



nwaca NEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2021

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 08

Together Again!

On July 4th, 2021, after more than a year of canceled or long-postponed ritual events, hundreds of NWACA neighbors donned their red, white, and blue; walked, biked, or scooted to the Mesa Plaza Randall's parking lot; and gathered to celebrate freedom, friendship, and community.

In early April, the NWACA board had, after a great deal of deliberation -- including exploring the feasibility of obtaining a city parade permit and reviewing the public health guidelines in place at that time -- reluctantly made the decision that our biggest-in-the-city, longest-running, incredibly popular 4th of July parade was not feasible this year.

But then something rather wonderful happened: science worked. And it worked pretty fast. The troubling COVID-19 case numbers that public health experts were tracking started to decrease. The City of Austin itself announced that the Austin Symphony July 4th Concert & Fireworks was returning to Vic Mathias Shores after a year's hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. As soon as Northwest Austin residents heard the news, our phones began to ring. With just slightly more than a month until July 4th, civic leaders like Adam Loewy, past NWACA parade chairs Amy Hajdu and Shannon Meroney, Lawn Chair Brigade member Ann Denkler and others contacted current NWACA board member and immediate past president Vicki DeWeese. "We may not be able to get a parade permit, but surely we can do something!"

A few hastily organized NWACA board calls later, and with an offer from Adam Loewy to co-fund a "really big post-pandemic party," the core group was off and running. They pulled together something special and sizeable in mere weeks. Led by the indefatigable Vicki DeWeese, who for a month maintained the posture of the 1970's version Wonder Woman spinning at light speed to change costumes, this ad hoc 4th of July Committee negotiated deals for on-premises food vendors, a band, face painters, balloon artists, stage and sound rentals, porta-potties, and myriad necessary things we mere event goers take for granted. (They even scheduled an antique air force flyover, but it ultimately had to be postponed due to cloudy skies.)

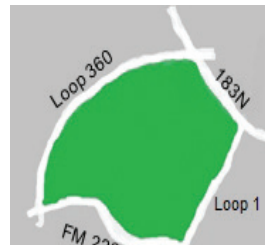
Despite moments during planning when people asked each other "Are we doing this on too short notice? Will people show up?", turnout was beyond anything planners had anticipated. It validated their sense that the community was ready to come together again. And despite the odd logistical bumps and lessons learned (like ditch the food tickets next time), a very good time was had by all. Check out the broad and beaming smiles in the many photos contained within this issue. Together again!

And, in the spirit of coming together, the NWACA board is proud to announce that we will host NWACA National Night Out the evening of Saturday, October 2nd from 6 - 8 pm at the Mesa Plaza Randall's parking lot. And we will be organizing the NWACA annual neighborhood garage sales scheduled for Saturday, October 23 from 8:00 am to Noon, with online registration starting September 15 and ending October 20.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

