



nwaca NEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2022

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

From the Board *Happy New Year!*

The NWACA Board would like to wish all of you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. We'd like to thank all those who participated in NWACA's second annual holiday lights and décor contest. The all-volunteer judging committee was wowed by each participant's creativity, passion, and ingenuity in bringing smiles to everyone during the holidays. Photos of this year's top three displays are featured inside.

While 2021 continued to be a frustrating year for the NWACA Board and its inability to schedule some of our popular traditional events, it was busy and productive none-the-less. We thought it might be informative and helpful to look back at some of our organization's work on behalf of the community over the past year.

With hard work and collaboration between a key group of volunteers led by former NWACA President Vicki DeWeese and business sponsors such as the Loewy Law Firm (and many others), NWACA was able to host an incredibly successful, well-attended (and much needed) 4th of July celebration in lieu of our long-standing, best-in-town parade.

NWACA organized the annual neighborhood wide garage sales, hosted several recycling events for members, and made a desperately needed donation to help replace the battered, leaky, decades-old Anderson High School Trojan Band trailer. The shiny new trailer sits proudly along Steck Avenue when not traveling to games or competitions.

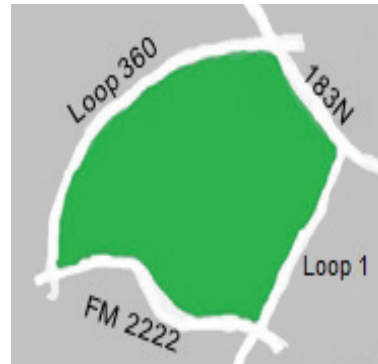
What's more, NWACA's committee members have remained busy advocating for important issues affecting our neighborhood.

- Our Transportation Committee has been monitoring road construction projects throughout the area and reporting on those in our newsletter and on our web site. It has kept tabs on City of Austin programs that impact our area, such as the Vision Zero program (see articles in December's and the current newsletter) and reported about the 25 MPH speed limit signs now posted in neighborhood side streets. It recently asked the Austin Transportation Department to improve the signage around our school crosswalks, responding to reports of near auto-pedestrian collisions involving school crossing guards. When the signage project is complete, we'll cover it in the newsletter.

- Our Zoning Committee is a strong neighborhood advocate at City Hall. We had direct input into the Land Development

Continued on Page 3

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!
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Key Contacts

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To check status, go to: <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/myaustincodestatus>
APD District Representative,
Officer Darrell Grayson...512-974-5242
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter.....512-978-2110
Enroll in the District 10 monthly newsletter:
.....district10@austintexas.gov
.....www.district10austin.com

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**Each of the Board Members can be reached at
info@nwaca.org, or by phone at 512-920-2973**

The NWACA Board meets on the 3rd Wednesday 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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Continued from Cover

Code change process and continue monitoring the matter. This year it worked on two significant cases in the neighborhood – the Luby’s project and changes at the Mesa Plaza shopping center (near Randall’s). Committee members got significant zoning concessions from Ardent Development regarding their multi-family housing project at the Luby’s site with respect to height, building materials, and signage and agreement that their fee-in-lieu for parks will be retained for use in the NWACA area. Ardent Development also agreed to install a Northwest Hills sign at that corner of the neighborhood. Working with the Mesa Plaza owner who pursued zoning changes so that a new swim center can be built, the committee was able to keep the current standards for height (no more than three stories), impervious cover, and floor-to-area ratio; also, it was able to intervene when City of Austin staff made a significant error in its recommendation.

- Several years ago, NWACA sponsored the Austin Oaks charrette and gained neighborhood parkland, park funding, traffic improvements, a high level of development standards, and concessions regarding height and uses. We continue to monitor that site, awaiting the time when any of the planned new building construction is set in motion; to date, the new owner has been content to renovate the existing properties.

- Our Wildfire Prevention Committee participates in the Austin Area Firewise Alliance, which has successfully advocated for increased funding for wildfire mitigation funds in the next City of Austin budget.

- One of our Board members participated in multi-neighborhood oversight of tree trimming by Austin Energy. Austin Energy has committed to a two-year ramp-up to eliminate tree overhangs near power lines, which had contributed to power outages during the February 2021 freeze.

