



nwaca NEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JULY 2021

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 07

From the Board

Welcome to the dog days of summer! In case you haven't read a Farmers' Almanac recently, the term refers to the current position of our sun with respect to a star in the Canis Major (Greater Dog) constellation. This star, Sirius, is also the brightest star from Earth which means you've likely spotted it in the overnight sky.

This period of summertime also includes the longest and hottest days of summer, which means heat stress awareness needs to be top of mind to keep people and animals safe. Pay attention when excessive heat warnings are issued by the National Weather Service. The potential risk of heat-related illnesses (heat rash, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke) is significant when working or participating in outdoor activities. Stay hydrated and stay out of the sun. Check on neighbors and relatives. Never leave kids, elders, or pets unattended in vehicles. Know the signs and symptoms of heat related illnesses and respond immediately.

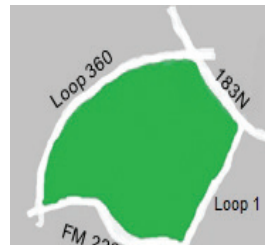
If you're planning to escape the heat on summer vacation, plan your time away with crime prevention in mind. Individuals with criminal intent don't take breaks. Notify your neighbors and Neighborhood Watch groups when planning to be out of town. Lock all your doors including the garage. Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to keep an eye on your place in your absence. Ask the post office to hold your mail or have it picked up. Put lights on timers to give the appearance that someone is home. Avoid posting on social media that you are leaving town, and post photos of your fun after you return. Have a safe summer, but don't overdo it.

NWACA Board members are planning lots of fun events for the remainder of the year. We've got the Annual NWACA Garage Sales, followed by National Night Out, and we're kicking around the idea of a Fall Festival around Halloween. Last but not least, December will include our 2nd Annual Holiday Lights Contest which we really enjoyed hosting last year.

We really need your involvement! We're currently seeking folks to serve on committees and the Board of Directors. Join us as we continue to roll up our sleeves and do the work that's necessary to keep this neighborhood one of the best in Austin. Keeping your neighborhood parks clean, protecting your oak trees, supporting your local schools, protecting your homes from wildfire, and keeping you informed on happenings within city and county government are just some of the projects we're involved in. We need you to keep up the good work.

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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 APD District Representative,
 Officer Darrell Grayson...512-974-5242
 District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter.....512-978-2110
 Enroll in the District 10 monthly newsletter:
district10@austintexas.gov
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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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These events are as planned on June 15. As you consider participating in one of the events listed, please check first with the organizer.

July 17th, 9:00am-Noon

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

Bull Creek District Park

July 18th, 2:00pm

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee

Virtual

July 20th, 7:00pm

Parks Committee

Virtual

July 27th, 5:00pm

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees
Joint Meeting

Virtual

August 10th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

NWACA Board Meeting

TBD, perhaps virtual

August 17th, 7:00pm

Parks Committee

TBD, perhaps virtual

August 21st, Noon

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

Bull Creek District Park

August 24th, 5:00pm

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees
Joint Meeting

TBD, perhaps virtual

Help Preserve our Preserves

— Janelle Medrano



Beginning in 1935 with the creation of Zilker Nature Preserve, the City of Austin has acquired over 2200 acres of land that have been designated as preserve land - land that is set aside because it has unique features such as essential endangered species habitat, a unique natural feature such as a cave or stream, or a specific type of ecosystem. Our community is lucky to have one of Austin's fifteen preserves, Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve, located just off Sterling Drive. It is a 20-acre portion of the much larger Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, land which was set aside to conserve essential and rapidly disappearing habitat for eight endangered species in western Travis County.

Stillhouse Hollow has a cave which provides habitat for the endangered Bone Cave harvestman, a type of arachnid, and a spring-fed creek in which endangered Jollyville Plateau salamanders used to thrive. Unfortunately, the salamanders have died out, likely due to toxic run-off from the surrounding urban landscape. Though Stillhouse Hollow has the type of trees required for nesting by Golden-cheeked Warblers, it's too small and fragmented, and so they only pass through in the spring on their way to better habitat west of Loop 360.

When visiting Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve or any of Austin's other preserve lands, it's important to remember what it means to preserve: to keep safe from harm or injury. This requires us to protect the land by staying on the paved trail to keep from trampling the native plants, not depositing trash in the preserve, and by leaving our pet dogs at home. Dogs and their urine and feces are a threat to both the plants and animals that live in the preserve. As inviting as it might be to explore and/or to walk/run dogs inside the area, they are a real threat to maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem and the long-term health of the habitat. Let's keep it healthy for generations of residents and visitors to come.



Summer's sounds of lawnmowers and leaf blowers can be annoying, especially if they're pitched in the wrong key—so says Craig Casper, cellist.

