

nwacanews

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2022

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 11

FROM THE BOARD - NOVEMBER, A TIME TO GIVE THANKS

This month we take time to be grateful for many things – family, friends, cooler weather, our neighborhood, NWACA business members, and a nation where we have a voice.

If this issue gets to you before November 8th, please be sure to exercise your right to vote. We have elections for school board members, school bonds, Austin Mayor, City of Austin bonds, ACC bonds, state-wide positions, and more. If you've already voted and the election has passed, may the results bring us good governance and support. Whatever the result, casting our votes is our responsibility to good government.

Thanks to neighbors who gathered at the end of September for our NWACA National Night Out. It seems a little late to acknowledge now, but the event happened well after we went to press for our October newsletter. The photos show that everyone had a chance to meet our first responders and thank them for keeping us safe, as well as time to enjoy food and music with neighbors. This event, as well as others in our neighborhood are possible because of





your household membership dues and the participation of our many business members. See the page in this issue featuring our business members; please thank them for their support when you encounter them.

This month is National Homelessness



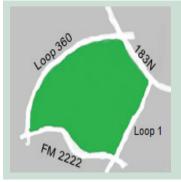
Awareness month, a time to consider ways to help prevent homelessness and ways to help those experiencing homelessness to be housed. Terry Cole provides a look at The Charlie Center, a new navigation and assistance center for unhoused people in northwest Austin. Volunteer opportunities of several types are available.

Enjoy the fall weather and any leaves you find turning colors. Check out Kayla Winer-Winkler's article about leaves to learn what causes those color changes. The falling leaves join the other landscape leavings that we need to remove. See the Firewise article on being prepared; we now have a year-around wildfire season.

As you walk the neighborhood in the next few months, there will be more dark hours. Be especially careful and walk facing traffic. As the article by Richard Anton points out, this is not only good practice, but also the law.

Stay safe out there and enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday!





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.

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Albert knows Austin, and Albert sells homes. I highly recommend him." - Joe

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REBUILDING TOGETHER AUSTIN SPOTLIGHT



I'd like to spotlight a few recent Rebuilding Together Austin projects for neighbors in need who live on very limited income. We just finished repairing a home for a veteran and his wife, installing a new walkway to prevent falls, a new HVAC system, flooring, plumbing, electrical, and drywall repairs. We also worked on a home for Mr. H., who has lived in this home for 47 years. We installed a new HVAC, flooring, front door, exterior paint, a garage ceiling, drywall repairs, and interior paint. It takes much coordination and effort to pull off these projects and we couldn't do it without the support from our funders Texas Veterans Commission, the City of Austin Housing and Planning Department,

our contractors, our amazing private donors, and our incredible volunteers! Our repairs directly improve the lives of neighbors in need by allowing homeowners to age in place and use their limited resources for other necessities such as food and healthcare. Please consider making a donation today. No donation is too small. Thank you!

- Albert Allen - Board President Rebuilding Together Austin www.RebuildingTogetherAustin.org

Key Contacts

Austin Citywide Information Center512-974-2000 or 311
Emergency, Police
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues)311
To check status, go to: http://www.austintexas.gov/department/
myaustincodestatus
APD District Representative,
Officer James Hyatt
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter 512-978-2110
Enroll in the District 10 montly 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 737-235-7325

The NWACA Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month except July and 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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Mark Your Calendars

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

Nov 15, 8AM - 11 AM

Parks Committee • virtual

Nov 19, 9-11 AM

Batteries, Electronics, Dental, Styrofoam Waste Collection event for members

Nov 20, 2 PM

Tree, Environment, and Wildlife Committee • virtual

Nov 22, 5 PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees Joint Meeting virtual

Nov 30, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

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

Dec 20, 7 PM

Parks Committee • virtual



Prevent Oak Wilt

PLAN AHEAD - PRUNE NOV thru JAN

- Beetles Inactive
- · Dormant Season
- · Coldest Months

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NWACA News

Collection Event November 19: Electronics, Styrofoam, and Bathroom Supplies-Joanie Arrott

