



# nwacaNEWS

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2022

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 9

## A Batch of Event Notices and Reminders

For families in the neighborhood, September means the academic year is again underway. For all of us, it's an introduction to fall, with an array of NWACA activities. Here are key items for your calendar.

- **September 24, 6pm to 8pm – our annual NWACA National Night Out.**

This is an opportunity to join with neighbors to meet first responders, listen to good music, and enjoy talking with friends. An article in this issue gives you more information on the plans.

- **October 1, 8 am to noon – our annual NWACA Neighborhood Garage Sales.**

See the article inside for details; signup is open from September 1 to September 24 on the NWACA website.

- **October 19, 6:30 pm on Zoom – informational forum for the November 8 election.**

NWACA is joining with more than a dozen other neighborhood organizations to hear from candidates for Mayor of Austin. The forum will be moderated by award-winning journalist Tony Plohotski. See the detailed announcement on the NWACA web site to register to attend the forum and/or to submit questions.

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Councils will have elections in October to select new members. A goal of these councils is to have representation from all districts, not just those close to downtown. To learn more about the councils and how they operate, contact [christopher.parks@austintexas.gov](mailto:christopher.parks@austintexas.gov). To apply for a council, use one of these links:

- Pedestrian Advisory Council application: <https://forms.gle/TRYo1pegN2X7dB7u8>
- Bicycle Advisory Council application: <https://forms.gle/s8DLC7qpdc5N646K9>

**And now, a potpourri of little reminders:**

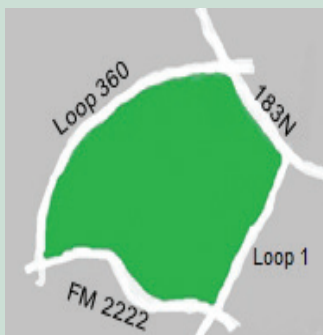
- Wildfire is a reality here, with several fires being worked on every day as this newsletter goes to press. Be sure your home is hardened well; if you need guidance on how to make it resilient, sign up for a free evaluation using the Quick Link at [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org). Also, see the article in this issue about preparing for evacuation, just in case that might be needed.
- Green composting bins have been distributed by Austin Resource Recovery, and many residents enthusiastically use the bins for yard trimmings, but not so much for food scraps; this negatively affects the composting process. However, a conveniently located compost caddy under the sink saves water, electricity, and time compared to using a

garbage disposal. All you need is a caddy with a compostable bag inserted. When full, throw out the bag in the compost bin provided to you by the city. Repeat. Websites like Amazon have a wide variety of caddies and liners. For more information on the city's composting program, go to <https://www.austintexas.gov/composting>.

- The blue bin is for recyclables only, but many residents put recyclables in plastic bags, and then put those bags in the bin. The bags literally "gum up the works" of sorting equipment, and workers have to stop the equipment and untangle them. Please use paper bags for collecting your recyclables or put them directly into the blue bin. Plastic bags can be recycled at local grocery stores, but not in the blue bin.

- A water saving tip: Does it take too long for your sink/shower/bath water to get hot, resulting in unused cold water going down the drain? To reduce your wait time to about 5 seconds, consider a hot water recirculating pump system. Pumps generally cost around \$200 and have the potential to reduce water waste by thousands of gallons a year.

- And a reminder from those who regularly walk in the neighborhood – if you're a dog owner, please bag you dog waste and take it home for disposal.



## 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](http://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.



## REALTY AUSTIN

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2022 BOARD PRESIDENT - REBUILDING TOGETHER AUSTIN

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**512.589.9776**

ALBERTALLEN@REALTYAUSTIN.COM



Scan to  
contact us:



### LOOKING TO BUY?

*Albert is the best real estate agent in Austin - hands down. Albert is highly professional, knowledgeable, organized, and thoughtful in his approach. Albert understands the market, clearly articulates value and risks. As a family, my parents, Sam, and I all value Albert's opinion and he gets the estimate right every time. In a time with a lot of hype in real estate, Albert focuses on the core values of his clients. We were particularly impressed with Albert this time around as he found our dream house off-market. We recommend Albert to all our friends and feel lucky we found Albert so early in our home buying journey in life. You all are lucky to have Albert on the team!*

- Juliana | Northwest Hills Resident

### SEEKING SELLERS

I have qualified buyers who are eager to buy now in Northwest Hills! Call me today if you are thinking of selling and think your house might be the perfect fit for my buyers!

