

Northwest Austin News

SERVING THE NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY

Volume 14, Issue 6

June 2023



Summer is Here!



Visits at Committee Tables

By NWACA BOARD

As summer approaches, our neighborhood looks forward to the annual 4th of July Parade and Freedom Fest. We always claim it to be the biggest and best in Austin! Members of the Board are busy planning the events, and they'd like your help.

Signups are open for the Float Contest. Gather with your group, your neighbors, your friends, and design a float for the float contest. Prizes are big: \$150 to the Grand Champion, \$100 to Most Patriotic, and \$100 to Best Team Spirit! Go to www.nwaca.org to see more details using the Hot Topics link about floats. Have fun!

email to info@nwaca.org telling us about your group, so we can help find you a good spot in the lineup. We already have the Lawn Chair Brigade as our first entrant, a group we all look forward to seeing.

Help us plan and run the event. It takes lots of volunteers to make these events happen. Go to www.nwaca.org and use the Hot Topics link about volunteering to pick your slot. For those who joined us for the Neighborhood Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 11, thank you for coming! We appreciated seeing so many of you, and we know you enjoyed visiting all the displays, including the wildfire demonstration at the simulation table.

Let us know if your group is marching. Send

NEIGHBORHOOD, 4

Shalom Austin Celebrates Expanded Dell Jewish Community Center



Rabbi Daniel A. Septimus, Shalom Austin CEO, and Susan and Michael Dell on May 15, 2023 in front of the newly expanded Dell Jewish Community Center.

By LYNETTE HAALAND
Northwest Austin News

Shalom Austin held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 15 to mark the grand opening of its newly expanded and renovated Dell Jewish Community Center. The center is named after major donors Michael

and Susan Dell, whose foundation matched \$6.24 million of the over \$25 million Shalom Austin raised during its "Generations" capital campaign.

"After relocating to Austin, it was very

COMMUNITY CENTER, 4



AUSTIN | CEDAR PARK | SAN ANTONIO

GETTING DIVORCED?

GRAB YOUR FREE GUIDE

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD STOP DOING
IMMEDIATELY TO PROTECT YOURSELF

FREE GUIDE



HEMBREE BELL
— LAW FIRM, PLLC —
(737) 265-8188
CALL TODAY FOR
YOUR
FREE CASE
EVALUATION

History of Artificial Intelligence and NWACA

By RICHARD DENNEY

As the cliché goes, unless you’ve been living under a rock, you know Artificial Intelligence (AI) is all the rage. Major players like Microsoft and Google are investing big money in AI “chatbots” like ChatGBT and Bard to enhance their search engines. In this article we step back in time and look at the history of AI close to home: our NWACA neighborhood.

While popular media makes the current round of chatbots synonymous with AI, AI has been around for years; the term “Artificial intelligence” was coined by computing pioneers in 1956. In the nearly 70 years since, AI research has involved more than just neural nets, the underpinnings of the current products like ChatGBT. What is considered AI is ever changing; a program that plays checkers certainly wouldn’t rate prime time news coverage these days but was once considered AI.

The history of AI is one of booms and busts. We are now in what AI researchers colloquially call the “third AI summer,” a boom time in AI research. The first two booms were followed by “AI winters” (the busts), periods when expectations exceeded results, or hardware evolution or economics failed to meet the demands of AI, leading to a decrease in interest, funding, and research.

The second big boom in AI hit Austin in 1983 with the founding of the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation (MCC). MCC was a consortium of companies helped along by the Department of Defense and the Justice Department as a response to Japan’s Fifth Generation Computer Systems project, which was announced in 1982. It depended on Prolog, a logic programming language popular in AI but second in popularity in the United States to



Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation or MCC ca. 2005. Photo courtesy Larry D. Moore, CC BY 4.0 license

the language Lisp. Japan’s Fifth Generation project was to AI like Russia’s Sputnik was to space exploration: a wake-up call that the United States was at risk of falling behind in a new technology. The iconic MCC building still stands today as the University of Texas West J.J. Pickle Research Building, just a mile north of our neighborhood on the west side of MoPac.

While both the Fifth Generation project and MCC were casualties in part due to the second AI winter in the early 1990s, MCC is credited with helping jumpstart Austin as a high-tech center. One of MCC’s spin-offs was a company called Cycorp which still does AI research and until recently was headquartered right here in the neighborhood. They’ve been working on AI for nearly four decades.

Cycorp’s product is Cyc, the name, a play on “encyclopedia,” intending to create an encyclopedia of common-sense knowledge about the world. From their website, Cycorp is a “leading provider of Machine Reasoning AI. The Cyc platform combines an unparalleled common-sense ontology and knowledge base with a powerful reasoning engine and natural language interfaces...”

Besides MCC and Cycorp, the NWACA neighborhood has been home to a number of contributors to AI at the University of Texas and at companies like Schlumberger and Texas Instruments. Schlumberger’s Austin office is now closed, but the facility remains as Concordia University Texas’s campus off FM 620. The Texas Instruments Explorer

Lisp computer lost out to standard Unix machines in the second winter, victim to lower cost technology.

Will the current summer of AI be followed by a winter? Time will tell. Old AI never dies, it just morphs into other technology. Some feel the current neural net-based AI will eventually need to incorporate other techniques (“symbolic AI”) from the first two AI booms. If so, companies like Cycorp with roots going back to the 1980s may be well positioned to help.

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/>

New Northwest Austin News

We are a full service newspaper.

Please share story ideas and tips.



Lynette@FourPointsNews.com

Need to reach more than 8,000 homes?

Advertise in Northwest Austin News!

Best reach, Best readers, Best rates!



DOCHEN[↑]

REALTY GROUP

- BRAMLETT PARTNERS -



Denny Holt

Broker
512.694.1103

Denny is a native, life-long Austinite with 31 years of industry experience. As a long-time volunteer for the Texas Realtors Professional Standards Committee and the Ombudsman program, Denny prioritizes professionalism and strives to elevate the standards of client service.

"Denny is an outstanding broker with a vision and expertise to market and sell. He gained my trust and respect early on by making marketing suggestions that gave my property the 'wow' factor it needed. My neighbors are still raving about his skills. Truly a pleasure and a positive experience."

-Debby W.

Harness our award-winning, client-centric service with our incredible agents.
We would love to help you achieve your real estate goals!

WWW.DOCHENREALTORS.COM | 512.345.2227 | 4501 SPICEWOOD SPRINGS RD. #1035



Shalom Austin CEO Rabbi Daniel Septimus, Michael and Susan Dell, Mayor Kirk Watson, Councilmember Alison Alter (District 10), Commissioner Brigid Shea, Travis County Precinct 2 and others were at the May 15 ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly unveiled Dell Jewish Community Center.

COMMUNITY CENTER, FROM 1

important to Susan and me to establish a center of Jewish culture and community here,” Michael Dell said in a news release. “We wanted to recreate the experiences we both had at the Jewish Community Centers in Dallas and Houston and are grateful to have done that through our work with Shalom Austin.”

The center, located at the Dell Jewish Community Campus on Hart Lane in the heart of Northwest Austin, is two stories and 37,805-square-feet. According to Shalom Austin, the center now includes a state-of-the-art fitness center, café, education center, meeting rooms, restrooms and a living room.

“The Dell JCC is one of the best kept secrets in North Austin,” said Rabbi Daniel Septimus, chief

executive officer at Shalom Austin, in a news release. “These renovations will help us enhance the quality of Jewish life through more opportunities for connection with each other and serve all of our neighbors at the same time. None of this would have been possible without our wonderful community and generous donors over the years; and this is just the beginning. We look forward to what the future holds.”

