



nwaca NEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2022

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 4

Messages from the Board



CALLING FUTURE LIFEGUARDS (AKA THE COOL KIDS)

Summer will be here before you know it and Austin pools need you! We spoke with Austin Aquatics, and at time of publication, they were very short on lifeguards. In fact, if they can't train more, pools, like Murchison Pool, might not open. So please spread the word, being a lifeguard can be so much fun and help a young person develop all kinds of important life skills. <https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/lifeguarding-austin>

ANNUAL MEETING

NWACA is delighted to announce a return to an in-person annual meeting this year. The meeting is scheduled for May 12th at 6:30 pm at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Huffman Hall. For those who are unable to attend in person we plan to livestream the meeting as well. Expect more details in NWACA Notes, on our web page, and on neighborhood signs in the weeks ahead.

RETURN OF BIGGEST, BOLDEST, BEST JULY 4TH PARADE AND PARTY IN AUSTIN

Longtime NWACA resident and board member Chris Currans has stepped forward to chair our July 4th Parade and Freedom Festival planning committee. He promises the parade and festival will be the best on record. Think about rolling up your sleeves and joining the committee; help make this year's 4th of July event amazing. If you're interested in volunteering reach out at info@nwaca.org to let us know.

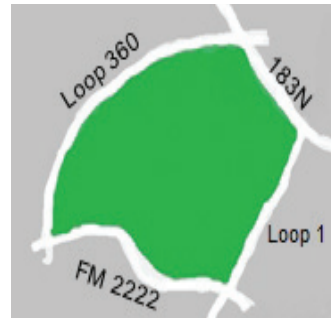
BULK BRUSH AND TRASH PICKUP SUSPENDED

Austin Resource Recovery has suspended bulk brush and bulk trash pickup until further notice. Keep an eye on <https://www.austintexas.gov/bulk> for updates.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: Allen Park spruced up, Dinosaurs in Shoal Creek, the NWACA Constable program, restaurant reviews, and more.

As always, we invite you to visit www.nwaca.org to learn more about our organization, get involved, or become a member.

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



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Austin Citywide Information Center.....512-974-2000 or 311
Emergency, Police..... 911
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues) 311
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:
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.....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)

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

Mark Your Calendars

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

April 2, 10 am-noon

Spring Recycling Event – Batteries, Oil, Paint, Antifreeze, Styrofoam, bathroom supplies

Mesa Parking Lot, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Apr 16, 9 AM – noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park

Sign up at <https://givepul.se/lqpd6p>

Bull Creek District Park

April 19, 7 PM

Parks Committee

virtual

Apr 20, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

NWACA Board Meeting

virtual

Apr 26, 5 PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation

Committees Joint Meeting

virtual

Apr 28, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Austin Wildfire Symposium – presentations and discussions on wildfire prevention – register at

<https://tinyurl.com/ATXsymp2022>

Virtual

May 12 6:30-8:30 PM

NWACA Annual Meeting

St. Matthew's, 8134 Mesa Drive; Huffman Hall

May 15, 2 pm

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee

virtual

May 17, 7pm

Parks Committee

virtual

May 18, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

NWACA Board Meeting

virtual

May 21, 9 a.m. - noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park

Sign up at <https://givepul.se/lqpd6p>

Bull Creek District Park

May 24, 5 pm

NWACA Zoning and Transportation

Committees Joint Meeting

virtual

Jurassic Park on Shoal Creek – Richard Denney



Gordon Bell, left, Bob Rainey and Scott Garner carefully uncover the remains of a prehistoric plesiosaur from Shoal Creek in North Austin. The aquatic reptile probably weighed about a ton and was 14 to 18 feet long, Bell says. Staff photo by Tom Lankes

ANCIENT GIANT

Aquatic reptile unearthed in Shoal Creek

By Enedelia J. Obregon
American-Statesman Staff

found before, but we don't know of any skeleton like the one here," said John Buckley, instructor of paleontology at UT, said plesiosaurs were giant swim-

Living within NWACA boundaries, we are used to critters running around: deer, coyotes, armadillos, raccoons, a few skunks, the occasional fox or bobcat. I even remember one year seeing wild turkey migrating through the neighborhood, running around yards on West Rim Drive. However, this area used to be home to some really exotic wildlife.

In January 1990 an amateur paleontologist and his five-year-old son discovered an estimated 90-million-year-old plesiosaur skeleton in Shoal Creek near Northwest Park. At the time my family was living nearby, and I can remember paleontology crews camped out for quite some time in a

backyard bordering Shoal Creek. They had someone on site 24/7, in part to protect the site, in part to complete digging before any major rains that would cause Shoal Creek to flood.

"We've had bits and pieces [of plesiosaurs] found before, but we don't know of any skeleton like the one here," said John Buckley, instructor of paleontology at Austin Community College and a member of the Texas Memorial Museum's Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory at the University of Texas. "We still don't know how much we have. We don't know how far under the (creek) bank it goes." (Austin American-Statesman, 22 Mar 1990, p.17)

Plesiosaurs aren't dinosaurs proper, but rather giant swimming reptiles that frequented the warm, shallow sea that once covered Central Texas; they were among the largest predators in the Mesozoic era oceans (Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods). Carnivorous, they fed primarily on fish. The Shoal Creek plesiosaur would have weighed about a ton and was from 14 to 18 feet long. Plesiosaurs had a small head, long and slender neck, broad flat body, short tail, and two pairs of large, elongated paddles. Think Loch Ness monster!