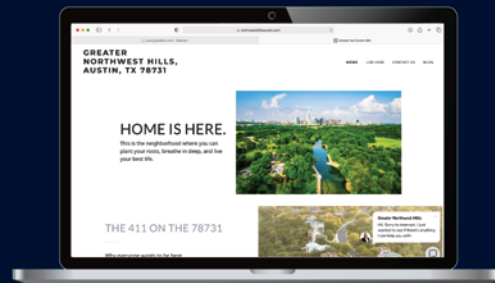
#### CURRENT BUYERS NEEDS

7,000 SQFT+ fully gated home  
up to \$20M budget

5 bedroom home in NW Hills with pool  
up to \$3M budget

3,000 SQFT+ home in NW Hills  
up to \$2M budget

### LOOKING TO SELL?



Obtain your complimentary home value assessment, provided by Albert!  
[www.NorthwestHillsAustin.com](http://www.NorthwestHillsAustin.com)

RA

### LAST YEAR, REALTY AUSTIN REPRESENTED

**59 BUYERS AND 54 SELLERS IN THE GREATER NORTHWEST HILLS.**

**THIS YEAR WE'VE ALREADY REPRESENTED 18 BUYERS AND 26 SELLERS!!**

Let Realty Austin help you achieve your real estate goals. Call me at **512-589-9776**.

## REBUILDING TOGETHER AUSTIN SPOTLIGHT



I want to spotlight an organization that is near and dear to my heart. We are [Re]building Together Austin. Our mission is to [re]pair homes, [re]vitalize communities and [re]build lives.

Our goal is to help Austin area homeowners age in place gracefully and remain in a safe environment where they have raised their families and created memories of home. We partner with volunteers and contractors to provide critical repairs and accessibility modifications to the homes of low-income homeowners. On average, our clients have lived in their home for 26.2 years. The average age of our clients is 68 years old and an average income of \$28,000 a year.

In 2021 we served 75 homeowners. We couldn't accomplish these goals

without our donors, funders and volunteers!

Rebuilding Together Austin is proud to be a partner in the solution to providing safe homes and communities. Thank you to all of our [Re]Builders for your generous support and we look forward to a healthy, impactful year ahead! Contact me if you'd like to become a [Re]Builder too.

-Albert Allen - Board President  
Rebuilding Together Austin

[www.rebuildingtogetheraustin.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetheraustin.org)

[WWW.NORTHWESTHILLSAUSTIN.COM](http://WWW.NORTHWESTHILLSAUSTIN.COM)

## Key Contacts

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 James Hyatt..... 512-974-6894  
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter ..... 512-978-2110  
Enroll in the District 10 monthly newsletter: .....  
.....district10@austintexas.gov  
..... www.district10austin.com

## 2022-2024 NWACA Board of Directors

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Julie Rawlings, Vice-President

Mick Koffend, Treasurer

Bridget Keating and Julie Waidelich, Co-Secretaries

- |                   |                   |
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| o Carol Dochen    | o Robert Nash     |
| o Jessica Forrest | o Teri Schock     |
| o Charlie Galvin  | o Dana Winer      |

Each of the Board Members can be reached at  
[info@nwaca.org](mailto:info@nwaca.org), or by phone at 512-920-2973

The NWACA Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month except July and December. Please visit our calendar at [www.nwaca.org](http://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](mailto: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 August 15. As you consider participating in one of the events listed, please check first with the organizer.*