Last year, a new aquatic center, renovated locker rooms, tennis and pickleball courts, a revamped community hall, preschool and other upgrades opened.

The mid May ribbon cutting ceremony included a traditional blessing from the Austin Jewish clergy and the hanging of a mezuzah, “a visible sign and symbol to all those who enter that a sense of Jewish identity and commitment exists within.”

NEIGHBORHOOD, FROM 1

We were pleased to hear from Alison Alter, our District 10 Council Member, from Chris Vetromile of the Wildfire Division of the Austin Fire Department, and from Christian Mendoza from the Austin Police Department’s Office of Community Liaison. If you were not able to attend, you might want to review the presentations that were given; they’re at <https://nwaca.org/2023/05/>.

Among other things, Mr. Mendoza told us about a special program that his office runs, the Seniors

and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) program. In addition to an annual safety and information fair, they also do monthly programs in locations around Austin. NWACA is currently working with the Old Quarry Library to establish monthly SALT presentations for our community; we’ll give you more details next month.

In this issue, you’ll see a new column by Kevin Kott, a member of the NWACA Board and co-chair of our Crime and Safety Committee. Responses from the annual NWACA Neighborhood Survey indicate that many neighbors don’t know our NWACA Board members. Thus, we plan a

monthly spotlight on individual board members in coming newsletters, with Kevin doing the interview. This month we feature Dana Winer, chair of our Civic Engagement Committee.

This month’s history column has a rather unusual focus, looking at some history of artificial intelligence (AI) in our midst. The second boom he talks about was something of a Camelot experience for those of us who studied AI in graduate school, then put it to use in the evolution of Lisp machines and knowledge engineering. Some of the yield management software written for airlines by knowledge engineers from Texas Instruments

is probably still running, but on quite different hardware!

With the rain we have been getting recently across Texas, fire ant mounds are popping up and making themselves known. Wizzie Brown’s article gives guidance on ways to manage imported fire ants.

Check out all the other articles here, too, including a new police and sheriff’s office blotter. Enjoy!

Op-Ed

Let’s Unite and Slow Down Voluntarily on Greystone

By CHRIS LAMPRECHT
Resident

In late summer, Greystone Drive between Mopac and Valburn Drive is scheduled to receive 9 speed cushions under the Austin Transportation Department’s (ATD) traffic calming program. The installation of some stop signs, which would be in addition to the speed cushions, is also under consideration by ATD. This outcome is a result of concerns from residents and a speed study that showed 85th percentile speeds of 34.6, 34.6, 33.7, and 39.5mph. The last of these locations, just west of Chimney Corners traveling eastbound, is especially

problematic and has a large number of cars traveling over 40mph, which presents an unacceptable safety risk for both drivers and pedestrians.

The debate about speed bumps is highly contentious but it is possible for us to unite behind a shared goal of reducing our speeds voluntarily, rather than with speed cushions. We don’t have to look far for a recent success story. Just across Capital of Texas Highway in 2017, Jester Estates faced a similar problem and took just such an approach. They created a movement to accept responsibility for speeding and slow down voluntarily and the re-

sulting success was indisputable. Within 3 months 85th percentile speeds went from 38/39mph down to 33/34mph. What they found in Jester was interesting: nobody wanted to be the only one driving the speed limit but once most others were doing so they didn’t mind joining in. Six years after the speed humps in Jester were removed, their speeds remain at the same low level, the vast majority of residents are happy with the outcome, and neighborhood relations have improved.

We ask all of you to work together to help us achieve a similar result. Adopt a conciliatory position with those on the other side of the debate.

Take ownership of the fact that we are all responsible for speeding and drive 30mph and no faster, being especially vigilant eastbound near Chimney Corners. Tell the City of Austin, by email at MobilityBonds@austintexas.gov and District10@austintexas.gov, that you are committed to slow down on Greystone Drive and that you want the option to do so voluntarily rather than with speed cushions. This is our only chance to avoid 9 permanent speed cushions on Greystone and would be a better outcome for our neighborhood and a uniting force for our community.

**Injured?
We're here
to help.**

**ADAM
LOEWY**

**Proud Resident of
Northwest Hills**

LoewyFirm.com
(512) 280-0800



LOEWY LAW FIRM

HELPING INJURED TEXANS

MARKET UPDATE

YEAR TO DATE



\$1,220,000
MEDIAN SALES PRICE



\$65,469,753
SALES VOLUME



\$465
MEDIAN LIST PRICE/SF



\$444
MEDIAN SALE PRICE/SF



\$1,325,000
MEDIAN LIST PRICE



18
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET



50
CLOSED SALES

NORTHWEST
HILLS
AND
WESTOVER
HILLS



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM JAN 1- MAY 21, 2023 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON NWACA
BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY360/2222/HWY 183

JULIE WAIDELICH



YOUR NEIGHBOR. YOUR REALTOR.

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

June marks Julie's ten years as a trusted real estate broker and 22+ years of unwavering commitment as an Austin REALTOR®. With a steadfast dedication to creating exceptional experiences, Julie has had the privilege of serving generations of families, and her success is a testament to the trust and loyalty of her valued clients.

We chose Julie Waidelich because she is smart about the real estate market, a savvy negotiator and always fair. She met and exceeded our expectations. She listened carefully to what we wanted in a new home and was unbelievably patient in helping us search. She also did a great job helping us get all of the value possible out of the home we were selling – even in a challenging market. Easy to work with, conscientious, responsive and effective – all the things you want in someone responsible for helping you navigate real estate. - Melanie E.

Looking to buy or sell? Give me a call - I'd love to help you love where you live!

JULIE WAIDELICH
BROKER | OWNER, REALTOR®
512.784.1990

nest
PROPERTIES AUSTIN

5-Star Client Rating | Seller Representative Specialist | Certified Negotiation Expert | Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist

NESTPROPERTIESAUSTIN.COM

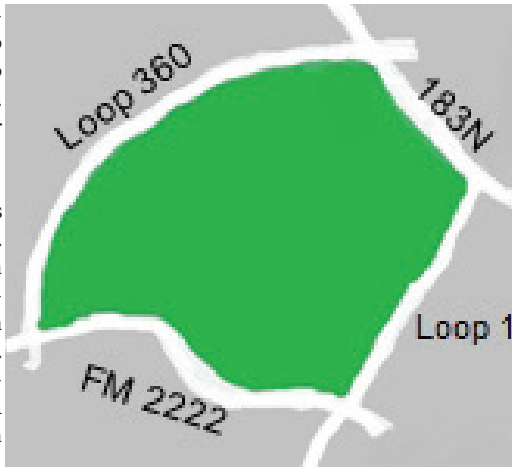
Key Contacts

Austin Citywide Information Center	512-974-2000 or 311
Emergency, Police	911
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues)	311
APD District Representative Officer James Hyatt	512-974-6894
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter	512-974-2110
To get the District 10 monthly newsletter	district10@austintexas.gov
Northwest Austin News Publisher	512-483-1708
	Lynette@FourPointsNews.com
Northwest Austin News Co-Editors	Joyce Statz and Julie Rawlings

New to the Neighborhood?