We have welcomed several new board members and volunteers to NWACA in recent months. We’re always looking for more people willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved in making our neighborhood even safer and a more beautiful place to call home. And for those who don’t have the time to serve, we appreciate your financial support through your annual dues, for which we pass the hat – electronically course – in January. So, thank you for your continued support. Write us to share what issues you’d like us to consider focusing on in 2022 and beyond. And if you know a neighbor who isn’t aware of NWACA, feel free to share with them your copy of this newsletter or invite them to check us out at www.nwaca.org.



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

January 16, 2:00pm

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife
Committee

Virtual

January 18, 7:00pm

Parks Committee
Virtual

January 19, 6:30pm-8:30pm

NWACA Board Meeting
Virtual

January 25, 5:00pm

NWACA Zoning and
Transportation Committee
Virtual

Feb 15, 2:00 pm

Parks Committee
Virtual

Feb 16, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

NWACA Board Meeting
Virtual

Feb 22, 5:00 pm

NWACA Zoning and
Transportation Committee
Virtual

Great Response to Electronics Recycling –

NWACA Board

We were delighted to see 129 households participate in our December 4, 2021, Electronics and More Recycling Event. As you can see in the photo, there was a lot of Styrofoam®! Did it all fit in that one truck? Nope! Joanie Arrott had to make a second run to Austin Resource Recovery's Recycle and Reuse Dropoff Center, after taking this packed truck load.

We look forward to doing another recycling event in about six months, this time focused on batteries, oil, paint, and antifreeze, plus more Styrofoam® and other hard to recycle materials. So, save up the packaging that doesn't go into your regular blue bins and join us next time. (Be advised that some foam can't be handled by even the Recycle and Reuse Dropoff Center; if the foam is encased in plastic or if it has a shiny plastic coating, it can't be recycled.)



Recycling Reference Sites

– Public Service Announcement

Do you have something you want to dispose of, hoping it's recyclable? Here's where to find out:

City of Austin web page that lets you enter the item you're wanting to check: <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/what-do-i-do-0>

Site with many ideas about what can be recycled, as well as a search option for how and where to recycle various things: <https://earth911.com/>

What to do with Christmas lights and many other things: <https://www.treehugger.com/how-to-recycle-christmas-lights-4867417>

Do you wonder what can go into your cart of compostable items?

Introduction video: <https://tinyurl.com/greenbinvideo>

Composting Guide: <http://www.austintexas.gov/compostingguide>



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Congratulations, Holiday Lights Contest Winners!

