

Northwest Austin News

SERVING THE NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY

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'Tis the Season Engage and Enjoy

By NORTHWEST
AUSTIN CIVIC
ASSOCIATION BOARD

The proposed Austin Land Development Code (LDC) changes are provoking much discussion and concern. Now is the time to act. Three things you might do: learn all about the proposals, take our survey, and speak at the December 7 City Council meeting. Please read the newsletter article about these changes and complete the survey by December 4. The Board will use the survey results to develop a response to the Austin City Council from the NWACA Board.



HOLIDAY, 3

Planning Commission wants more teeth in HOME proposal

By JO CLIFTON
Austin Monitor

After 12 hours of listening to citizens' suggestions and complaints about the proposed changes to the Land Development Code, known as the HOME initiative, the Planning Commission last week came up with a number of technical recommendations for City Council to consider when adopting the new reg-

ulations. Council and the commission held a joint hearing on the proposal last month.

According to the proposal, in the future there could be up to three homes on properties zoned SF-1, SF-2 or SF-3. In addition, the proposal would eliminate regulations about accessory apartments and guesthouses and limit applicability of McMansion standards to lots with

just one home.

Because so many people wanted to talk to the commission and commissioners themselves had a number of ideas about how to improve the proposed ordinance, the commission started its meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, adjourned early Wednesday, Nov. 15, then came back to finish their work that evening.

LAND CODE, 3

Inaugural Taco Shack basketball game celebrates 50th anniversary



"This year we're celebrating 50 years as Anderson Trojans," shared Eric Swanson, head AHS basketball coach. "During the McCallum game, we honored these men: L-R Ruben Fowler '76, Terrance Tschatschula '75, Gary Hopkins '77, Quinn James '77, Phillip Seals '75, Raymond Owens '79 and Rich Tharp '76."

LEFT: The Anderson Trojans boys basketball team faced the McCallum Knights in the inaugural Taco Shack Shields Collide Game on November 10 at the Delco Center. Photo by Jon Kniss and Austin All Stars Photography

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Land Development Code Updates and Opportunity for a Survey

By Northwest Austin Civic Association Board

For several weeks, various media have covered the proposed changes to Austin's Land Development Code. NWACA has published links to resources that provide background on the changes. Please go to www.nwaca.org and follow the Hot Topics links to the latest information.

NWACA Board members want to understand our neighborhood's position/stance regarding the proposed LDC changes. Please take the survey/submit your survey responses at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QYJRRD7> no later than December 4.

At the November 15 Town Hall meeting, more than 150 people heard from lawyer Rob Breunig speak about deed restrictions and

Councilmember Alison Alter and NWACA Zoning Committee Co-chair Ben Luckens reviewed the proposed changes. This discussion was followed by an hour of Q&A.

The following is helpful information for concerned citizens.

Current zoning: To find your home's current zoning, use an address search at <https://maps.austintexas.gov/GIS/PropertyProfile/>

Deed restrictions: To find out if your property has deed restrictions,

- Call the Travis County Clerk – 512-854-0000, and follow the prompts to reach someone who deals with real property records, or
- Go online to <https://www.tccsearch.org/> and use the Real Estate tab to get to a page

where you search by homeowner name, address, and other data. Check the Warranty Deed or a plat that shows any recorded restrictions.

To protest proposed Changes: See this Speak Up Austin web page: <https://publicinput.com/v1473#3> To be sure a protest is received and processed before the December 7 Council meeting, it should be submitted two weeks prior.

To speak at the December 7 City Council meeting, either in-person or virtually, you must register in advance. For additional information on how to participate or register to speak at the meeting, please do a web search for Austin City Council Information Center. Registration begins Monday, Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. and closes Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 12 p.m. Once

online registration closes, registration to speak at the meeting in-person remains available only at the kiosk at City Hall until Thursday, Dec. 7 at 9:15 a.m. Note that you can sign up to speak, but donate your time to someone else if you don't want to address the Council.

To email comments to all City Council Members: Use this web page: <https://www.austintexas.gov/email/all-council-members>

More information from the City: See this Speak Up Austin web page: <https://publicinput.com/v1473>

Questions/comments: If you would like to contact departmental staff with questions about these amendments, you may email LD-Cupdates@austintexas.gov or call 512-974-7220

LAND CODE, FROM 1

Commission Chair Todd Shaw told Austin Monitor, "Over the two days of the public hearing, Q&A and debate, the Planning Commission recommended changes to ensure the code meets the intent of Council ... and we addressed many of the community's concerns."

The initiative, he said, "is about creating more affordable housing. How do we do that?" He noted there was a lot of concern about building larger and larger houses, as seen in many neighborhoods, including Shaw's.

Shaw noted that what staff presented to

Council and commissioners does not include recommendations on floor area ratio, which determines how tall buildings can be based on their footprint. The commission came up with a number of recommendations about floor area ratio as well as recommendations about impacts on city infrastructure, particularly water. He said staff needs to look at expanding the city's infrastructure in light of climate change.

Specifically, the commission made the following recommendation: "Council should require all relevant departments assess the impacts of additional units in single family neighborhoods and the infrastructure required. This is a major concern of neighborhoods. This will allow City Utility Departments to estimate resources need-

ed as units increase over time within SF1, SF2, SF3 zoned neighborhoods."

One way to address citizens' concerns is to build smaller houses and put them closer together on their lots, he said.

Commissioner Claire Hempel also said it was very important to the panel to get the floor area ratio right, so that developers would be encouraged to build two or three units instead of one huge house on a lot. She said the commission realizes that affordability is a difficult task, and more work needs to be done in the future.

Hempel noted that commissioners recommended a "preservation bonus," for developers

who preserve a structure built in 1960 or earlier. Developers would be allowed to build additional dwelling units by abiding by regulations to be established for the preservation bonus. They can also get a bonus for preserving a home built after 1960, called a sustainability bonus.