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

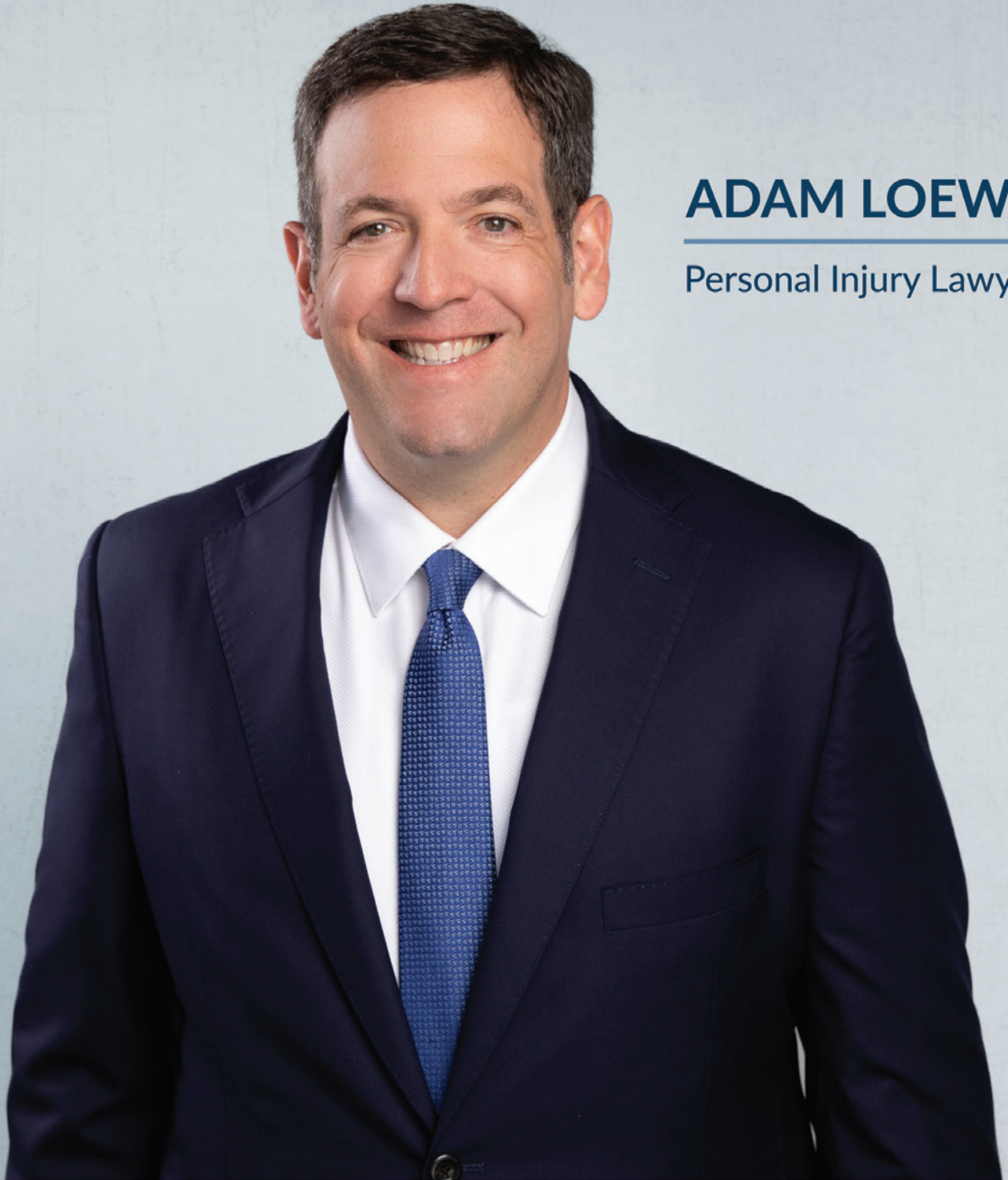
Injuries to Children

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:
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www.district10austin.com

2020-2022 NWACA Board of Directors

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| o Ben Luckens | |

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



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

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

September 14th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

NWACA Board Meeting

TBD, perhaps virtual

September 15th, 2021

Signup begins for Annual Garage Sales on October 23

NWACA web site

September 21st, 7:00pm

Parks Committee

TBD, perhaps virtual

September 22nd, 5:00pm

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees

Joint Meeting

TBD, perhaps virtual

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Thanks for the 4th of July Party!

– NWACA Board

While we couldn't have a parade this year, we had a fabulous 4th of July Party! The weather cooperated as hundreds of neighbors gathered in the parking lot near Randall's on Mesa Drive to celebrate. The Northwest Hills Lawn Chair Brigade and the band, Shotguns Ready, gave outstanding performances; our first responders were there in force with their officers' cars and fire truck; and there was lots of food. And, of course, there was candy!

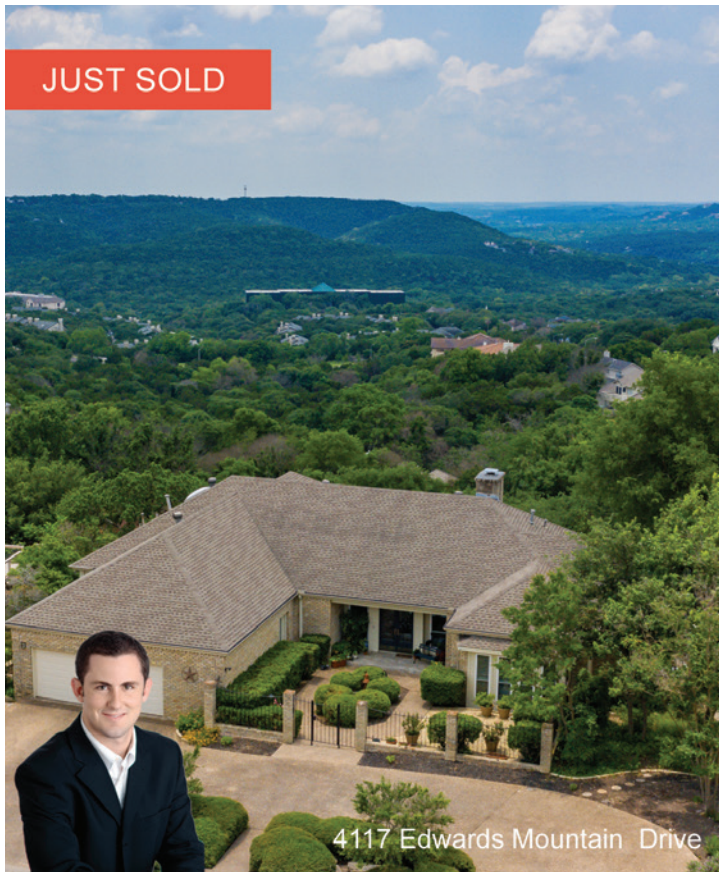
Thanks to everyone who made the party possible with just a few weeks of planning time.

- Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance: Jewish War Veterans Honor Guard
- First responders: Austin Fire Department, Pct. 2 Constable Adan Ballesteros and his team
- Food providers: Another Broken Egg, Tinney's BBQ, Tee's Donuts, Randall's, Sisters SnoShack, Fancy Fluff Cotton Candy, and a watermelon station courtesy of Dochen Realtors
- Lawn Chair Brigade: dozens of ladies in their patriotic finery and jazzed up chairs
- Games and displays: face painting, free t-shirts, cornhole and bean bag toss
- Costume contest for dressed up dogs, bikes and wagons, youth in

costumes, and adults in costumes: coordinated by Shannon Meroney

- Shotguns Ready (aka the Doss Dads Band!): Porter Wilson, Ryan Perry, Matt McCarty, Jason Markey
- Planning Committee: Adam Loewy, The DeWeese/Deshields Family, Amy Hajdu, Shannon Meroney, and Joyce Statz
- The NWACA Board, in particular: Carol Dochen, Charlie Galvin, Jessica Halich, Bridget Keating, Ben Luckens, Connie Lundgren, Robert Nash, Robyn Nunis, Julie Waidelich, and Anita Tulsiani
- Volunteers: Chris Currens, Sandy Dochen, Dianne and Greg Field, Claire Keating, Brewster McCracken, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Jewish War Veterans Honor Guard
- Watermelon Emeritus Sponsor (in absentia): The Honorable Judges John Lipscombe and Jan Breland for the use of their watermelon equipment
- Murchison Community Garden: Lauren Ward and her team with their garden produce
- NWACA Business Members: A+ Federal Credit Union, Austin Emergency Center, Austin Yard Cards, Dochen Realtors, Fancy Fluff, HEB, Journey Martial Arts, Meroney Public Affairs, Mesa Plaza, Ltd., Nest Properties, Randall's, and Shirley McPhail School of Dance

Photos continued on next page



Is the Real Estate Market Cooling Down?

AUSTIN UPDATE

The real estate market in Austin is not slowing down. We may be seeing fewer offers but they're just as strong as they have been in the last 12 months. Prices continue to increase at double digit rates in most neighborhoods and inventory is still at an all-time low. Ready to make the move? I have buyers looking in 78731 and comparable home sales ready to share with you. Ask me what your home could be worth in today's real estate market.

Brian Copland

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NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS MARKET UPDATE



AVERAGE SALES PRICE
\$1,298,919



29
CLOSED SALES



AVG SALE
PRICE PER SF
\$461

SALES VOLUME
\$37,668,656

AVG LIST PRICE PER SF
\$425

AVERAGE LIST PRICE
\$1,206,409

LIST PRICE to
CLOSED PRICE RATIO
109%

7
DAYS ON MARKET

SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM JUNE 1-30, 2021 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON NWACA BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY 360/2222/HWY 183

TOP 2021

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Thanks, BOPA Volunteers and Participants!

— Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee

Thanks to everyone who made our recent BOPA Plus Collection Event one for the record books! (You may remember that BOPA stands for batteries, oil, latex paint, and antifreeze and the Plus portion includes clean Styrofoam®, used toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, and floss containers, and used disposable razors, replaceable-blade cartridge units, and razor plastic packaging.) We had more than 140 households bring their paint cans, used motor oil and antifreeze, batteries, and lots of Styrofoam.

