



nwacaNEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2021

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 05

Big Group Celebrations to Wait A Little Longer

Continued Debris Clearing Needed for A Firewise Future

The NWACA board has engaged in extensive discussion about the feasibility of holding our July 4th parade this year, and, sadly, we've concluded that the public health situation just doesn't support it yet. One board member shared information about her Anderson High School child's very recent experience with an COVID-19 outbreak related to their sports teams and the STAAR test. Since we're all heart-broken about this decision, we're brainstorming about how to bring neighbors together for a big, over-the-top celebration in the fall, if circumstances allow.

Meanwhile, we invite you to enjoy this month's newsletter, which includes everything from important information about reducing wildfire risk (please clear any remaining winter storm debris), to suggestions regarding planting (or not) oleander or clematis, to a story about a "green shoots" boutique in the neighborhood called Addie Rose.

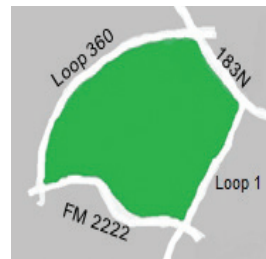
This issue also contains the results of our annual neighborhood interest survey. We thank you for your input; it helps guide Board activities. Upon reviewing the responses, we noticed that many of you are not aware of our different communication channels. For NWACA members, these include the NWACA Notes weekly email and the closed NWACA Facebook group; when you join or renew your membership, you receive information on how to tap into these benefits. And for everyone, members and non-members alike, we offer both this monthly newsletter and access to our web site www.nwaca.org. A few survey respondents suggested that the NWACA newsletter was a bit heavy on ads, so we want to share that the ads pay for its publication and mailing.

As always, we appreciate your interest and invite anyone who is not a NWACA member to join us at www.nwaca.org.

**Wait until July to prune
your oaks. Don't be a
disease spreader!**

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!

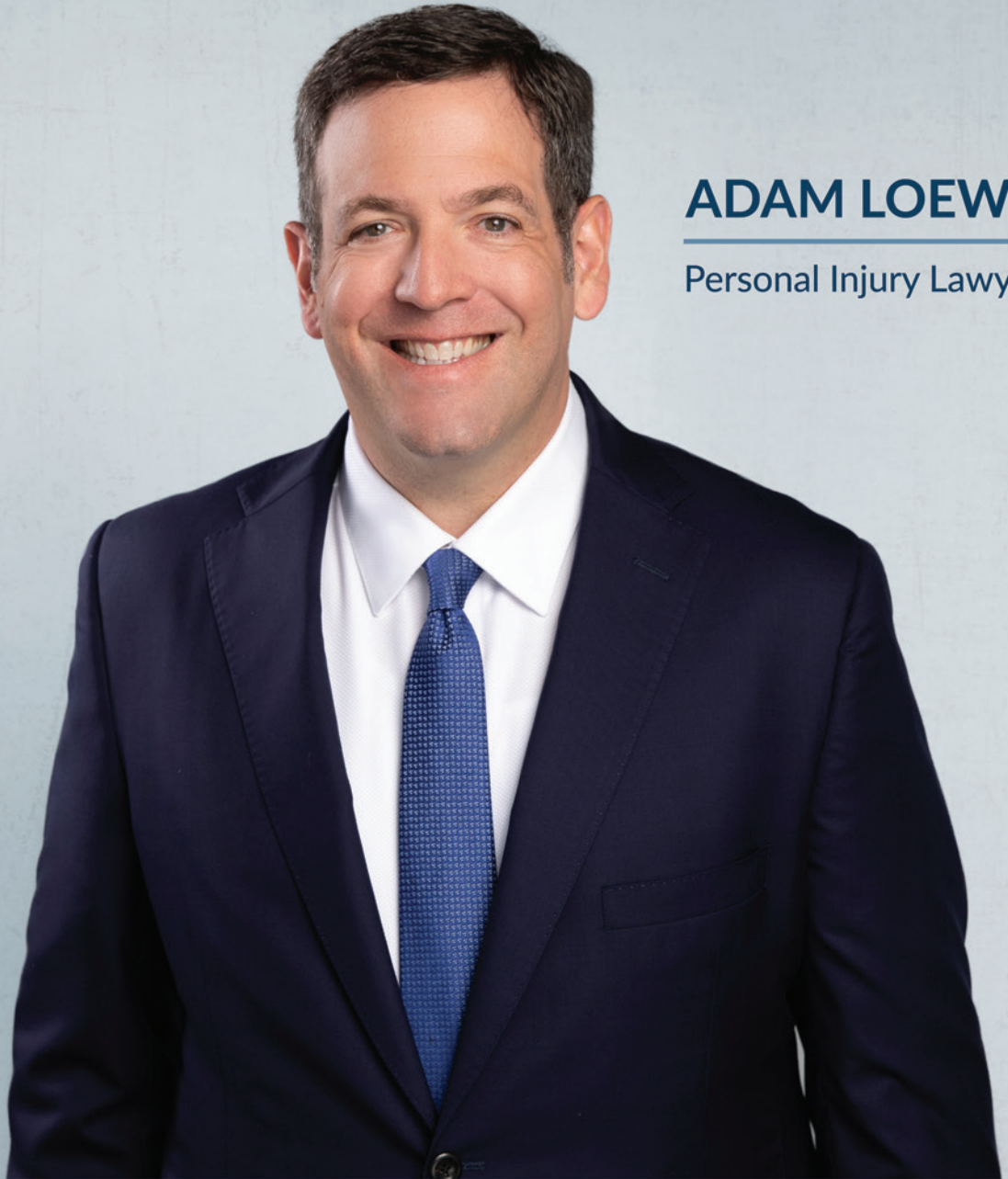
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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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 Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) 311
 To check status, go to: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/myaustincodestatus>
 APD District Representative,
 Officer Darrell Grayson...512-974-5242
 District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter.....512-978-2110
 Enroll in the District 10 monthly newsletter:
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www.district10austin.com