Gather up your outdated computer monitors, old microwaves, IPhone 3s, and blown-out stereo equipment. The St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Mesa Drive parking lot will be the site of the Northwest Austin Civic Association's (NWACA) Electronics Collection event. We'll be collecting old electronics, batteries, Styrofoam, and bathroom supplies - toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, used razors, and dental floss containers.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 19th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at St. Matthew's. Collected electronics, batteries, and Styrofoam will be taken to the City's Reuse and Recycle Drop-Off Center. Bathroom supplies will go to TerraCycle. This event is open to NWACA members only. If you're not a member, you can join at the event for the usual household membership fee of \$25. We will accept:

• Used electronics such as: computers and related supplies, printers, batteries, cameras, phones, LCD televisions, routers, stereo equipment, microwaves, and small refrigerators; all consumer electronic devices and appliances

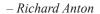
- Clean Styrofoam blocks, egg cartons, cups, and containers
- · Batteries of all sizes
- Used toothpaste tubes and floss containers
- Used disposable razors, replaceable-blade cartridge units, and razor plastic packaging

We will not accept:

- Rear-projection TVs or those with wooden frames
- Dirty Styrofoam food or drink containers
- Packing peanuts or plastic foam
- Household hazardous wastes including used oil, paint, light bulbs, or chemicals

We're always looking for volunteers for our collection events. We need folks to corral the cars, unload vehicles, load the collection truck, and assist with separating the collected materials. If you're looking for a great opportunity to help serve your neighborhood, meet your neighbors, and protect the environment, come join us! Any questions or volunteer sign-up can be sent to info@nwaca.org

Please Walk Facing Traffic



This message is extremely important with sunset so much earlier now.

Pedestrians walking inside the curb line are supposed to walk on the LEFT side of the street facing oncoming traffic. In addition to making good sense, it is actually written in the Texas Transportation Code. If you walk on the right side, on-coming traffic is behind you, and you cannot see what is happening.

Also wear something light colored or reflective and/or carry a light if you are going to be out

after the sun sets or before it rises. Too many people wear black or dark blue without carrying a light or adding reflective gear. Several times I've passed someone as they are walking, and I do not see them until I am right next to them. This is extremely dangerous, especially

around dusk or dawn.

Finally, walk along the curb and not 2 or 3 abreast so that one of you is in the middle of the street. I have passed groups of 5 or 6 people walking next to each other and covering the entire lane of traffic.

Don't wait until there has been a serious injury or even death to be reminded of this common-sense rule.



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Student Scoop: Leaves - Kayla Winer-Winkler

Have you ever walked outside on a cool autumn morning, and found the brightly colored leaves fascinating? Have you ever watched a leaf fall, and wondered, if trees shed their leaves, then how do they stay warm in winter? Well, I have. I did a little research and put it in an article so that you can learn what I was so curious about.

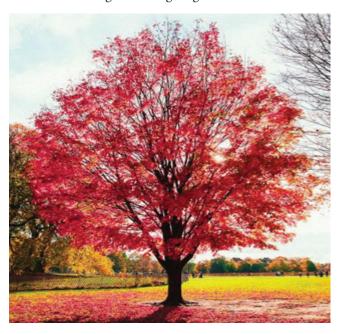
Trees shed their leaves in a process called abscission. This process starts when the leaves begin to change colors. In biology class you most likely learned that the chlorophyll that gives plants life dyes the leaves green. But what if the chlorophyll stopped working? Then the leaves would not be green anymore. In autumn, due to changes in temperature and sunlight, this does happen to our plants, which causes some of the yellow and brown shades.

Then what about the red colors? If the green fades, then how does a leaf become red? When leaves begin to die, they sometimes release chemicals called anthocyanins, the same chemical that pigments apple and grape skins. Sometimes, the anthocyanins mix with the chlorophyll to make different shades of red and green.

The final part of the abscission process is the part where the leaves actually fall. Because winter can be really cold, trees need to store water until spring, when we get many showers. However, if the trees only have a limited supply of water, then why would they waste it on leaves, which are mainly for decoration? Well, they wouldn't. Trees push their leaves off their branches so that they have enough

resources to make it through the winter.

When the leaves fall, then you have to sweep them all up and put them in the compost bin, which isn't exactly the most exciting job out there. Have a bright Thanksgiving!





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NWACA News

How Do I Recycle Plastic? - Merriessa Anton

Not all plastic goes into your blue recycling bin. Let me explain this so you have a clear picture of what can be recycled in your blue container, what needs to be taken to a collection area, and what should be thrown in your trash container to become landfill. Place into your blue recycling container

- Beverage bottles (with the plastic label removed and placed in the trash), mustard and ketchup bottles, laundry bottles, shampoo and liquid soap bottles, and salad dressing bottles (rinsed out before recycling).
- Yogurt, sour cream, and butter containers can also be recycled if they have the #5 inside a triangle (look for the number on the bottom of the container).
- Plastic clamshell containers can be recycled if they have a number between 1 through 7 inside a triangle.

Please remember that items should be thrown directly into the recycle container. Please do not bag recycled items.

Collection Items

• Plastic bags including bread and tortilla bags, newspaper bags, sandwich bags, dry cleaning bags and single use grocery bags made of thin plastic (that stretch) should be dropped off at a collection bin outside of a grocery store, dry cleaner, or any store that collects

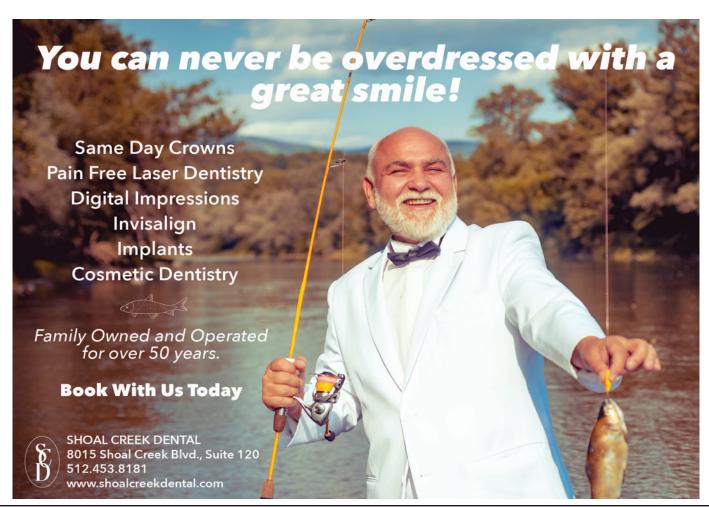
plastic bags. These bags cannot be recycled curbside. (Note: I have purchased cotton mesh bags to use when buying fruits and vegetables. These bags can be washed and reused many times and save me from bringing home 4 or 5 plastic bags each time I go to the grocery store).

• Egg cartons and packaging for meat and fish made of foam polystyrene (a plastic used to make a wide variety of consumer products) cannot be recycled. These must be collected and taken to Austin Resource Recovery. (Note: polystyrene is one of the many types of foam that is gathered at the twice-yearly NWACA recycling events for NWACA members).

Discard in your trash container

- Plastic wrap that contains crackers or potato chips (crinkly plastic)
- Small bread clips, pill packaging, single use condiment packets, plastic tampon applicators
- Bags that had garden dirt and compost
- Milk cartons such as shelf-stable milk alternatives or single serve milk

If you have any questions about what to do with the plastic in your home, please get in touch with me, merriessa@gmail.com.



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MARKET \$1,175,000 MEDIAN SALES PRICE UPDATE





\$22,596,700 SALES VOLUME



\$455 AVG LIST PRICE PER SF



\$451 AVG SALE PRICE PER SF



\$1,148,941 AVERAGE LIST PRICE

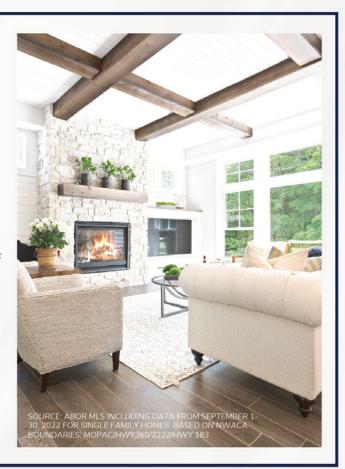
NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS



DAYS ON MARKET



CLOSED SALES



nest



JULIE WAIDELICH-

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We wish you a beautiful holiday season and a joyous year's end!

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Wildfire is Around Us; Be Sure Your Homes are Hardened

- Joyce Statz

Austin Fire Department data tells us that there are grass fires and brush fires almost every day in the Austin area. This post to NextDoor on October 14th gives you an example of what occurs.

There was a significant brush fire at Mt. Bonnell and 2222. The first alarm came in at 5:15 pm. Because of the fire area's adjacency to the 200+ acre Bright Leaf Preserve, the fast and hard work of approximately 30 firefighters kept the incident from turning into a major inferno. Units dispatched: Austin Fire Department Engine 12, Engine 31, Engine 33, Engine Quint 1, Brush Truck 33, Brush Truck 39, Battalion 1, Battalion 3; Travis County Engine 902, Squad 903, Battalion 901, Battalion 90.2

To minimize the threat of wildfire, harden your home and landscape with at least these actions:

- Remove all debris from gutters on the house.
- Ensure that there is at least an 18-inch perimeter around the house that has no flammable material (including oily plants like rosemary). It's best if this area has rock mulch; no wood mulch should be placed near flammable siding or windows.
- Remove any dead landscape elements tree limbs, plants, piles of brush, grass cuttings, and leaves. Limbs that don't fit into your weekly trash bins will be picked up if they are no longer than 5 feet and no more than 3 inches in diameter; they should be stacked in bundles of no more than 30 pounds next to your compost cart.
- Take advantage of the special pickup days for large limbs and brush; these happen twice a year. Check the schedule for your address at https://www.austintexas.gov/myschedule
 - Place stacks of firewood away from building walls.
- If you leave your home for an extended period, take flammable door mats inside the house or toss them onto the sidewalk in front of your house. Remove flammable items from your deck and turn flammable deck furniture on its side to avoid creating a basket for embers to land.



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Chief's Monthly Report for August 2022

City-Wide

Baker Sector

Crimes Against Society

Crimes Against Persons

Cri	mes Agai	nst Perso	ns		Crir	nes Agair	ıst Persoi	าร	
	Month	Month	%	All		Month	Month	%	All
	2022	2021	Change	2022		2022	2021	Change	2022
Murder	9	5	80%	49	Murder	0	1	-100%	1
Aggravated Assault	301	311	-3%	2,573	Aggravated Assault	11	14	-21%	116
Simple Assault	843	893	-6%	6.718	Simple Assault	84	85	-1%	689

Crir	nes Agair	ist Prope	гτу		Crin	ies Again	st Proper	τγ	
	Month	Month	%	All		Month	Month	%	All
	2022	2021	Change	2022		2022	2021	Change	2022
Robbery	67	105	-36%	633	Robbery	5	7	-29%	36
Burglary	366	359	2%	3,037	Burglary	45	56	-20%	335
Burglary of Vehicle	793	774	2%	6,741	Burglary of Vehicle	161	168	-4%	1,424
Auto Theft	446	430	4%	3,416	Auto Theft	56	67	-16%	364
Vandalism	489	500	-2%	4,082	Vandalism	48	62	-23%	385

Crimes Against Society

CII	ilies Agai	i ist socie	···y		Citi	nes Agan	ist societ	· y	
	Month	Month	%	All		Month	Month	%	All
	2022	2021	Change	2022		2022	2021	Change	2022
Drug Violations	290	169	72%	2,120	Drugs	16	8	100%	103
Weapons	77	73	5%	740	Weapons	2	3	-33%	32







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Sylvia A. Stern

Words sung, spoken, and written, can change people's lives.

While our neighbor, Sylvia Stern's love of dance and rhythm didn't lead her to musical

performance, her prodigious power to speak and write touched many with compassion, understanding, and guidance. She lived for others, gladly assisting anyone who sought her counsel, often finding new opportunities for them with her extensive network and knowledge. She never accepted "I can't," and after her passing in April, myriad people came forward to recount the innumerable benefits her advocacy had bestowed.

In her life, Sylvia accomplished what she set out to do: leave the world a better place for those she encountered, especially women and minorities.

Acting on her commitment to Equal Opportunity, she volunteered extensively. Fifty years ago, hers was among the first female voices in the male-dominated Austin Chamber of Commerce. There she raised her voice representing women and minority interests. She helped to organize Leadership Austin's focus on improved career opportunities for the underrepresented. She was a mainstay in the 1990 Leadership Texas Class where, with assistance from Governor Ann Richards, women's leadership positions in government and business were developed.

Not only understanding but personally experiencing the challenges of single motherhood, Sylvia brought her strengths to Planned Parenthood for over thirty years.

Precocious in childhood, her love of reading, writing, studying, and public speaking brought her quick success in her pursuit of business degrees, and with specialties in image management, presentation skill, and executive coaching she began work with IBM.

With work at IBM spanning the first fifteen years of her career, she then started her own firm. For over twenty-five years she toured the country giving hundreds of presentations, at the same time writing a series of books, Yes You Can. Their topics are manifold and include dress for your biz, prepare for interviews, and make a great first impression. The books delve into interpersonal communications, gender orientation, effective leadership, career development, and many more topics.

In the last decade of her life, Sylvia married Ron Stone and they became our Northwest Hills neighbors. She soon turned her attention to genealogical research. Born Sylvia Alma Acevedo in Brownsville, Texas to Joe Acevedo of Austin, Texas, and Caroline Rodriguez of Roma, Texas, Sylvia was raised in McAllen. Her Pena Matriarch was one of the founders of Roma, Texas in the mid-1700's.

Sylvia always took great pride in her heritage: the strong women that strode across generations of her family made a huge impact on her life. Sylvia was taught from an early age to, "Remember, you are no better and no worse than anyone else..." This mindset shaped nearly every aspect of the life of this powerhouse woman who influenced the lives of so many others with her words.

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Thank you, NWACA Business Members

NWACA is very grateful to our business members. They make it possible for us to have the finest 4th of July events in the City! It's because of them that we also have the Neighborhood National Night Out gathering, family-friendly events throughout the year, and a host of committees and activities that keep our neighborhood vibrant. Please join us in thanking them for their support of the NWACA community!















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NWACA News

The Charlie Center Navigation and Resource Center - Terry Cole

We all know homelessness is an issue in Austin, affecting those who face housing instability and the rest of us as well. There are no simple fixes. In my 20 years working with the homeless, I've learned you must divide and conquer to make progress. Few solutions yield instant results; to succeed, they must be affordable and focused to help one person at a time. Recently, I was delighted to visit The Charlie Center in North Austin, where they do this.

The Charlie Center is a navigation center and a resource center. The latter provides immediate but temporary relief for those in need. The former helps them access long-term benefits. Such assistance typically requires expertise, knowledge, and patience. Navigation centers have become more effective the past few years, as those working in the field learned to bring multiple services closer to those who need them. Austin has a growing number of navigation centers; Trinity Center downtown and Sunrise Community Center in south Austin are two of the larger ones. The Charlie Center, in north Austin, is smaller and welcomes about 60 people each of the two days per week it is open.

Visitors walking and biking into the center, located on the campus of Mosaic Church, told me they almost always find the clothing and supplies they need. People in its outer garden area were waiting for showers, available Monday through Friday mornings from a partner, or sitting on benches talking with case workers from other agencies. They said they are treated very well and known by name.

Inside is a restful but bustling great room where clients sit, talk, and enjoy a good meal—jambalaya served by volunteers the day I visited. Mail service and intake for food stamps, Medicaid, supportive housing applications (known as coordinated assessment) are available inside rooms partitioned for private meetings with case managers. The Charlie Center invites other agencies to bring what are known as "pop-up resource centers" to its gathered clients. CommUnityCare Center clinical staff were on site the day I visited. Homeless solutions, even those delivered with best practices like these, typically take as long as 18 months to restore clients to some form of housing.

The Charlie Center opened its doors during the pandemic to fill the vacuum created when the agencies, businesses, restaurants, and stores that homeless people typically relied on suddenly closed.

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Fortunately, those shutdowns have passed, but growing needs still strain our systems and economy. The biggest need at the Charlie Center is a new location, since it is outgrowing the current one.