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. Use the Membership button on the home page or use the form in this newsletter to become a NWACA member. Members have access to the weekly email NWA-CA 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

2022 – 2024 NWACA Board of Directors

Joyce Statz, President
Julie Rawlings, Vice President
Mick Koffend, Treasurer
Julie Waidelich and Bridget Keating, Co-Secretaries

- Christopher Bove
- Ruven Brooks
- Vicki DeWeese
- Carol Dochen
- Jessica Forrest
- Charlie Galvin
- Richard Grayum
- Kevin Kott
- Mae Levitan
- Ben Luckens
- Connie Lundgren
- Teri Schock
- Dana Winer

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 the 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 to info@nwaca.org so that we can put you on the agenda.

NWACA is bordered on the north by U.S. Highway 183 (Research Boulevard), on the west by Loop 360, on the south by RM 2222, and on the east by Mopac (Loop 1).

Special Thanks to Members

By NWACA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the 4th of July Parade Fund, the Park Fund, and the Constable Fund, between April 21 and May 20, 2023.

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.

- Bob and Pat Kahn
- Maisel (Mitzi) McGlone
- Gary and Carolyn Mueller
- (and, apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name:	Phone: ()
Address:	Zip:
Email (confidential):	



Annual dues \$25

Optional Contributions:

Fourth of July Parade \$10____\$20____Other____
Constable \$10____\$20____Other____
Parks Fund \$10____\$20____Other____

To join:

go to www.nwaca.org and pay online via credit card
or send this form and payment to:
NWACA P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

Volunteer!

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime & Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree, Environment, and Wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning and Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks | |

Members, please request to join our **Facebook Group** and sign up for **NWACA Notes**, our weekly email. For more info email us at: info@nwaca.org

Mark Your Calendars

These events are as planned as of May 20. As you consider participating in one of the events listed, please check first with the organizer.

June 3, 9 AM to noon

Cleanup at Murchison Pool Park, 3700 North Hills Drive
Email info@nwaca.org if able to help

June 17, 9 AM to noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park – sign up at
<https://www.givepulse.com/event/336685>

June 20, 7pm

Parks Committee – virtual

June 27, 5 PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees - virtual

June 28, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

NWACA Board Meeting – St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church

July 4, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

4th of July Parade along North Hills Drive
and Freedom Fest at Doss Elementary School Parking Lot

July 15, 8 AM to 11 AM

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park – sign up at
<https://www.givepulse.com/event/336685>

July 18, 7pm

Parks Committee – virtual

July 25, 5 PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees - virtual

Help Keep our Wildlife Wild!

NWACA advises residents to NOT feed wildlife. Many well-intentioned individuals do so out of concern for the wildlife they are feeding. However, intentional and unintentional feeding of wildlife attracts predators to the wildlife being fed. Additionally, an association with humans and food contributes directly to habituated be-

haviors of animals like coyotes and feral hogs, which then become aggressive in pursuit of a food or prey attractant. Please eliminate food attractants from your yards for the safe enjoyment of our streets, parks and playgrounds for neighbors and pets.

Beyond the Sidewalk

By J. FORREST

Dog do, oh doggie do, on the ground it lays,
What will we do, to clean up this maze?
We’ll follow the rule, that’s tried and true,
“Leave no trace,” for me and you.

Grab a bag, and bend down low,
Scoop it up, and away we go.
To the trash can, it’s where we’ll head,
So our neighborhood stays clean, we said!

Oh, leave no trace, it’s the way to go,
To keep our neighborhood’s beauty aglow.
And our furry friends, they’ll thank us too,
For keeping their home, fresh and new.

So remember the rule, every time you go,
Pick up after your dog, never just say “no.”
For when we leave no trace, we all win,
A neighborhood clean, without any spin.

Let’s all do our part, every day and night,
To keep our neighborhood a wonderful sight!
Dog dirt, oh dog dirt, clean it up with grace,
With “Leave no trace,” all will have a smiling face.



Get to Know Your NWACA Board Members

By KEVIN KOTT

This month we feature Dana Winer, the chair of our Civic Engagement Committee.

KEVIN: So, Dana, tell me about your background.

DANA: I was born in Austin, and I never left. I grew up further northwest - near 183 at Spicewood Springs. I was in the first kindergarten class of Laurel Mountain Elementary School and then, Canyon Vista Middle School, and Westwood High School. Then I came to UT, followed by moving to live in Northwest Hills.

KEVIN: What did you study at UT?

DANA: My major was corporate communication. I'm not sure what was intended by the major, but I feel like it's a good general major for being in any kind of business. Communication is a handy skill to have no matter what you do. Every day I'm communicating, so it's been helpful.

KEVIN: After UT, how did you decide on your professional career?

DANA: While at UT I interviewed with Accenture and started there right out of school.

KEVIN: What are you doing at Accenture?

DANA: I've spent most of my career in internal roles in our quality organization - focused on quality and process improvement and risk management. I led root cause analysis for several years.

KEVIN: So that's internal quality, right? You monitor projects that the Accenture consultants are doing to see how well they're meeting customer expectations and so on?

DANA: That's a lot of what I've done. I joined this global group where I've worked from home for 18 years. I've been working virtually since before it was cool.

KEVIN: What kind of projects are your associates doing at Accenture that you're monitoring?

DANA: We do pretty much everything. We're known for technology, but we do as much in the outsourcing space and any kind of professional services. We have over 700,000 employees worldwide. Our clients span all industries and governments. For

example, we run the Medicaid system for the state of Texas - both from a technology standpoint and for claims processing. I helped get that project started in 2003 by setting up the quality system. In my early career I enjoyed doing quality certifications according to CMMI which is a software quality standard.

KEVIN: I read in your bio (note - available on the NWACA web) that you spend your time with your daughter Kayla, with your Chihuahua Snow, and watching UT football. Do you have other hobbies or interests?

DANA: I spend most of my available time volunteering. I'm now involved in a number of organizations and boards.

KEVIN: How do you manage several boards including NWACA while still working for Accenture?

DANA: I'm excited about being on the NWACA board - it's one of the boards that I've been wanting to join for a while. Joyce invited me for the first time years ago, but I was starting to get very involved in the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, where I'm now a vice president. Over the following years, she invited me again, and I couldn't turn it down.

I was particularly moved by the proposition that came up about two years ago on the homeless, the camping ban. I was so motivated that I decided, when I retire I'm going to end homelessness in Austin! Of course, one person cannot do that alone. But, if you don't try, then you never achieve anything. If I'm going to end homelessness, I need to start getting involved civically and



Dana Winer

learn more about Austin outside of the Jewish community. So, I joined the NWACA board hoping to learn and be trained in the Civic Engagement Committee where there was an immediate vacancy as the chair of the committee. Homelessness is not a problem that will go away easily. It's super complicated and there are so many different organizations in Austin that are a piece of the puzzle. It's not a harmonious government running this. It's a lot of nonprofit organizations that are doing the work.

KEVIN: So, what about music? I'll give you a couple of choices - which do you prefer: Taylor Swift or Willie Nelson? Or, if those don't strike a chord in you, who else?

DANA: I like both of them! Anything with a good beat, a good rhythm. I'm not a connoisseur or anything. It just doesn't take much for me to dance. I did drill team in high school, so I did dance for a while with some more structure and instruction, but now it's just for fun.

KEVIN: You've been a lifelong Austinite. What do you like most that you see as positive for the future of Austin?

DANA: I've always loved Austin. I love KEEP AUSTIN WEIRD. I love everything that makes us weird. I love the diversity. I love how progressive it is. The one thing that does make me sad is the affordability issue, because I feel like a lot of the people who make Austin Austin can't afford to live in Austin anymore. We have so many wonderful people - artists, musicians, and teachers. I just wish that we could make it affordable for them. Oh, the bluebonnets. I also love the bluebonnets.