### Sep 1, 2021

Signup begins for Annual Garage Sales on October 1  
NWACA web site

### Sep 17, 9AM – noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park – Sign up at  
<https://givepul.se/lqpd6p> • Bull Creek District Park

### Sep 18, 2 PM

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee • virtual

### Sep 20, 7pm

Parks Committee • virtual

### Sep 24

Registration for Neighborhood Garage Sales closes  
NWACA web site

### Sep 24, 6-8 PM

NWACA Neighborhood National Night Out event – visit  
with first responders and enjoy music, dance, martial arts  
performances, food, and conversation  
Randall's Parking Lot - Mesa Plaza – Mesa at Spicewood  
Springs Rd.

### Sep 27, 5 PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees Joint Meeting  
virtual

### Sep 28, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

NWACA Board Meeting  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and virtual

### Oct 1, 8 AM to noon

Annual NWACA Garage Sales throughout the neighborhood  
Throughout NWACA neighborhood

### Oct 4, 7-9 PM

(State of Texas) National Night Out • Neighborhood areas

### Oct 15, 9AM – noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park – Sign up at  
<https://givepul.se/lqpd6p> • Bull Creek District Park

### Oct 18, 7pm

Parks Committee • virtual

### Oct 19, 6:30 PM

Election Forum for Fall elections; see Zoom registration link  
and opportunity to submit questions at [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org)  
virtual

### Oct 25, 5 PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees Joint Meeting  
virtual

### Oct 26, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

NWACA Board Meeting  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and virtual





## ARE YOU A NWACA MEMBER?

Receiving the newsletter does not guarantee membership.  
Not sure? Visit [nwaca.org](http://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](http://NWACA.ORG/MEMBERS)

## NWACA Sponsored Garage Sales October 1, 2022 – NWACA Board

This year's NWACA-sponsored neighborhood garage sales will be held on October 1 from 8 am to 12 noon. The event is for NWACA members only, so if you're not a member, please go to [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) to join today! Participation is easy: you sell things in your garage and keep all the proceeds; we do the advertising for you, bringing customers to your garage.

Register on the NWACA web site from September 1 through September 24 using the link under "Hot Topics" on the home page at [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org). We will post the neighborhood sales locations on the NWACA web site, place notices on Craigslist, and promote them on the NWACA Facebook page. NWACA provides participants with yard signs; we also deploy signs around the neighborhood saying that the sales are underway. Like past years, we anticipate supporting 40 to 60 garage sales. Good luck as you clean out your closets! The old adage "one person's junk is another person's treasure" definitely applies.



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**Book With Us Today**



# AISD'S \$2.44 Billion Bond Package is up for Vote on November, 8, 2022 – Teri Schock

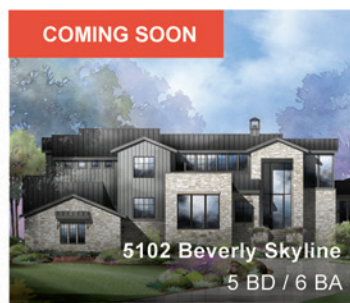
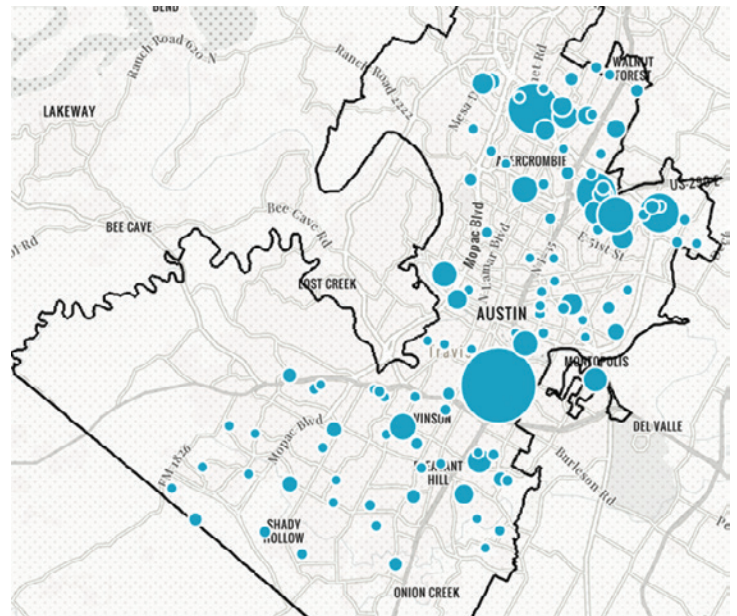
As you may have heard, the Austin ISD Board of Trustees has approved a \$2.44 billion bond package that provides funding to enhance safety, centers on equity, benefits every campus, and addresses affordability. The final bond package that will be on November 8 election ballot and an interactive map can be found on the AISD website: <https://bond.austinschools.org/bond-proposal>. A breakdown of how each facility in our neighborhood will benefit is outlined below.