NWACA Board



First Place



Second Place

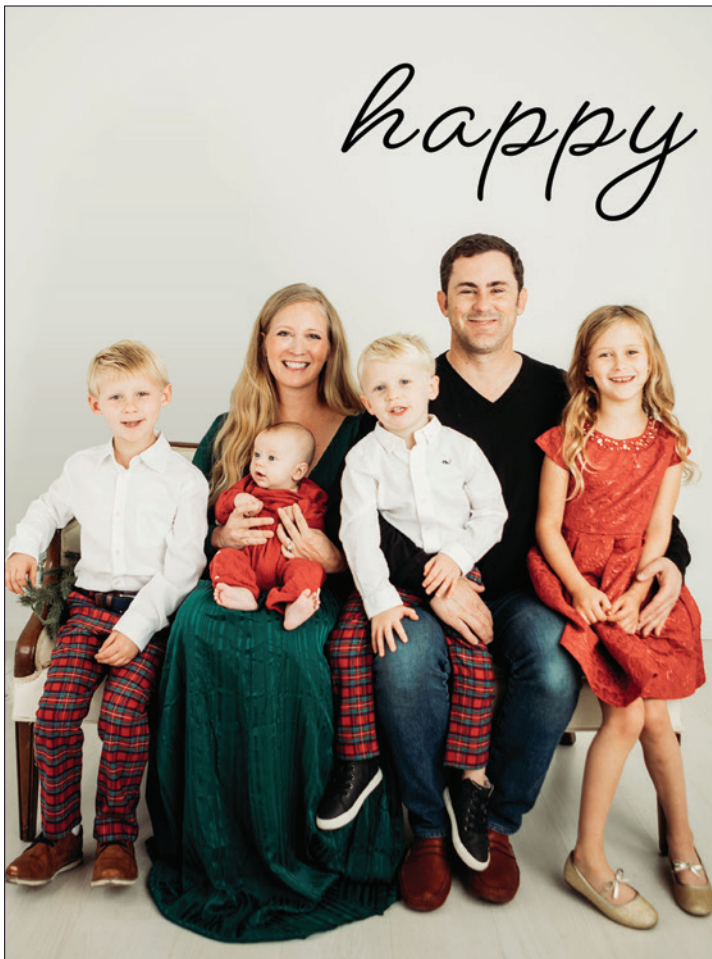


Third Place

On December 14th, a NWACA Board sub-team led by former Treasurer Robyn Nunis, traveled the streets of NWACA looking for fantastic lights. They found lots of good candidates, deciding that these three yards deserved the prizes:

1st Place - 4300 Walhill Lane
2nd Place - 7201 Running Rope Circle
3rd Place - 8420 Adirondack Trail

From the photos can you tell if you saw these during the holiday season?
We'll do it again next year, so start planning your display for the competition.



happy

HOLIDAYS



Last year, I celebrated my 20th year in real estate, won Platinum Top50 REALTOR®, received ABJ's Top 30 REALTOR® award, and sold \$70M in home sales. For a 2nd year in a row, I ranked as the highest producing individual REALTOR® at Realty Austin. In 78731, my sales continued to grow to a new level because of my loyal friends and neighbors.

Thank you for supporting my business and trusting me with your referrals. Wishing you all the best in the New Year from our family to yours in Northwest Hills!

Brian Copland

2022 PT50 Winner, Realty Austin's #1 REALTOR®
in 2021, and ABJ's Top 30 REALTOR® in 2020
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NWACA News

Data about Vision Zero

— PSA from Austin Transportation Department

While traffic volumes are slightly down when compared to a year ago, fatalities on the roads have increased in Austin, reflecting a trend that is happening across the nation.

Through early October, there were more than 90 traffic fatalities in Austin, up approximately 30% from the same period in 2020 and 37% from the same period in 2019. However, the total number of combined fatalities and serious injuries resulting from traffic crashes are down from before the pandemic—from approximately 510 in early October 2019 to approximately 490 in 2021. [Editor's note: Checking the data available mid-December as we went to press, there were 108 fatalities as of November 26, 2021.]

Speed is the primary factor that determines crash severity, which is why ATD's Vision Zero team is focused on delivering projects with safer designs and an emphasis on appropriate speeds for safe outcomes. Using 2016 Austin Mobility Bond dollars, 12 intersection safety projects have been completed with 18 more in early stages of planning and design from 2018 and 2020 bonds.

Editor's note: The numbers change frequently, so the totals for fatalities from crashes in Austin will undoubtedly be higher than the November number cited above. To see the latest statistics and a map viewer of crash locations, visit the City of Austin web site for Vision Zero at <http://www.visionzeroatx.org/>

Time to Renew your NWACA Membership

— NWACA Board

Several years ago, to make it easy to remember when to renew NWACA memberships, January 1st was established as the renewal date for all members. People can join throughout the year, but dues paid in a given calendar year cover just that year. Thus, it's time now for each of us to join or renew our memberships in NWACA.

In 2021, the NWACA Board voted to return to having household memberships, rather than individual memberships. That is, each household pays dues of \$25, and those dues cover the membership of all adults in the household. Each household has one vote in Board elections. Any adult in the member household may be in the NWACA Facebook group and may also sign up for the NWACA Notes weekly email news.

Renewal notices will be sent out in mid-January. Email notices will go to all who have current email addresses in the membership database. Notices will be mailed to those without current email addresses. Where more than one adult in a household is in our database, each adult will get a renewal notice unless they have already renewed. Please coordinate in the household to decide which person will do the renewal. If you think that you've already renewed for 2022, you can confirm that online by using the green Membership button at the top of the home page, then selecting the "Make a Payment (Join or Renew)" option. When you specify your email address, you'll be sent a login link in your email. Use that link to sign in and review the date on which your membership expires.

While you can join or renew either online or by U.S. mail, we prefer that you do it online. That minimizes the chance of postal issues, and the online system provides you a way to automatically renew.