KEVIN: What would you say is your superpower?

DANA: Is planning a superpower? If, at this point in my life, I'm already planning what I will do in retirement, I think that's at least a good intention. For either planning or follow through, I'm reliable. If I say I'm doing something, it's one hundred percent good. I guess that's my superpower.

KEVIN: What's your hope for the future of Austin?

DANA: I hope that our residents feel safe, seen, and housed. I guess there's a theme of home there - both in terms of a physical home but also, the place to feel safe and be seen.

For a longer version of this interview, go to www.nwaca.org and follow the Hot Topics link to our June Board Member interview.



Peggy Little
REALTOR®



www.atxagent.com
512.970.7349
peggy@atxagent.com



- 30+ Years of Experience
- Proven Track Record
- One-to-One Consulting
- Social Media Marketing
- Expert Photography



www.phototexasphotography.com

PhotoTexas
PHOTOGRAPHY

At Photo Texas Photography, we keep memories alive through traditional photography. Through pictures, we strive to capture our community in a way that creates a lasting impression for our customers. Call us at (512) 617-7780 to schedule an appointment.

f phototexasphotography i phototexas_photography

REAL ESTATE MARKET SNAPSHOT

April 2023
78731 & 78759



\$1,183,500

Avg Sale Price



31

Number of Closings



34

Avg Days on Market

MONTHS OF INVENTORY



What does this mean?

Months of inventory is a real estate metric indicating the time it takes to sell all current listings based on the current Buyer demand. It reflects the balance between supply and demand.

A low figure signals a Seller's market with limited available properties and potential price increases. Conversely, a high number indicates a Buyer's market with an excess of available properties and potential price decreases. 6 months is considered 'balanced'. Real estate professionals and analysts use this metric to assess market conditions and make informed decisions about pricing, marketing, and investments. For more information about the health of the market, contact Joe and Cara.



KEENAN
PROPERTY GROUP



128

total single family
homes available



119

total single family
homes sold YTD



Condos and Townhomes

	NUMBER OF SALES	AVG SALE PRICE
JAN 2023	10	\$449,200
FEB 2023	15	\$591,500
MAR 2023	18	\$465,011
APR 2023	13	\$510,047

FOR SALE

7209 GENEVA DR, 78723 | \$715,000

UNDER CONTRACT

3707 MOUNTAIN RIDGE DR, 78731 | \$1,150,000

FOR SALE

1813 CULLEN AVE, 78757 | \$1,350,000

FOR SALE

3407 MONTE VISTA DR
www.vistaresidence.com | \$7,800,000

Joe & Cara Keenan

Broker Associate & REALTOR®

J. 512.415.7653 C. 512.917.2326

keenan@realtyaustin.com

www.KeenanPropertyGroup.com



What's the Buzz?

- Martha Miller



OLD QUARRY GARDENING CLUB

Second Wednesday Each Month
11AM to 12:30PM

Whether you're new to gardening or have a green thumb, meet other gardening enthusiasts each month to discuss all things growing.

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
library.austintexas.gov | Free and open to the public
The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. For assistance please call 512-974-7449.

Join us at the Old Quarry Branch to learn more about native and non-native bees!

At the June 14 meeting of the Old Quarry Adult Gardening group, please join us for a presentation from the City of Austin's Bee City program. The presenter will discuss native bees and how to make our gardens more supportive of our native bees. The presentation will begin at 11AM and, after the presentation, we will make seed bombs. The following week, on June 21, we will have a presentation from a beekeeper which will focus more on non-native bees that live in a hive. Both programs are designed for ages 18 and above.



Stay, Dine, Sip, Tour, Shop in the Charming Fredericksburg, Texas!

Built in 1910, stay in this 3 bed/2 bath historical house with a full kitchen, two king beds, two twin beds, and plenty of seating on the porches or at the firepit.

Call or Text 512-483-1708 for \$100 OFF your 2-night stay!



Writer's Corner: Little Free Libraries

By IDEE KWAK

"Take one, leave one." That's the motto seen on Little Free Libraries throughout the world.



With a global network of volunteer-led book exchange boxes, Little Free Library serves as a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all. Based in Minnesota, the non-profit organization believes "all people are empowered when the opportunity to discover a personally relevant book to read is not limited by time, space, or privilege."

The concept of a public book box began in 2009 when Todd Bon of Hudson, Wisconsin, built a model of a one-room schoolhouse, put it on a post in front of his house, and filled it with books, free to the public. Soon he was building more boxes to give away to friends and neighbors.

Seeing the idea's potential, the University of Wisconsin's Rick Brooks joined Bon and the two began creating the community gift-sharing network "take a book, leave a book," with collections popping up in coffee shops and public spaces. Their inspiration was philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

Around the turn of the 20th century, Carnegie set out to fund the creation of 2,508 free public libraries across the English-speaking world. With that number as their goal, Bon and Brooks spread the word and by 2022 had 150,000 registered libraries in more than 115 countries.

Their website, littlefreelibrary.org, includes a world map where you can find locations of libraries, including the box at the Statesman Bat Observation Center, stocked and managed by Austin American-Statesman and Texas Book Festival staff. You can visit some closer to home in our neighborhood at the Arboretum, the First Presbyterian Church on Mesa Drive, and Le Montreaux Apartments on Greystone Drive. Neighbors have also placed boxes in front of their homes including those on Sumac Drive, Williams Ridge Way, Mountain Park Cove, Waterline, and Endcliffe Drive. In addition to those on the map, still others not registered with the non-profit can be found sprinkled throughout our hills.

This summer a new one will pop up on Sungate Drive. While most have just one box at adult height, this one will be a four-door model, the bottom box for dog toys, and above



that a box that pre-schoolers can explore. Behind the next higher door, elementary and middle-school readers will find books, while the highest box will provide selections for taller readers. This library has something for everyone!

If you would like a Little Free Library in front of your home, kits are available on the organization's website, dog treat boxes starting at \$50, and book boxes ranging from \$180 to \$420. Of course, you can also design your own! If you do a web search for "little free libraries" as images, you'll find a plethora of ideas, with even more on the Little Free Library Facebook page, Instagram, and Etsy. You'll find some built entirely from scratch and some that reuse curio cabinets, canoes, newspaper stands, grandfather clocks, wine barrels, microwave ovens, and even refrigerators! (It's a good idea to check with neighbors before putting an old appliance outside your house, though, even one filled with books.)

Happy hunting! Happy reading!

By the way, if you need help downloading books onto your device, the Old Quarry Library has Tech Time available every Tuesday, 1-3 PM. On the second Wednesday of each month they host a new book club for adults from 2-3 PM. For the Love of Books is an open discussion of whatever books attendees are reading.

Fire Ant Treatment

By **WIZZIE BROWN**
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Ways to manage fire ants can be broken into two basic categories- broadcast treatments and individual mound treatments. Individual mound treatments treat one mound at a time and are labor intensive, requiring you to search and find every fire ant mound for treatment, which can result in more pesticide being applied to the environment. Broadcast treatments spread product (granular or bait) over a large area using specialized equipment.