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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)

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NWACA Events Calendar

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

May 11th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

NWACA Board Meeting
Virtual

May 15th, 9:00am-Noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park - sign up at
<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/225432>
Bull Creek District Park

May 16th, 2:00pm

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee
Virtual

May 18th, 7:00pm

Parks Committee
Virtual

May 25th, 5:00pm

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees Joint Meeting
Virtual

June 8th, 6:30pm

NWACA Board Meeting
Virtual

June 17th, 7:00pm

Parks Committee
Virtual

June 19th, 9:00am-Noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park - Sign up at
<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/225432>
Bull Creek District Park

June 22nd, 5:00pm

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees Joint Meeting
Virtual

Storm Debris April Update

– Louri O’Leary and Joyce Statz

The prolonged extreme weather event, Winter Storm Uri, in February, resulted in huge, unforeseen quantities of vegetative storm debris – so much so, that the high volume of debris is taking longer than expected to collect. Many Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) customers have already put in special requests for storm-generated debris collection; those who still need such vegetative material collected are asked to set it at the curb with their weekly composting collection. Small branches and leaves can be placed in the green ARR compost carts. Larger branches (no longer than five feet and no thicker than three inches in diameter) should be stacked into manageable bundles (no heavier than 30 pounds) next to the cart. Please leave the material out and it will be collected as soon as ARR is able. The City has now dedicated special crews to collect all remaining winter storm debris.

(from a recent news article in the Austin Monitor)

“The city this year adopted a Wildland-Urban Interface Code that outlines construction and renovation standards in fire-prone areas. Despite this progress, [Alison] Alter said, “we’re not where I’d like us to be yet.” She plans to bring new wildfire safety initiatives as part of this year’s budget process. Alter advised residents to call 311 and reach out to their Council member if they see any brush that needs clearing. “I would call more than one office at the moment, because part of what we’re trying to do is really identify where this debris is.”

So, are there broken trees, dead trees, other large vegetative debris in the canyons, along roadways, in the greenbelts near you? Please report them to 311 and to Councilmember Alter’s office, providing the exact address and location of the debris. The information is needed to create the case for funding needed to make us more wildfire-resilient.

Crime Statistics for 2020 – If you Like it, Lock it!

– Connie Lundgren

Neighbors often ask how the level of crime within NWACA’s boundaries (78731 and a portion of 78759 zip codes) compares to that in the rest of Austin. Here are statistics for commonly reported crimes in 2020. (Officer Darrell Grayson, our Austin Police Department District Representative, provided these data.)

For the Year 2020 – number of cases	78731	78759 (also includes Great Hills and Gateway)	78746 (Westlake Area)	78735 (Barton Creek Area)	78704 (S. Congress area from edge of Zilker Park)	78703 (Tarrytown Area)
Home Burglaries	18	48	14	5	129	24
Car Burglaries	494	607	286	157	1018	363
DWI	49	102	44	45	210	92
Robberies	8	21	5	4	69	6
Rape/Sexual Assault	6	29	2	1	39	6
Totals	575	807	351	212	1465	491

Continued on Page 5

"Crime Stats" Continued from Page 4

In terms of percentage of these key crimes among the totals, we have this data:

For the year 2020 - % of cases	78731	78759	78746	78735	78704	78703
Home Burglaries	3.1%	5.9%	4.0%	2.4%	8.8%	4.9%
Car Burglaries	85.9%	75.2%	81.5%	74.1%	69.5%	73.9%
DWI	8.5%	12.6%	12.5%	21.2%	14.3%	18.7%
Robberies	1.4%	2.6%	1.4%	1.9%	4.7%	1.2%
Rape/Sexual Assault	1.0%	3.6%	0.6%	0.5%	2.7%	1.2%

For all neighborhoods, car burglaries are the most common crimes. Officer Grayson says a locked car is the best prevention against crimes involving cars; unlocked cars are the biggest contributors to this type of crime. In other words, "If you like it, lock it."

Is Oleander Toxic?

— Maura Powers

If you're replacing landscape killed by the winter storm, consider whether oleander should be a part of your plan.

According to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, oleander is native to the Mediterranean and widely planted in Texas. It is not cold hardy and often sustains top kill in winter.

Its showy flowers attract scout bees, who quickly learn that the flower does not provide nectar, so upon their return to the hive they discourage others from wasting time at nearby oleander shrubs. <https://homeguides.sfgate.com/oleander-attracts-pollinators-81109.html>

Although oleander is harmless to most pollinators it attracts, it is poisonous to people and animals. It contains oleandrin, a cardiac glycoside, which makes it probably the most toxic plant in Texas. As few as ten to twenty medium-sized leaves may kill an adult horse. Wilted clippings and dead leaves remain toxic and are readily consumed by animals. Even compost containing oleander has been implicated in poisoning. <https://rangeplants.tamu.edu/plant/common-oleander/>

In conclusion, while pollinators are generally not harmed by oleander, they are not helped either. All others should beware, as all of the oleander plant is toxic. Perhaps these shrubs should be replaced by more beneficial and less dangerous plants.