**Anderson High School** - Phase 1 Modernization: Building deficiency improvements (may include life safety system, security, heating and air conditioning, plumbing, etc.), football/soccer field upgrades (artificial turf, lights and seating), secure entry vestibule, athletics space improvements including gyms and lockers for \$45,576,000.

**Doss Elementary School** - N/A (modernized per 2017 Bond) \$0.

**Hill Elementary School** - Phase 2 Modernization to a 920-student capacity for \$30,000,000.

**Murchison Middle School** - High priority facility deficiencies (may include life safety system, security, heating and air conditioning, plumbing, etc.) (already has secure entry vestibule from 2017 Bond) for \$3,193,000.



Brian Copland, Your Northwest Hills Neighbor & REALTOR® | #1 REALTOR® at Realty Austin in 2021  
#56 Agent in Texas Ranked by REALTrends | (512) 576-0288 | [briancopland@realtyaustin.com](mailto:briancopland@realtyaustin.com) | [austinhomedandcondo.com](http://austinhomedandcondo.com)



## Business Spotlight: Literati – Janice Green



Literati is an Austin original – founded in 2016 by CEO Jessica Ewing – that provides admission into the universe of books.

Literati piqued my interest by winning best float in NWACA's July 4th Parade – leaving me wondering, “Why enter this parade?” The answer led me to its website and to interviewing John Howard III, CPA, (plus other roles at Literati) who grew up in Northwest Hills with family members, including himself, participating in our annual parade.

Literati offers a subscription book club for children: Five cleverly packaged books arrive at your door each month, curated to one of several age categories from 0 to 13+, specifically shaped by the identified interests of a particular child. You can buy any or all the five books, or you can return without charge or postage any that may not match the child's interests. Over time, the accuracy of the fit between book and child increases. Statistics reflect a 75% increase in the children/consumers' interests in reading, as well as increases in their reading time an average of 39 minutes per day. Additionally, it is valuable

for a child to be able to see themselves, their culture, and their heritage in book illustrations – another goal of Literati's selection criteria.

What an invaluable birthday or holiday gift – whether it be for a child or grandchild, or even for a baby shower!

Recent research reflects the differences in brain stimulation patterns and development between children on devices and children reading books. With books, the visual and tactile stimulations activate the brain and learning processes to a greater extent. Note that recent National Institutes of Health studies found that children who spend more than two hours a day on a screen device score lower on language skills and thinking tests.

Adults are not lost in the shuffle. Literati provides adult subscription book clubs with monthly selections for a host of reading genres. Luminaries who contribute to the clubs' selections include Stephen Curry, Malala, Richard Branson, Megan Rapinoe, Cheryl Strayed, and many others. Literati's app allows for participation via Q & A's, author interviews

led by a curator, and discussions with other readers and authors. Once again research shows that reading a book reduces stress, promotes comprehension and imagination, alleviates depression, and stimulates healthy brain functions, regardless of one's age.