If you encounter any issues with renewing your membership, please contact us at info@nwaca.org.

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\$27,730,000
SALES VOLUME



\$493
MEDIAN LIST PRICE PER SF



\$451
MEDIAN SALE PRICE PER SF



\$1,075,000
MEDIAN LIST PRICE



5 DAYS
DAYS ON MARKET



21
CLOSED SALES



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM NOVEMBER 1-30, 2021
FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON NWACA BOUNDARIES:
MOPAC/HWY360/2222/HWY 183

NEW YEAR | NEW HOME



Real estate sales in Austin remain very strong with historically low interest rates, strong in-migration, and a thriving local economy. These factors will continue to drive demand for housing in 2022. More than ever, it's critical to have a seasoned professional on your side to help you navigate this market and guide you every step of the way!

If you are ready for a new home this year, CALL JULIE.

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Business Spotlight: Bleu Nail Café - Janice Green

Tucked in the corner of the small shopping area at Hyridge and the South Mopac frontage road is the Bleu Nail Café – the culmination of Taneil McKelvey's 26 years-experience as a nail stylist. The sound of traffic is muted, muffled, mesmerizing in this serene setting.

Born and raised in Austin, Taneil landed in Northwest Hills five years ago, drawn here by the number of her clients residing in our neighborhood. From early on in her career, Taneil visualized her business name on a building. Those imaginings came to fruition.

Taneil provides a range of wholistic nail care for hands and feet, which are the parts of us that we often ignore but rely on the most. She is her own chemist and makes the lotions she uses from natural ingredients. (Cuticle oil is now available for pick-up or ordering.) She describes herself as a "fanatic" about proper salon sanitation: she uses copper bowls because they are easier to sanitize and an implement-disinfecting process akin to that used with medical supplies. And she's diligent about pandemic protocols.

There are two part-time nail technicians at the Bleu Nail Café, and Christa at Mermaid Strands (hair styling) and Chris at Anna Christina Esthetics (facials) moved their business to Bleu Nail Café last year.

When you enter the premises there is not a hint of chemical odors. The milieu is one of calm and relaxation. Nail care options include paraffin, scrubs, massage, and the latest selection of polish or shellac colors. Mini mani's and pedi's are available for those 12 and under.

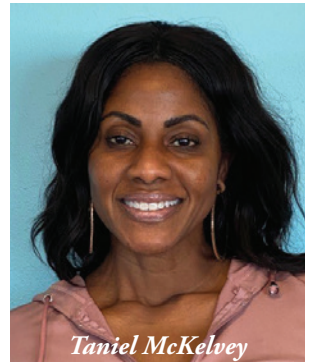
The importance of the sense of touch has taken on new meanings during the pandemic's isolation. Who doesn't need some TLC after

the holidays and the unknowables brought to bear the last two years! But there is more, as Taneil and I discussed. The "beauty shop" of the past and the "salons" of the present have always offered a respite/get-away where the code of honor remains "what's said here, stays here" – a credo of the social support system composed of stylists, barbers, and even bartenders. Taneil has two furry assistants, Jaxon and Oliver, trained as therapy dogs who make themselves useful if a client wants, as calming lap dogs available for petting.

Taneil incorporates the art and techniques of reflexology into her services. For example, the "Audrey's Delight" includes a nail spa treatment accompanied by a 30-minute foot massage with headphones for soothing sounds. "Tiffany's Delight" includes a 45-minute massage... just in case you are looking for luxurious individual attention to wind down from the season's busyness. Gift cards for her services make especially appreciated gifts year-round.

The Bleu Nail Café is truly a sanctuary for comfort and relaxation. What better way to treat yourself than putting your hands and feet in the trusted hands of someone as warm, personable, and experienced as Taneil.

Contact for hours and appointments: www.bleunailcafe.com 512-761-6245, 3507 Hyridge Drive.

An advertisement for Shoal Creek Dental. It features a photograph of an elderly couple walking outdoors. The man is wearing a brown jacket and a flat cap, and the woman is wearing a brown jacket. They are both smiling. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

They sure are handy when you smile. So keep your teeth around a while!

- Dr. Seuss

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Comanche Peak – Richard Denney



While most Austinites know of Comanche Trail (the road) as the way to get to The Oasis on Lake Travis, "Sunset Capital of Texas," few realize those fantastic views over the lake are due to its location next to Comanche Peak. Just over five miles northwest of our neighborhood, it is the only peak in Travis County named after an American Indian tribe. This year the Texas Historic Commission approved a historical marker for Comanche Peak to help raise awareness to its role in Travis County Comanche geography.

To understand the tie to our neighborhood of Comanche Trail and Comanche Peak, we need to zoom out and consider the longer trail of which they were a part. FM 2222 (historically known as Bull Creek Road), our neighborhood's southern boundary, was part of a trail-become-road connecting Austin to Burnet: Old Burnet Road. Starting from Austin, it was today's FM 2222 to Four-Points, then straight ahead on what is today Bullick Hollow Road, past the base of Comanche Peak (by The Oasis), to Anderson Mill, to Volente, Travis Peak, and on to Burnet. Segments of that old road still exist by, and under, the lake; in Google Maps search for "Old Burnet Road, Leander, Texas."

The Penateka, our local division of the Comanche, called the headwaters of the Colorado River home. Along the swath of the Colorado River and its tributaries closer to Austin, the area of Burnet, Texas was a favored campsite. In 1847 Texas Rangers under Henry

McCulloch (Ben McCulloch's brother) set up a camp south of today's Burnet to disrupt Comanche occupation and protect Texas settlement. The location was later moved north of Hamilton Creek at the base of today's Post Mountain and became U.S. Fort Croghan. As was often the case, where there was a fort, a town sprang up giving us today's Burnet, Texas (originally called Hamilton Valley as is shown on some old maps).

Texas A&M Forest Service's official Indian Marker Tree (now deceased) was located on Hamilton Creek near where the fort would later be located. From their website: "In the fall, [the Comanche] passed through Central Texas and one of their favorite camping spots was along Hamilton Creek which flows through Burnet." Comanche Chief Yellow Wolf

made appearances at the fort and had his portrait painted there by the fort's commander, Captain Arthur T. Lee.

Prominent peaks, like Comanche Peak, Mount Bonnell, and likely even our own Cat Mountain overlooking Bull Creek, served an important role in Comanche geography: they were landmarks for line-of-sight navigation, places from which to see (observation), and be seen (signaling).

As anyone who's been to The Oasis knows, the view is spectacular. From atop Comanche Peak many other peaks are visible that were likely of interest to the Comanche: Flint & Chalk Knobs (flint procurement sites); Flint Rock Hill (landmark for Lohman's Ford on the Colorado); and Shingle Hills (historically linked to an Indian campground at Hamilton Pool, site of raids and skirmishes).

Next time you are at The Oasis and overhear someone say "Comanche Trail? What's that all about anyway?", impress them with your extensive knowledge of Comanche Peak, the only peak in Travis County named for an American Indian tribe. They might buy you a free margarita!

Richard Denney is Vice-Chair of the Travis County Historical Commission. For more on this topic and other local history, visit <https://traviscountyhistorical.blogspot.com/>

1- See "What does Bull Creek Road have to do with Bull Creek?" July 2017 issue of the NWACA newsletter.

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Student Scoop: New Year Festivities Around the World

- Kayla Winer-Winkler

Happy New Year! We all know so much about our own new year celebrations, but many of us don't really know much about how others celebrate the new year, so this month we will dive into new year festivities around the world.

We'll start off with Songkran, the Thai New Year. Songkran is celebrated mainly in Thailand, but it is also celebrated in Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar. Songkran typically lasts three days, from April 13 through 15, but some cities extend the celebrations for up to five days, from April 12 to 16. This fun festival is sometimes referred to as the Biggest Water Fight in the World; this tradition comes with moving forward and washing away the old year to welcome the new one. The main focus of the holiday actually is moving forward, and the name "Songkran" translates to "passage of the sun" in Sanskrit.

Next on the list is the Lunar New Year. This holiday has many variations, including Tet Nguyen Dan (Vietnam,) Seollal (Korea,) and Chunjie (China.) This new year is celebrated for different periods of time, all starting on the first new moon of the Lunar New Year; for example, Seollal lasts three days, but Chunjie lasts 15 days. The legend of Nian, a monster who ate people on new year, has molded some of the traditions, like the use of the color red and firecrackers, both of which are supposed to scare off Nian.