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Business Spotlight: Addie Rose Boutique

- Janice Green



Northwest Austin has always supported boutiques. And nothing marks the cusp of normalcy like the recent opening of Addie Rose Boutique on Far West Boulevard.

This is a family affair for Patty Hatton, proprietor and Highland Hills resident. Her cousin, Meagan, founded in 2007, the original and successful Addie Rose Boutique (named after her daughter) in Kansas City, Missouri. Last October, in the middle of the pandemic,

Patty approached Meagan about opening an Addie Rose in Austin ... what was Patty thinking in the throes of Covid! Patty and her family had moved to Austin from her former home base in Houston. And lucky we are that Patty had foresight, a lack of trepidation, and a desire to make the leap from real estate to a brick-and-mortar clothing establishment. She says her twelve years in real estate instilled an appreciation of both networking and the power of social media – important foundations of modern fashion merchandising.

At the time Patty and I met in early April, she was preparing the Addie Rose retail site for its soft opening. Nevertheless, it was already taking shape as an inviting and airy space. It seemed like forever since I'd walked into a clothing shop, and what fun it was to actually see and feel the textures of merchandise, smell the pleasant scents, and marvel at the return of a long-familiar manner of shopping. Local craftsmen were used during build-out to create an organic feel to the store.

Patty's goal is to provide an affordable array of quality women's attire: clothing, tennis shoes and sandals, and straw hats and purses, for gals ranging from high schoolers to those in their 80's. A basket of natural fiber blankets and a shelf of creamy body butter testers were also on display. Looking ahead, she plans to feature pop-up artists, jewelry makers, and local artisans, even including a ukulele craftsman.

When asked to describe her merchandise, here are her adjectives: trendy, casual, fun, unique. Gone are the days of solely shopping for clothes online, figuring out how to recycle the discarded shipping materials, and often returning merchandise that just doesn't fit right. Gone are the days of only shopping for Zoom apparel from the waist up.

The comfy sofa in her store invites conversation and provides a homey ambiance. Plus, it contributes to Patty's goal of providing a hang-out for moms who enjoy a communal opportunity before retrieving their children from nearby schools. When was the last time you shopped with a buddy who sat while you modeled and muddled through buying decisions?

There was something refreshing about spending time with Patty. Her enthusiasm was contagious yet practical. She appreciates the history of popular boutiques in our neighborhood and desires to build on that patronage by listening to the needs and feedback from her clientele.

Entrepreneurial Patty Hatton is helping us return to the familiar.

Contact: 3720 Far West Blvd. # 109; 512-660-6633; Hours: Tues-Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5; addieroseaustin.com



A colorful world greets you at the front door of Ginnie Warner's home. Her handmade quilts adorn the walls and grace the backs of furniture. And in her garage, there are stacks of clean pizza boxes filled with either UFO's (unfinished projects) or finished pieces,

making her garage a wonderful place to "shop" for family gifts.

Ginnie whose maiden name was Good, shared a memory of her earliest days at Kalamazoo (MI) College: dancing to "Johnny Be Good" with John Warner, who became her husband. John's post-doc study at the University of Minnesota was with the famous astronomer, Vera Rubin; subsequently he and Ginnie met Dr. Rubin's daughter, Judith. She was wearing a patchwork skirt.

Joined hexagonally, triangles formed circles of fabric that were then stitched into larger patterns. At her request, Judith provided Ginnie with a paper template of the triangle, the spark for decades of quilt-making. It was that triangle that Ginnie used in Huntsville, AL, to cut out pink fabric to sew together as a gift for her daughter's sixth birthday. She had unwittingly made her first quilt.

By the time the family moved to Columbia, MD, the children were in school and Ginnie signed up for her first quilting class. Before long she joined a quilting group where she not only honed her technical skills but met other enthusiasts including the woman who is still her best friend.

More moves followed (Evanston, IL and Warner, NH) and quilting circles gave Ginnie immediate social connections while guilds provided further interests. In Newtown, CT, she took on a guild challenge to depict her hometown - that entry now hanging on her wall. Guilds provided exciting opportunities. Ginnie participated in a fabric exchange with a group in Japan, and later traveled to Kyoto for two weeks to learn from and share with Japanese quilters, which resulted in a joint show.

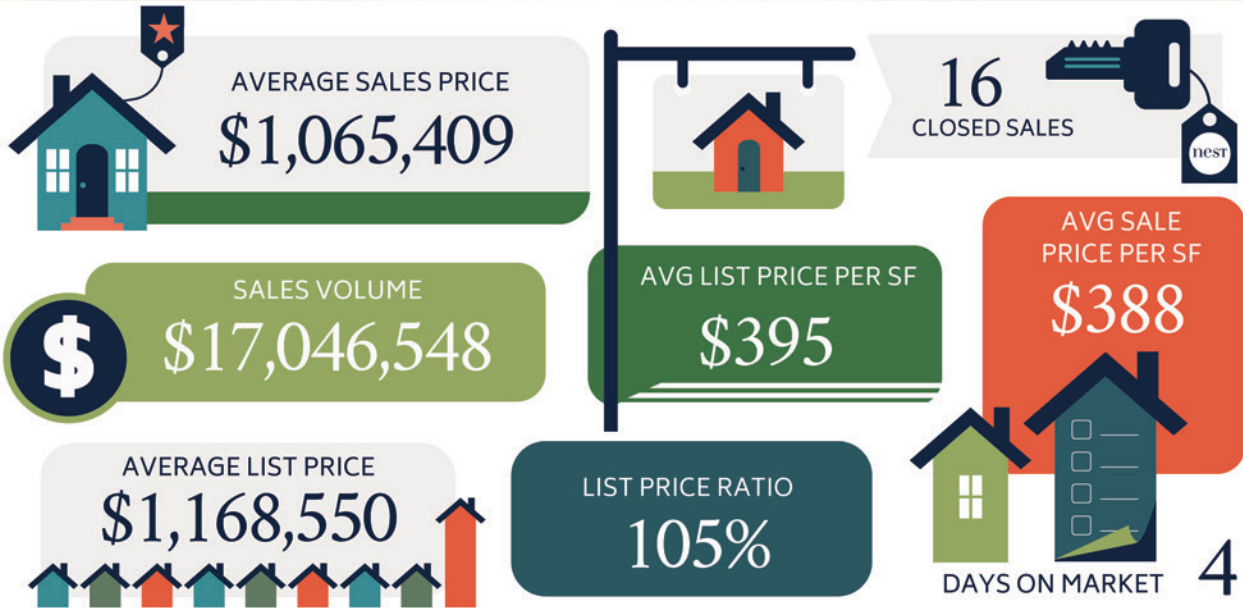
Love of Japanese fabrics continues to influence Ginnie's work, along with a fascination with African fabrics. She spent a large part of her junior year of college in Sierra Leone. In Freetown, she picked up tie-dyes, print, and batik clothing. Later, when she began quilting, clothes became a source of material, sometimes garments purchased not to be worn, but cut apart. Noting the fabrics used in different cultures was a special joy and inspiration. In fact, road trip itineraries were often planned with quilt shops and shows in mind.



Baby quilt made for her son

Continued on Page 8

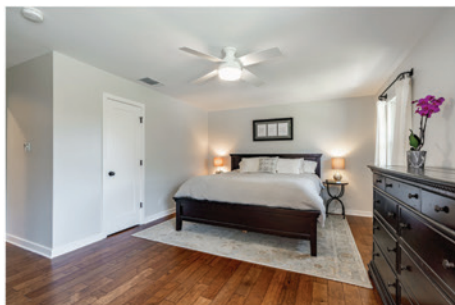
NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET UPDATE



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM MARCH 1-31, 2021 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON NWACA BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY 360/2222/HWY 183



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NWACA News

"Writer's Corner" Continued from Page 6



Quilt with hexagonally placed triangles

With each move, the sewing room was the first to be set up. Ginnie has two 4'x8' foam boards at a 90 degree angle on the walls of her workroom. These are covered with batting, swatches of fabric sticking to it without pins. She can easily organize color combinations and test shades of sashing (the border sometimes used to connect blocks as well). After creating the design, Ginnie constructs it both by hand and with her sewing machine, a skill

she taught her daughter and is now teaching her granddaughter.

Julie, Ginnie and John's daughter, has lived in Northwest Hills since 2005; to spend time with her, the couple began wintering here in 2018. Our 4th of July parade and welcoming community helped them decide to come again in 2019, Covid-19 keeping them here for longer than expected. Now, they've bought a home in our neighborhood on the same block as their 8th grade grandson (Murchison) and 5th grade granddaughter (Doss). What a marvelous addition to Northwest Hills!

To see quilts, visit the Texas Quilt Museum in La Grange. Started in 1974 it now attracts more than 60,000 guests per year. texasquiltmuseum.org To find out more about quilt guilds and shows go to <https://quiltguilds.com>



Hometown – Newtown, CT

Horticultural Curiosities: Clematis - Jon Plum

*'Tis Customary as we part
A Trinket to confer —
It helps to stimulate the faith
When Lovers be afar —
'Tis various — as the various taste —
Clematis — journeying far —
Presents me with a single Curl
Of her Electric Hair —*

In Emily Dickinson's moving poem, a single fruit of the clematis vine is the vibrant reminder of a distant love or another season. After the bloom, the dried plumed achenes of the clematis vine are spread by the wind. The fruiting body resembles hairy puffs not unlike dandelions, only more dramatic and showy.

The clematis bloom is even more impressive. Abundant flowers during the bloom cycle are a joy to see. Colors include red, blue, purple, and shades of pink and white. Flowers can be single or double. Clematis usually dies to the ground in the winter, but the aggressive vine returns in spring to cover a fence, trellis, or wall with color.

After so much loss in the garden this winter, it may be good to consider more cold hardy plants. We have been spoiled by mild weather in recent years and tropical and sub-tropical plants have thrived. But if, like me, the cold temperatures and power outages left you with a greenhouse full of dead plants and an empty garden, then you may be ready to reconsider some of your choices.

Showy hybrid varieties of clematis can be difficult to find in Central Texas. They don't tend to grow or bloom well in pots and can be difficult to grow in general. If you are lucky to find one of these showy vines in your local garden center, consider planting where the roots will be well shaded, moist, and cooler, but where the vine can grow to heights with good dappled or morning or early afternoon sun (about five hours a day). Planting clematis under an established evergreen shrub allows the vine to grow up through the supporting plant and the effect can be fantastic. Hybrid clematis enjoy slightly alkaline soils but prefer improved soils over our native caliche. Adding compost and sand or replacing soil with a good garden mix can help a plant to establish more quickly and survive the hot summer. Don't forget to water and fertilize after the bloom to help with next year's success.

Continued on Page 10



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Purple Clematis

Although not as colorful and showy, there are easier to grow species. Clematis is a member of the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae.

There are three native species of clematis in Central Texas that will thrive if you select the right location. My favorite, Scarlet Leatherflower or Texas Clematis (*Clematis texensis*), is a beautiful red color and endemic to the Hill Country. Purple Leatherflower (*Clematis pitcheri*) has purple flowers that look almost iridescent in the light but tend to get lost in the shady environment they enjoy. You may have seen Old Man's Beard (*Clematis drummondii*)

growing on a wire fence during a Hill Country wildflower outing. Small, white flowers transform quickly to a showy fruiting display that resembles its namesake.

Other proven favorites are established winners in Central Texas. Evergreen Clematis (*Clematis armandii*) is aggressive and can cover a medium-sized wall or fence effectively. The long, slender leaves do not die back in winter and have an almost tropical look. It blossoms in spring with beautiful white sprays once established. Sweet Autumn (*Clematis terniflora*) will tend to die back, but the smell of the white blossoms in fall is sublime. This vine is not as aggressive as others and the leaves have an interesting cottage garden look.

Closing one door (or the loss of your garden favorites) means another can open. If you have an empty space to fill, I hope you will try one of these options in your garden this year.

Gourmand's Corner: Some Winners for You

— Chris Hajdu

T-Loc's Sonoran Hot Dogs lauded by Food and Wine Magazine

The local food truck, T-Loc's Sonoran Hot Dogs (5000 Burnet Rd), that I wrote about just over a year ago, was recently named the best hot dog in Texas by Food and Wine magazine. I must admit the award actually came out in October 2020 and I'm surprised I missed this amazing accolade, but there's been a bit going on this past year.

The food truck is run by Miguel Kaiser, a Le Cordon Bleu educated chef, and was included in the list for their Sonoran-style hot dog. This style of hot dog, as you might guess from the name, originated in Sonora, Mexico. It then made its way through Arizona, mainly in the Tucson area and eventually on to Texas. The hot dog is wrapped in bacon before frying up on a griddle, then topped with pinto beans, tomatoes, green salsa, jalapeño, mustard, mayonnaise, avocado, and cotija cheese. Needless to say, these hot dogs aim to please. If you crave a diet-breaker once in a while, this will meet your need. Make sure to ask for the grilled pepper on the side. It's hot, but oh so worth it. If you'd like to read more about these hot dogs, check out the entry under Texas in this article:

<https://www.foodandwine.com/travel/restaurants/best-hot-dog-america-every-state>

Cochinita Pibil

This spring break, my family decided to take a trip to Mexico. It had been a year since our last planned trip (to Taos) was cut short due to the outbreak of Covid-19. We just had to get out of our house and Austin after being cooped up for so long.

While on the trip to the Yucatán, we had many chances to taste the local specialty, cochinita pibil. This is a traditional slow-roasted pork dish that is very popular in the Yucatán Peninsula. It's prepared by marinating pork in a strongly acidic citrus juice (consisting of bitter or Seville oranges) with annatto seed (achiote) that imparts a vivid burnt orange color (Texas fans should like that!) The meat is slow roasted (traditionally underground) while wrapped in banana leaves.

It takes about as much care and attention as a good brisket, so I think Texans should be able to relate to the fact that some people call it the BBQ of Mexico. It's truly amazing - so flavorful; I highly recommend trying it. While I was eating some at our hotel one morning, I got to thinking about where to get cochinita pibil in Austin. So, after returning, I started asking around and I got a good list of places.

Some spots where you can try cochinita pibil close to our neighborhood (in no particular order):

- Azul Tequila – 3815 Dry Creek Dr
- Fonda San Miguel – 2330 W N Loop Blvd
- Yucatán Tacos & More - 2601 W Braker Ln (Food Truck in the Sunoco parking lot)

Places to get cochinita pibil that are a little further afield:

- Comedor - 501 Colorado St
- Curra's – 614 E Oltorf St
- El Meson – 2038 S Lamar Blvd
- Las Palomas – 3201 Bee Cave Rd, Suite 122 (WestLake)
- Lichas Cantina - 1306 East 6th St
- Santa Caterina - 1310 Ranch Rd 620 S (Lakeway)
- Sazon – 1816 S Lamar Blvd

I'll let you judge which rendition you like best. And, I'd be interested in any places that you feel should be on the list. Let me know if you have a suggestion to share at info@nwaca.org and I'll mention it in a future column.



WARNING



CRIME WATCH ZONE

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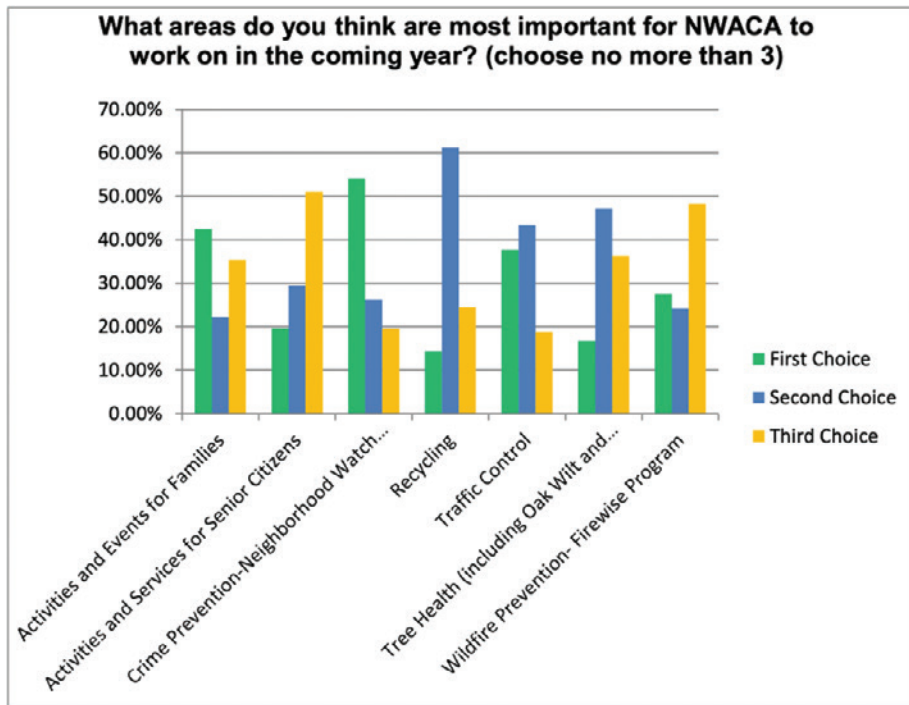
More info: email nwacainfo@gmail.com

2021 NWACA Neighborhood Interest Survey Results

During March 2021, NWACA conducted its annual survey to identify issues that are most pressing for the neighborhood. Survey Monkey was used; anyone in the neighborhood could participate. Paper surveys were sent to NWACA members without internet access. There were 271 responses, 6 of those from members without internet access.

Responses are summarized below.

Q1: What areas do you think are most important for NWACA to work on in the coming year? [choose only 3, rating them first choice, second choice, third choice] (267 responses)



A weighted rating was computed to be able to see the overall responses in another way.

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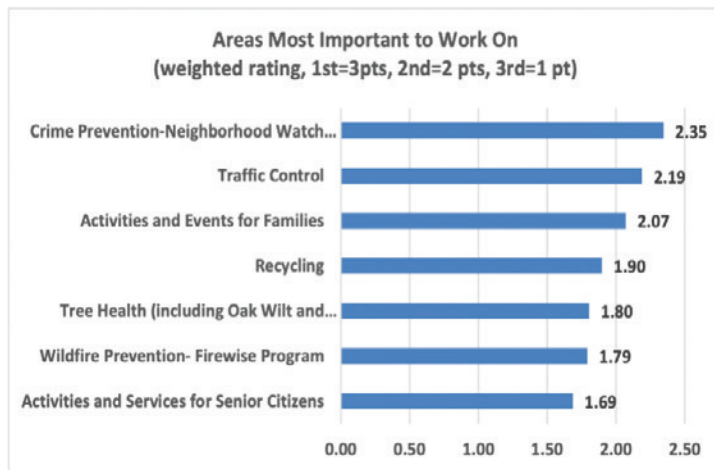


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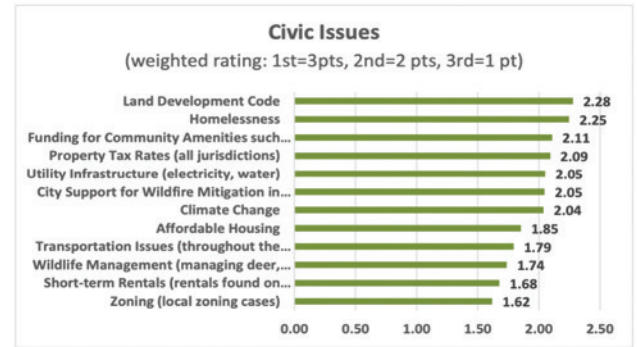
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NWACA News

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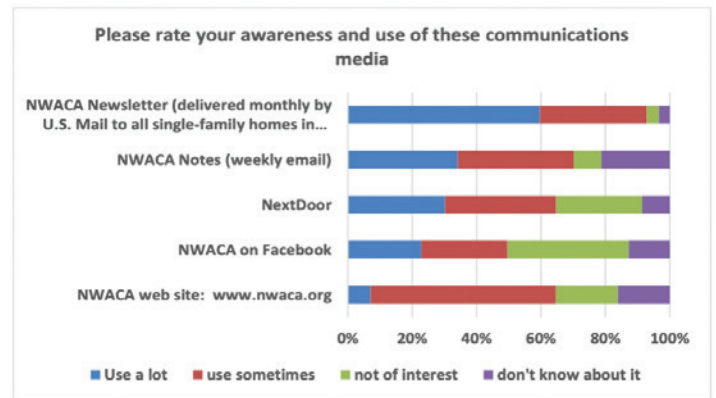


A weighted rating was again computed, showing how interest varies.



Among the 9 “other” responses were 3 on homelessness, and 1 each on climate, Covid-19, cut-through traffic, education on insects and pest control, equitable community, and 1 asking the NWACA Board to stay out of politics.

Q3: Please rate your awareness and use of these NWACA communications media (271 responses)



Among the six comments provided under the “other” response were these:

- 2 – negative about NextDoor and social media
- 1 – too much advertising in the monthly newsletter
- 1 – would like monthly newsletter electronically
- 1 – would like to sign up for NWACA Notes
- 1 – would like NWACA to focus on traffic problems

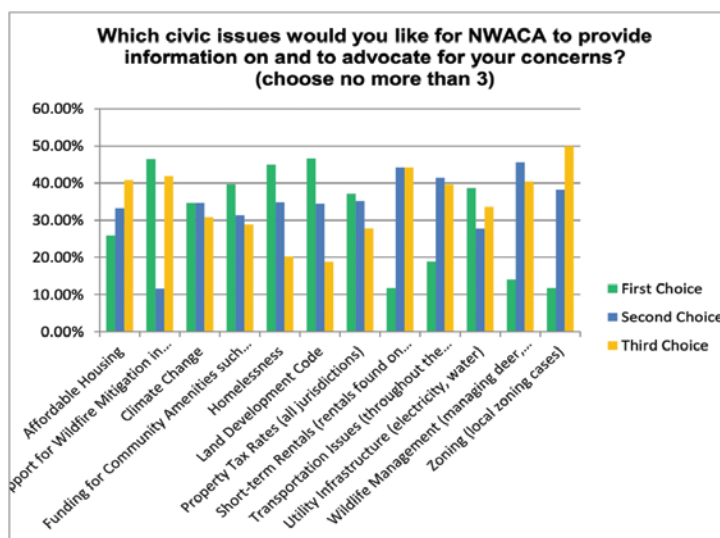
Q4: Are you a current member of NWACA? (271 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	78.60%	213
No	8.86%	24
Don't know/Don't remember	12.55%	34

Q5: What is your zip code? (271 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
78731	83.39%	226
78759	15.87%	43
Other (please specify)	0.74%	2

Q6: What type of household is yours? (271 responses)



A weighted rating was again computed, showing how interest varies.

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Answer Choices	Responses	
Own our home	96.31%	261
Rent a single-family home	1.48%	4
Rent an apartment	0.37%	1
Other (please specify)	1.85%	5

Among the "other" responses were 2 condo owners, 1 townhome, 1 owning-but renting out, 1 owning.

Q7: What is your age? (optional) (251 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
under 18	0.00%	0
18 to 29	0.80%	2
30 to 49	21.12%	53
50 to 64	29.88%	75
65 or over	48.21%	121

Q8: What type of household is yours? (optional) (253 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Multiple adults (no children)	52.57%	133
Multiple adults with children	26.48%	67
One adult	17.79%	45
One adult with children	3.16%	8

Q9: Please provide other suggestions and comments you have on NWACA activities or services. (48 responses)

The most common categories of responses were these, along with 11 individual comments or suggestions. All comments were provided to the Board for their review and response.

- 13 – thank you for the work being done, compliments on the newsletter
- 5 – miss the parade, hope it can happen this year
- 6 – speed issues, speed bumps, bicycle lanes, cut through traffic
- 3 – issues or comments on memberships
- 2 – like and miss the recycling events
- 2 – appreciate and want to learn more about local businesses

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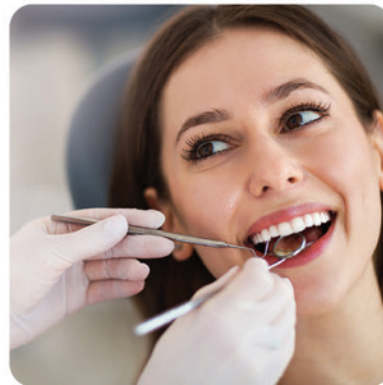
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Understanding City Code: Code Inspectors – Alan Carson

I recently had a new air conditioner installed and a city inspector came to approve the work. I found him to be knowledgeable and cooperative, and since this was my first experience with a code inspector, I was curious about who they are and what they do.

There are two types of licensed building inspectors: home inspectors and code enforcement inspectors. The home inspector is licensed by the Texas Real Estate Commission and he or she determines the condition of a real estate property, usually in connection with the property's sale. A code enforcement inspector is an agent of the Austin Code Department and is licensed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) as a code enforcement officer. This inspector ensures that city codes and ordinances are met to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Qualification for licensure as a code enforcement inspector requires extensive training and experience. Construction and building inspectors include those from the electrical, mechanical, and plumbing trades. Some have certificates from community colleges or career technical schools in the field of building inspection or construction technology. Licensed home inspectors can qualify as code enforcement inspectors with sufficient experience. The TDLR requirements for licensure can be found with a web search for TLDR, then searching for Programs Licensed, and then Code Enforcement Officers.

The Austin Code Department has a staff of about 120 employees, with salaries for inspectors ranging from about \$44K to \$57K per year. The median salary in 2020 was \$56K per year. For information on these inspectors look for Austin code department inspectors with your web browser.

Turning Cars and Bike Lanes on our Streets

– Public Service Announcement



With more bike lanes recently added to our streets, concerns have been raised about making a right turn around or through the bike lane. At some intersections, such as Adirondack Trail and Steck Avenue, a vehicle turning right has a tighter turning radius than before, but this gives cyclists a protected zone on the street. Motorists need to proceed with more caution than before.

At intersections that have marked turn lanes for cars, but through lanes for cycles, such as those at Steck Avenue and Mesa Drive, there is official guidance. Texas Transportation Code Sec. 545.101 (<http://law.onecle.com/texas/transportation/545.101.00.html>) requires that motor vehicle operators make right turns from as close to the right-hand curb as practicable.

Austin City Code Section 12-1-21 has the following guidance about cars and bike lanes. (https://library.municode.com/TX/Austin/codes/code_of_ordinances)

“(A) A person may not drive a motor-propelled vehicle in, on, or across a bicycle lane except:

- (1) to enter or leave a driveway, building, or alley;*
- (2) to enter or leave a parking space; or*
- (3) for a bus, to enter or leave a bus stop.*

(B) Subsection (A) does not apply to a bicycle, scooter, or other similar vehicle that is equipped with an electric motor that is capable of propelling the bicycle, scooter, or vehicle at a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour.