Our work could not be possible without the tireless energy and support of our volunteers including Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee members and NWACA Board members. Our deepest gratitude to everyone who braved the hot, steamy weather to support our organization and neighborhood.

If you missed the event, the City of Austin Reuse and Recycle Drop-Off Center is open by appointment only; appointments can be scheduled through their mobile app or online. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/recycle-reuse-drop-center>. They will accept much more than we were allowed to collect at our event, so fill your car up before you go.

We'll be back later this year with another collection event—maybe used electronics and Styrofoam—but we'll post more information as the event is planned. Hope to see you then!



Cleanup at Stillhouse Hollow was a Great Success!

Thanks to the NWACA area neighbors and the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) staff who helped clean up winter debris from Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve on June 26th. The February storm took quite a toll on the cedars in the preserve, so this crew pulled out a large quantity of branches and piled them up to be chipped by experts from PARD. Lots of mulch to come! Thanks, everyone!



Camp Tom Wooten

— Richard Denney

Dr. Goodall H. Wooten was a physician, philanthropist, and civic leader. In the early 1930s he was honored as “Austin’s Most Worthy Citizen.” Close friend of Lyman J. Bailey, who organized the first Boy Scouts troop in Austin in 1911, Wooten was active in supporting the organization. In 1934, Dr. Wooten purchased for \$5,000 a 125-acre site overlooking Bull Creek and presented it to the Boy Scouts of Central Texas for use as a scout camp. He had a well dug on the property and gave additional land and gifts for the camp that totaled more than \$20,000. These donations were the foundation for the campaign to construct cabins, buildings, and improvements for a first-class scout camp. The camp was named the Tom Wooten Scout Camp after Dr. Wooten’s only son who died in his youth.

Camp Tom Wooten was located on a peninsula with almost an island feeling, formed by a bend in Bull Creek that today is The Courtyard with street names like Tom Wooten Drive and Scout Island Circle. Here in Northwest Hills the street Lodge View Lane is likely a reference to the lodge at old Camp Wooten. Frank T. Hilton hosts the West Texas Scouting History website with information and photos of old Camp Tom Wooten. From his website:

“The most prominent feature on the camp was a log cabin with a dog run. In front of the cabin was the flag pole on a rock base. The log cabin, having two sides, over the years [was] used as an office, a First Aid Station, a Trading Post and sleeping quarters ... Many different activities and events were held at the camp. It was the site of Tonkawa Lodge, Order of the Arrow Inductions and Fellowships ... Junior Leader Training Weekends, and Scoutmaster’s Training.

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When the camp was new, the [Boy Scouts of America] National Aquatic School was held there."

The cabin's architecture, variously called dog-run, dog-trot, or double-pen saddlebag, consisted of two log cabins connected by a breezeway (the "dog-run"), all under a common roof. This architectural style was popular especially in the hot south, including here in Texas; popular examples are those at the LBJ National Historical Park in Johnson City.

The old log cabin was the first structure erected at Camp Tom Wooten ca. 1938. The cabin was moved from an area to be flooded with the completion in 1941 of the Mansfield Dam. It was disassembled and each log numbered to put back in proper order once transported to the camp.

Activities at Camp Tom Wooten included swimming, archery, and boating; there was a rifle range and evening programs were held around a campfire. Another scouting attraction was the Lonestar Trail that stretched from Camp Tom Wooten starting at the mouth of Bull Creek west to Mansfield Dam, a straight-line distance of 6 miles, but 15 miles along the shoreline of Lake Austin. The trail is thought to have been completed ca. 1950. "The first treks from Camp Tom Wooten included donkeys that carried the food and cook gear. The Scouts hiked the trail all the way to Mansfield Dam and back again ... They took two days to hike up to the dam and

two days to hike back." Each night scouts would stop at one of two Lone Star Trail kitchen shelters, establish camp for the night, and prepare supper. The next morning, after breakfast, they would break camp and continue their trek.

Camp Tom Wooten was in operation from 1934 until 1983, when it was sold to The Courtyard Tennis Center as part of Loop 360 construction. The old dining hall is now the main office of the Tennis Center; the flagpole still in place with a plaque saying "Donated by the Austin Kiwanis Club 1944." Money from the sale went into a trust, which in 1998 was used to help purchase Lost Pines Scout Reservation near Bastrop from the LCRA (Lost Pines had been leased from LCRA starting in 1967). And the old log cabin? It was moved to Lost Pines; a bit of Travis County history was preserved and has appeared in films such as *Two for Texas*, 1998, starring Kris Kristofferson.