Commissioners also urged Council to revisit problems associated with short-term rentals. Courts have rejected Austin's previous attempt to regulate STRs but there is still considerable worry about the impact those units have on affordability.

Council is scheduled to hold its final hearing and vote on the HOME initiative on Dec. 7.

New District Representative Phillip Sparkman

By CONNIE LUNDGREN
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Northwest Hills, part of Austin Police Department's (APD) Baker Sector 1, has a new District Representative (DR) - Officer Phillip Sparkman. Austin's DR Program was established in 1998 to create partnerships between neighborhoods and APD's regional commands. A police officer is assigned to specific districts within an area command to assist the community in solving neighborhood problems and facilitate communication. All DRs

are patrol officers and augment patrol and crime prevention activities as well as respond to natural and man-made emergencies in support of patrol operations.

Officer Sparkman hails from Galveston, Texas and enjoys anything outdoors, including riding his motorcycle and spending time with family and friends. This is his first time serving as a District Representative, but he is well-qualified to serve our community. Sparkman completed his military basic training in 2002 and served two tours of duty in

Iraq in 2003 and 2009. His training includes K9 experience, Firearms Instructor, Terrorism & Homeland Security, Active Shooter, Police Bicycle Patrol, Patrol Rifle Handler, Low Light Building Search, and Active Attack Integrated Response. He holds certifications in Peace Officer License, Basic Peace Officer, TCOLE Firearms Instructor Course, and APD Swat School, where he currently serves along with his duties as a patrol officer and DR. We look forward to working with him.



a yard sign recognizing their work. Good luck crafting a winning design!

Practice safe winter driving, walking, and biking. Our evenings get dark really early now, so walkers and bikers are hard to see by those driving cars through the neighborhood. Please, if you're biking in the dark hours of the

day, be sure you're well illuminated. If you're walking, please face the traffic, wear light-colored clothing, and carry a light. Where there are sidewalks, please use them. It's also deer rutting season; drivers need to watch for their unpredictable movements.

Relish the articles in this newsletter. Rem-

inisce as you read the history of the Village Shopping Center; learn about the work of local musician Eric Chapelle, a local Tai Chi studio, and the latest recycling guidance; and get to know NWACA Board Member Chris Bove. Catch up on some local news.

Happy Holidays everyone!

HOLIDAY, FROM 1

Participate in the Holiday Yard Decorating Contest. As you marvel at holiday decorations, please send the addresses of the outstanding ones to info@nwaca.org. Judges will rate nominated yards on December 16 or 17. First, second, and third place winners will be awarded