The Shoal Creek plesiosaur is on display at the Memorial Museum at the University of Texas, part of the Hall of Geology and Paleontology on the first floor. As a museum podcast says "The fossil remains are exhibited in the position in which they were found and excavated. The skull was not attached to the skeleton but discovered next to it. Unfortunately, it was very poorly preserved and broken into many pieces – too fragile to be put on exhibit. Despite the condition of its skull, this plesiosaur is still an important and fascinating part of Austin's ancient history."

If all this gives you pause about wading in Shoal Creek on your next trip to Northwest Park, relax. Plesiosaurs went extinct along with about 75% of all animal species on earth – including dinosaurs -- around 66 million years ago when a large asteroid more than six miles wide struck the earth off the northern tip of the Yucatán peninsula, creating what is today known as the 110-mile-wide Chicxulub impact crater.

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/>

Responding to Antisemitic Flyers

– NWACA Communications Committee

Sadly, it seems hate is on the rise everywhere, not only on the other side of the globe. It has popped up recently in Northwest Austin. That's why the NWACA Communications Committee visited with the Anti-Defamation League of Austin. We wanted to know how, as a community, to best deal with things like the recent distribution of antisemitic flyers.

We were advised to first pick up the flyers and take them out of circulation, and then alert local law enforcement. People should be careful about how they share such experiences on social media.

In today's digitally connected world, people often have an impulse to share their outrage that flyers would be distributed in the neighborhood. But these loosely organized antisemitic groups crave publicity, whether it is positive or negative. They just want their messages and their group's name to be passed along. If these organizations are getting mentions on social media, they'll be motivated to come back and distribute flyers again.

So, if these awful flyers do appear again, let law enforcement know, but please don't give antisemites the attention they so desperately want. As stated in a previous newsletter, NWACA stands with the Austin Jewish community and supports the right of all our neighbors to live free of acts of discrimination.

For people who would like to learn more, here are links to useful articles:

<https://www.adl.org/antisemitism-uncovered-a-guide-to-old-myths-in-a-new-era>

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/challenging-biased-language>



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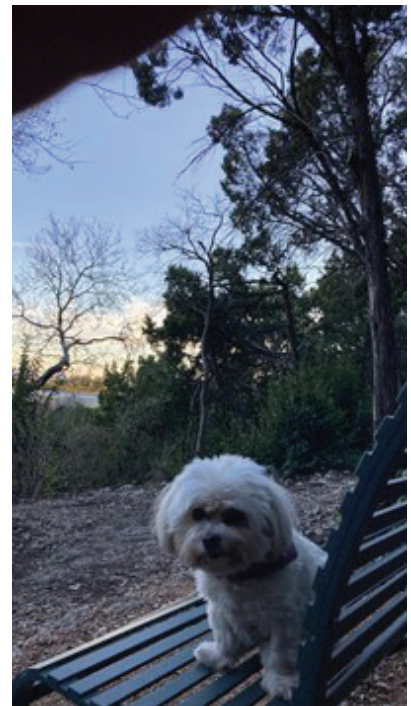
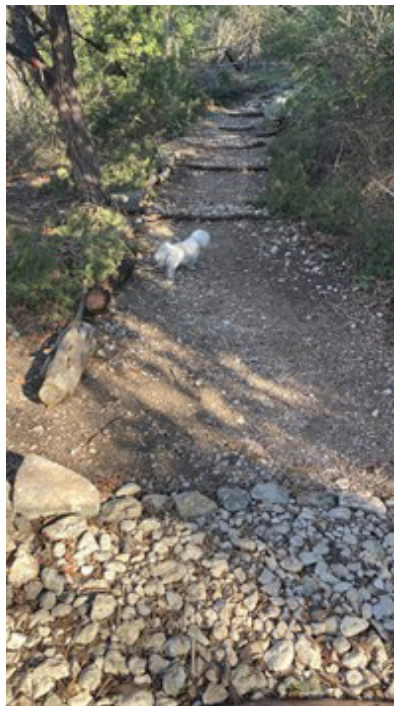
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Allen Park Has Been Spruced Up – Terry Cole

Allen Park, located at 6413 Westside Drive, is a neighborhood gem. If you haven't visited lately, there have been several great changes. George Harris, a senior at McCallum High School, completed his Eagle Scout project at the park in the fall. Thanks to him, there is a nice bench from which to enjoy a great view of downtown Austin. Recently, one or more Travis County workers have been making improvements. Walkers have talked with rangers, enjoying the improvements: removal of non-native brush, marking trails with the native limestone rock and cedar logs, and widening paths by trimming back growth. A new trail was cut into the hillside along the north edge of the park as well.