I have talked with several men who were scouts at the camp in their youth and recall it with fond memories. The next time you are at County Line on the Lake (Bull Creek), sit on the deck and gaze across to the property on the other side and imagine what it must have been like to be a scout at Camp Tom Wooten when Bull Creek was still a remote paradise outside Austin.

Read more at <https://traviscountyhistorical.blogspot.com/2021/06/camp-tom-wooten-on-bull-creek.html>

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Back to “In-Person” School

— Teri Schock

After a year of spending time indoors and with our own families, students have finally been able to venture out, spend time with friends, and resume regular summer activities. From camp to vacations, it seems we all made up for lost time. Summer seems to have flown by.

All Austin ISD students will start back to school on August 17th; all students will return to in-person instruction. On the first day of school, all students will be welcomed by counselors who will be visible so that students are aware of who they can speak with as they transition back to on-campus learning.

At the end of this past spring semester, Austin ISD issued a survey regarding in-person learning. The survey results revealed clear support by families and staff for full on-campus instruction.

A majority of parents (64%) said they would not participate in virtual learning if offered next year; 12.75% of parents said they would use a virtual option and 23% said they might opt-in.

Only 14% of teachers said they would adopt remote learning for their own children as opposed to 64% who said they would not use the virtual option and 20.9% who may use it.

In the last week of the 2020-2021 school year, about 63.5% of elementary students, 34.5% of middle school students, and 9.16% of high school students attended school in-person. With the change to on-campus only learning, tens of thousands of students will be back in a school building for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

In May, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, issued an order making masks optional on all public school campuses, but Austin ISD is strongly encouraging anyone who is unvaccinated to wear a mask while on campus.

For further details see www.AustinISD.org/announcements

Horticultural Curiosities: Grasses

— Jon Plum

Ornamental grasses are common in our Central Texas landscape these days. The pink plumes of Gulf Coast Muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) are a common addition to highway landscapes and home gardens. Mexican Feathergrass (*Nassella tenuissima*) reseeds readily and becomes a great filler in low landscapes. There are highly variable and popular varieties of the African species of maiden grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*). The king of ornamental grasses, bamboo, is sold in many forms and grown in Central Texas with mixed results.

As recently as the 1980s, it was not common to see ornamental grasses in Texas; or, in fact, in most places. Landscapes of the era were dominated by rigid, geometric designs. Most were rows of hedges flanked with annual color and a tree in the middle. Some horticulturalists moved toward more natural and diverse solutions for landscapes. One Los Angeles-based plant pioneer was interested in turf grass that required little or no water to survive.

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Did You Know...

NATIONAL ALIGN YOUR TEETH DAY

is Wednesday, August 11?

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Continued from Page 11



Little Zebra Grass

Water is an issue for Southern California and this grower sought a solution. Ultimately, this quest led John Greenlee to put the grass family in the landscape spotlight and he became well known as “The Guru of Grasses.” John helped proliferate and popularize ornamental grasses during the

1990s by publishing his book *The Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses*, which is still available for purchase. More recently, his book *The American Meadow Garden* provides a new take on how we view space like lawns in the garden.

Today John is a grower and consultant. Internationally recognized, he has completed projects all over the world. If you have ever been to the Getty Museum in California or the savannas at Walt Disney’s Animal Kingdom in Florida, you have seen some of John’s designs.

Ornamental grasses have many benefits. They tend to be drought tolerant and pest free, tolerating blistering sun and cold weather alike. They come in a variety of sizes, colors and textures, and they change form throughout the year. Some can be planted individually as an interesting single specimen and others are planted en masse.

A few of my favorites for Austin:

Japanese bloodgrass (*Imperata cylindrica*): A cool season spreading grass - it needs some afternoon shade, rich soil, and regular watering.

***Miscanthus sinensis* “Morning Light” maiden grass:** This larger clumping grass is late to start in the spring and has a great presence as it matures.

Mexican feathergrass (*Nassella tenuissima*): I love this grass as a filler in natural gardens. It is banned in Australia as an invasive species and a threat to the wool industry.

***Miscanthus sinensis* “Little Zebra”:** This dwarf zebra grass has great structure and color.

Inland sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*): A Texas native perfect for dry, shady spots under trees.

***Pennisetum alopecuroides* “Little Bunny”:** Collected, grown, and popularized by John Greenlee himself, this low growing favorite is a wonderful filler and ground cover.