DWI, Theft , Disturbance in Police and Sheriff’s Report

Recent Sheriff’s Office and Austin Police Department reports in the Northwest Austin area include a variety of cases.	11/03/2023 1:21 AM	11/05/2023 8:39 AM		AUTO THEFT	11/11/2023 8:49 AM	11/16/2023 6:55 PM
	58XX MESA DR	35XX GREYSTONE	11/06/2023 10:37 PM		68XX WOOD HOLLOW	72XX WOOD HOLLOW
	ASSAULT W/INJURY	BURGLARY	36XX GREYSTONE	11/08/2023 7:14 PM	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	AUTO THEFT
			THEFT	36XX GREYSTONE		
010/31/2023 10:53 PM	11/03/2023 10:05 AM	11/05/2023 12:05 PM	11/06/2023 6:16 PM	DR	11/11/2023 9:08 AM	11/16/2023 10:07 PM
	44XX SPICEWOOD	72XX WOOD HOLLOW	68XX WOOD HOLLOW	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY	92XX JOLLYVILLE
	POSS CONTROLLED SUB	AUTO THEFT	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF		AUTO THEFT	THEFT
				11/08/2023 7:52 PM		
ASSAULT ON PUBLIC SERVANT	11/03/2023 11:45 AM	11/05/2023 12:50 PM	11/06/2023 7:16 PM	71XX HART LN	11/11/2023 10:38 AM	11/17/2023 1:07 AM
	71XX HART LN	69XX HART LN	85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY	TERRORISTIC	81XX MOPAC EXPY	73XX WOOD HOLLOW
	THEFT	THEFT	AUTO THEFT	THREAT	ASSAULT W/INJURY	AUTO THEFT
10/31/2023 11:53 AM	11/03/2023 2:25 PM	11/05/2023 1:14 PM	11/06/2023 11:30 PM	11/09/2023 9:35 AM	11/15/2023 9:13 AM	11/17/2023 6:00 AM
	44XX SPICEWOOD	71XX HART LN	35XX GREYSTONE	36XX NORTH HILLS	85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY	35XX HYRIDGE DR
	THEFT	THEFT	FAMILY DISTURBANCE	BURGLARY OF VEH	AUTO THEFT	DWI
11/01/2023 2:37 PM	11/03/2023 4:45 PM	11/05/2023 3:29 PM	11/07/2023 9:09 AM	11/09/2023 11:36 AM	11/15/2023 9:56 AM	11/17/2023 10:16 AM
	39XX GREYSTONE	36XX CLABURN DR	41XX STECK AVE	52XX OLD SPICEWOOD SPRINGS	90XX MOUNTAIN RIDGE	00XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
	FALSE STATEMENT	BURGLARY	AUTO THEFT	DISTURBANCE	POSS CONTROLLED SUB	THEFT
11/01/2023 6:23 PM	11/03/2023 8:14 PM	11/05/2023 5:35 PM	11/07/2023 12:10 PM	11/09/2023 12:30 PM	11/11/2023 3:26 PM	11/17/2023 10:52 AM
	47XX SPICEWOOD	76XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY	65XX SANTOLINA	41XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS	43XX WILD PLUM	35XX NORTH HILLS
	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	BURGLARY	FORGERY & PASSING	TERRORISTIC	THEFT	AUTO THEFT
				THREAT		
11/02/2023 2:05 AM	11/04/2023 1:29 AM	11/05/2023 8:12 PM	11/07/2023 8:57 PM	11/09/2023 7:28 PM	11/11/2023 6:00 PM	11/17/2023 10:52 AM
	66XX MOPAC	76XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY	76XX WOOD HOLLOW	88XX WESTOVER	81XX MOPAC EXPY	35XX NORTH HILLS
	DUI AGE 17-20	BURGLARY	AUTO THEFT	ASSAULT W/INJURY	FAMILY DISTURBANCE	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
11/02/2023 9:45 AM	11/04/2023 1:13 PM	11/06/2023 1:44 PM	11/08/2023 11:10 AM	11/10/2023 3:27 PM	11/12/2023 8:00 AM	11/17/2023 2:08 PM
	59XX DOWN VALLEY	85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY	47XX COLORADO	95XX JOLLYVILLE	35XX NORTH HILLS	72XX WOOD HOLLOW
	AUTO THEFT	BURGLARY	XING	THEFT	POSS OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	AUTO THEFT
11/02/2023 9:56 AM	11/04/2023 2:09 PM	11/06/2023 6:16 PM	11/08/2023 1:30 PM	11/10/2023 8:49 PM	11/12/2023 8:03 AM	11/18/2023 2:15 AM
	70XX VILLAGE	69XX HART LN	64XX WILLIAMS	53XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY	35XX NORTH HILLS	36XX NORTH HILLS
	CENTER	THEFT	RIDGE	THEFT	AUTO THEFT	DWI
11/02/2023 5:30 PM	11/04/2023 3:38 PM			11/12/2023 12:31 PM	11/15/2023 1:50 PM	11/18/2023 7:23 PM
	81XX MOPAC EXPY	44XX SPICEWOOD		37XX EXECUTIVE	73XX WOOD HOLLOW	00XX MOPAC EXPY
	THEFT	SPRINGS		CENTER	AUTO THEFT	AUTO THEFT
		THEFT		FORGERY & PASSING		
				11/12/2023 12:35 PM	11/15/2023 3:15 PM	11/18/2023 10:24 PM
				72XX WOOD HOLLOW	70XX VILLAGE	36XX NORTH HILLS
				IMPERSONATING	CENTER	ASSAULT W/INJURY
				PUBLIC SERVANT	SHOPLIFTING	
				11/11/2023 7:23 AM	11/15/2023 5:27 PM	11/19/2023 1:25 AM
				34XX NORTH HILLS	35XX GREYSTONE	71XX HART LN
				AUTO THEFT	DR	SUSPICIOUS PERSON
					AUTO THEFT	
				11/11/2023 7:27 AM	11/12/2023 12:36 PM	
				73XX WOOD HOLLOW	36XX GREYSTONE	
				THEFT	DISTURBANCE	
				11/12/2023 4:58 PM	11/15/2023 6:41 PM	
				37XX NORTH HILLS	00XX MOPAC EXPY	
				CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	DISTURBANCE	
				11/13/2023 2:56 AM	11/16/2023 6:50 AM	
				40XX STECK AVE	72XX HART LN	
				FAMILY DISTURBANCE	AGG ASSAULT	
				11/11/2023 8:44 AM	11/16/2023 6:19 PM	
				88XX TALLWOOD	34XX NORTH HILLS	
				FAMILY DISTURBANCE	AUTO THEFT	
				11/13/2023 9:18 AM		
				36XX GREYSTONE		
				ASSAULT W/INJURY		

Austin Police Department Chief’s Monthly Report for October, 2023

City-Wide					Baker Sector				
Crimes Against Persons					Crimes Against Persons				
	Oct 2023	Oct 2022	% Change	All 2023		Oct 2023	Oct 2022	% Change	All 2023
Murder	9	7	29%	53	Murder	0	1	-100%	2
Aggravated Assault	288	290	-1%	2,965	Aggravated Assault	16	10	60%	148
Simple Assault	800	859	-7%	7,899	Simple Assault	52	70	-26%	583
Crimes Against Property					Crimes Against Property				
	Oct 2023	Oct 2022	% Change	All 2023		Oct 2023	Oct 2022	% Change	All 2023
Robbery	71	83	-14%	774	Robbery	1	4	-75%	51
Burglary	301	449	-33%	3,607	Burglary	30	47	-36%	362
Burglary of Vehicle	682	949	-28%	7,554	Burglary of Vehicle	99	221	-55%	1,390
Auto Theft	575	403	43%	5,633	Auto Theft	6	24	-75%	136
Vandalism	555	513	-8%	5,341	Vandalism	53	63	16%	578
Crimes Against Society					Crimes Against Society				
	Oct 2023	Oct 2022	% Change	All 2023		Oct 2023	Oct 2022	% Change	All 2023
Drug Violations	282	246	15%	2,894	Drugs	14	10	40%	132
Weapons	61	70	-13%	851	Weapons	2	3	-33%	27

Madison Pharis compiled this report mostly from SpotCrime at www.spotcrime.com and also from CrimeReports.

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Writer's Corner: Composer, Producer Eric Chapelle

By IDEE KWAK
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Eric Chapelle, composer and producer, describes his music as having “influences of experimental music and 20th century classical compositions, lyrical, impressionistic, and at times minimalistic all rolled into one.”

In October he released *Works for Solo Piano*, an album of 12 compositions played by Austin pianist Michele Schumann and produced by Eric on his own record label, Companionable Streams Music. For its release party at KMFA, Michele played four of the pieces which she spoke of as streams of pretty vignettes that eschew the architectural forms and harmonic structures that drive the works of other composers. With names like *Haze on the Mountain*, *Rain Falling*, and *Reflections*, the pieces are miasmas of lovely sound that evoke changing moods. Michele also interviewed Eric who described the beginning of his writing process: he sits at the piano, searching for notes until he finds the right combination that elicits what he's feeling.