His well-lit garage, with its door wide open, became the practice space for his string quartet during Covid-19 pandemic -- players wore

gloves with tips cut off through the cold winter and now are trying to acclimate to the heat. Craig says, "Our quartet found a way to continue playing chamber music despite the pandemic. Like other groups we've managed to continue playing even though spaced far apart. I guess classical music manages to always triumph over hard times."

Craig studied at the University of Texas with Robert Sylvester and

followed his teacher to Philadelphia for a few years, then returned to Austin to play with the Austin Symphony under the baton of Akira Endo. From here he regularly travelled to Dallas to study with Lev Aronson, principle cellist of the Dallas Symphony. Aronson's students, Lynn Harrell and Ralph Kirschbaum, attained international success in their solo careers.

Craig then settled in Houston, the oil glut of the 1980's providing him the opportunity to buy properties and

establish his own real estate company. While there he performed with the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Chamber Music Unlimited, and the Texas Chamber Orchestra. But twenty-six years ago, Austin drew him back, and he settled in Northwest Hills where he and his wife raised two children who attended St. Teresa's Catholic School and St. Michael's Catholic Academy. Continually immersed in the musical world, he joined chamber music groups and frequently performed at the Wednesday Morning Music Club. It was there twelve years ago, that he met violinist Melissa Ruof, who had just moved here from Washington, D.C.

Melissa was as serious about music as Craig, and after a few switches in players, they settled on the foursome that is now their quartet. Joining them are Lucia Woodruff, long-time violinist with the Austin Symphony and teacher extraordinaire, and Andrea Gore, a professor in the University of Texas Department of Neurosciences, whose organizational skills and love of music make her well adapted to keeping the quartet on track.

With the heat of July and vaccinations now allowing indoor activities, the quartet may not be practicing in the garage much longer but while they were, it was certainly a treat for the neighbors passing by.



the quartet



practicing in the garage



Gourmand's Corner: Donuts or Doughnuts? Whatever, they taste good!

— Chris Hajdu

Doughnut or donut? Cake or yeast? Traditional donuts, or fancy, modern, hipster-worthy creations?

There are so many questions when it comes to donuts. Before we get into the specifics of some of the best donut places in Austin, I thought it would be good to learn a little bit about the background of this wonderful food item that all of us enjoy from time to time.

First, let's talk about the name.... "donut," or "doughnut." While the latter spelling is traditional (dating back to the early 1800s and derived from the word "dough"), the shorter "donut" is a more recent moniker (from the early 1900s) and was popularized by companies like Dunkin' Donuts. For this article, I'll use donut because it's much easier to type!

The donut most likely evolved from a Dutch creation called an olykoek which translates to "Oily Cake." This makes sense since they were originally fried in oil, usually hog fat. Word has it that the Dutch brought these "oily cakes" to New Amsterdam (modern day New York). Any way you spell it, I like the modern names as opposed to calling them "oily cakes."

Donuts generally fall into two main categories, cake and yeast. Yeast donuts

are the light and airy ones, due to the rising action of the yeast. Cake donuts, on the other hand, are denser and have a consistency more like a cake. Note that yeast donuts tend to have more oil content since they need to be fried a little longer.

The shape of a donut can also vary. Donuts come in so many varieties: rings, holes, filled, twists, bear claws, and many other shapes. Generally, the shape of the donut has little to do with the final taste, although some people like donut holes better than other shapes because of the increased ratio of glazing to dough.

Now, I'm pretty sure you didn't read this article to learn about the history, or the different types of donuts, so let's get to the important question – Where do we get the donuts?

Local Faves!

Tee's Donuts (3742 #112 Far West Boulevard) – formerly known as "Super Donuts," this neighborhood shop has helped many a parent provide a "healthy" breakfast for a group of starving kids the morning after a sleepover. It's also common to see parents or coaches picking up donuts before heading off to a game or practice. Tee's has a wide variety of donuts in traditional styles; they have kolaches as well. They are a big supporter of local schools and teams. (See for yourself on the walls of the shop.)



Continued on Page 6

78731 Home Sales Update

April 2021 vs April 2020



Median
Home Prices
Increased

13%



Average
Days on
Market

13

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5012 Highland Court, Austin, TX 78731
361 Stone View Trail, Austin, TX 78737
913 W James Street, Austin, TX 78704
9217 Knoll Crest Loop, Austin, TX 78759
2101 Alamo Heights, Austin, TX 78754

JUST CLOSED

6413 Ledge Mountain Drive, Austin, TX 78731
4608 Colorado Xing, Austin, TX 78731
4023 Greystone Drive, Austin, TX 78731
6201 Ledge Mountain Drive, Austin, TX 78731
12923 Brigham Dr, Austin, TX 78732
110 Bisset Court, Austin, TX 78738
916 Bouldin Avenue, Austin, TX 78704
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This is definitely THE local donut shop for our area.