(C) A person may not drive on or cross a bicycle lane under this section without first yielding the right-of-way, if necessary, to avoid collision or interference with bicycle traffic. “

There are more and more instances when turning from the motor vehicle lane feel a little strange. Good advice is to simply “slow down and pay attention.”

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 March 15, 2021 and April 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.

- Hugh Higgins
- Juanita Painter
- Dottie Riley
- Camille Seaton
- (and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)



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What Do You See Down in the Valley? – Joyce Statz

As our team did a home wildfire risk evaluation several weeks ago, we checked the box canyon behind the home. There was a lot of risk “down” in the valley! There were dead Ligustrum trees that had cracked and split in the winter storm. There were ashe juniper (cedar) trees with limbs hanging down, cracked at the trunk. There was a bit of dead brush, though the understory was remarkably clean. The large pieces of “dead and down” are quite hazardous, as embers from a fire (wildfire or house fire) can lodge in them and spread the fire up the hill to the homes above. We expect a hot and dry summer, so this downed material is only likely to become more flammable.

Homes across this small canyon don’t have decks that overlook the canyon, so their owners may not even be aware of the debris below. The neighbor whose home we evaluated will be contacting them about what’s in the canyon.

Every homeowner on the border of a valley, canyon, or extensive green space should take a good look at what was brought down by the storm. If you can easily manage and dispose of debris with the regular weekly yard waste pickup, please do so – for your safety and that of the surrounding neighborhood. If the material is too large for you to manage, get help from a landscape company or

report it to the City of Austin, to see if something can be done to remove it. Call 3-1-1 and let them know exactly where the debris is located, whether it’s on public or private property, and ask that it be put on the list being accumulated. Also, please call Councilmember Alison Alter’s office (512-978-2110) and ask her aides to put the same information on the list that they’re accumulating. (See other article about storm debris in this issue.)

Whether or not you’re next to a valley, front yard debris should also be removed and set out for collection. If the brush or tree debris is too large for the weekly collection, call 3-1-1 and get on their list for debris pickup. Broken branches of all types of trees and sago palms are excellent ember kindling, as is all the leaf litter around us.

If you haven’t yet had one, this is a good time for a home wildfire risk evaluation. Go to www.nwaca.org and sign up for a free evaluation. A team trained about wildfire risk will walk around the exterior of your home with you, pointing out items that pose a risk from wildfire, as well as noting those things you’re already doing that minimize your risk. Help us make our whole community wildfire-resilient.

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Watch Out for Wildlife with Their Young Ones

— Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee



Coyote with pup



Fawn

It's springtime in Northwest Austin, so we'll soon be seeing does with their young fawns in the neighborhood. Please be careful as you drive, since the young ones move a bit unpredictably. In addition, be wary of getting near the mother deer while out walking or running, since they may become defensive to protect their babies. Finally, if a doe leaves a fawn in your yard, please don't touch or move the fawn. The mother deer will be back to retrieve it.

If you find a fawn that is sick, injured, or in an unsafe area, call Austin Wildlife Rescue at 512-472-WILD (512-472-9453)

Now is also the time to be aware of coyote pup rearing season.

- Coyotes breed in February and March; pups are born about 60 days later.

- During this time, territorial male coyotes do not tolerate other canines in their territory. Many conflicts between coyotes and domestic dogs result from this territorial behavior.

- An average coyote litter contains 4 or 5 pups, born in dens. In urban environments, dens can be in storm drains, under storage drains, in holes dug in vacant lots, parks, golf courses, or any other dark, dry place.

- Coyote pups are cared for, fed, and protected by both parents. The pups mature quickly and can eat meat and move about well by the time they are a month old.

- Food requirements of the nursing females and the growing young remain high until late summer. As people and their pets spend more time outdoors during this time, the possibility of a coyote encounter increases.

- It is not unusual to observe a family of coyotes traveling through urbanized areas.

- If food is deliberately or inadvertently provided by people, the pups quickly learn not to fear humans and develop a dependency on easy food sources.

As a reminder, evaluate what food attractants you may be inadvertently providing. Pick ripe fruit from trees and off the ground, secure garbage and compost bins, don't feed pets outdoors, don't throw food scraps for wildlife, keep bird feeders from overflowing, and eliminate artificial water sources. In addition, close off crawl spaces under porches, decks, and sheds!

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“My elderly parents, Dr. Bob and Phyllis Tate, lived in an aging home they built in Northwest Hills in the early ’70s. It’s the home where my brother and I grew up. While they knew they would ultimately move to Westminister, it was an emotional decision that happened very quickly. We needed expert help and resources FAST – particularly because my brother and I live out of town.

Mom and Dad knew many Realtors and were approached by several but chose Dawn. She was kind and patient and explained every step of the process. Dawn helped them determine what minimal improvements needed to be made to secure the best price. Her resources were endless and dependable which made the improvements a breeze. Dawn’s knowledge of the Austin market, our neighborhood, strategic marketing, and connections in the community enabled their home to sell quickly at an exceptional price. She even had resources for estate sellers when they downsized for their move.

Dawn’s expert knowledge, calm demeanor, "can-do" attitude, attention to detail, follow-through, quick response, and tireless dedication made selling our family home much easier. Most importantly, Dawn was always there. She didn’t hand off the selling of our family home to someone else. Our family is thankful to have had Dawn guide us through the process from start to finish. My family and I are happy to highly recommend Realtor and friend Dawn Lanier to sell your home.

She's an amazing Realtor—the best!”

~ Lynn Tate Teel



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