Individual mound treatments include pouring boiling water onto the mound, using insecticide mound drenches, spreading insecticide granules over the top of the mound and watering them in, sprinkling insecticidal dusts on top of the mound, or

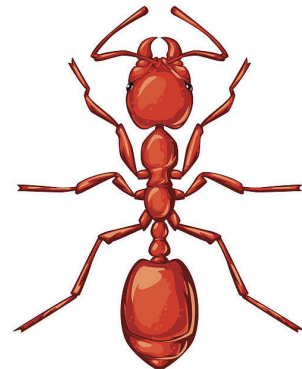
using bait-formulated insecticides around the perimeter of the mound. Sometimes people like to concoct or recommend home remedies using ingredients from the kitchen, but most of these do not kill fire ants, but cause them to move their mound 1-2 feet away.

Bait-formulated insecticides most often consist of a defatted corn cob grit coated with soybean oil; the active ingredient - what kills the pest - is dissolved in the soybean oil. The soybean oil is attractive and consumed by the fire ants, as fire ants do not eat solid food. Worker ants collect bait as a food source and take it back to the colony to share with other ants, including the queen(s). Depending on the active ingredient, bait may cause the queen to either die or be unable to produce viable eggs, leading to gradual death of the colony. When using baits, results may be slower to observe as compared to individual mound

treatments, but they can provide 80-90% suppression for 12-18 months. A bonus to broadcasting baits is that the amount of active ingredient is generally very small - baits are usually broadcast at a rate of 1-1.5 pounds per acre, which places less chemical into the environment.

With any pesticide treatment, read and follow all label instructions. Make sure to water in the pesticide if the label instructs you to do so. Failure to water in chemicals when recommended by the label does an inadequate job of killing the ants. Baits should not be watered in or used before a rainfall event; baits will not be picked up by ants if they get wet.

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



RePurposing Food

By **MERRIESSA ANTON**

Last month I wrote that I would share creative ideas about repurposing food waste. When I looked online to see what is written about this subject, I was overwhelmed with articles. I typed "Repurposing Food" and found "Reusing Food Waste", "14 Creative Ways to Use Food Scraps", and "Throwing Away Food Scraps Means Throwing Away Money" among the many articles written about this subject.

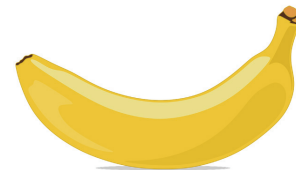
I found many articles about how to use banana peels. Banana peels are high in potassium, a macronutrient that supports plant growth. The article suggests that the peels can become a fertilizer or non-toxic pest repellent. You can do this by cutting the peels into small pieces, plac-

ing them in a container and covering the banana peels with water. Stir the water occasionally for 2-3 days. and remove the peels and water your plants. Another idea for the banana peels is to dry the banana peels in the sun or in your oven until they are crispy. Crush the peels and sprinkle the crushed peels around your plants. Banana peels can also be used as mulch when you scatter the peels around the base of your plants. There is a warning that organic bananas should be used as you do not want unknown fertilizers in your garden. Another idea for banana peels is to use them to help remove splinters. Hold the peel over the splinter for a bit and then ease out the splinter. Peels can be rubbed on the leaves of your plants to give them a nice shine. One article mentioned you can rub the peel on your teeth to whiten your teeth. I usually use old bananas

in my smoothies, or I make banana bread. Now I am going to try using all parts of the fruit.

Expired milk is another item I found ways to use instead of pouring it down the drain. Before rinsing silverware with warm water, I read you can soak the utensils in sour milk for a shiny clean. Sour milk can also be used as a deer repellent in the yard.

This summer you might also want to try growing new lettuce by planting lettuce hearts in the garden. You can



also do this with pineapples. Cut the top off the pineapple when you are preparing it to be eaten. Plant the top you were going to throw in your compost bin and see if you get a pineapple plant.

I have just written a few of the ideas I saw while doing some research on my computer. This might be a great opportunity to have your children or grandchildren involved this summer with computer research, food waste or gardening. Composting is always the fallback position with food scraps and food waste, but trying some repurposing ideas can be fun, interesting, and perhaps useful.

Next month I hope to have more information about what we throw in the trash bin and what goes into the recycle bin.



hi, I'm
Christina Muller

PASSIONATELY FIT

contact me at
christina@passionatelyfit.net

512-331-1872

www.passionatelyfit.net

by appt only

**5828 Balcones Drive, Suite 202
Austin, Tx 78731**

Police and sheriff’s report

Recent Sheriff’s Office and Austin Police Department reports in the Northwest Austin area include a variety of cases.	05/09/2023 9:22 AM 30XX SILVERLEAF FORGERY & PASSING	05/11/2023 8:27 AM 47XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS CRIMINAL MISCEIF	05/13/2023 4:05 PM 85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	05/16/2023 1:41 PM 49XX BEVERLY SKYLINE HARASSMENT	05/18/2023 11:18 AM 82XX BENT TREE AUTO THEFT
	05/09/2023 11:07 AM 41XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS FAMILY DISTURBANCE	05/11/2023 2:35 PM 40XX STECK AVE THEFT CATALYTIC CONVERTER	05/13/2023 4:11 PM 81XX MOPAC EXPY SVRD FAMILY DISTURBANCE	05/16/2023 4:35 PM 37XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS ASSAULT BY THREAT	05/18/2023 11:57 AM 77XX WOOD HOLLOW THEFT
	05/10/2023 12:32 AM 76XX WOOD HOLLOW DATING DISTURBANCE	05/11/2023 4:33 PM 47XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS THEFT	05/13/2023 9:28 PM 82XX MOPAC EXPY SVRD ASSAULT W/INJURY	05/16/2023 11:16 PM 82XX GREENSLOPE AUTO THEFT	05/19/2023 3:41 AM 72XX LAKEWOOD PUBLIC INTOXICATION
	05/10/2023 2:11 AM 85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY GRAFFITI	05/11/2023 7:17 PM 44XX SPICEWOOD THEFT	05/13/2023 10:06 PM 64XX SHADOW VALLEY THEFT OF BICYCLE	05/17/2023 11:10 PM 85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY FAMILY DISTURBANCE	05/19/2023 9:51 PM 41XX STECK AVE FAMILY DISTURBANCE
	05/10/2023 3:45 PM 45XX SMALL DR FORGERY	05/11/2023 7:18 PM 81XX GREENSLOPE CRED CARD ABUSE	05/15/2023 12:15 PM 62XX BALCONES THEFT OF METAL	05/17/2023 12:59 PM 71XX WOOD HOLLOW THEFT OF BICYCLE	Madison Pharis compiled this report mostly from SpotCrime at www.spotcrime.com and also from CrimeReports.
05/08/2023 5:47 PM 36XX GREYSTONE DATING DISTURBANCE	05/10/2023 5:04 PM 39XX SIDEHILL PATH THEFT	05/12/2023 10:34 AM 78XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY THEFT	05/15/2023 5:29 PM 67XX LAKEWOOD THEFT	05/17/2023 9:14 PM 71XX WOOD HOLLOW DISTURBANCE	
05/08/2023 7:52 PM 35XX GREYSTONE ASSAULT W/INJURY	05/10/2023 7:15 PM 33XX NORTHLAND HARASSMENT	05/12/2023 12:02 PM 72XX WOOD HOLLOW DATING DISTURBANCE	05/15/2023 6:01 PM 85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY BURGLARY	05/18/2023 1:56 AM 72XX WOOD HOLLOW ASSAULT W/INJURY	
05/08/2023 10:49 PM 66XX SUMAC DR FAMILY DISTURBANCE	05/11/2023 9:25 AM 85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY THEFT		05/16/2023 11:04 AM 67XX LAKEWOOD THEFT	05/18/2023 6:30 AM 35XX GREYSTONE DR THEFT OF AUTO PARTS	
05/09/2023 9:20 AM 36XX NORTH HILLS THEFT					