Donut Crown (7940 Burnet Road) – an unassuming strip center donut shop (much like Tee’s Donuts) that provides solid donuts and kolaches at reasonable prices. We used to visit this shop all the time when we lived in Brentwood.

Shipley’s Do-Nuts (Many Austin locations – closest: 2113-A West Anderson Lane) – founded in Houston. Many folks who grew up in Houston swear by Shipley’s and make the trek to West Anderson for a little taste of home. They offer up a traditional assortment of donuts and kolaches.

Destination Donut Shops

You have to drive to the next few donut shops, but the donuts make the trip worth it. One of these, a local legend, has been enticing people to travel to Round Rock for years. The others are relative newcomers, and all seek to provide donuts of an elevated level.

Round Rock Donuts (106 West Liberty Avenue, Round Rock, Texas) - No local list of donut shops would be complete without this one. Known for their slightly orange color, these donuts have been making people smile since 1926. Originally, they were orange because the eggs they used had bright orange yolks. Today, it’s common knowledge that there’s a bit of color added to keep the tradition alive. Even the Texas-sized donut (14 inches across) has the distinctive orange color. This store has become a local tourist attraction; many claim the donuts are worth the drive. Also, you can have their donuts delivered within the greater Austin Area for a \$25 courier fee (just make sure to order enough to offset that hefty delivery fee).

Voodoo Donuts (212 E. 6th Street) - This Portland import is known for selling unconventionally flavored donuts in as many colors as you can think of. They have donuts covered in crushed oreos, peanut butter, captain crunch cereal, Butterfingers, and even bacon! The store is also something to see, as they take pride in presenting their product in a very creatively decorated shop. I consider this a destination donut stop, perfect for a once-in-a-while trip or special occasion.

Gourdough’s Public House (2700 South Lamar) and Food Trailer (1503 A. 1st Street) – To say Gourdough’s takes it to another level is an understatement. The donut is a central offering at Gourdough’s. Gourdough’s Public House has a very large menu that includes sandwiches, burgers, entrees, desserts, and more, whereas the food Truck concentrates just on dessert. At the Public House, many of the entrees are built around a donut, including the sandwiches and burgers (which use a donut as the bun.) The big hit are the desserts, which range from simple to extravagant. One of the popular items is the appropriately named “Fat Elvis” which is a donut covered in house made peanut butter icing, grilled bananas, bacon, and drizzled honey.

Notable Mentions:

In the remaining limited space, here are a few more places to enjoy.

Mrs. Johnson’s Bakery - 4909 Airport Boulevard – known for great, late-night donuts – open from 8:45 pm to noon the next day.

Combo Donuts - 1509 South Lamar Boulevard – a reasonable, solid, no-nonsense local donut shop on South Lamar.

Bougies Donuts and Coffee - 5400 Brodie Lane, Sunset Valley – they have creative offerings such as the chocolate or strawberry Homer (just like his donut in the Simpsons, covered in sprinkles) and maple with bacon or chocolate with bacon.

Master Donuts - 6100 East Riverside Drive #103 – known for colorful and adorable creations that are full of sprinkles, frosting, and candy.

APD Expands Online Reporting Options

– *Connie Lundgren*

The Austin Police Department (APD) has expanded the options for citizens to file non-emergency police reports online. The website, www.ireportaustin.com, includes the following reporting categories:

- Assault
- Threats
- Burglary
- Criminal Mischief
- Fraud
- Harassment
- Incident Involving a Motor Vehicle
- Lost Property
- Theft

The online reporting tool provides an easily accessible and efficient platform for people to create a police report. There’s no need to wait for a call back from a non-emergency operator to take the report. Once the person filing the report (the complainant) chooses the appropriate category, they will answer a series of questions specific to the offense. From there, the APD Records Division will review the report for completeness and take one of the following actions:

1. approve the report,
2. send the report back to the complainant for more information, or
3. reject the report.

For more information, see the press release:

https://mailchi.mp/austintexas.gov/apd-news-release-apd-expands-online-reporting-options?e=a6efa3a0ef&utm_medium=getresponse&utm_source=getresponse&utm_content=Pilot+Reimagined+Police+Cadet+Academy+To+Start+in+June&utm_campaign=