Literati offers book fairs, with fundraising opportunities for schools and other organizations. Fairs are online or in-person events with clever, portable, and functional display shelving that is easy to set up. Literati also has periodic warehouse book sales and is actively engaged in book donation programs.

It makes sense that Literati sprouted its entrepreneurial wings in Austin. After all, Austin is known as a literary hub, home to numerous authors and book festivals, and has been identified as one of the top ten cities in per capita book sales. What Literati adds to this mix is the accessibility of good reads that instill a love of reading that yields benefits for a lifetime.

CONTACT: [www.literati.com](http://www.literati.com); [bookmoto@literati.com](mailto:bookmoto@literati.com)



# MARKET UPDATE

## NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS



**\$1,200,000**  
MEDIAN SALES PRICE



**\$23,633,700**  
SALES VOLUME



**\$508**  
AVG LIST PRICE PER SF



**\$481**  
AVG SALE PRICE PER SF



**\$1,454,745**  
AVERAGE LIST PRICE



**14**  
DAYS ON MARKET



**17**  
CLOSED SALES



SOURCE: ABRAR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM JULY 1-31, 2021  
FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES, BASED ON NWACA  
BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY360/2222/HWY 183

**nest**  
PROPERTIES AUSTIN

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## Dorothy Duvall vs. Austin City Slickers Part II – Richard Denney



Dorothy Duvall was one of the property owners donating right-of-way in 1939 when Spicewood Springs Road as we know it today began to take shape. Her house was on a hill north of 360, west of Spicewood Springs Road. As with Austinites today, road construction was the start of Dorothy's problems.

By 1949 Dorothy had had enough of Austin's progress. "City slickers" from Austin were driving out in the country to Bull Creek for picnics, swimming, and "moon gazing." Dorothy complained that city people were driving on the public roads and into her property: "Their picnics left fires, paper, and trash over the land. The noise and parties were something to behold. Their destructiveness ... beyond words."

Dorothy decided to take matters into her own hands. From the news: *"The matter of the locked gate on a road leading from North Bull Creek Road through the old Venable place to the Marshall Ford Highway may also be back before the commissioners ... They received a petition last week, signed by 25 residents of the area, claiming that Mrs. Dorothy Duvall ... had closed the road by fencing and locking it. The petitioners claim the road has been open to the public for more than 80 years."*

She had blocked traffic to and by her house, but also the 2-mile stretch of road to today's RM2222 that would later become Lakewood Drive / Loop 360 up to Spicewood Springs Road.

Dorothy's undoing wasn't from the riff-raff she was trying to keep out, but rather from her neighbors. By August 1949 Dorothy had taken her case to the Commissioners Court. In the news article below the reference to a school is the Bull Creek / Pleasant Valley School that was at the intersection of today's 2222 and Loop 360, the southwest terminus of the road she had gated shut!

### ***Court Keeps Road Open As City Slickers Flayed***

*Austin's "city slickers" came in for some rough treatment Wednesday as the Travis County Commissioners Court refused to abandon a public road. The question arose over a petition submitted by Mrs. Dorothy Duvall to close the old two-mile Spicewood Springs Road which runs from the*

*new paved road by that name over to the Marshall Ford or Mt. Bonnell Road [today's 2222]. After a courtroom of citizens appeared against the proposition, the court voted unanimously not to close the route as a public road ... Horace Shelton, representing those opposing closing the road, argued that the answer to Mrs. Duvall's problem was "to get a shotgun and drive those city people off your land." In a speech to the court, he charged that "city people are careless ... unthoughtful ... and destructive." Shelton praised the action of one of the Spicewood Springs residents who upon finding "a bunch of city hoodlum desecrating his spring," took a shotgun, fired a few times, "and those city slickers haven't been heard from since—they're probably still running." ... Attorney Herbert Smart, representing Mrs. Duvall, said the road in question was probably built by the Indians and "is just like they left it." He claimed the "old narrow cow trail" crossed Bull Creek three or four times in its two mile stretch, and "for 50 or 60 yards follows the creek bed." Shelton, however, termed himself "just an old-fashioned Democrat who believes in giving the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people." He claimed that if the road were closed, residents of that area would have to drive 10 to 12 miles around to go to school. "The road's not your problem. It's those city slickers" he told Mrs. Duvall.*