Enjoy your time in the garden! Poaceously yours, Jon Plum



Reseeding grasses



Neurologists studying the effects of playing music tell us it’s the only activity that lights up all parts of the brain at once, a finding that probably would not have surprised Albert Einstein. He was an avid violinist and pianist and played banjo and guitar as well. In fact, he said, “If I were not a physicist, I would probably

be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music.”

Einstein talks about his discovery by intuition, music being “the driving force behind that intuition. My discovery was the result of musical perception.” But you and your child don’t have to be Einsteins to enrich your lives with a musical instrument. For everyone, this brain-brightening experience of learning to play can spark intuition and inspire imagination. It gives the satisfaction of constant self-improvement while fostering patience, persistence, effective problem solving, and efficient study habits.

The late Dr. Amanda Vick Lethco lived in our neighborhood. She co-wrote the Alfred Piano Library, a comprehensive series that starts with sitting on the piano bench if your feet don’t yet reach the floor and expands to playing Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata. For many decades, her series was the world’s bestselling piano method and is still used around the world today. Look in your piano bench and you may find some of her books.

Admired by her pedagogy students at UT, “Panda” was most loved by the handful of private students she was able to make time for. Often starting at age 6 or 7 and ending when they left for college, her students held her in their lives: her invitations to their subsequent graduations, weddings, and baby showers were many.

If you’re thinking about lessons, the start of the school year is an ideal time to begin. There’s rarely a wait to sign up at a commercially run music school: there’s a higher student dropout rate than with private teachers, and much of the teaching staff is college students. On the other hand, some of the well-established, private teachers in our neighborhood who have traditionally had waiting lists, may have openings now as a result of the slowdown due to Covid-19.

If you’re looking for one of these highly experienced private teachers, you might inquire at the Austin Symphony or Strait Music and of course ask for recommendations from students who play well and enjoy their classes.

Meanwhile, with summer winding down, the Huffington Post published an interesting study on how reading to our children changes their brain waves. It further supports the American Academy of Pediatrics which “has long been outspoken about the importance of reading at home through infancy and early childhood, arguing that it can improve language skills, foster literacy development, and help with other less tangible qualities.”

Another Einstein quote comes to mind. “If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.”

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Lots of fairy tales, yes, but in Bern, Switzerland, where Einstein lived at the time, children were being prepared to enter the workforce at age fourteen so probably needed to balance their lives with fantasy. Perhaps for today's Austin children, in addition to lots of fairy tales, some non-fiction read by a parent would be inspiring.

My favorites are the DK Eyewitness Books, 153, published by Penguin Random House. For the young child, it's fascinating to sit with mom and dad and look at the photographs that fill every page. Gradually we all want to read the captions and finally, our interest is piqued enough to read the whole text. Topics range from insects to dinosaurs, from fossils to space exploration, from sharks to earthquakes.

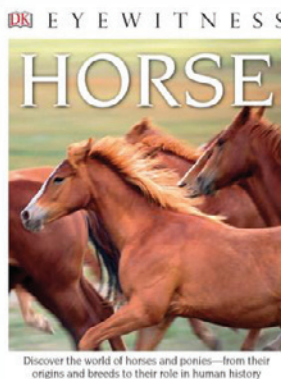
And a little tip for encouraging your six- to nine-year-old child to read: share jokes with the family and then leave children's joke books out where they can find them. I've never seen kids work harder than when they're trying to be funny. (And be sure to laugh at their jokes no matter what they've morphed into.)

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/science-proves-reading-to-kids-changes-their-brains_n_55c26bf4e4b0f1cbf1e38740

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/07/21/the-science-of-why-music-improves-our-memory-and-verbal-intelligence/>

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Gourmand's Corner: Guide to Dining at Austin FC's Q2 Stadium

– Chris Hajdu

Q2 stadium, the home of Austin FC, offers food with a distinctly Austin flavor. Chosen by 512 Food Co. (a partnership between Austin FC and hospitality group Levy), the array of local vendors includes Bao'd Up, Casa Chapala, DoubleDave's Pizzaworks, Easy Tiger, Mmmpanadas, One Taco, Pluckers Wing Bar, Slovacek's, Tamale Addiction, Tacodeli, Taco Flats, T-Loc's Sonoran Hot Dogs, and Valentina's Tex Mex BBQ.

Some highlights from this group follow.