Austin Police Department Chief’s Monthly Report for April 2023

City-Wide					Baker Sector					
Crimes Against Persons					Crimes Against Persons					
	April 2023	April 2022	% Change	All 2023			April 2023	April 2022	% Change	All 2023
Murder	4	8	-50%	24		Murder	0	1	-100%	0
Aggravated Assault	276	377	-18%	1,166		Aggravated Assault	12	17	-29%	46
Simple Assault	776	827	-6%	3,023		Simple Assault	42	92	-54%	267
Crimes Against Property					Crimes Against Property					
	April 2023	April 2022	% Change	All 2023			April 2023	April 2022	% Change	All 2023
Robbery	70	67	4%	344		Robbery	6	4	50%	24
Burglary	310	361	-14%	1,505		Burglary	44	38	16%	151
Burglary of Vehicle	652	781	-17%	3,341		Burglary of Vehicle	141	135	4%	639
Auto Theft	509	453	12%	1,979		Auto Theft	37	51	27%	147
Vandalism	437	465	-6%	1,872		Vandalism	43	38	13%	184
Crimes Against Society					Crimes Against Society					
	April 2023	April 2022	% Change	All 2023			April 2023	April 2022	% Change	All 2023
Drug Violations	303	322	-6%	1,282		Drugs	16	17	-6%	49
Weapons	73	99	-26%	386		Weapons	6	4	-50%	11

What's Next with Austin's Passage of More Police Oversight

By ANDREW WEBER
KUT

Austin resoundingly approved an expansion of police oversight during last month's election.

About 80 percent of voters in the city approved Proposition A, while the same percentage of voters shut down the opposing proposition, Prop B.

Now comes the hard part.

City leaders will have to fold Prop A's expansion of the city's Office of Police Oversight into a labor contract with the Austin Police Association, the city's police union.

That contract, which has been in the works for more than a year, would govern a department that's facing a sizable shortage of patrol officers.

On top of all this, a bill at the Texas Legislature could effectively undo the May 6 vote.

There's a lot going on. Let's get into it.

WHAT'S UP WITH THIS LABOR CONTRACT?

Back in February, the city backed out of a long-term police contract with APD's union. This came after then-City Manager Spencer Cronk announced the city had reached a deal with the Austin Police Association. There was a press conference and everything.

Newly sworn-in City Council members were caught off guard, and opted to not enter into Cronk's deal. Why? Because they wanted the May election – centered squarely on civilian-led police oversight – to play out. (More on that structure in a second.)

After that, APA walked away from the negotiating table.

With Prop A passed, Mayor Kirk Watson has said he expects talks to continue, but it's not clear how those talks will fare.

Bottom line, the city needs a long-term deal with APA. Prop A will affect that deal.

HOW WILL PROP A AFFECT THE CONTRACT?

Police oversight has been a focus of these talks since contract negotiations began. That's nothing new: Oversight was top of mind when the city negotiated its last deal with the APA in 2018.

That 2018 deal greatly expanded civilian oversight, despite initial union pushback. That deal created the Office of Police Oversight – one that's led by citizens, not police.

Here's how it works:

Someone – a police officer or a member of the community – complains about possible police misconduct. Then, the department conducts its own internal investigation and gives the Office of Police Oversight relevant information to the case. The OPO

can recommend discipline, but APD's leadership doesn't have to follow that recommendation.

Proposition A would expand the OPO's investigative reach. It would be able to request more information during the investigation process and actually participate in interviews with an officer.

Prop A would also allow the OPO to see employment files that outline previous complaints and incidents. That's a huge sticking point.

The APA has said the civilian-led oversight goes beyond what state laws allow, and that the OPO should have the ability to review complaints – but only after internal investigations are complete.

The union argues that the OPO shouldn't be able to access employment files that outline previous complaints or policy violations, known in cop-speak as a G-file.

Prop A could open up the door to those files becoming available to the OPO and the general public. The OPO and the city's other commission on police oversight, the Community Police Review Commission, would have "unfettered access" under Prop A.

That's a nonstarter for the APA. On May 6, the union tweeted that the system under Prop A is illegal under state law. The APA has long contended the system could affect APD's ability to recruit more officers as APD weathers a staffing shortage.

SO WHAT'S NEXT?

After election results are officially verified, negotiations are to pick back up. But it's unclear how contentious the process could be, or if the union will even come back to the table. If they do ultimately reach a deal, it would go to City Council for approval.

But, even if a deal is reached, the union has argued the city could get sued, as it says the structure violates state law, specifically protections surrounding officers' employment files.

Additionally, the Texas Legislature could undo all of this. A bill from state Sen. Kelly Hancock, a Fort Worth-area Republican, would ban civilian oversight in police complaints, as well as the release of personnel files.

That bill passed the Senate on a party-line vote in late April, and it's before the House Committee on Urban Affairs. House members had until this week to move that bill out of committee and vote it out of the lower chamber.

If passed, it faces a likely OK from Gov. Greg Abbott, given his support of a 2021 bill that targeted the Austin City Council's decision to cut police spending.

This story was produced as part of the Austin Monitor's reporting partnership with KUT.

**Skill and experience
are paramount in this market.**

"Their combination of experience, professionalism, network connections, congeniality, and feel for the market is unparalleled." -- Gillian H.

Nothing speaks to our 25 year track record of success more than happy clients. See more Five Star reviews on Yelp and Google.



PAUL REDDAM, Realtor / Owner
512.789.0869 | homesville.com
paul@homesville.com

@homesvillerealtygroup
@homesville



COMPASS

Austin is 5th Most at Risk Area for Wildfire in Country

By LYNETTE HAALAND
Northwest Austin News

During Wildfire Awareness Month in May, Councilmember Alison Alter has been working hard to raise awareness about the risks of wildfire.

“We, as a community, are at risk of a wildfire. We’re structurally the fifth most at risk area of the country,” Alter said, adding that wildfire awareness is crucial for all Central Texans.

Alter and several fire chiefs hosted an event on May 18 to share the importance of being prepared.

“We had a special guest at the council meeting – Smokey Bear,” Alter said. “(Also) Austin

Fire Department and Austin Fire Department-Wildfire Division joined me for a proclamation in honor of Wildfire Awareness Month.”

Northwest Austin has had a brush with the devastating effects of wildfire: The Steiner Ranch neighborhood lost 23 homes over Labor Day weekend in 2011.

Alter says that everyone has a part to play in keeping the Austin community safe. Knowing the risk level your home is in is the first step. The Wildfire Division at the Austin Fire Department has put together a Wildfire Report for each Council district.

As members of the community assess their geographical risk and prepare their homes, Alter asks that everyone consider the following actions to protect against the threat of wildfire:

- **Regularly monitor wildfire conditions.** Hot, dry, and windy weather creates the perfect environment for a wildfire. Current conditions are available at the Austin Area Wildfire Hub, a portal for community-based wildfire safety initiatives in Austin and Travis County.
- **Sign up for Warn Central Texas, a free, opt-in emergency notification service.** You can receive disaster alerts via app, text, call, or email, along with safety instructions and evacuation orders. Only residents in the immediate area of impact will be alerted. During a wildfire event, pay attention to all alerts. Do not wait to be advised to leave if there is a possible threat to your home or evacuation route. Keep in mind that embers can travel up to 1.5 miles from the main fire and start fires elsewhere.
- **Create a Wildfire Action Plan for your family (and your pets!) using the Austin-Travis County Wildfire Coalition’s Ready, Set, Go! Guide.** You can also use the Texas Department of State Health and Services’ Family Emergency Plan template, and their Texas Ready Children’s Activity Book.