Nowruz, the Persian new year, is celebrated on the spring equinox and commemorates the new beginnings that spring brings. It is typically celebrated with fresh foods, usually green, to say that winter does end and is not eternal. Dinner often includes whitefish with herbs and rice and is eaten with family. Children usually receive eidi, a money gift, and neighbors will visit and bring traditional gifts.

The Hindi New Year, Baisakhi, starts on April 13 and lasts two days. There are religious practices on the first day; the second day includes parades, singing, dancing, and chanting hymns. Celebrants dress in colorful traditional clothing and eat traditional foods, celebrating the spring harvest.

Finally, the Jewish new year is called Rosh Hashanah. The date of Rosh Hashanah varies every year, since it is based on the lunar calendar; it typically takes place in September. On Rosh Hashanah, observers will greet each other with "L'shanah tovah" which means "to a good year" and blow a horn called a Shofar. To symbolize the wish for a sweet new year, people will eat apples and challah dipped in honey. The challah is round to express the eternal circle of life. Some people will avoid eating nuts during this time, because the word for nut and the word for sin have the same numerical value.

A new year means new articles, so if you want to be the next writer of the Student Scoop, contact me at nwaca.studentscoop@gmail.com.



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Writer's Corner: Matthew Morgan – Idee Kwak



Matthew took months painting the wood of his first guitar

You never know what a Christmas present will lead to. Several years ago, when Cassie Morgan gave her husband Matthew a workbench, she pictured him creating his large outdoor art pieces of welded metal and carved wood there. But just as the Covid-19 pandemic began, a new interest sparked Matthew's artistic energies and the workbench became his place to build guitars.

With years of piano lessons as a foundation, Matthew began fooling with an acoustic guitar in high school. During his undergraduate years at UT, he picked up percussion skills mostly by playing the video game Rock Band. On a return to his

hometown of Beaumont, he got a drum set and began making music with three buddies. Calling themselves Band of the North, they started writing their own songs in a classic rock style, arranging them for voice, bass guitar, guitar, and keyboard, with Matthew on drums.

Band of the North stayed together even while Matthew studied law in Houston. Though the band never toured or recorded, it has performed at many open mikes. The group finds joy in playing and composing, and in 2017 when Matthew moved to our neighborhood, his garage became their rehearsal space, right beside where the workbench now sits.

It was at one of these rehearsals that the bass guitarist asked the lead if he could try out his beautiful Black Gretsch Guitar. He was turned down because of his "greasy fingers."

Matthew, a habitual tinkerer who took his mom's appliances apart as a boy, took the "greasy fingers" challenge. On fretwire.com, he ordered a guitar-building kit, a knockoff of a Gretsch Falcon. It has the hollow body of an acoustic guitar but with added electric pickups, a lovely instrument, but not enough to end the teasing.

Matthew ordered another kit, a 7-string electric guitar. It was supposed to have only a volume knob, but with a love of improvisation, Matthew routed the cavity not to the foot pedal but to hand controls. The effects of other pedals can be added with on-board controls, with sounds similar to those the lead guitarist of Muse generates on his laptop. Matthew experiments with tones using humbug pickups, and copper wire polarity, and other options.

He didn't need a kit for his third guitar, a 5-string bass. On eBay, he found a luthier selling raw materials including exotic woods, before closing his shop. Matthew purchased swamp ash for the body, maple for the neck, and rosewood for the fretboard. To these he added frets made of wood inlays from 18th century French furniture. The on-board effects usually relegated to pedals are again controlled by hand. The standard effects from

distortion, wah-wah, and fuzzy, to reverb with a synthesizer pedal are all possible; the weight of their paired batteries is the only limitation to adding all of them to the instrument. With a wide choice of sounds, Matthew decided on a 7-string, poly-octave generator which allows a second, a third, or a combined second and third octave to be added to what's being played.

What's next? The greasy-fingered guitarist dreamed up a chainsaw pull... Hmm... Once Matthew invents it, we'll have to swing by a rehearsal to find out what it sounds like. Meanwhile we'll have to be content with the three guitars he's already made.