Born in a village about fifteen miles from Paris, France, Eric was boarded in the Russian orphanage in Montgeron. At an early age, he was drawn to the piano in the local dance hall and music soon became his outlet.

“Music has been part of my life ever since I was a small boy. The first powerful experience was when I was walking along a creek alone when I was about six years old in Montgeron.... [T]he



wind was rattling the leaves on the trees, I looked up, and instead of just hearing the sound of the wind, which by the way sounds extremely beautiful

by itself, I heard music instead.... I was startled, but right there, in that moment, I knew something happened in a profound way, and that music would be an integral part of my life. And so, the journey continues, and every day I hear beautiful music from all over the world by composers and musicians. I'm grateful to hear such beauty!”

Eric emigrated to the United States at the age of 7, and portions of his life were spent in California and Texas. He came to Austin in 1971, settling in Northwest Hills in 1995. While he's composed music most of his life, he's devoted himself to it entirely since his retirement from the title insurance business. He earned his B. A. in Music with a concentration in composition from Texas State University.

His work over the past twenty-five years includes production of the album *The HeartAid Project*, pieces written by 17 composers in memory of 9/11 victims, released under the Spring Hill Label. He also composed television soundtracks for episodes of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's series, *Made in Texas*, as well as their documentary *Texas: The State of Water - Finding*



Eric Chapelle, Northwest Hill resident, at the recording session with Michelle Schumann.
www.ericchappellemusic.com/

a Balance.

Eric enjoys walks through our neighborhood, musical ideas past and present carried with him. To listen to his compositions, go to Apple Music,

Spotify, Pandora, Soundcloud, or the YouTube Artist Channel
ericchappellemusic.com

Friends gather for 35th year for lefse making tradition

By LYNETTE HAALAND
Four Points News

Jean Smith, a longtime resident of Grandview Hills, gathered with her friends last weekend to make a traditional holiday food — lefse. This year marks their 35th

anniversary to make the potato flatbread in assembly-line fashion.

“We started this 35 years ago as a group,” said Smith, who had moved to Texas from Minnesota because of 3M around the time the group started making lefse.

Lefse starts with riced

potatoes, flour, heavy cream, butter and salt rolled into a ball then rolled out and then griddled. Some ladies rolled out the dough with the special rolling pin while others manned the 400-degree griddles with the long lefse sticks.

Lefse is usually served with butter and sugar.

“This is just a fun, fun tradition at the beginning of the holidays,” said Sandy Kingslien, who is originally from South Dakota. “It's a family tradition.”

The ladies who gather each year are mostly from northern states originally and have Norwegian-American heritage. Discussion at a Triumphant Love Lutheran Church dinner revealed that lefse making was a tradition each had grown up with.

“When I grew up, we did this on my grandparent's farm (in Chisago City, Minnesota). There were 11 children in my dad's



family and we all gathered with my grandma and grandpa, and it was a great big celebration,” Smith said.

This year the friends made 23 dozen pieces of lefse.

“I look forward to it every year... including getting together

and all of the chaos,” said Laurinda Smith, Grandview Hills resident and Jean's daughter.

The group of ladies will gather again with their husbands for a lutefisk dinner later this Christmas season.



L-R Ken Beck, Deanna Wells, Laurinda Smith, Sandra Kingslien, Diane Pilot, Joyce Beck, Sandy Larson, and Jean Smith hold up their lefse sticks, many with rosemaling designs. Official tasters in the background include Cliff Wells and Mryon Pilot.

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The Village Shopping Center's 50th Anniversary

By RICHARD DENNEY
Northwest Austin Civic Association

When an institution in Austin can stick around for 50 years that's pretty remarkable. In fact, 50 years is the official number that the Texas Historical Commission uses as the benchmark for whether something can be considered historic. So, it's worth mentioning The Village Shopping Center at 2700 West Anderson Lane is 50 years old this year. Known today as simply The Village, it started in 1973 with more than 30 mostly local shops and businesses.

Probably the best-known business in The Village is the Alamo Drafthouse. That movie theater began as The Village 4 back in the day when having multiple screens at the same theater was the new thing worth bragging about. Today's Cover 3 was originally the old Lock, Stock & Barrel, a popular club in Austin for local music. Rogers Optical remains today, one of the original businesses. Korea House, while not an original, has been around for 40 years.

With Jimmy Buffet's passing this year we note what is likely the most historic event tied to The Village; Buffet's 1976 inspiration for his song Margaritaville came after consuming a few at Lung's Cocina del Sur Mexican food restaurant, part of the original Village where today's High Five is located.

Though started in 1973, the grand opening was 1974. Headlines from the paper that year said "Village's Grand Opening Recalls Fabulous Fifties," going on to say The Village was built "... as an alternate to today's sterile malls ... a center that would be both interesting and fun to shop in. That's one reason why we chose small distinctive shops, rather than large department stores. Shopping used to be a big family event ... Everyone would climb into the old jalopy and head for town ... The Village was designed as a place the family can enjoy, instead of a place where you have to hassle [with] crowds ...". They thought 1974 Austin was crowded? If only they knew. The advertisement went on to say The Village was a place where "a family could spend an afternoon shopping, have dinner and take in a show [The Village 4] all in the same place."

Rather than a large, enclosed mall, The Village was designed as an outdoor mall with interior courtyards with covered walkways, decks, a pond, and an abundance of native plants and trees. Even at 50 years old today, it is still a pleasant outdoor space in which to hang out. Epoch Coffee is one such popular outdoor hangout.