- **Learn all possible evacuation routes in your area.** In the event of an emergency, your usual route may not be safe, and you or your family may not be at home when a wildfire starts. Pack an easily accessible Go Kit with emergency supplies.
- **Harden your home to make it more fire resistant by creating defensible space on your property and implementing fire-smart landscaping practices.** The Austin Fire Department has created an excellent fire prevention guide for roofing and ventilation openings. You can also find tips in the National Fire Protection Association’s Firewise USA brochure and home ignition zone checklist. The Texas A&M Forest Service has also crafted a guide to help fortify your property from embers.
- **Connect with your local Firewise community.** Through this program, Austin Fire Department’s Wildfire Division assists neighborhoods in becoming Fire Adapted Communities. Several neighborhoods in District 10 are already Firewise and we would like to work with other areas to connect you with resources. *In particular, if you live in the Cat Mountain, Castleton Village, Marby’s Ridge, Prominent Point, or The Bluffs at Great Hills Area neighborhoods and are interested in becoming a Firewise leader, please email my office at District10@austintexas.gov.*



Alison Alter and several fire chiefs hosted an event on May 18 at City Hall to drive home the importance of being prepared for wildfire.

Austin Fire Department on Fireworks

Public Service Announcement

Each year in late June and early July, the Austin Fire Department reminds Austin citizens that fireworks are illegal within the Austin city limits. Statewide, there are hundreds of brush, grass, and structure fires started by fireworks annually, doing millions of dollars in damage and risking the lives of innocent bystanders. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there are more fires on a typical Fourth of July than any other day of the year. Fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other cause. In addition, the risk of fireworks injury is highest for persons aged 15-24.

It is illegal to store, use, and handle fireworks within the City of Austin, and to use or sell fireworks within the City of Austin and within 5,000 feet outside the city limits. The Austin Police Department responds to fireworks complaint calls made to 311. Do not call 911 for

fireworks complaints; call 311.

The U.S. Department of Transportation does not classify the following items listed as common fireworks, and their use is allowed within the City of Austin:

- (some) Wire Sparklers
- Smoke Bombs
- Glow Worms and Snakes
- Poppers, Trick Noisemakers, Snappers

However, sparklers can reach temperatures of 1,800 degrees and smoke bombs shoot a flame of 2 to 3 inches when ignited; even though these items are legal, they can still be very dangerous.

Be especially vigilant around dry grasses, brush, and the green spaces that surround our homes; with our intense spring rains and summer droughts, there is a lot of wildfire fuel throughout Austin, which can lead to tremendous destruction and threat to lives. Fireworks



are not Firewise.

Note also that the sounds, smells, and shock waves of fireworks can be triggering for those who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); be kind to your neighbors.

Keep Greystone Smooth

The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) believes in solving driving safety issues with obstacles.

We believe **safer driving** is the better **choice**.

Tell City of Austin by email today that you are committed to slowing down on Greystone Drive voluntarily rather than with speed cushions:

MobilityBonds@AustinTexas.gov

District10@AustinTexas.gov

www.KeepGreystoneSmooth.com

A neighborhood “driven” safety awareness campaign



Austin Moves to No. 10 in U.S. Population

Greater Austin Cities Lead U.S. in Population Growth

By ANDREW WEBER
KUT

Four of the top five fastest-growing cities in the U.S. are in Texas, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Georgetown tops the list, as it did last year, with Kyle and Leander in the No. 3 and 4 spots, respectively. Little Elm, north of Dallas, placed fifth on the annual list.

Five other Texas cities were in the bureau's top 15.

Central Texas cities, in particular, have led the country in growth over the past few years. Georgetown experienced the largest growth in

population – 14.4 percent since last year.

Kyle and Leander both grew by nearly 11 percent. New Braunfels saw a 5.7 percent bump in population. That growth put the city's population above 100,000 residents, the data showed.

Austin also saw a population increase. According to the data, it's now the 10th most populous city, moving up from the No. 11 spot last year. Four of the top 10 most populous cities in the U.S. are in Texas.

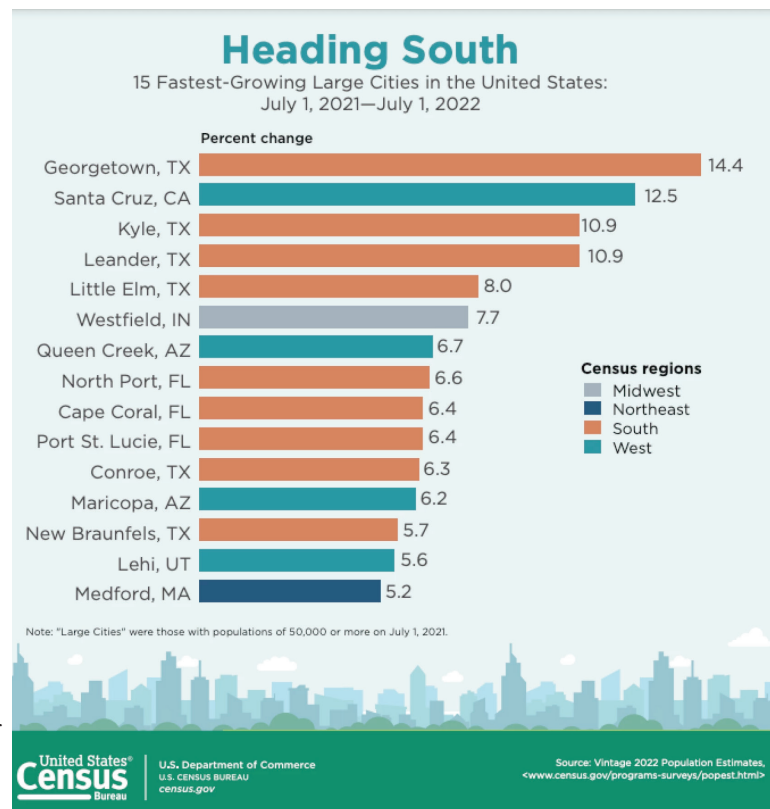
Much of that growth came from international migration into Travis

County over the last couple of years, Census Bureau demographer Amel Toukabri said.

Austin's step up on the Census Bureau's list comes after a precipitous tumble on another one released this week.

Once a darling on top 10 lists for places to live, work, eat and play, Austin dropped to the 40th spot on U.S. News and World Report's best places to live. Last year, the city ranked 13th.

This story was produced as part of the Austin Monitor's reporting partnership with KUT.



TACL#B5235C

A-PLUS AIR CONDITIONING & HOME SOLUTIONS
Cooling · Heating · Home Repairs · Remodels

512-450-1980
www.AplusAC.com

A+ Rating
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

2022 NEIGHBORHOOD FAVORITE nextdoor

Locally Owned & Family Operated for 45+ Years!



Free Estimates on New A/C Systems

Fast 7-Day A/C Repairs

Energy Audits

Duct Repair & Replacement

Home & Handyman Repairs

Remodels & Additions

Senior Accessibility Upgrades

Painting & Staining

Drywall & Popcorn Removal

Decks & Fences / Install & Repairs

\$25 OFF



Any A/C Repair or Handyman Service Over \$250

May not be combined with other offers. Check our website for additional coupons & discounts. Expires December 31, 2023.