Thus, it was: Dorothy 0 – neighbors and Austin city slickers 1

Even before 1949 Dorothy had begun to divest herself of parts of her land. The property changed hands over the years and in 1992 Dorothy's house became part of Balcones Canyonland Preserve. At some point, while abandoned, the house caught fire, but the ruins are extant. Though not accessible to the public, they are still visible on satellite imagery.

To read more see <https://traviscountyhistorical.blogspot.com/2022/03/dorothy-duvall-vs-austin-city-slickers.html>

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/>

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## Little Effort, Big Benefit to Birds – Maura Powers

As we move into fall, our North American migratory birds are pushing off to Central and South America via the Central Texas skyway in an age-old quest for food.

By now, most humans are aware, if only dimly, that manmade light pollution is disrupting the natural world by degrading the sensory environment for us and other species, birds included. Let's turn this around by turning lights off.

To alleviate the stress of an already stressful epic migration, we humans can turn off lights in homes and office buildings from 11 pm to 6 am, while the birds are in flight, to avoid interference with the starlight map. Under the existing light pollution, birds are disoriented, lost, and may die from exhaustion trying to find their way. This loss is totally preventable. At the very least, we can shield our lights from emanating into the night sky and use shielded motion detector lights in those areas where crime is a concern. In addition, reduced ambient lighting provides a welcome benefit to urban humans who would enjoy a better night's sleep.

Fall migration is August 15 through November 30. You may see yard signs distributed by Travis Audubon to remind us to turn lights out. To learn more about the Lights Out initiative visit <https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program> and for lighting options visit the International Dark Sky Association at <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-for-citizens/lighting-basics/>.



audubon.org/lights-out-program and for lighting options visit the International Dark Sky Association at <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-for-citizens/lighting-basics/>.

In the graphic, a flock of birds flies over Dallas as a new moon rises. (Shaban Athuman/Staff Photographer Dallas Morning News, Jul 5, 2020). It's from the article at this link: <https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2020/07/05/why-migrating-birds-need-texas-so-badly/>

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## Writer's Corner: Project WISE (Writers in Schools for Enrichment)

— Idee Kwak

Since its inception over a decade ago, Project WISE (vhas impacted over 65,00 Austin-area students, K-12, some attending Anderson High School. This program, offered by the Writers' League of Texas, brings acclaimed writers into classrooms and auditoriums - all at no cost to the schools.

To request a one-hour visit, the teacher or librarian writes to [projectwise@writersleague.org](mailto:projectwise@writersleague.org). Once accepted, they receive a roster of participating authors, each providing titles and grade levels of their work (picture books through young adult, fiction and non-fiction). Each author lists any Spanish proficiency they have as well as their availability for in-person or virtual.

The roster is always impressive. The 35 authors on last year's list collectively had over 250 books published. A sampling of just a few of the most notable authors and their awards follows.

Carolyn Dee Flores: Skipping Stones Award for Excellence in Multicultural Literature, Tejas Star Reading List 2015-2016, Tomas Rivera Award 20 Most Remarkable Books of 2014, Best 20 Latino Books From 2014, and National Picture Book Champion.

Bethany Hegedus: Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2015, Notable Books for a Global Society 2015, 2015 Texas Bluebonnet List, The New York Public Library 100 Books for Reading and Sharing, Non-Fiction Picture Book Nerdy Award Winner, Chicago Public Library's Best Informational Books for Younger Readers of

2014, Huffington Post's "Best Picture Books of 2014.