From the parking lot on Westside Drive, one takes an accessible but somewhat steep path up the limestone plateau. There are also several options that lead from this accessible path that are more like hiking trails up the hillside. There are several picnic tables off this main path in the front of the park. The park is encircled by a set of trails that lead through juniper and cedar woods. Continuing around the park periphery, you come to the backside of the park with the overlook to the city and cliff down into the old gravel dig. The middle of the park has several newer paths that pass by or through small areas of semi-open grassland. These often have wildflowers and provide very nice birdwatching. The park has the distinction of being the only park owned by Travis County inside Austin city limits. There was a time when the park had fallen into disrepair and was considered for sale. The neighborhood rallied in public meetings to save the park and has held workdays ever since to assist in the maintenance and cleaning. Travis County committed to improved maintenance of the 10-acre park for all to enjoy; there has been much improvement of this wild area to make it more easily accessed. Several abandoned walls can be found... perhaps left from prior attempts to tame the natural park landscape or from activity on the land before the park was acquired.

Travis County acquired the park through donation for use as a gravel pit in 1945, but the deed stipulated that the land be dedicated for public use after the gravel pit was exhausted. In 1977 the county installed a large picnic shelter and bathroom (now abandoned and securely closed). There was some fanfare with Jake Pickle, Brad Shearer, and Earl Campbell attending the park opening ceremony in 1978. The park is named for George W. Allen (b. 1867 – d.1911), a prominent Austin attorney and judge who was a Texas and Austin pioneer. Born in Georgia, he came to Texas as a small boy with his parents. He graduated from UT Austin in the late 1880s and began practicing law. He went on to serve on several special courts, including the Civil and Criminal Appeals and Supreme Courts.



MARKET UPDATE

NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS



\$1,285,375
AVERAGE SALES PRICE



\$10,283,000
SALES VOLUME



\$489
AVG LIST PRICE PER SQFT



\$452
AVG SALE PRICE PER SF



\$1,411,462
AVERAGE LIST PRICE



5 DAYS
DAYS ON MARKET



8
CLOSED SALES



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

THINKING ABOUT SELLING?

TOP 5 REASONS TO SELL THIS SPRING

- 1 DEMAND IS STRONG
- 2 INVENTORY IS LOW
- 3 TIMING IS PRIME
- 4 INTEREST RATES ARE LOW
- 5 SPRINGTIME CURB APPEAL

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Student Scoop: Spring into Animal Season - Kayla Winer-Winkler

It's springtime, but for the animals it's baby season. This month we are exploring potentially dangerous animals you may see around the neighborhood, and how you can protect yourself and your pet.

Deer, no matter their age, can all be quite strong, and no one wants to be anywhere nearby when deer are fighting. Peaks in fighting and attacks generally occur mid-November through mid-January during mating season, and March through June, the peak of the baby deer season. If you see a fawn (baby deer) that is alone, or appears to be abandoned, it's best not to do anything, as the mother is most likely feeding not too far away or waiting for you to leave. No matter the season, if you see a deer, you should move away, as they can be unpredictable. Some signs of aggression include a stiff gait, dropping ears, and fluffy hair that may make the deer appear to have changed color. When the tail is held tightly against their rump, it can either be a sign of fear or aggression, and more than one sign will likely show. Did you know: All 60 deer species, except the Chinese water deer, have antlers.

Coyotes, on the other hand, aren't as dangerous. While they may seem dangerous at first, they are shy; it's easy to scare them of by making yourself as big as possible and making loud noises. Coyotes prefer to target smaller beings such as pets and small children, though the

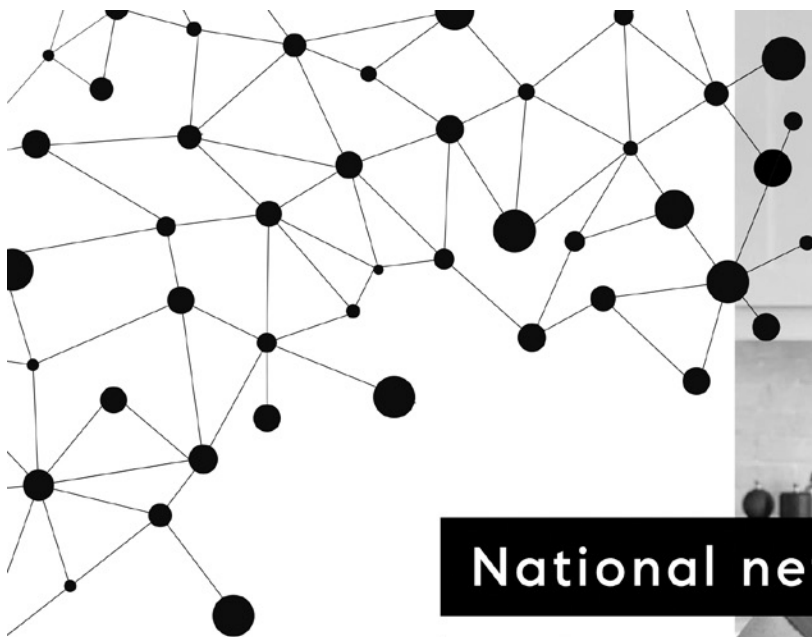
latter is very rare. Coyote mating season is typically between February and March. Only eight people in the United States get bit by coyotes per year. They are starting to get more comfortable around people, though. The best way to prevent this is to not feed them.