- **FREE comprehensive roof evaluation**
- **We are insurance claim experts!**

- **24 years in business**
- **500+ Angie's 5-star reviews**
- **Local resident of Steiner Ranch**

(512) 808-0403

MATTHEW LORAND
Roofing & Restoration



**Got roof leaks?
Is it time for
a new roof?**

www.matthewlorandroofing.com

Gourmand's Corner

Burnet Road Update and a Big Change on Far West

By CHRIS HAJDU

With the limited number of restaurants in our immediate area, many of us venture out of the confines of our neighborhood. Yes, there are some places in our neighborhood that are quite good, but for a change of pace, we head out to Anderson Lane, the Arboretum, Burnet Road, The Domain, or further afield. This month, I share news of new places in the Burnet Road area immediately to our east, known to those in the know as "BURO."

But before we get to BURO, I wanted to note the closing of Daily Juice on Far West Boulevard earlier this year. Daily Juice was owned by our very own NWACA residents Cary and Joanie Frieden. Daily Juice was always very supportive of the local community, donating multiple times to NWACA events over the years. I want to personally thank the Friedens for being such great neighbors and supporters of NWA-

CA. We will all miss Daily Juice.

It's not all bad news; one business closing means another can open. The Daily Juice location is now another homegrown local Austin small business, The Soup Peddler. The Soup Peddler got its start literally as the name describes. David Ansel, who lived in the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood, would deliver fresh homemade soups to friends and neighbors using his bike. The soups were so good that word of mouth resulted in more business, eventually resulting in the first brick and mortar location in 2010; now there are seven locations across Austin including the new location at 3720 Far West Blvd. #105.

The Soup Peddler has amazing homemade soups (as the name implies) but also offers smoothies, juices, salads, a variety of grilled cheese sandwiches (what goes better with tomato soup, right?), and desserts. All soups are made from the freshest ingredients and homemade stock. The five permanent flavors are Chicken Soup with Rice, Green Detox Broth, Beef Bone Broth, Mulligatawny, and Tomato Basil. Other soups rotate daily, so check their website to see the daily offerings.



Now, back to BURO. There have been many changes on Burnet Road over the last few decades, but I'll focus on those that have arrived in the past few months.

Voodoo Doughnut

We now have our very own Voodoo Doughnut gourmet doughnut shop, located at 5408 Burnet Road, Austin. Known for its wide selection of doughnuts including several vegan options, Voodoo Doughnut is based in Portland, Oregon. This location is open until midnight most days and even later on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to satisfy those midnight cravings.
www.voodoodoughnut.com - 5408 Burnet Road

Choo Sushi and Sando

Choo offers sushi and sandos (special Japanese style sandwiches). Sushi offerings include daily sushi lunch specials and even an omakase (chef's meal) that can be ordered for at home consumption. The sandos consist of everything from chicken katsu (breaded chicken) to super premium sandos like the wagyu and lobster. You really must check out the menu to truly understand the

breadth of interesting sandos available here. www.chooatx.com - 5222 Burnet Road #535

Gràcia

Gràcia is a full-service Mediterranean restaurant that opened in March. The restaurant is owned by Cameron Lockley, who also owns Gusto Italian Kitchen + Wine Bar on Burnet Road. Gràcia's menu features seafood, including oysters, crudo, and seasonal ingredients from local and regional farmers. The restaurant has indoor and outdoor dining areas.
www.graciamediterranean.com - 4800 Burnet Road #450 in the former Fluff Meringues+More

East Side Pies

Another homegrown local business, East Side Pies will open their fourth Austin location on Burnet Road on May 30. The menu is the same as other locations: thin-crust pies, sandwiches, salads, beers, and wines. They have a few specialty pizzas with awesome names like the Buscemi, Homer, and Marge.
eastsidepies.com - 5530 Burnet Road in the former

Hey Cupcake

As always, go out and enjoy all that Austin has to offer!



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. 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!

This year we celebrate our 10 year anniversary of serving Austin Area homeowners. Contact me if you'd like to become a [Re]Builder too.

-Albert Allen - Board President Rebuilding Together Austin

www.rebuildingtogetheraustin.org

Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist | Member of Luxury Portfolio International
LOCAL EXPERTISE | GLOBAL CONNECTIONS | POWERFUL MARKETING

CURIOUS ABOUT SELLING?

I'd love the opportunity to talk with you about your options. Selling your home is an important life decision. There are many variables to consider. We're here to walk you through our proven Selling Process to help you make the right decisions for your situation.

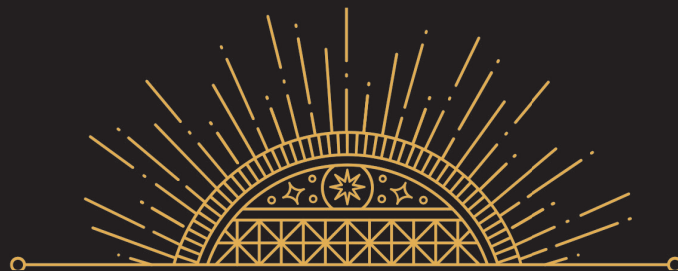
Your Northwest Hills Neighbor and Neighborhood REALTOR® Specialist



LP LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL
REAL ESTATE

www.northwesthillsaustin.com | **Albert Allen | Realtor | 512-589-9776**





"We truly can't say enough about Dawn's professionalism in representing us. She knows the market, knows the people, and knows how to make it all work in her client's best interest. We just wanted to take a minute to recognize the excellent work Dawn did in representing our family in two recent transactions. We have been friends with Dawn since before our children were born, so we knew we could trust her with the task. Though I am a broker, we trusted Dawn to represent us in buying our recently sold condo. And, since the market was much more intense during the timing of these more recent transactions, we again thought it best to solicit Dawn's help.

As things turned out, we were very grateful to have Dawn in the boat with us! Dawn was ready to show any house that was of interest very quickly – within the hour if possible. In that market, you had to act fast in order to make anything happen. We found the perfect house and, with Dawn's helpful expertise, were able to go under contract quickly. Then the market turned on a dime. Selling our condo was not nearly as easy as we thought it would be.

Dawn's guidance was invaluable, as was her professional calming nature. After a few months, we were able to secure a contract, and everything turned out fine. Through all the uncontrollable stressors of the market, Dawn proved herself. She was always accessible and responded to texts/calls literally within minutes, day or night - even when she was vacationing. She was completely organized and very clear in explaining next steps, deadlines, etc., and she went above and beyond to work through the kinks in dealing with a mortgage company who didn't have their act together in the 11th hour. She made sure the plan came together." ~Nancy and Kyle Lewallen



DAWN LANIER
BBA, ABR, GRI REALTOR®

9442 N Capital of TX Hwy, Plaza
1-625, Austin, TX 78759



 **COLDWELL BANKER | REALTY**

512-914-2072 • dawnlanieratx@gmail.com
DawnLanierSellsAustinTexas.com

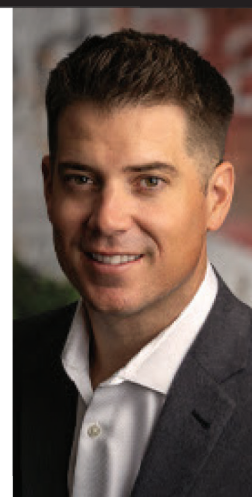
JESSE LOKKEN
NMLS# 425953

9442 N Capital of TX Hwy, Plaza
1-625, Austin, TX 78759



(312) 285-6136

Jesse.Lokken@grarate.com
People.Garate.com/Jesse-Lokken-425953



LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

PSRRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL