer.
 - You smell a burning odor.
 - Several cycles are needed to dry the clothes.
 - The appliance's outer housing might feel unusually hot.

Dryer fires don't start in the exhaust vent. Instead, when the vent is obstructed, lint accumulates inside the dryer box where the ignition source is located, and this lint buildup acts as an insulation blanket inside the dryer, causing internal plastic parts and electrical wires to melt. (See example in photo)

We've been puzzled during several of our home risk evaluations when we couldn't find a dryer vent with an external damper. For some homes,



Dryer vent on the roof with screen

the exhaust is on the roof. There, too, problems with a clogged exhaust can occur, as you can see in the photo. In this case, a pest control company added a screen to the top of the vent to keep out vermin, but instead it trapped lint trying to escape. Note that adding screening to a dryer vent is prohibited by City code.

Clearly, cleaning the dryer exhaust line is important for general home fire safety, as well as wildfire mitigation. It's another simple item to add to your regular home maintenance checklist.



LAUNCH YOUR ADHERE

BLAST OFF IN SALES... REACH THOUSANDS OF LEADS NEXT MONTH!

(512) 263-9181

advertising@peelinc.com



512.276.7476



The Quick and Dirty on Package Recycling

– Denise Kleinman

Recycling plastic can be very confusing, even for the intrepid sustainability advocate. In the early recycling days, many of us were taught to recycle plastic containers with specific numbers, usually 1s and 2s. Austin is lucky to have a curbside recycling program that, as a general rule, accepts almost any number or type of plastic. (I've recently learned that package symbols reflect resin content and don't always correlate to recyclability.) If you have a broken plastic object, such as

a toy, remove its non-plastic parts and recycle it curbside if it fits in your bin. Anything bigger than your bin can be dropped off at Austin Resource Recovery. (Austin Resource Recovery is currently closed; call 311 to see when they reopen.

A huge exception to this rule is plastic bags. Do not, under any circumstances, put plastic bags in your curbside cart. They harm the machinery and interfere with the integrity of the recycling process. Larger grocery stores accept plastic bags - plastic delivery packages (cut off the labels first), produce bags, single-use shopping bags, clean ziptop bags, and dry-cleaning bags. (Consult www.plasticfilmrecycling. org for a comprehensive list. Companies are increasingly implementing How2Recycle labeling, which provides clear labeling for bags that can and cannot be recycled. Aldi and Walmart are major retailers using this system. Truly, it is better to trash a bag that cannot be recycled, or to purchase a Zero Waste box from Terracycle for anything that cannot be handled elsewhere.

A related public service announcement: Pizza boxes go into the green composting cart, not the recycling bin!

Challenges from the pandemic, wildfires, and hurricanes have brought home the reality of humanity's collective impact on the planet. But there is also hope in the ways that our community has begun to make proactive changes to reduce our carbon and waste footprint. Buy Nothing groups are flourishing, and circular economy businesses are proliferating. Most importantly, people got a taste for how less shopping makes time for activities that matter most in life. If we all increase our intentions to reduce our personal waste impact, we will all be contributors to Austin's Zero Waste vision.

Continued on Page 15

Experienced and Knowledgeable REALTORS® in your neighborhood.

2605 Buell Ave



As an esteemed Austin real estate veteran, the Dochen REALTORS team will provide the professional guidance you need. Dochen REALTORS dochenrealtors.com 512.345.2227

Continued from Page 14

Tipsheet and Resources

- Hard plastic containers and items go in the blue curbside cart. Consult "What Do I do With?" database. https://www.austintexas.gov/department/what-do-i-do-0
- Plastic bags from the acceptable list can be taken to store dropoffs including Randalls and HEB (excludes #7 bags often used for baking mixes AND most cereal and packaged snack bags). https:// www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/plastic-filmeducation-individuals/learn-whats-recyclable/
- Compost what's possible curbside even if it's just pizza boxes and food-soiled paper products. More items are described here: https://austintexas.gov/compostingguide
- Send foam, clean Styrofoam, batteries, lightbulbs, electronics, and hazardous materials to Austin Resource Recovery.
 - Donate used craft and office supplies to Austin Creative Reuse.
- Purchase circular economy products, participate in Terracycle's mail-back programs, or purchase a Zero Waste box for whatever is left. https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/
- Support retailers that use How2Recycle labels, such as Aldi and Walmart, or that use earth-friendly packaging for their brand products. https://how2recycle.info/labels
- Use fewer plastic produce bags. Put individual items straight into your cart or a cloth shopping bag. It's OK if people look at you funny!
- Support restaurants that use compostable containers or ask your favorite restaurants to switch to earth-friendly containers. Ask them to not to add plastic utensils to your delivery.

Understanding City Code: Deed Restrictions

- Alan Carson

About twenty-five years ago, there was a television news report of a property in the State of Georgia that had a deed restriction prohibiting ownership by anyone named Sherman who was also a Yankee. I don't know if this was found legal by a court of law, as deed restrictions cannot be enforced if they are illegal or discriminatory.

Real estate deed restrictions limit how a property can be used. Deed restrictions generally "run with the land," regardless of property ownership. A primary purpose of most deed restrictions is preserving the residential character of a subdivision by keeping out commercial and industrial facilities. Such covenants are employed by real estate developers to "protect" entire subdivisions, thus securing their investment. The deed restrictions on my home are consistent with City of Austin zoning, stipulating that no temporary structure, trailer, camper, or other outbuilding shall be used as a residence. I also am prohibited from raising livestock or poultry, and can have no more than two dogs, two cats, and two other household pets. To enforce these restrictions, any other owner of property in the subdivision can prosecute violations in a court of law. The deed document, constituting seven pages, has a term limit of twenty-five years, but is renewable for ten-year terms.

If you do not have a copy of the deed restrictions for your property, you can get one from the Travis County Clerk's office.

Continued on Page 16

Live and Let (Birds) Live

- Maura Powers

Birds have it tough these days, but, with a little effort, we can help them out.



Have you experienced the unsettling sound of a thud on a window that turns out to have been a bird strike? Here are a few tips to keep them from happening.

Birds strike windows because they see a reflection of their habitat. They do not understand that a window is part of a building, so if the window reflects a garden, bushes, or trees, they will fly into it. Several window treatments, from cheap to expensive, can reduce this problem.

- 1) Use window paint to design a graphic that interrupts the reflection
- 2) Attach window decals spaced 4" apart (www.superclings.com and other websites)
 - 3) Adhere film to the pane to reduce the reflection
 - 4) Place screens in front of the windows
 - 5) Install light-colored artificial windowpane grilles
- 6) Hang decorative elements such as lengthy fibers in front of the windows
 - 7) Substitute bird visible glass such as Arnold Glas or Ornilux

Light pollution around our homes disrupts the life cycles of birds and interferes with their ability to avoid building collisions. We can support former first lady Laura Bush's Lights Out Texas spring migration initiative, starting March 1 and ending in mid-May, by turning off outdoor lights and pulling the blinds over indoor lights from dusk to dawn. Continuous outdoor lighting is not necessary to combat crime, and counterproductive to establishing a sustainable environment for wildlife. Lights with motion detectors are the obvious solution. Other solutions can be found at www.DarkSky.org.

Outdoor and feral cats are the number one cause of death in native birds. But indoor cats can still enjoy the outdoors. The Austin area Cat Carpenter designs screen enclosed "catios" for just that purpose. Learn more at http://www.thecatcarpenter.com/

Finally, bird populations are in precipitous decline due to habitat loss and climate change. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, in recognition of the need in Central Texas, has developed a native grass mix (Habiturf) that supports the various beneficial insects that birds eat to survive. It can be purchased at nurseries, such as the Natural Gardener, for planting in April.

Thanks to Dr. Tania Homayoun with Texas Parks and Wildlife for providing much of the information in this article. See her YouTube presentation at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=805k-3P-uJE

Cedar Waxwing photo by Jacob McGinnis at https://biodiversity.utexas.edu/news/entry/cedar-waxwings

The NWACA News is a publication of the Northwest Austin Civic Association, produced and distributed by Peel, Inc. At no time will anyone be allowed to use the NWACA News content, or loan said content, to others in any way, shape, or form, nor in any media, web site, print, film, email, electronic copy, fax, or other means, for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any other use for profit, political campaigns, or other self-amplification, under penalty of law, without written or expressed permission from the Northwest Austin Civic Association.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

- * The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.
- NWACA is not responsible for the content of advertising. NWACA is responsible only for the content of our articles.
- * Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.
- * Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.



3/2 house sleeps 8, complimentary, so we sell your Austin home worry free.









Jason Brian 512-560-4549 AUSTINLIVIN.COM

Westover Hills Resident / REALTOR®





Continued from Page 15

A legal description of the property is required, which is shown on the documents pertaining to the purchase of your home as well as on your annual Travis County tax bill.

There is a tremendous amount of information about deed restrictions on the internet. One of the best articles I found is "Living With Deed Restrictions" from Texas A&M University. To see information about local deed restrictions, do a web search for "Austin Deed Restrictions."

Caveat – this should not be considered as legal advice. It is only my experience plus what I found on the internet. If you have a legal question, contact an attorney.

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 January 15, 2021 and February 15, 2021.

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.

- Kay and Jerry Ballard
- Mark and Andrea Bernett
- Stan Brooks
- Cindy and John Cantwell
- Lisa and John Clayton
- LaNell Coltharp
- Arthur K. Cook
- Al Cumming
- Zada Doherty
- Margaret Friese
- Jill Gentry
- Doug and Avery Goodgame
- Nancy-Jane and Tom Griffith
- Matt and Sue Hoffman
- Nancy Hoffman
- J. Edward Jones
- Ron and Phuong Kampa
- Linda Kisner
- Maisel McGlone
- Kevin and Beth O'Farrell
- Ruth Pais
- Joe and Terri Panico
- Shannon Ratcliff
- Ernest and Robert Saulmon
- Nanette Sechler
- John (Sherm) and Dorothy Strance
- Ron Turner
- Ed and Carolyn Weeren
- (and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)



Spot Crime.

Be a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain

Stop Crime!

More info: email nwacainfo@gmail.com



Name:	Phone: ()	
Address:	Zip:	
Email (confidential):		
JoinwandCA		
Annual dues \$25	Volunteer!	
Optional Contributions:	Please check a committee on which you would like to participate	
Optional Contributions: Fourth of July Parade \$10\$20 Other Constable \$10\$20 Other Parks Fund \$10\$20 Other	Please check a committee on which you would like to participate ☐ Communications ☐ Business Membership ☐ Crime & Safety ☐ Tree, Environment, and Wildlife	
Fourth of July Parade \$10\$20 Other Constable \$10\$20 Other	☐ Communications ☐ Business Membership ☐ Crime & Safety ☐ Tree, Environment,	

Copyright © 2021 Peel, Inc. NWACA News - March 2021 17

For more info email us at: info@nwaca.org

GENISTA CATERPILLAR



Genista caterpillars can often be seen on Mountain Laurel but may also be found on crape myrtle and honeysuckle. These caterpillars can grow up to one inch in length and are yellowish-green with small black and white dots along their body. They have sporadic hairs protruding along the body, but are not covered densely.

Genista caterpillars create and feed within webbing similar to webworms. The caterpillars have chewing mouthparts and cause defoliation of the plant. Eggs are laid in overlapping clusters on the underside of leaves. Pupation occurs in a small, white silken cocoon that is attached to plants or structures. There are two generations per year.

Management of outbreaks can be rather simple. If plant size and number of caterpillars allows then hand-picking or vacuuming caterpillars can be a good method of control. Removed caterpillars can either be smashed or dropped in a bucket of soapy water. Other options may include pesticides with active ingredients such as insecticidal soap, horticultural oils, pyrethrum, spinosad, or Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki, also known as Bt. Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki specifically targets caterpillars but does not distinguish between "good" and "bad" caterpillars, so be careful where you apply it and also be aware of drift that may occur. When using Bt or spinosad, good coverage of the plant

foliage is essential since caterpillars need to consume a lethal dose. There are also numerous synthetic insecticides formulated to treat for caterpillars. When using any pesticide product, be sure to read and follow all label instructions.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urbanipm.blogspot.com

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.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal access in its programs, activities, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

I'd love to be your

Orthodontist!

Erin Arnold Orthodontics is SO APPRECIATIVE of the neighborhood support for our locally-owned and community-oriented business!

The Circle of Giving

Groups we have invested in...so far!

Hill Elementary

Doss Elementary

Murchison Middle School

St. Theresa's Catholic School

LASA High School

Anderson High School

Jewish Community Center

NWACA

Northwest Little League

NWA Youth Basketball Association

NWA Kickball

Gators Swim Team

Orcas Swim Team

Saint Louise House

erin arnold ORTHODONTICS

FAR WEST BLVD

512.485.4410

EABRACES.COM



7511 Stepdown Cv - Backs to the Barrow Nature Preserve













- · Enjoy an exceptionally tranquil setting in the heart of Northwest Hills with a lovely hill country view
- . The home is situated on an amazing, secluded and flat cul-de-sac lot surrounded by trees
- · Fantastic outdoor living area with covered back porch, lighted sport court backs to **Barrow Nature Preserve**
- · Our Austin weather allows the new owner to play outside year 'round and enjoy the gorgeous Texas sky
- · Wonderful curb appeal, beautiful landscaping, and bubbling fountain compliment this serene setting
- · The nature preserve provides one of the most unique and peaceful surroundings to be found in Northwest Hills
- . Enjoy listening to the birds and feeling like

- you are in the country, miles from the city, yet close to everything
- · Outdoor entertaining and al fresco dining is a breeze on your covered, wrap-around back porch equipped with ceiling fans
- · Gorgeous Great Room has real wood floors has vaulted, wood beamed ceiling, a huge, new ceiling fan and cozy fireplace
- · Fabulous second living area is perfect for a playroom, gameroom, media room or even a 5th bedroom due to the full bath
- · Second living area has numerous windows with views of the sport court, nature preserve, and view of the quiet cul-de-sac
- . Chef's kitchen has double ovens, subzero refrigerator/freezer, wine refrigerator, 5-burner gas cooktop, and granite countertops
- · Large dining area off the open concept

- · Great Room and kitchen has French doors leading to the relaxing covered back patio
- · Designated home office has large work area, plentiful storage, a dry bar and granite
- . Expansive Primary Retreat has ample room for a sitting area and TV plus private outdoor living area perfect for morning coffee
- · Primary Bath has dual vanity, separate makeup vanity, granite countertops, and luxurious lighted and jetted tub
- · Additionally, the Primary Bath has a roomy walk-in shower with two shower heads, tons of storage, and beautiful wood cabinetry
- . Massive Primary Closet is literally to die for as it comes equipped with a three-way, lighted mirror and bountiful storage
- · Large laundry/utility room also has bountiful storage, folding station, plumbed

- for icemaker, work station and room for second refrigerator
- · The fully equipped mud room is perfect for keeping everyone in the family organized with storage cabinet, cubbies and hooks
- · All three secondary bedrooms are roomy and all three have walk-in closets with shoe
- · One secondary bedroom has an en suite bath and the other two secondary bedrooms share a Jack-n-Jill Bath with separate vanities
- . The half bath off of the Great Room is also around the corner from designated home office, is roomy, and has a storage cabinet
- . The deep, 2-car garage has a fantastic wall of excellent storage, has epoxy on the garage floor and a door that leads to the mud room



DAWN LANIER, BBA, ABR, GRI

9442 N Capital of TX Hwy, 1-625



PLATINUM

LIKE/FOLLOW CONNECT WITH **ME ONLINE!**

> Instagram: @dawnslanier

Facebook: **Dawn Lanier**

512-914-2072 | dawnlanieratx@gmail.com | DawnLanierSellsAustinTexas.com

©2021 Coldwell Banker Realty. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Realty fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of Realogy Brokerage Group LLC. Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.