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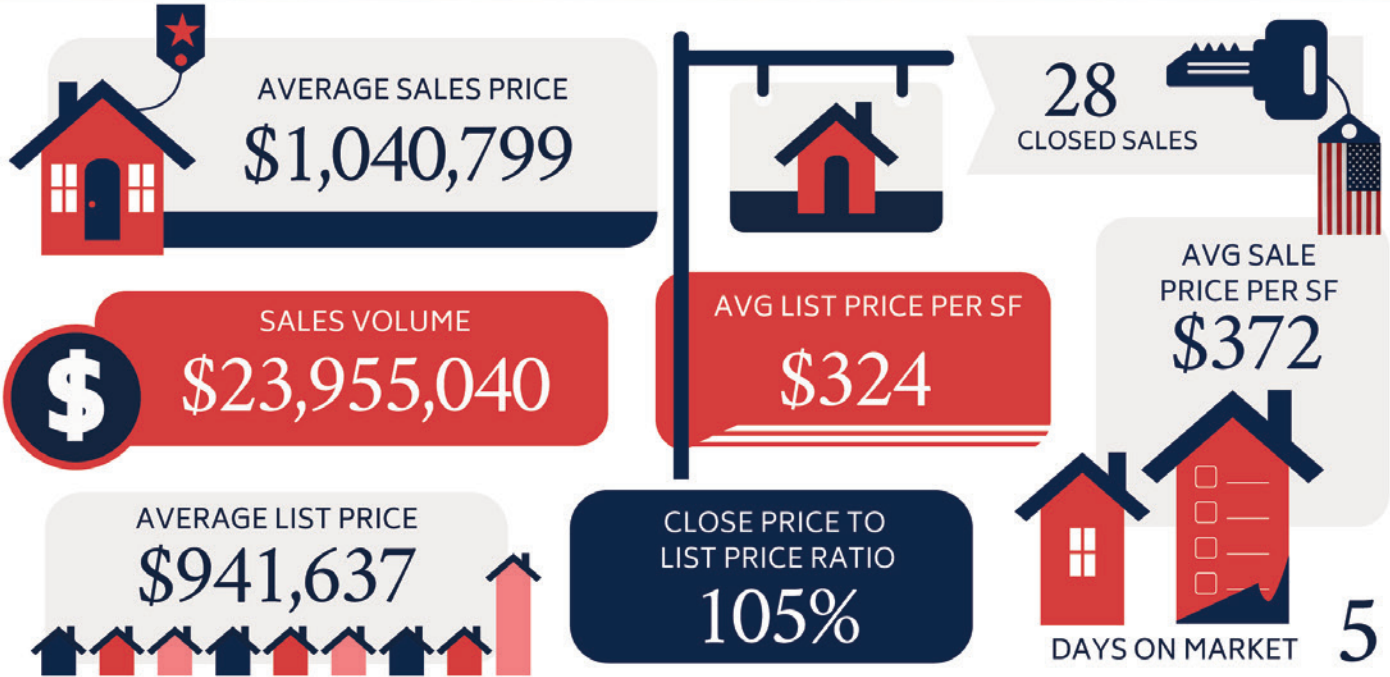
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NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET UPDATE



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM May 1-June 13, 2021 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON NWACA BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY 360/2222/HWY 183

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HAPPY 4TH AND THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED!

Horticultural Curiosities: Succulents - Jon Plum

Succulents come in many shapes and sizes, and they are an excellent addition to the garden as summer approaches. In Central Texas, container gardening can be a challenge in sunny conditions. Succulents provide an attractive and easy-to-maintain solution. Many succulents are cold sensitive. Growing them in containers allows them to be relocated to a protected spot for the colder winter months. Most succulents will tolerate low light and no care for periods of time.

Some people think of succulents as synonymous with “cactus,” but the botanical world of succulents is vast and complex. Many plant families have members that use the benefits of water conservation to solve environmental challenges. Living specimens are unique and varied. Here is a short list of some of my favorite families and a few examples. Some are common and some less so:

Cactaceae: There are over 1,700 species of cactus that are almost exclusively new world (occurring in the Americas only). From the Texas native hedgehog cactus and prickly pear species, to the mighty saguaro and the exotic night-blooming cereus, the world of cacti has something for everyone.

Crassulaceae: Hens and chicks and sedums (stonecrop) are two common examples from this family. Low growing with interesting blooms and foliage, they are great for mixed pots and dry-area ground cover.

Asphodelaceae: Aloe vera is a common example but there are many beautiful species of aloe, including the tree-like Aloe ferox with dramatic orange and black bloom spikes. The unusual Kumara or fan aloe is native only to Madagascar.

Asparagaceae: Did you know agaves and asparagus share a common ancestry? The large century plant and compact artichoke agave are two great species. This family also contains sansevieria (snake plant), a great solution for indoor and low light locations.

Apocynaceae: Desert rose or Adenium makes a showy flowering potted specimen. Stapelianthus and Tavaresia are genera found in Africa; they have interesting flowers and stems.

Euphorbiaceae: Many members of this family look like cactus but can be distinguished by the presence of true leaves (versus spines, which are modified leaves in the cactus family) and milky sap. Crown of thorns is a popular blooming member of this family.