Cynthia Levinson: 2013 IRA Young Adult Nonfiction Award, Jane Addams Book Award for Older Children, YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction, American Library Association Notable Children's Book, NCTE Orbis Pictus Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, SCBWI Golden Kite Award for Nonfiction, Parents' Choice: Gold Medal, TLA Spirit of Texas Award; Massachusetts Must-Read Book, Julia Ward Howe Book Award (Finalist), California Reading Association Eureka! Gold Medal for Nonfiction.

The substantial roster (last year's was 45 pages) includes writers' sample lesson plans. The school is allowed three selections, and once one of their choices is coordinated with an author's availability, the school and the writer set their own schedule, with the Writers' League paying all costs. During the pandemic, Project WISE visits dropped from 75 per year to 25, with a limit of one visit per school annually. Hopefully the overall number of visits will grow this year, and the limit will eventually be lifted.

Age and grade appropriate, presentations vary from reading and singing together to making up and illustrating fairy tales; from creating a solid storyline to learning how to publish a book. Offered throughout the Austin area, especially to Title 1 schools, Project WISE has fostered literary appreciation in our children, at no cost to schools and students.



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## How to Keep Your Pet Cool

— Kayla Winer-Winkler

In the dog days of summer (which continue into fall), we like to make sure that our pets are comfortable and cool. Here is a list of dos and don'ts if you want to keep your fur-end safe from the Texas heat.

We need exercise - so do our dogs, which is why we take them on walks. However, if the sidewalk temperature is over 125 degrees, it can be dangerous and hurt your dog's paws. This is where doggie boots can come in handy, even though it's far from winter! If you are in a place where it may be difficult to get water, you might want to consider bringing a portable bowl and water for you and your dog. Another idea is to wet a bandana and wrap it around your dog to keep it cool, as well as walking in an area with a lot of shade.

While inside though, you may put a fan near your pet's favorite hangout spot or cage. If your pet has a cage, you can put a towel dampened with cold water on top to filter in cool air; but don't cover the entire cage, so your pet can get airflow.

If your pet is white, it is also at more of a risk of sunburn; bunnies commonly get sunburnt on their noses and ears. If you are concerned about this, pet sunscreen is available and may be helpful. Make sure you groom your pet regularly to ensure its coat isn't too thick, which could cause it to become too hot.

Some other ways to keep your pet chilly is to feed it frozen treats, such as pupsicles, which are usually fruit mixed with unsweetened yogurt or frozen chicken soup. Some pets may also be content licking an ice cube, if you don't feel up to making a pupsicle. Just tell them "Bon A-pet-treat!"



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## NWACA Neighborhood National Night Out – Connie Lundgren

With the excitement of cooler weather, a new school year, and all the ensuing activities, hope springs eternal. An event our neighborhood can look forward to is our third Neighborhood National Night Out on Saturday, September 24, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the south end of the Randalls parking lot.

National Night Out brings together first responders and the community to promote citizen involvement in crime prevention. As always, our event is both a party and a crime prevention tool to remind everyone to be proactive in preventing crime, and to learn how to recognize and report suspicious behavior or vehicles.

We honor all of our first responders, so you can look forward to seeing the Travis County Constables who patrol our neighborhood, our Austin Police Department District Representative, the Game Warden, members of Austin Fire Department Station 21, the EMS squad, and a few more surprises. In addition, we will have a band, food, prizes for the kids, and great information for the adults. Mark your calendars now for National Night Out! We look forward to seeing you!

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## Gourmand's Corner: Austin Oaks Restaurant Site

– Chris Hajdu

You may or may not have noticed it, but there's been some construction going on within the Austin Oaks property at the Southeast corner of Wood Hollow Drive and Spicewood Springs Road. This space is undergoing a shift from commercial office to restaurant use, which includes a large outside deck.

If anyone remembers the PUD development (and I'm sure many neighbors do....) one of the goals for the site was to add more restaurant uses to that property. Even though the developer sold the property before they could implement the PUD plan, this conversion is within the spirit of the original plan which had several restaurant sites going into that area of the property.