Valentina's Tex Mex BBQ – offers smoked pulled pork sandwiches with house habanero barbecue mustard sauce, the El Rey sandwich with brisket, pulled pork, and sausage, and the sliced brisket taco on a flour tortilla with verde sauce. They also offer mesquite-smoked baby back ribs before kickoff (sure to sell out quickly). This vendor is located near Section 134; ready-to-go BBQ Brisket Sandwiches are available in Section 104 (ATX MRKT) and Section 127 (Austin City Goods).

T-Loc's Sonoran Hot Dogs - I have written about T-Loc's many times before and can't forget about them now. Located near Section 119, they offer bright green buns for their traditional Sonoran hot dogs.

Bao'd Up - serving amazing bao (fluffy steamed dumpling) stuffed with brisket, chicken, pork, or a vegetable mix near Section 118.

DoubleDave's Pizza – Having lost our neighborhood DoubleDave's last year, I was glad to hear that pepperoni rolls would be available, along with large slices of cheese and pepperoni pizza. Located near Sections 105 and 123.

TacoDeli – serving their famous Frontera Fundido tacos (chicken or sirloin), bean and cheese tacos, and their famous salsas near Section 122.

Slovacek's – The Czech shop from West, Texas has ring bologna, jalapeno poppers, kolaches, and an exclusive stadium-only green chile and smoked gouda sausage near Sections 118 and 123.

Easy Tiger – serving their famous giant soft pretzel with beer cheese and/or grain mustard at stands near Sections 108 and 127 and the Beer Hall in Section 200.

The **Austin Table**, a collaboration with Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts, will host a rotating vendor to showcase food from local minority-owned businesses, while providing on-the-job training for culinary students. Restaurants showcased so far include Otoko and Nixta Taqueria.

Continued on Page 15



NWACA National Night Celebration on October 2, 2021

– Connie Lundgren

Following on the heels of a spectacular July 4th celebration in the Randall's parking lot, we're pleased to announce our next big celebration, our third NWACA National Night Out! This event brings the community together with our law enforcement officials to show our support, learn how we can engage in local programs to help keep our community safe, get reacquainted with our neighbors, build comradery, and push back against crime. This year's event will be on Saturday, October 2nd from 6 PM to 8 PM.

National Night Out is celebrated on a national level on the first Tuesday in August, but in Texas we have chosen to celebrate in October, hoping for cooler weather.

Details for the event are beginning to take shape. We promise a bigger and better event than ever, so please mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

Continued from Page 14

Moreover, there are stadium-specific restaurants, stands, and markets. Among them is Queso Fountain, specializing in that life-giving substance Austinites know and love. They feature three different queso recipes as well as margaritas!

Other stadium-specific options include Grilllove and Oak Hill Grill (smash burgers, fries, and chicken tenders), Eastside Eats and Munchies (nachos, chili dogs, Bavarian pretzels, and sausages from Slovacek's), and El Mercado (ready-to-go food from Mmmpanadas, TacoDeli, and Tamale Addiction).

Two grab-and-go markets, ATX MRKT and Austin City Goods, located roughly at opposite ends of the stadium, resemble convenience stores, with a variety of beverages and snacks (self-checkout available). These markets also carry local beer from Austin Beer Works, Real Ale, Adelberts, Zilker Brewing, 4th Tap and more!

Speaking of beer, there is also a massive beer hall (appropriately named the Beer Hall) on top of the north end of the stadium. The Beer Hall opens early, so it's a great place to get out of the heat, have a beverage and snack, and wait for the gates to open.

I hope you can get to the stadium soon to take in a match and try the food. Just make sure not to sample it all in one visit, or you might end up with an upset stomach!



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Eliminate Ladder Fuels – Joyce Statz



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that is truly dead and barren and think about replacement plants. Be sure your new plants that are both cold and drought tolerant, since we're likely to see wide swings in weather in the coming years.

Some of the dead plants in the neighborhood, as well as many of the live ones, are located under trees. When this vegetation is nearly continuous from the ground into the trees, we in wildfire prevention circles refer to it as "ladder fuel." Such fuel is very dangerous during hot and dry seasons, when the leaves and brush near the ground are likely to be especially lightweight and dry. If embers from a nearby fire should land there, such kindling starts a fire than can easily climb up the ladder and cause a tree to be damaged, or in the worst case, to start a crown fire among a group of trees clustered near each other.