Did you know: Coyotes have the widest vocal range of all North American mammals, able to produce 11 different noises.

Squirrels rarely attack humans, but they can destroy property. They've been known to chew through electrical wiring, constituting a fire hazard. Squirrels also carry many diseases and parasites, and their droppings are more dangerous than the squirrel itself. If you encounter a squirrel, you might be able to scare it away by making loud noises. Squirrel baby season happens twice a year, first in early spring - about February through April - and then again in late summer - about August through September.

Did you know: Out of 280 species of squirrel, the African pygmy squirrel is the smallest, measuring five inches from nose to tail, and the Indian giant squirrel is the largest, measuring three feet long from nose to tail.

If you have ideas for future articles, share them with me at nwaca.studentscoop@gmail.com. Happy Spring!



National network

Austin expertise

homesville.com

 [@homesvillerealtygroup](https://www.instagram.com/homesvillerealtygroup)

 [@homesville](https://www.facebook.com/homesville)



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Latest Information on Spicewood Springs Road Work

— Transportation Committee

A neighbor asked for an update on the planned improvements to Spicewood Springs Road. The best information we have is from the draft 2022 Mobility Annual Plan, which was under review during March. It indicates that construction bid advertisement is anticipated in summer 2022, and construction start is expected to be in fall/winter 2022.

So, keep an eye open for lane closures and other construction evidence. You may have noticed clearing in the green space of the right of way over the last several months. Check this web site periodically for updates: <https://capitalprojects.austintexas.gov/projects/11880.001?categoryId=Regional:&tab=list>

Tired of Motorcycle Noise on 2222?

— Louri O'Leary

Often, I am outside working in my yard or visiting with neighbors on the weekends. Lately there have been extremely loud noises coming from motorcycles on RM 2222, with owners driving at high speeds. Recently I have also seen the motorcycles on Mesa, Sierra, and Mountainclimb Drives. Many people have complained about the problem on NextDoor.

I reached out to our Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem Alison Alter, regarding the noise. Here is the response from her office:

Thank you for reaching out to our office! You will be pleased to hear that APD has recently installed two speed radar signs along the stretch of 2222 between Dry Creek and Mesa Drive. Our office has been working with APD for months to get deterrents such as these installed, and we are hopeful that more will be on their way soon! Mayor Pro Tem Alter also hears and agrees with community requests for more patrol cars along the road. Our office has also been pushing for greater human police presence along 2222, and Alison Alter's efforts to re-invigorate Austin's police academy will hopefully lead to higher [numbers] of police on the streets within the next year. Please feel free to contact our office again if you have any further questions or comments.

STEP BY STEP, INCH BY INCH

You can make
a difference in
our world

Together, the smallest changes
make the largest impact



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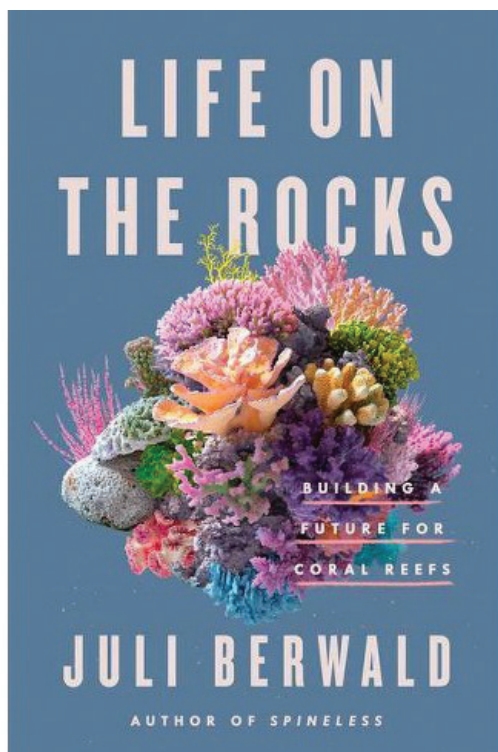
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NWACA News



In her new book, *Life on the Rocks*, Juli Berwald focuses on coral, a solar-powered animal whose limestone skeletons have created the largest biological structures on earth. Coral derives up to ninety percent of its sugar from minute algae that live within their tissues. But with a rise in temperature, as little as two degrees for four weeks or four degrees for two weeks, the algae swim away leaving the coral to starve. This departure of the algae, called bleaching, appears to be related to the coral's immune system, a phenomenon Berwald uses to explore implications for our own health.

Coral reefs, habitat to a plethora of sea creatures, provide food and employment to over a half-billion people worldwide. Bleaching is catastrophic to these populations.

Of both humanitarian and scientific importance, coral restoration projects now span the globe, the largest in Indonesia, funded by Mars Inc. (the candy and pet food company). Berwald's research took her from this enormous project in Sulawesi, to Bali, to the Coral Restoration Foundation's operations in the Florida Keys, and from the Dominican Coastal Restoration Consortium in the Dominican Republic to our own coral hospital at Moody Gardens. While Covid-19 quashed her trip to the Great Barrier Reef, she interacted virtually with Australian experts and includes their work in her book as well.