ACORN / OAK DISEASE UPDATE: Thank you for the many responses to my March article regarding malformed acorns. After some

inquiry and research, the city arborist was able to help identify the issue. The disease is called “leafy oak gall” and it is caused by a small species of wasp called Andricus quercusfoliatus or leafy oak gall wasp (makes sense!). According to the city arborist, leafy oak gall poses no risk to the existing oak trees, but it is not clear how it affects the acorn specifically or the long-term impact of infestation.



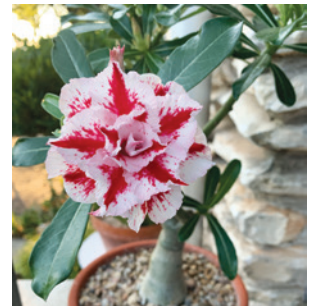
Aloe ferox blooms



Cactus flowers



Night blooming cactus



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Planning For Your Future Self - Carol Jones

You have a lot going on, and there are too many details to keep in your head. Planning for your "future self" is an easy way to stay more organized. You can anticipate lots of things your future self might forget. Here are some easy ways to set up a system ahead of time for communicating with yourself.

Sign up for reminders for recycle day.

Trash pickup day is easy to remember because it happens every week. It's harder to remember recycle pickup day, which happens every two weeks. You can sign up for text or email reminders from the City of Austin for your specific schedule, at <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/my-collection-schedule>. Your future self will never again have to wonder if this week is recycle week.

Create categories in your phone contacts list.

When you need a plumber or mechanic, you might not remember the specific company names in the ocean of alphabetized names in your Contacts. To group service providers, change the company name to start with a category. So instead of "Backup Bailers," or "Jack's Auto Service," edit the names to "Plumbers - Backup Bailers" and "Auto - Jack's Auto Service." Your future self will be able to find all the service providers in your phone list instantly.

Identify cords that come with your new electronic device.

You know that those cords are going to get separated from the device after you bring it home. When you open the box, label the cords that

come with it. You can use a label maker, or simply put the cords in a small ziploc bag and write the device name on the bag. Your future self will be very impressed with how smart you are.



Write the expiration date on cold medicine packages.

The expiration dates on medicine packages are often difficult to see. When you buy a new package, hunt for the date, and write it on the front of the package.

Continued on Page 10

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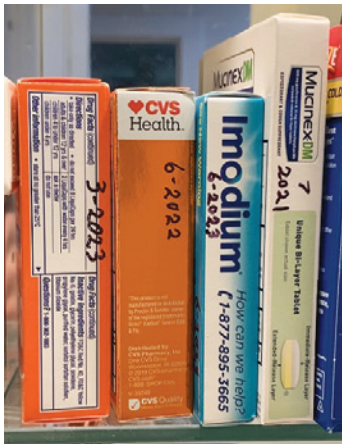
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Continued from Page 9



Later, your future stuffy, sick self will be grateful to know just how old that package is.

Put similar things together in your kitchen pantry.

For instance, if you have several bags of brown sugar, group them together on the shelf. That way, you can easily see how many you already have. When your future self makes a grocery list, you can look at your shelves and know what you don't need to buy.

Set reminders for free trial

expiration dates.

If you sign up for a free trial and then forget to cancel, your credit card may get automatically charged for something you do not want. Set a calendar or phone reminder for a few days before that expiration date. That will prompt your future self to decide whether to cancel the free trial in time.

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

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Being Firewise Incrementally

— Joyce Statz



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As we look at the lush green spaces drinking in all the June rainfall, we don't see the threat lurking beneath those green canopies and in our yards. Yet, as soon as the rain recedes and the hot sun returns, we'll be experiencing the development of wildfire fuel amidst the dead and down from the winter ice storm.

To harden your home and landscape, consider doing the essential tasks incrementally – perhaps one task each weekend until you finish. In the June issue of the Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division Newsletter, James Duff walks through the necessary steps. The newsletter is an enjoyable read, with his wry humor. Here, though, we boiled it down to the basics. The only tools you need are a ladder, some loppers, and trash bags.

- Remove whatever debris, leftover lumber, and other flammable materials in the zone from zero to five feet of your home.
- Ensure that whatever is on your deck is not flammable when you're not home to watch over it. Put items like cushions and pet beds inside the house if you leave for several hours or go on vacation during a period of high wildfire risk.
- Clean the gutters and roof at least twice a year, removing ball moss and other kindling.
- Ensure there's no flammable mulch next to the walls of your home; pebbles are best in the first 12-18 inches from the wall.
- Limb up trees and trim dead plant material in the zone from five feet to thirty feet from your home. Remove any ladder fuel under the trees.
- If you have wooden decks, stairs, or fences, be sure they have a fresh coat of stain or paint so that there are no nooks and crannies for fires to start.

See the whole Wildfire Division newsletter and read this guidance in more depth at <https://tinyurl.com/WildfireJune>

To get a copy of the Wildfire Division newsletter each month, email FireWildfire@austintexas.gov

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Understanding City Code: Street Banners

— Alan Carson

On Mesa Drive, close to Anderson High School, I sometimes see an over-the-street banner advertising a noncommercial or nonpolitical event, for example, “BUY CAMPFIRE BOYS COOKIES.” I have also seen vertical banners installed downtown on the sides of lampposts with messages such as “AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL CLOG DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP.” Austin allows event organizers, nonprofit groups, and public and governmental agencies to display street banners on City lampposts to promote charitable, educational, artistic, community, and public interest activities and events.

Street banners are a cost-effective, high impact means of engaging the public, promoting events, raising awareness, and communicating key messages. Over-the-street banners reach thousands of people daily on high-visibility roadways at specific locations throughout the city. There are three such locations in Northwest Austin. Lamppost vertical banners are installed on streetlight lampposts in defined districts downtown and around Austin. They make a big visual impact, where thousands of people see them each day.

One question that immediately comes to mind is ‘if I am approved for such a sign, do I have to climb a pole to install it?’ The answer is that the pole belongs to Austin Energy, who will install and subsequently remove the banner. For complete information on the street banner program, see www.atxbanners.org.

The fee for a lamppost banner is \$200 per pole for week 1 and \$100 per pole for subsequent weeks. For over-the-street banners, the fee is \$600 for a two-week period. All banners require approval by the city to verify that they are in accordance with the code. To help you locate vendors of such banners, the City website lists contact information for twelve experienced fabricators. Detailed specifications for each type of banner may be downloaded. If you are unable to find specific information on the website, contact information is included for both e-mail and telephone.

Drive a Senior, Please?

— Stephanie Lane

Have you ever been stuck at home for weeks with no transportation, wondering how you will get to the doctors or regularly access food? This is the reality of many Austin homebound seniors. According to the Texas Demographic Center, Texas has the third largest senior population in the country, and Travis County holds one of the largest population pockets of those seniors 65+. There are only about 1,600 seniors currently registered with a senior transportation agency in the county, even though up to 23% of all 127,395 seniors may be homebound. Austin’s aging population is projected to grow almost 100% in the next 20 years (Texas Demographic Center, 2018), setting an unprecedented need for more senior services, especially to those who are isolated and homebound.

Continued on Page 12



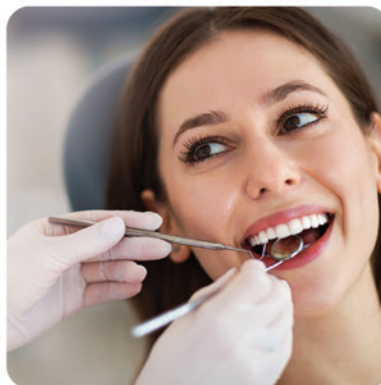
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Continued from Page 11

Drive a Senior-ATX has been providing free, volunteer-based transportation and other support services to seniors in Austin since 1985. They are dedicated to ensuring that no senior goes without access to healthy food or transportation to medical appointments.

This takes a lot of volunteers! Lately, they have seen a surge in new client registration and ride requests. Many older adults are fully vaccinated and want to resume tending to their health needs and going to the grocery store after a year of isolation. There has been a 99% increase in rides since May 2020 as seniors feel safe and are eager to experience normal life once again. Drive a Senior currently has too few volunteer drivers to keep up with the steady surge of requests.

Volunteer drivers are an essential part of the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” motto of Drive a Senior, a culture proven to help eliminate social isolation, declining health conditions, and food insecurities for homebound seniors. Volunteers build meaningful relationships with elderly adults while providing a vital service to the community. Coordination is done through a smartphone or computer, and schedules are flexible. Simply sign on to their platform, see what rides may fit within your schedule, and choose when and who you drive. It is great for those in retirement looking for regular interactions with neighbors, busy parents who only have a couple free hours a month, or college students whose schedules constantly change.

To learn more or to sign up as a volunteer driver, please visit www.driveasenioratx.org, call their main office at 512.472.6339, or email info@driveasenioratx.org. Orientation and training are done at your convenience online.

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PSA: Street Maintenance

– Austin Public Works Department



Austin Public Works is beginning seasonal street maintenance in neighborhoods around the city. With summer approaching, temperatures are suitable for surface treatments to be applied.

Residents can expect to see crews in neighborhoods through the early fall. These maintenance activities help preserve Austin's streets and extend their lifespan.

One of the more noticeable street applications taking place this summer is sealcoat. Sealcoat is a quick process involving spraying a layer of oil and spreading an asphalt material on top. Crews then sweep excess rock, and they may return to do additional sweeping if needed.

To help make this a smooth process, Austin Public Works is offering the following tips:

- Vehicles must be removed from streets scheduled for maintenance for two (2) days.
- Expect loose gravel once the work is complete. Some loose rock that remains on the road will settle into the new asphalt material with time.
- Avoid hard braking and sharp turning until the surface hardens to prevent flying gravel.

Please note that vehicles not removed prior to scheduled maintenance will be towed to a nearby street.

The sealcoat process results in a smooth surface eliminating the hairline cracks that lead to potholes.

The treatment must be done in warm, dry conditions, so the work is usually done between May and October as weather permits. On most streets, the treatment can be done in 30 minutes per lane, per block. Crews work during daylight hours from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekdays and on some weekends.

To see streets scheduled for maintenance and for more info, visit austintexas.gov/streetmaintenance

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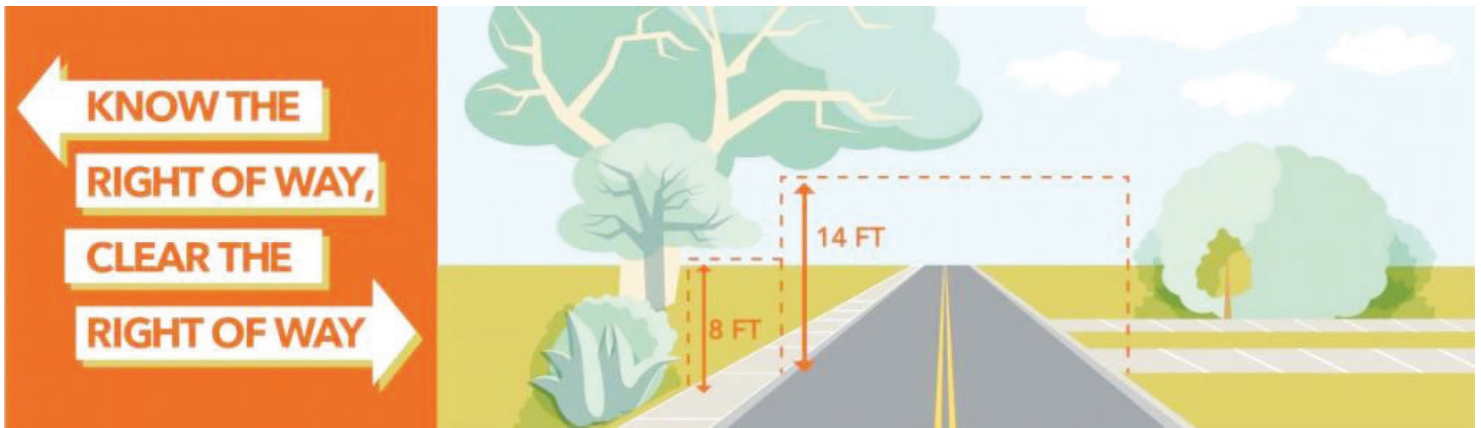


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PSA – Clear the Right of Way

– Austin Public Works Department

Austin Public Works is asking for your help in keeping streets and sidewalks clear of overgrown trees, vegetation, and obstacles such as cars, dockless vehicles, and trash carts. Both the City and residents share the duty of upkeep of the public right of way (ROW).

The ROW includes roads, alleys, sidewalks, trails, and also the strip of land about ten feet from the back of the curb or road edge to the private property line. Property owners are responsible for maintaining private trees that grow into the ROW. See City Code § 10-5-2 and § 6-3-21 for more information about these standards.

Requirements for keeping the right of way clear of cars, dockless vehicles, waste carts, and other obstacles can be found in § 14-9-1.

Maintenance of the right of way increases accessibility for all, and it also increases visibility for drivers and bikers, improving safety for all users.

Austin Public Works is asking that residents prune trees and vegetation to the following standards:

- Clear from the edge of the sidewalk and at least 8 feet above
- Clear from the edge of streets and alleys at least 14 feet above

It is estimated that the percentage of functional sidewalks in Austin could be doubled if residents followed these standards.

Remember, you can always report overgrown vegetation and debris that is blocking public right of ways by contacting Austin 3-1-1.

Learn more about the standards for vegetative maintenance at austintexas.gov/cleartherow

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Mosquito Repellents

– Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Mosquitoes are out in masses and since they are capable of disease transmission, it is important that you protect yourself when spending time outside. Of course, you can wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt in light colors to reduce the number of mosquitoes that can reach your skin when outside, but this is not always the option people choose with temperatures on the rise. Another option to protect yourself is repellent.

Repellent should only be applied to clothing and exposed skin; do not apply repellent underneath clothing! If you want to apply repellent to your face, spray your hands with repellent and rub it onto your face. Do not spray repellent directly into your face or near eyes or mouth. Make sure to apply repellent outdoors. Do not allow children to handle repellents and seek advice from a physician regarding insect repellent use for children under two years of age. Wash hands before eating, smoking, or using the restroom.

To reduce disease transmission from mosquitoes, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends using a product registered with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) containing one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-methane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone.

DEET, also known N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide or N, N-dimethylbenzamide, was developed by the U.S. Army in 1946 to protect soldiers in insect-infested areas. Pesticides containing DEET have been used by the public since 1957. Products containing DEET should not be used on children younger than 2 months of age (read the label and check with your pediatrician if you have questions). DEET has a slight odor and may have a greasy feel to some people. It may damage plastic, rubber, vinyl, or synthetic fabrics. DEET may be irritating to the eyes and skin for some people and comes in a wide variety of concentrations, so choose one that will work best for your situation.

Picaridin was first made in the 1980's and resembles a natural compound called piperine (which is found in plants used to produce black pepper). Picaridin has been used in Europe and Australia for many years but has only been in the U.S. since 2005. Picaridin is non-greasy and odorless.

IR-3535, or 3-[N-Butyl-N- acetyl]-aminopropionic acid, ethyl ester, was developed in the mid- 1970's and became registered for use in the U.S. in 1999. It is registered as a biopesticide by the EPA because it is functionally identical to a naturally occurring substance (an amino acid). It may dissolve or damage plastics and may be irritating to the eyes.

Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) and PMD (para-menthane-3,8-diol) are essentially the same thing; PMD is the synthesized (lab

created) version of oil of lemon eucalyptus. "Pure" or "essential" oil of lemon eucalyptus is not labeled as a repellent and has not undergone testing and should not be used as a repellent product. OLE/PMD has been on the market in the U.S. since 2002. OLE/PMD should not be used on children younger than 3 years of age. The natural product (OLE) has known allergens within it while the synthetic version (PMD) has less of a risk to allergens. This product is classified as a biopesticide. OLE/PMD has a varying range of residual, some offering about 20 minutes of protection while other products may last up to two hours.

The product 2-undecanone is also known as methyl nonyl ketone or IBI-246. It is a colorless oil that can either be produced synthetically or extracted from plants such as rue, cloves, ginger, strawberries, or wild grown tomatoes. This product is fairly new.

Many factors play into how long a repellent will last for a person. Some of these are:

- The concentration (or percent of active ingredient) of the product. You can find the percentage on the product label.
- Person's attractiveness. Some people are more attractive to mosquitoes than others (and no scientific research has proven that it is because of eating garlic, taking vitamin B, using tobacco products, etc.). A person's genetic code plays a large part on what makes a person so attractive to mosquitoes.
- Frequency and uniformity of application. In other words, how often is the repellent applied and how good of coverage did you get?
- Activity level of the person. The more active the person is, the more sweat they produce which can cause the repellent to wash off the surface of the skin.

As a word of caution, there are products that combine sunscreen and insect repellent. The CDC recommends that if you need sunscreen and repellent, that you choose two separate products. Sunscreen should be applied more often than repellents.

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

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Leaffooted Bugs

– Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Immature leaffooted bugs.



Adult leaffooted bug.

Leaffooted bug adults may be mistaken for stink bugs while the immatures may get confused with assassin bug nymphs. Leaffooted bugs are larger than stink bugs and have an elongated body. Often, leaffooted bugs have an expanded region on their hind leg that looks similar to a leaf, hence the name leaffooted bug. Adults are fairly large and grayish-brown. Immatures, or nymphs, look similar to adults, but are often reddish-orange in color and do not have fully developed wings.

Leaffooted bugs feed on a variety of fruits, nuts, and seeds, such as tomatoes, peppers, pecans, or sunflower seeds. They have piercing-sucking mouthparts with which they puncture fruit to suck out juices. The opening left behind after the mouthpart is withdrawn can allow access to secondary invaders like bacteria or fungus.

Leaffooted bugs can be managed by hand-picking (be sure to wear gloves if utilizing this method), using hand-held vacuums to suck the insects off the plant, or by treating the plants with pesticides. If choosing to use a pesticide, read the product label and make sure it can be used in the area you are treating, such as a vegetable garden.

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

Help Keep our Wildlife Wild!



NWACA advises residents to NOT feed wildlife. Many well-intentioned individuals do so out of concern for the wildlife they are feeding. However, intentional and unintentional feeding of wildlife attracts predators to the wildlife being fed. Additionally, an association with humans and

food contributes directly to habituated behaviors of animals like coyotes and feral hogs, which then become aggressive in pursuit of a food or prey attractant. Please eliminate food attractants from your yards for the safe enjoyment of our streets, parks and playgrounds for neighbors and pets.

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