Looking around the neighborhood, we still see evidence of the February freeze in the dead bushes and trees, as well as in trees that are slowly putting out green leaves and new branches. It's time to remove the vegetation

When considering what to plant under a tree, note that while a plant is on fire, its flame length can be three times the height of the plant. Thus, ground cover under a tree should be just that – ground cover.

Eliminating ladder fuels not only minimizes the risk of fire but also minimizes the competition for moisture with those trees. In our area, we see many yaupon growing under oak trees – a classic case of ladder fuel competing for scarce resources, especially during our dry seasons.

The July newsletter of the Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division goes into great length on ladder fuel as well as many other terms related to wildfire fuels. It describes how fuel moisture is measured and how that measurement helps professionals determine the current wildfire risk level. It also addresses the myths and the truths about the very prevalent Ashe Juniper in our landscapes and green spaces.

See the entire Wildfire Division July newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/WildfireJuly>. To get a copy of the Wildfire Division newsletter each month, email FireWildfire@austintexas.gov. To see the current wildfire risk level throughout Texas, go to www.nwaca.org and click on Today's Wildfire Danger Rating in the Hot Topics segment of the home page.



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Understanding City Code: Public Consumption of Alcohol

— Alan Carson

According to the city code, people in Austin can't carry open alcohol containers in some portions of the city. There is no general statewide prohibition on public consumption of alcohol in the Texas Penal Code, but the State law does permit cities to restrict public consumption of alcohol in areas defined by their codes. In Austin, code 4.9.1 defines six such areas, which include downtown, an area east of I-35, Lady Bird Lake, an area around East Riverside Drive, and another around Montopolis. If you look at these areas on a map, you will notice a large part of town not included in these restricted areas: the west side of Austin.

Our city council recently approved a resolution to lift some of the prohibitions on public drinking. This will end a double standard for east side residents who haven't had the same rights as most of their neighbors on the other side of I-35.

According to the city code, people in Austin can't carry open alcohol containers through the nightlife districts, such as Sixth Street from I-35 to Brazos Street. These laws prevent patrons from leaving bars with unfinished drinks, as is common throughout an open carry city like New Orleans. Why should there be any partiality towards Sixth Street? For one thing, it is one of Austin's leading tourism drivers, and has a taxable base on a per-acre basis of 28 times that of the city as a whole.

There is a plethora of information about open carry of alcohol on the internet; just search for "open container alcohol Austin" with your web browser. You can find the specific city code at "Austin Municode 4.9.11," which in turn references code 4.9.1 to define the restricted areas.

The information provided here does not concern open carry of alcoholic beverages in vehicles.

Drive a Senior, Please?

— Stephanie Lane



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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.

Continued on Page 18

Special Thanks to Members

— Membership Committee

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the 4th of July Parade Fund, the Park Fund, and the Constable Fund, between April 15, 2021 and July 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.

- Joyce and Wesley Campbell
- David and Alison Fuller
- Diana Gilbert
- Allen and Mary Hill
- Andrew and Christina Knowlton
- Valerie Laubacher
- Jean Miller and Bill Christensen
- Karen Salmanson
- Glenda Smith
- Eileen Steinberger
- Mary Ellen Sullivan
- (and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)

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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.

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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"I cannot say enough about my positive experience with Dawn Lanier as my listing agent. I think the price she got for my property set a new pricing level in my neighborhood. That's pretty epic in Northwest Hills.

Dawn was referred to me by a mutual friend. I interviewed other agents, and when I interviewed Dawn I knew she was the right person for the job. My property is in a highly competitive, sought after neighborhood and after living here 20 years and raising my children it was time to move on.

During my first meeting with Dawn, I knew she was the right fit for me. Besides having many things in common, it was clear that Dawn is a talented sales person and Real Estate expert. In the current crazy market situation, I felt completely at ease trusting Dawn with marketing, negotiating and selling my property.

Dawn successfully navigated me through getting my house ready to go on the market. Ultimately, I never even went on the market and Dawn helped me navigate multiple pre-market offers. She skillfully negotiated these offers, and I received well over the asking price that we were planning to list.

Without Dawn, I may have received multiple offers but her negotiation skills nailed down an amazing deal that could not have been achieved with just any agent. Dawn's attention to detail, knowledge of the Austin Market and superior negotiation skills are top notch. Her response time is immediate no matter what.

Her professionalism is unmatched. I recommend Dawn to anyone Selling or Buying in the Austin Market!"

- Chris McCormick



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