I'll continue to look into this and to keep everyone up to date on the progress of this location over the next few months.



## Prevent Oak Wilt

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- **Dormant Season**
- **Coldest Months**

## A Short Reminder about Evacuation Planning – Joyce Statz

As our summer continues to be hot and dry, we face high risks of wildfires in Central Texas. It's very important that our homes and landscapes be as fire-resistant as possible, but it's also important that we be prepared to evacuate our homes, if circumstances require.

The following is taken from the April 2022 issue of the Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division newsletter. It captures well, I think, the serious nature of evacuation in times of wildfire or other natural disasters.

"We tend to think (and like to believe) that wildfires are rare here, but that is a matter of scale. The smaller fires are mostly ignored by the media. Why? Because they are now so common, they hardly register as "news" anymore and are viewed as of little consequence. Just last year alone, the Austin Fire Department responded to 369 brush, grass, and wildfires. Comparatively speaking, flooding, ice storms, and tornadoes are, thankfully, relatively few and far between. Only the most extreme of these result in massive catastrophic danger, requiring evacuation. Yet there are those among us who have had to evacuate—more than once—and often display some signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from what's clearly a traumatic event. Not until the 1980s was PTSD even a diagnosable issue. At its most basic level, PTSD is defined as a disorder in which a person has difficulty recovering after experiencing or witnessing a terrifying event.

A 2021 study found that victims of the 2018 California Camp Fire had as likely a chance to develop PTSD as combat veterans. Those who had prepared and ensured their families were aware of the plan had much lower rates of anxiety issues following the event. Conversely, those who are confronted with a traumatic experience without preparing or being aware of the plan, not surprisingly, don't fare nearly as well. Imagine the well-intentioned case of a family member who takes on the responsibility of making sure the family is prepared but didn't want to bother or burden anyone else with the information. In this case, it's true what they say: sharing is caring. Not just for others' mental health, but for your own as well."

Each family should have a plan for evacuation - have a "go bag" packed and a checklist prepared. For ideas on what to include, go to [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) and type "Ready Set Go" into the search bar. You'll be taken to a link for a booklet of helpful ideas and checklists. A few minutes of preparation now can save you much anxiety later, and it can help prevent PTSD from an evacuation.



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### To join:

go to **www.nwaca.org** and pay online via credit card  
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Please check a committee on which you would like to participate:

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 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](mailto:info@nwaca.org)

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# Chief's Monthly Report for June 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 June 2022.

## Chief's Monthly Report for June 2022

### City-Wide

### Baker Sector

#### Crimes Against Persons

#### Crimes Against Persons

	June 2022	June 2021		June 2022	June 2021
Murder	6	10	Murder	0	0
Aggravated Assault	385	296	Aggravated Assault	15	18
Simple Assault	851	884	Simple Assault	72	106

#### Crimes Against Property

#### Crimes Against Property

	June 2022	June 2021		June 2022	June 2021
Robbery	100	77	Robbery	5	2
Burglary	338	381	Burglary	25	57
Burglary of Vehicle	974	743	Burglary of Vehicle	254	127
Auto Theft	406	371	Auto Theft	36	52
Vandalism	556	585	Vandalism	56	52

#### Crimes Against Society

#### Crimes Against Society

	June 2022	June 2021		June 2022	June 2021
Drug Violations	233	209	Drugs	11	15
Weapons	87	82	Weapons	4	1

## 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 May 15, 2022, and August 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.

- John and Katherine Foster
- John and Diana Gilbert
- Charles and Beverly Locklin
- John and Fara McMullen
- Carolyn and Gary Mueller
- Blythe and Chris Wilson
- (and apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)



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**I would be more than happy to give anyone our opinion and describe what a pleasant experience we had with Dawn. I've read many accolades that she has earned, and it is easy to understand why she is one of the top sales people in Austin. We would be happy to wholeheartedly recommend her to anyone!"**

**~Gabi and Dean Rose**



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