Matthew's bass guitar with 18th c. inlays for frets

Crime and Safety Update –

Connie Lundgren

In December, we began publishing a chart showing the most recent statistics on a subset of the crimes reported each month by the Austin Police Department Chief. We present the same categories this month, adding a column showing what happened in the same month last year. Note that across the city and in our segment of Austin, the numbers of robberies, burglaries, burglaries of vehicles, and cases of vandalism are significantly lower than in 2020. Unfortunately, aggravated assault and auto theft cases have increased.

It will be interesting to monitor the trends for future months, to see where citizens and the police may need to focus their efforts.

Chief's Monthly Report for October 2021

City-Wide

Crimes Against Persons

	Oct 2021	All 2021	Oct 2020
Murder	10	75	5
Aggravated Assault	301	2,832	256
Simple Assault	860	8,747	819

Baker Sector

Crimes Against Persons

	Oct 2021	All 2021	Oct 2020
Murder	0	2	0
Aggravated Assault	13	145	12
Simple Assault	76	978	86

Crimes Against Property

	Oct 2021	All 2021	Oct 2020
Robbery	86	859	94
Burglary	332	3,582	403
Burglary of Vehicle	824	7,731	930
Auto Theft	415	3,592	363
Vandalism	492	5,588	704

Crimes Against Property

	Oct 2021	All 2021	Oct 2020
Robbery	3	34	8
Burglary	38	452	50
Burglary of Vehicle	122	1,465	188
Auto Theft	55	466	38
Vandalism	49	566	77

Crimes Against Society

	Oct 2021	All 2021	Oct 2020
Drug Violations	229	2,060	232
Weapons	87	712	67

Crimes Against Society

	Oct 2021	All 2021	Oct 2020
Drugs	10	138	18
Weapons	4	28	6

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Invasive Species Complicate Wildfire Mitigation – Joyce Statz



Nandina Bush



Ligustrum

During home wildfire risk evaluations, we often point out two common invasive species in home landscapes: *Nandina domestica* (also known as heavenly bamboo) and *Ligustrum japonicum* (also known as wax-leaf privet or Japanese privet). Each of these is sold by local nurseries, despite being listed as invasive species at reference sites. It's up to the homeowner to avoid buying them. *Nandina* is found in both blooming and non-blooming varieties; those which bloom and bear bright red berries are the ones which are problematic.

Berries from *nandina* and *ligustrum* are carried by the wind and animals into wildland areas, where they easily prosper, especially in moist areas near creeks and streams. These invasives tend to choke out the native plants since they are very hardy. Parks and preserves throughout Austin have large populations of these invasives; volunteers spend many hours attempting to control the spread.

During the February 2021 winter storm, many *ligustrum* did not survive. Unless removed, the dead trees are wildfire fuel.

Nandina berries and the berries and waxy leaves of *ligustrum* are also potent wildfire fuel. As they spread throughout the wildland urban interface, they raise the risk of hotter fires, since they are more flammable than the native vegetation they supplant. New Zealand researchers examining the fire behavior of mixtures of native and invasive plants found that when the invasives are more flammable than the natives, the invasives can drive overall flammability even if they are less abundant than the natives. The researchers looked at four components of flammability: combustibility, ignitability, consumability, and sustainability. The first two components were especially influenced by the invasives, while the latter two were essentially equal with natives. That is, the invasives caused the fire to ignite more quickly and burn hotter.

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

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NWACA P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

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

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning and Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks | |

 Members, please request to join our **Facebook Group** and sign up for **NWACA Notes**, our weekly email. 

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

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The lesson: keep the nandina and ligustrum “matchsticks” out of the wildland urban interface. If you have these plants in your landscape, trim off the berries when they bloom, to minimize spread. Put the berries in the trash bin, not the yard trimmings bin or bags, to ensure they don’t spread through mulch created from the trimmings.

For more details on the New Zealand research see <https://phys.org/news/2017-12-invasive-weeds-wildfires-hotter-frequent.html>

For a free home wildfire risk evaluation, sign up at www.nwaca.org. A team of trained evaluators will be happy to walk your landscape with you and point out areas of risk and discuss ways to minimize the risk.



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Opening doors to a bright future and a new outlook as we embrace 2022.



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