It takes an entire city to help our homeless population move to stability. That includes funding from all levels of government, plus state and city workers working alongside the many nonprofit and faith-based organizations and volunteer groups. When done well, the system can combine financial resources, physical relief, education, medical care, and mental health care. The result? Complete healing for the individual!



Cordial inviting seating for a meal and community, with bustling business around the outside to help build stability.

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Best Houseplants - Shoal Creek Nursery

Houseplants are a great addition to any space, from small work cubicles or a simple apartment or condominium to a large, multistory house, a classroom, corner executive office, ranch home or luxury suite. No matter where they will be placed, however, if you've never had a houseplant before, it's best to start with hardy plants that are great for beginners.

Benefits of Houseplants

Houseplants offer many benefits that can appeal to anyone, no matter how brown their thumbs may be. Houseplants can...

- Clean and purify the air as well as increase humidity to combat dry skin
- Promote relaxation and lower stress levels, reducing depression and improving moods
- Improve concentration and focus to increase productivity Even just a few houseplants can provide these benefits, so why not get started?

Top 10 Houseplants for Beginners

Not all houseplants are the same, and their general needs for water and light levels, fertilization, growth space, air circulation, and pruning can vary greatly. The best plants for beginners are those that are hardy even when inadvertently mistreated or ignored, and that adapt well to a variety of climate conditions. Beginning houseplants are easy to grow, resistant to most pests and don't generally require specialized care other than good light and somewhat regular watering.

The best plants for beginners, those that are most likely to forgive novice mistakes, include...

- Spider Plants: With long, dangling leaves and a habit of creating many sprouting offshoots that can be planted themselves, these are great hanging plants for windows or kitchens.
- Snake Plants: Also called mother-in-law's tongue, these are some of the hardiest plants available, with spear-like upright foliage in a variety of variegated green shades.
- Succulents: These plants have fleshy leaves and are very drought resistant, so they need very little watering. Aloe is a popular succulent great for beginning houseplant growers.
- Cacti: Another great plant that doesn't need watering, cacti come in a wide range of shapes and colors, but the spines can be sharp, and the plants should be kept out of reach of young children.
- Dracaena: These plants have lovely foliage often with shades of green, yellow or red, and are often sold as "angel" or "indestructible" plants because they require very little care.
- Lucky Bamboo: Technically a type of dracaena, this upright plant can thrive in just a vase of water, and it is a favorite for office plants either as single shoots or in groups or clusters.
- Peace Lily: Lush and vibrant, this lily has glossy green foliage and sprouts graceful white blooms. This plant grows quickly and can become quite large, ideal for filling in a space.

- Christmas Cactus: A popular succulent with glorious red, pink or orange blooms, these plants can grow quite large and live for years even with less-than-perfect care.
- Dumb Cane: These plants are botanically known as dieffenbachia and are hardy, upright growers with broad, drop-shaped leaves that often show lovely variegated patterns.
- Parlor Palm: For a tropical touch, the parlor palm is an easy houseplant to grow and was a staple in many Victorian-era homes.

Today, it is making a glorious comeback.

No matter which plant you choose, always research a houseplant's basic water, sunlight and temperature needs to be sure it is suitable for your home and lifestyle. Before you know it, your thumb will be green, and your home will be filled with hardy houseplants!





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"I wanted to share with you the wonderful experience my husband and I had when selling our home with Dawn as our agent. She made every step of the process easy, straightforward thus exceeding our expectations. This is the 11th house we have bought over the years, and this was by far the best realtor we have ever worked with.

From the very beginning, Dawn told us what she felt was an appropriate price, exactly what to expect during the listing process, and what she needed for us to do to make our home more appealing to buyers. I was particularly impressed that she was present at each showing to point out the special features of our property. She was enthusiastic, unbelievably thorough, available for all our questions, and communicated regularly and clearly on what needed to be done.

Her hard work and attention to detail resulted in us selling our home after two days on the market at a price well above what we had asked. Her advice regarding which offer to accept helped us determine which offer was the best and most likely to result in closing.

Obviously, Dawn has our admiration and highest praise for a job well done." ~Pat and Bob Otto



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