Berwald's writing is compelling. While the depth and breadth of her knowledge is profound, she writes with accessible clarity, presenting problems and possible solutions comprehensively. Tim Flannery of the New York Review calls *Life on the Rocks* Berwald's "splendid new book... [and reminds us that her] great strength lies in revealing a fast-moving, complex global catastrophe through easily understood case studies..."

The release date for *Life on the Rocks* is April 5, 2022. Hard copies are available at Book People, Barnes and Noble, and Amazon. An audiobook narrated by Juli is available at audible.com.

Her book got high praise from Tim Flannery in New York Review of Books, March, 2022. See <https://www.nybooks.com/contributors/tim-flannery/>

The book also was the cover story for Booklist, with a starred review on March 1, 2022. See <https://www.booklistonline.com/Life-on-the-Rocks-Building-a-Future-for-Coral-Reefs-Berwald-Juli/pid=9757258>

For more information about efforts to save Flower Garden Banks, a national marine sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico, from climate change, disease, and invasive species, read Juli's article, "The Gulf's Secret Garden," the cover story of Texas Monthly, September 2021

And if you haven't done so, get a copy of Juli Berwald's first book, critically acclaimed *Spineless: The Science of Jellyfish and the Art of Growing a Backbone*, in which she tells us about jellyfish.



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March 2022

Dear Friends,

My brother invited me to do the bicycle ride across Iowa (RAGBRAI) in 2002. As I started training I remembered one of my co-workers talking about a ride from Houston to Austin – the MS 150 – so I registered thinking this would be a great training ride.

Then something totally unexpected happened as I started my fundraising activities! I came to realize that many friends and acquaintances were either living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) or MS had some effect on their family. I was truly surprised by this and this awareness inspired me to learn more about MS.

For the 2003 MS150, I asked one of my sons-in-law, Scott, to ride with me, and we formed an unofficial, 2-person, family team. Then, the shocker came. After riding together for about four (4) years, Scott was diagnosed as living with MS.

My relationship with MS continued in 2009 when my wife's and my care management company was asked to apply to be care managers for those living with MS. (Care Management is one of the programs of the National MS Society (NMSS) that maximizes the quality of life of those living with MS through assistance with community resources and advocacy; the NMSS is not just about research.) I personally have been a care manager to those living with MS. I always left a client visit inspired by the journey of those living with MS and motivated to continue my fundraising.

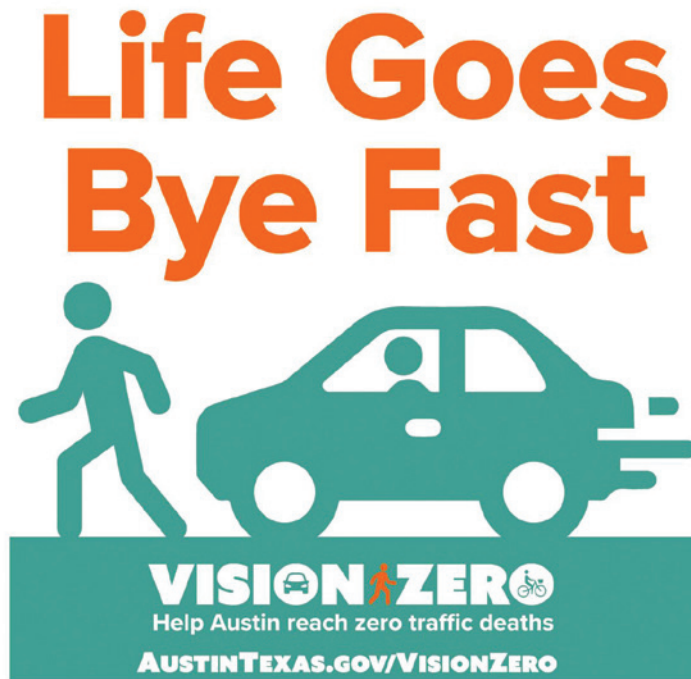
Once again I registered to ride in the MS 150. I am raising funds to support the NMSS' commitment to STOP MS, RESTORE lost functionality and END MS FOREVER. Please join me in my commitment of support for the NMSS. Your generous tax deductible donation can be made by going to my personal page at <https://mssociety.donordrive.com/participant/Mick-Koffend>. Then, click on the "Donate" button towards the right. Or, if you prefer, send your check payable to the "National MS Society" and mail it to the National MS Society, c/o Fundraising Committee, 4106 Cat Hollow Drive, Austin, TX 78731. Please be sure to write **"Mick Koffend, Texas MS 150 2022"** in the memo section of your check.

There have been amazing breakthroughs in MS research, program development and educational opportunities. You can see some of these when you go to my website to donate.

In closing you have my personal thanks for your generosity because my son-in-law Scott's and many others quality of life has improved greatly from the developments your donation support.

Mick Koffend

My Pedestrian/Vehicle Crash Story – Robert Nash



As a PR practitioner for the last 30 years focusing on traffic safety campaigns, I've met scores of real people with powerful stories that illuminate the consequences of bad driving. But despite my background, it was incredibly shocking when someone's bad driving directly impacted me.

As I write my recollections at the request of my fellow NWACA Transportation Committee members, I realize that it was almost exactly three years ago. Joe and I were walking home on a fair March evening after going to Randall's to buy ingredients to make smores over our new fire pit. As we walked, we realized we didn't have any kindling, so we decided to stop at Mesa Mart to buy a newspaper.

Afterward, we waited at the southwest corner of Steck Avenue and Mesa Drive for the walk light. When it appeared, we started to cross from Mesa Mart to Anderson High School. Suddenly, a car barreled through the intersection. Joe leaped forward and just cleared its path. I, a few steps behind, leaped backward to try to get clear. I almost made it, but not quite. The car clipped me in my left ribs and sent me flying some 20 feet onto the pavement of the Mesa Mart parking lot. I crawled as best I could to get out of the way of any possible traffic before remaining prone until the ambulance arrived. After two nights in the hospital, three broken ribs and a broken nose later, I was able to come home begin rehab. Missing several weeks of work, I gradually was able to walk a bit further and with a little more confidently each day.

The person who hit me almost didn't stop. They rolled down the window and asked "ya think he's ok?" and prepared to drive off. At that time, committing this sort of violence against a pedestrian held

virtually no consequences. Since then, the Lisa Torry Smith act was signed into law; someone who hits a person in a crosswalk can now spend time in prison.

The driver who hit me, who couldn't pay full attention to driving, later stated that I had jumped out in front of the vehicle. Security video obtained from the Taco Truck on the corner proved otherwise. The officer on scene said that without evidence, it would be recorded as a "he said/she said" accident with no fault assigned, not even a ticket written. When we followed up to share the video evidence, he said essentially, "I'm sorry, unless you were dead or in a coma, we're just not going to do anything further."

To this day, though mended, I still feel where my ribs were broken. If you look closely, you can see the scars on my forehead and nose. My right thumb is only about half as functional it was before that night. Joe and I both had PTSD for a while afterward, and the only real blessing that came from that night is that he insisted we get a puppy - our gorgeous little Wheaton Scottish Terrier named Fala.

When I spoke with the surviving family of Lisa Torry Smith (the woman who was hit and killed in a crosswalk as she was walking her young son to school and after whom the new statewide pedestrian safety legislation was named), I realized how incredibly lucky I am. I share this story with you, my neighbors, because what happened to me has happened to others - right here in the NWACA area - and can happen to anyone in the future.

I implore people to slow down, put away their cell phones while driving, stop at stop signs and red lights, and be mindful that pedestrians aren't built with airbags or seat belts. People who are walking, jogging, cycling, or otherwise moving about are extremely vulnerable when hit with a multi-thousand-pound vehicle. I realize that people bristle at being told what to do, maybe don't care for the new 25 mph limit on neighborhood streets, hate speed bumps or bike lane bollards, etc. But stop and think for a minute, how life altering it would be to hit and seriously injure or kill a person because you didn't drive as safely and carefully as you can - life altering for the person who was hit and all the people in their lives as well as for you. Let's make my pedestrian crash story one of the last for our neighborhood by giving driving our full attention and keeping each other safe.



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Gourmand's Corner: Peruvian Cuisine in Austin

– Chris Hajdu

Inka Chicken

Recently speaking with a neighbor, I learned that they just loved this little place called Inka Chicken, located on Wells Branch Parkway. About a month later another friend mentioned the same place, and they said it's worth the drive. My curiosity piqued, I did a bit of googling to learn more, which is how these adventures always start.

Inka Chicken is a Peruvian restaurant specializing in Peruvian Pollo a la Brasa. Pollo a la Brasa (also called Charcoal Chicken) is a variety of rotisserie chicken associated with Peru. The chicken is marinated for at least 24 hours in a secret blend of spices, then slowly roasted to perfection over charcoal and wood flames. They also serve several dipping sauces that range from mild to hot, many of which include the Peruvian aji pepper, known more for taste and color than a particular spicy flavor.

To try it out, I ordered the family meal; we thoroughly enjoyed it, and we had leftovers for the next day. The family meal consists of one whole chicken, two sides, fresh corn tortillas, rolls, and dipping sauces. Our sides were corn with quinoa and yuca, two recommendations from the front of house staff. For dipping sauces, we went with the mild aji Amarillo and mayo and the spicy huacatay and jalapeños, but I'd really like to try them all eventually.

Lima Criolla

Based on our experience with Inka Chicken, my curiosity drove me to do more research into Peruvian Cuisine. I found another Peruvian restaurant in the Linc development adjacent to 290 and I-35. Lima Criolla was also highly rated, and I was also excited to learn that they had Pisco Sours (a drink I enjoyed when on a backpacking trip in Chile). Pisco, a wine-based alcohol similar to brandy, is common to Peru and Chile. But, more on the Pisco Sours later.

Before visiting Lima Criolla, I decided I would dig in a bit more into Peruvian cuisine so I could order like a local. My research led me to strange sounding items like tostones, salchipapas, and lomo saltado. I was surprised to learn of the depth and breadth of Peruvian cuisine which blends Amerindian and Spanish food with strong influences from Chinese, African, Arab, Italian, and Japanese immigrants. With that list of influences, I was getting excited about this endeavor. Indigenous Peruvian Inca staples include:

1. Corn
2. Potatoes and other tubers like yuca (cassava)

3. Amaranthaceae (quinoa, kañiwa, and kiwicha)

4. Legumes (beans and lupins).

This explained the corn with quinoa and yuca sides we got from Inka Chicken. It's interesting that the core staples of Peru are being recognized now for their nutritional and health benefits. Peruvian cuisine blends these staples with food items and techniques brought in by colonizers and immigrants. The Spanish, as colonizers brought rice, wheat, and meat (beef, pork, and chicken.)

Upon visiting Lima Criolla, my friend and I asked to be served a variety of dishes that showcased the breadth of Peruvian cuisine. We had empanadas, lomo saltado, ceviche, anticuchos, and ají de gallina.

- Empanadas are delicious meat turnovers, Spanish imports widely available across most of South America. These were very well seasoned and were so good that my dining companion ordered some at the end of the meal to take home.

- Lomo saltado is a steak dish fried in a wok with aji peppers, tomato, garlic, onions, coriander, and soy sauce, accompanied by French fries and rice. This dish dates to the 19th century, clearly indicating Chinese-Cantonese and Spanish influence on local cuisine.

- Ceviche, popular in the coastal areas, is citrus marinated raw fish and other seafood garnished with herbs. Peruvian ceviche is often served with raw onions, boiled sweet potatoes (camote), and toasted corn (cancha.)

- Anticuchos are brochettes of beef heart, marinated in various Peruvian spices and grilled, often with a side of boiled potato or corn.

- Aji de gallina is made from shredded chicken breast in a parmesan cheese, pecan, and yellow pepper sauce. Served with potatoes, an olive, a slice of a hard-boiled egg, and rice really took me by surprise and became the favorite dish of the day.

I also thoroughly enjoyed my Pisco Sour (maybe two,) made with Peruvian pisco, egg whites, lime juice and simple syrup. History says that the Pisco Sour was invented when a Lima bartender substituted the local Pisco for whiskey in a whiskey sour. For those who prefer non-alcoholic or lighter drinks, they also have Inca Kola, a Peruvian soft drink made from lemon verbena, with a flavor that many compare to bubblegum or cream soda. An interesting fact: Peru is one of the few countries where the #1 beverage is not Coca-Cola, but Inca Kola. I'll try one of these on my next visit.

For a little adventure in your day-to-day cuisine choices, check out these restaurants.

Inka Chicken (<https://inka-chicken.com/>)

1707 Wells Branch Pkwy, Austin, Texas 78728, United States
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Grapefruit and Avocado, Anyone?

— Chris Currens

At a luncheon a number of years ago, I had the good fortune to visit with prolific author H.W. Brands. He had recently written a book recounting the early days of the Republic of Texas and mesmerized our table with insights and anecdotes on Texas' earliest years. I asked him what surprised him most during his research on the subject. He paused and then said, "It was that what the promoters said was true." I guess I looked puzzled, so he explained that the information printed in the broadsheets that land developers posted (full of promises of cheap, fertile land - almost for the taking) weren't much of an exaggeration. In many parts of Texas there are two growing seasons. A homesteader could put a plow in the soil and his mule could plow a single straight row across a prairie from dawn to till dusk if he wanted. There were no rocks or stumps to pull up, no waiting for frozen ground to thaw, and the climate was mild and water plentiful. In that time of pre-mechanized agriculture, it was a farmer's dream.

The exhortations and wild claims of the speculators and land empresarios proved true then and what was said then, is still true today. Texas has both a cold weather and a warm weather growing season. A farmer can raise two crops a year under the right conditions. This time of year, salad greens, root vegetables, and citrus fruit are fresh and abundant on Texas farms. These actually thrive in the cool months and will wither once the summer heat comes.

Continued from Page 17

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Grapefruit and Avocado - Continued from Page 16

This is a great time of year to prepare and enjoy a spinach, avocado, and grapefruit salad; it takes a little effort but it's worth the trouble. First, using a sharp knife cut the rind off a grapefruit and section it, taking care to cut the juicy pulp from the bitter pith. Next, cut one large or two small avocados into sections longitudinally. Lay a bed of washed baby spinach leaves on a salad plate and place grapefruit and avocado sections, alternating one then the other, on top of the spinach. Sprinkle with gorgonzola crumbles and toasted pecans, and dress with a honey mustard vinaigrette dressing.

It's surprising what you can do with fresh local produce at a time of year when we think the earth is barren and dormant!

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 February 15, 2022, and March 15, 2022.

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.

Bill and Linda Jakobeit

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(and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)

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Chief's Monthly Report for January 2022

— Connie Lundgren

Continuing as we have for the last several months, here is the latest report available from the Austin Police Chief, the data for January 2022.

Chief's Monthly Report for January 2022

City-Wide

Crimes Against Persons

	Jan 2022	All 2022	Jan 2021		Jan 2022	All 2022	Jan 2021
Murder	11	11	4	Murder	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	292	292	298	Aggravated Assault	12	12	15
Simple Assault	759	759	809	Simple Assault	103	103	97

Baker Sector

Crimes Against Persons

	Jan 2022	All 2022	Jan 2021		Jan 2022	All 2022	Jan 2021
Robbery	89	89	100	Robbery	10	10	4
Burglary	387	387	360	Burglary	50	50	54
Burglary of Vehicle	906	906	798	Burglary of Vehicle	206	206	135
Auto Theft	411	411	310	Auto Theft	50	50	31
Vandalism				Vandalism	36	36	51

Crimes Against Property

Crimes Against Property

	Jan 2022	All 2022	Jan 2021		Jan 2022	All 2022	Jan 2021
Drug Violations	209	209	213	Drugs	3	3	16
Weapons	74	74	67	Weapons	1	1	3

Crimes Against Society

Crimes Against Society

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Our Precinct 2 Constable –

Connie Lundgren

As warmer weather approaches, we are likely to be outdoors visiting with neighbors and preparing our yards for spring. Consequently, you just might see the Travis County Constable patrolling our streets. As I say over and over, we are so fortunate to live in a beautiful, close-in central neighborhood. One of those perks is the security activity of the Constable patrol. NWACA can provide this service thanks to your household membership in the Northwest Austin Civic Association, our business memberships, and special donations. Car burglaries remain the most troubling issue for our area, so having the patrol sends a message to those who don't obey the rules that someone is watching.

Texas county constables were established by the Texas Constitution; they are elected or reelected every four years. Constables serve as the law enforcement agency for the counties. They are licensed peace officers, performing law enforcement functions such as issuing traffic citations, serving warrants and civil papers, and serving as bailiff for the Justice of the Peace Court.

But wait, there's more! Precinct 2 Constable Adan Ballesteros believes strongly in community-supported policing. With this focus, the officers in his precinct work to build better communities through social engagement with constituents, promoting citizen involvement in policing, and providing positive role models for youth. One such program is the Explorer Program which provides boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 20 the opportunity to receive the same law enforcement training and practical application as police officers, and to participate in statewide competition.

The Constable's office hosts a toy drive every year during the holiday season and a myriad of other community events, including attending our annual NWACA National Night Out. We are fortunate to have their support in our neighborhood.

If you would like to donate to the NWACA Constable patrol, you can do so at <https://nwaca.org>. The NWACA annual budget provides 16 to 20 hours of daytime patrolling each month, and only a small percentage of residents contribute to the program. If all households would contribute a small amount we could add night patrolling, which is double the cost of daytime patrolling, since for safety reasons night patrols require two officers.



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Combine Annuals and Perennials This Spring

— Shoal Creek Nursery

Have you ever planted a rainbow? The colors you see in the sky after a rain are fleeting, but the hues in your garden can reflect their beauty for entire seasons, even years. A combination of annuals and perennials timed to bloom in tandem and at intervals year-round, can transform your garden into an ever-changing display of color. The array of flowers available to gardeners now is greater than ever.

Annuals which come in all colors of the spectrum, provide brilliant temporary color and last for one or two seasons. You can plant them from seed, but they're also available as "instant color" transplants at your local Home & Garden Showplace. Use annuals to fill beds, borders or containers with color. Warm-season annuals such as marigolds, impatiens and zinnias are adapted to bloom even during the hottest weather. When temperatures start falling, choose from cool-season flowers such as pansies and snapdragons. Annuals are a great way to brighten up shady corners, accent sunny parts of the landscape, and tie one area to the next with a progression of color.

Perennials continue to grow and produce blooms for many years to come without reseeding or replanting. With a little advance planning, you can create a perennial garden that has some special surprises at all times of the year. Although some perennials are evergreen, most survive by storing food reserves in roots, tubers or bulbs. They're perfect for low-maintenance gardens where they can be planted once and left to grow for years to come. Perennials such as coneflowers, phlox and Black-eyed Susans can be the framework of a colorful garden, and they're good companions for their showier annual counterparts.

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Silverfish – Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



Usually, silverfish are not seen by homeowners because they are nocturnal and are most active at night. They can commonly be found in attics, closets, or near bookcases. They may also be found behind baseboards or around door and window casings. Silverfish feed on starchy foods like paper, flour, oats, or glue and can eat and stain books, fabrics, food, and wallpaper. Even though silverfish are capable of causing damage, they usually considered more of a nuisance than a pest.

Silverfish wingless insects with flattened, elongated, carrot-shaped bodies with three long “tails” that come off the tip (or pointy end) of the abdomen. The body is covered with fine scales that give them a silver sheen. Immature silverfish look just like the adults but are smaller in size.

Tips for managing silverfish:

- Remove old books, papers, and magazines
- Store items in sealed plastic bags or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids
- Clean closets on a regular basis- vacuum and/or sweep floors and wipe down any shelves
- Reduce humidity with fans, air conditioning, or dehumidifiers
- Repair any water leaks
- Inspect all items before bringing them into the house

Target treatments to where silverfish live- wall voids, closets, attics, behind baseboards, etc.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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To have Dawn in one's corner means that one can hand over the reins into her perfectly capable hands, knowing that she will maximize one's interests without sabotaging one's position. And, really, what more could one want, except that with Dawn you also get a charming, upbeat, intelligent and gracious friend... And THAT is why she is no ordinary Real Estate agent!"

~Victor and Adele Yin



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