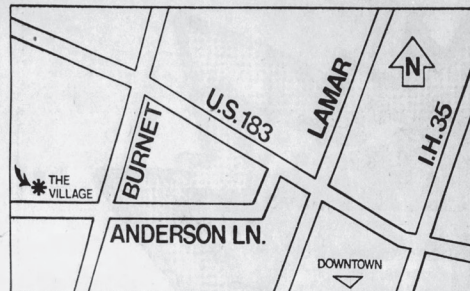
The character of The Village is changing with the times. Today it is an eclectic mix of offices, small shops, restaurants, a dentist, chiropractic and holistic medicine, and more. Some shops you would definitely not have seen 50 years ago, like Tribe, your local CBD shop. Probably not what one would consider a family shopping experience. Or maybe it is? Billed, a "financial solutions company," and Common Desk recently moved out leaving whole buildings empty while a new video game development company, Airship Syndicate, has moved in.

Having lived nearby, off Shoal Creek where my kids were born, I have fond memories of The Village. With my kids now grown, the Alamo Drafthouse is still our go-to when we want to take in a show as a family. I only hope The Village can continue to adapt and stay around another 50 years. Margarita anyone?

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/>

Page B2—Austin, Texas The Austin American-Statesman Wednesday, October 2, 1974

Village's Grand Opening Recalls Fabulous Fifties



SEEING IS BELIEVING — The Village Shopping Center is having its Grand Opening this week with 33 shops open. Fun for the shoppers is assured by a celebration which recalls the fabulous fifties. Live

hands will provide music Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Beautiful landscaping, greenery and a man-made pond and brook add charm to the scene.

Greenery, Landscaping Add to Center's Charm

With the multitude of modernistic malls, The Village Shopping Center, 2700 Anderson Lane, offers a refreshing alternative through the use of extensive landscaping and unique architectural devices.

The environmental look of the Village is largely due to Bob L. Thomas, a landscape architect, and a member of Texas Lake Co., the developers of the center.

Interior courtyards feature a

man-made brook and pond both lined with thick greenery. Walkways, boulders, decks and western fencing add to the rustic atmosphere.

Green groves everywhere. Plant enthusiasts will recognize Live Oaks, Cedar Elms, Red Oaks, Yuccas, Mountain Laurels and Mexican Persimmon. Closer inspection reveals Grape Myrtle, Pinotiferafruti, Oleander, Pineapple Guava, Hesperocarya and numerous other plants. Over 100 bulbs

were added for spring and summer color.

"We built the Village as an alternative to today's sterile malls," explained Thomas. "We wanted a center that would be both interesting and fun to shop in. That's one reason why we chose small distinctive shops, rather than large department stores."

"Shopping used to be a big family event," Thomas went on. "Everyone would climb into the old jalopy and head for town. It was something to look forward to. The Village was designed as a place the family can enjoy, instead of a place where you have to hassle crowds and end up dashing from store to store."

33 Shops Hosting Visitors

With landscaping completed and 33 shops open, The Village shopping center, 2700 W. Anderson Lane, will host a grand opening celebration that recalls the fabulous fifties!

The Village has always been oriented toward fun and shopper involvement," explained manager Urban Bright.

"Many of the owners manage their own stores, and they all thought our grand opening should be fun for the shoppers. A 'flashing fifties review' was one idea that met with immediate enthusiasm."

"The Fifties were fun!" commented Mike Duncan, president of The Village Merchants Assn. "Who doesn't remember crusin' and Elvis Presley, and The Big? The more we talked about a fifties revival the more excited everyone got. The list of events just grew and grew!"

Live bands will highlight the week of activities with music provided by "Surfcreed" on Thursday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and "Easy Does It" on Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. To go along with the fifties tunes, the merchants have planned a twist contest, top contest and dance marathon with DJ Dave Jarrett of KNOW awarding \$25 gift certificates as prizes. Food and beer will also be available.

Daily events include an exhibit of 56 model cars hosted by the Thunderbird Club, a car painting contest with area high schools competing, a Hula Hoop contest, an art show hosted by The Austin Talent Club, and, for all the guys who still have a bottle of Whisky lying around — a duck tail contest. \$5 gift



EASY ON EYES—The use of extensive landscaping and architectural devices provides refreshing scenes to the eyes of customers at The Village Shopping Center, 2700 Anderson Lane. Green meets the strollers

everywhere and interior courtyards add to this with a man-made brook and pond plus thick shrubbery. Landscape artist for the charming area is Bob L. Thomas.



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Gruyere Brielette Emmentaler Gremos Dania Stilton Wensleydale Double Gloucester Cheshire Caerphilly Aged Gouda Leyden Feta

Store Folk All Set In Shopping Center

Opened last fall, The Village Shopping Center now has 33 shops open for business. They are:

1. Lock, Stock & Barrel — restaurant & bar — prime rib, steak & seafood
2. Brookside Woman's Shop — clothes for the fuller figure
3. Clyde Campbell — men's clothing
4. Ice Box — ice cream & candies
5. Puss'n' Tvy — women's shop
6. Cocina del Sur — Lung's Mexican food
7. Sebring — hair designers
8. The Golf Shop — golf accessories
9. Gens, Ltd. — coin shop
10. Cloud Nine — gifts & decorative accessories
11. Briny Travel — travel agency
12. Karlines — cards, gifts & candies
13. Guild Hall — art gallery
14. Children's Show World
15. Domes's — gift & bridal items
16. Foxy Lady — women's clothing
17. Village Book Shop
18. B.C. Rogers' Village Optical — optician, contact lenses & eyewear
19. Dave Parsons men's wear
20. Top Spin — tennis shop
21. Cheesekeeper — cheese & gourmet items
22. J. Gastry — restaurant & bar
23. Village Hobby Shop — hobbies & models
24. Sky Band — turquoise & silver jewelry
25. English Gent — men's continental clothes
26. Her Place — women's clothes
27. Stamp Mart — stamps for collection
28. Cassini Tailor — tailor-made suits & alterations
29. Salem Jewelry — fine jewelry & repair
30. Portraits by Olivia — portraits & posters
31. The Pedaler — bike shop & repairs
32. Stretch & Sew — knit

fabrics & sewing class.

33 Village Cinema IV 4-screen theater.

34. Puss'n' Tvy — coming in November.

Upon completion, The Village will have 30 stores. An additional 30 small shops devoted to arts and crafts will be located in Popcorn in The Village, an enclosed building located on the east side of the center.

Maybe the place you vacationed in a few years ago isn't what it used to be. Or maybe the island where you missed the restaurants is a gourmet's delight today.

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COME TO MIKE DUNCAN'S GOLF SHOP AND TURN SOME CARTWHEELS!

Mike has just received an exclusive franchise on world famous **Harley-Davidson** golf carts. He has three and four wheelers, powered by gas or electricity. Come by and see Mike at the Village Shopping Center, 2700 West Anderson Lane. He'll let you turn cartwheels by letting you test drive a "quiet reliable" **Harley-Davidson**.



OPEN DAILY 'TIL 9 P.M.

459-8317

Business Spotlight: Aiping Tai Chi Center

By JANICE GREEN
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Tai Chi is an art form of movement taught around the world. Shifu Fong Zang now offers it at Studio 103 on Greystone. – a space for teachers who also provide a variety of yoga and fitness classes.

Fong grew up in China with her father who practiced Tai Chi daily. She began studying it at age 7, eventually trained with masters, and has won awards in international competitions. But Tai Chi was not the reason she immigrated to Austin. She pursued her academic goals here at UT, receiving her master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs. After starting a family and facing some health issues, Fong explored the possibilities of teaching. Also, she began studying Traditional Chinese Medicine and expanded her knowledge of the health benefits of Tai Chi. She joined Aiping Tai Chi Center of Austin to train with Grandmaster Aiping Cheng, became an instructor there, and now is the



owner of the Center.

While Tai Chi began centuries ago as a branch of martial arts, Fong's classes focus on the health benefits that a Tai Chi practice of-

fers: the slow, fluid movements that promote balance, posture, flexibility, discipline, mobility, and other mind/body improvements. Fong was trained in both traditional and contemporary styles of Tai Chi; she teaches the Yang style which is the most popular in the US.

Her classes are relaxed, students slowly develop mindful movements and posture. She weaves Chinese culture (e.g., Full Moon Festival), history and language into her teaching style. Students of all generations become friends who help each other to grow and learn. The calm, meditative practice not only trains the body but also refreshes the mind. Gentle movement stimulates blood flow, especially in the back, feet, knees, and spine. In good weather, there are even classes in a local park. For a full description of Fong's class schedule go to her website, provided below.

The only attire required for class is comfy soft-soled shoes and loose clothing - no other equipment needed. Fong offers a free

class for beginners, and she breaks down the movements for each student's level and pace. Then the students break out into groups of different degrees of advancement with more experienced students helping guide those sub-groups. They begin with two short forms and extend to the 24-form. Progress is measured by the quality of the movement, with each student learning at their own pace. Students are not overwhelmed; they do not feel the pressure of competition.

Fong urges students to listen to their bodies' signals, especially the side effects of stress and the issues aging brings. Her goal is to help each student develop a healthy habit that becomes a positive tool in daily life – a pursuit to explore in the new year.

CONTACT INFO: 512-267-9897; aip-ingtaichiaustin.com; location at Studio 103, 3435 Greystone Drive; Facebook/Instagram/ Youtube: @aipingtaichiaustin; Email: info@aipingtaichiaustin.com

County funds ambulance alternatives as call volumes remain high

By KEN CHAMBERS
Austin Monitor

With 911 call volumes still near pandemic records and EMS staff shortages limiting ambulance availability, the Travis County Commissioners Court agreed to spend more for ambulance alternatives.

Commissioners voted Tuesday to increase the county's share in the 2024 interlocal agreement with Austin by roughly 11 percent to reach \$17.6 million. The additional funds will be used to develop ambulance alternatives first explored during the pandemic, Austin EMS Chief Robert Luckritz said in his presentation to commissioners.

At the urging of Precinct 2 Commissioner Brigid Shea, they also directed the county attorney to explore legal options against the state of Texas for adding to the county's health care costs.

Luckritz began his presentation by reminding commissioners that in some ways the pandemic has never ended.

"Prior to the pandemic, we were seeing about a thousand calls a month in Travis County," Luckritz said. "Now we're seeing about 1,400 to 1,500 calls."

Life-threatening emergencies are "less than 10 percent" of what EMS handles, Luckritz said,

and "the remainder of those calls can potentially be cared for utilizing other resources."

Many people call 911 but don't need an ambulance, he said. They call because they have no other options.

"There's a huge subset of the community that utilizes 911 because they don't have anyone else to call," Luckritz said. "The urgent care center may charge you upfront and if you don't have resources to get in the door, the ultimate fallback is to call 911."

This is not the best use of 911 resources, he said, "particularly as we see this growth in volume and we realize that ambulances are a limited commodity."

During the pandemic, EMS personnel realized that taking someone with a minor issue to the hospital might actually make their condition worse, Luckritz said. They began exploring alternatives.

"If we can identify what your emergency is and care for you outside the hospital, either through our own resources or through telehealth, it's better for everyone," he said.

This approach has advanced rapidly, Luckritz said.

"As we evolved into 2021, we saw that there's a whole host of things we can do outside the

walls of a hospital to provide services," he said.

This includes the paramedic practitioner program, which provides pre-hospital physician assistance from licensed paramedics. Next came efforts to quickly identify critical cases and divert noncritical calls to other resources.

"We estimated about 35 percent of calls ... don't need to have an ambulance and we could solve their problems using telehealth and other nonambulance resources," Luckritz said.

All 911 call takers are certified medical dispatchers, he said. When they identify a nonemergency call, they transfer the call to a paramedic with access to a physician and a physician assistant.

Another option is to dispatch a paramedic to check on the caller in person and bring a physician in on video if necessary, Luckritz said. Specialist paramedics, including some in mental health care and some specializing in opiate use, are also available.

"By doing this, by recognizing that low-acuity calls might not need an ambulance and medium-acuity calls may not need the closest ambulance ... this is actually increasing the number of ambulances available for high-acuity calls," he said.

Shea said issues with Texas' health care system may have contributed to the spike in calls

and costs.

"I think it's logical to assume that there's some relationship to the millions of people in Texas who got kicked off Medicaid," she said. "Now local communities have to use tax dollars to cover this cost."

She requested that EMS gather information about how many people call 911 because they lost their Medicare or Medicaid.

"I'm assuming this is a pattern happening in most urban areas and probably some rural areas around the state," she said. "If the state had participated in Medicaid expansion ... would we be seeing less of this reliance on ambulances and emergency personnel for people to get health care?"

"It's hard to say for certain," Luckritz said, "but I certainly think that any barrier that we put up for someone to be able to access health care is going to increase the workload on the ambulances."

As the amendment and renewal of the interlocal agreement came to a vote, Shea asked to include a request for the county attorney to look into legal options against the state. The vote was unanimous.

Austin Monitor, an online, nonpartisan, 501(c)3 nonprofit publication that covers local government and politics in and around Austin.

Meet NWACA Board Member Christopher Bove

By KEVIN KOTT
Northwest Austin
Civic Association

KK: Chris, I learned some basics about you from your bio at nwaca.org/board-of-directors/, but how did you get to Austin?

CB: The youngest of five kids, I was born in New Jersey; we came here when I was eleven months old in 1967. My dad was one of the first Austin IBM-ers. He bought a five-bedroom three-bath house in Northwest Hills for the ungodly sum of \$27,800. Dad said he didn't sleep for six months worrying about how he could afford such a mansion at that incredible cost.

As a kid, I learned to ride a motorcycle at the rock-quar-

ry where H-E-B is now. We learned how to shoot BB and pellet guns in the valley where Far West dead ended right after West Rim at Stahl Cove. We'd go down there on our minibikes, our BB guns strapped to our backs, for hours. Spicewood Springs wasn't even paved - we called it the bumpy road.

When I was seven, we moved back to New Jersey. I went to boarding school in Connecticut, college in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. I returned to Austin in 1989. My wife of 32 years and I met here.

KK: What do you most like about Austin?

CB: When I came back, Austin had changed, but it was still a nice, friend-

ly college town. My oldest brother talks about how great it was back in the late-sixties/early-seventies - the protests and peace-ins, the Thirteenth-Floor Elevators, Armadillo World Headquarters, etc. In my opinion, Austin has evolved and grown into itself, but it still has a great vibe despite growing pains with gentrification and the massive build up downtown.

KK: How did you get involved with NWACA?

CB: For a long time, I didn't know NWACA was a real organization; I thought it was just some neighbors who had put together a Facebook page. When NWACA put out a call for volunteers, I applied, and the board kindly voted me in. I like having

insider information and helping residents understand community issues.

KK: You've worked in hospital administration, factory automation, real estate, and several other areas. What was your favorite?

CB: Being a realtor is my favorite. We make our own schedules (or we pretend to). Helping a family buy or sell their home and move on with life is fulfilling. I put a lot of miles on the car, but I'd rather do that than sit at a desk.

KK: You're a member of a police-oriented motorcycle club?

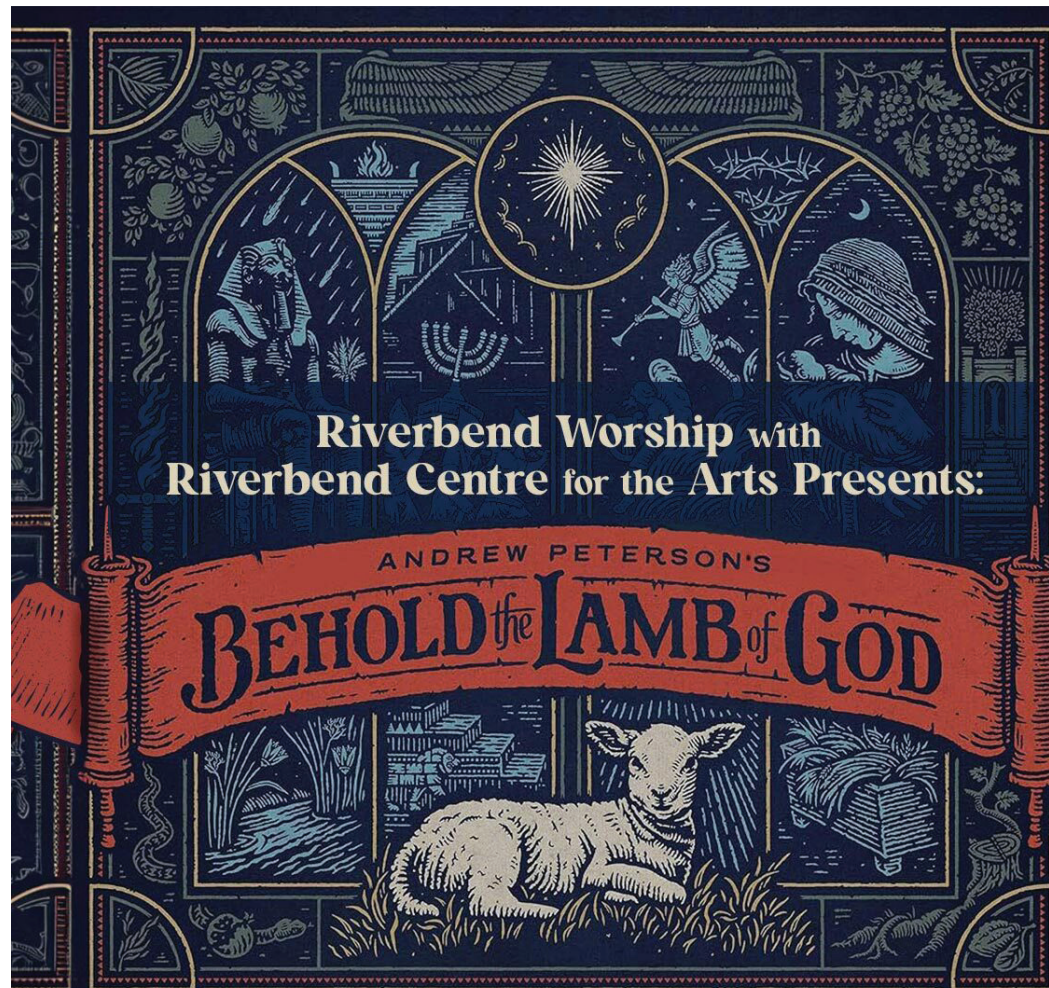
CB: Yes. The Thin Blue Line Law Enforcement Motor-



Chris Bove and his wife Deborah at a recent Galveston Thin Blue Line event.

cycle Club has about 1,200 members in 15 states and several chapters outside the U.S.A. The club organizes fundraisers to help officer families when an officer is injured or dies on the job.

Also, we support Blue Santa, Brown Santa, and the Marine Corps Toys for Tots programs.



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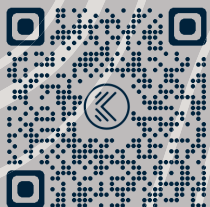
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49

total single family
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135

total single family
homes sold YTD



Condos and Townhomes

	NUMBER OF SALES	AVG SALE PRICE
AUG 2023	15	\$452,680
SEP 2023	10	\$355,136
OCT 2023	7	\$367,321
NOV 2023	10	\$329,750

As Austin grows, real estate leaders look at state of city's character, reputation

By CHAD SWIATECKI
Austin Monitor

There were no explicit Old Austin versus New Austin clashes during a recent discussion among local development leaders about the state of the city's character, but issues such as diversity and equity, opportunities for area youth and struggles to manage growth took center stage.

The November 15 Urban Land Institute panel discussion featured leaders from the local creative economy and a parks advocate giving pointers to engineers, developers and other real estate professionals on the ways their industries are pushing Austin toward becoming one of the largest cities in the U.S.

Carl Settles, executive director of the E4 Youth creative agency, reminded the audience that recent state legislation reducing parkland set-asides from new building projects may help developers' financials but will have a negative impact on quality of

life for residents. Settles, who is Black, also focused on the city's history of racial segregation and the ongoing decline in the Black population.

"When I was young, there really wasn't equity for Black folks here in Austin during that time, and East Austin was blighted," he said. "Since that time, Austin has continued to grow and blossom and yet the amount of Black folks here has been shrinking during that time. The hottest real estate in Austin is in East Austin. A lot of people have been pushed out. It's very difficult for people to stay here."

Roy Spence, one of the founders of the GSD&M advertising agency, recalled city leaders urging the company to move its headquarters downtown in the late '90s at a time when the city core was struggling. As the city's fortunes have changed and growth pressures affect all regions, Spence said city leaders need to look beyond accommodating growth and instead decide on what the mission of the city will be in the future.

"We are in the business now in Austin of stimulating progress, not preserving the core. We are not in the purpose business. We're in the growth business, in my opinion. We need to be less of a political city and more of a purpose-driven city. We need to be less about policies and more about purpose," Spence said. "Austin could be the first city in America that designs its purpose statement. Aristotle said ... 'where your talents and the needs of the world intersect, therein lies your purpose.'"

With an eye toward local parks and the way they support major cultural institutions like Austin City Limits Festival, Joy Casnovsky, chief mission officer for Austin Parks Foundation, said partnerships with festival promoter C3 Presents have helped raise \$50 million to support parks throughout the city. Referencing the coming reductions in parkland from developers caused by the state, she said the city will have to find new ways to preserve its character while making room for a constant flow of new residents.

"What Austin and many of Texas' cities are facing is we are fighting to govern ourselves in the constraints of Texas," she said. "Whether it's the parkland dedication ordinance, whether it's what is encouraged in terms of transportation, I'm going to have to look over the Capitol and say, I think we are trying to create something in Austin that necessarily is not aligned with state government influence. And that's tricky." Despite those challenges, Luis Patiño, CEO of Austin PBS and Austin City Limits, said the city's brand continues to stand out across the country.

Patiño, who recently moved back to Austin from the West Coast, said shows like "Austin City Limits" and the recent hit series "Taco Mafia" help to burnish the city's reputation.

"I realized when I came back, is that I think we take that for granted once we're here in our bubble, that we almost have a duty and a responsibility to be good stewards of our Austin brand."

City releases new telework standards for its employees

By ELIZABETH PAGANO
Austin Monitor

Interim City Manager Jesús Garza has issued a telework policy for city employees.

In a November 17 memo, Garza explained that new standards will, in general, allow for 50 percent telework within a two-week pay period. All executives will continue to

work in the office during the work week, as will front-line operational staff like airport employees and public safety employees. On the other hand, employees who work in IT and call centers may be eligible to telework 80 percent to 100 percent of the time. The determinations will be made by department directors, though there is also an independent appeals process.

"The past several years have required resilience, sacrifice, and an ability to respond to the public in a way that was unprecedented, and we have done it without a consistent citywide standard on telework," wrote Garza. "I know when I announced a Citywide standard, employees were concerned about changing their schedules again. Some felt they were losing what many viewed as a new benefit the City had been able to offer. But at the heart of our organization is our ability to serve the public and be available for those needing City services."

"After months of discussions, analysis, and thought, I believe this policy accounts for the modern working environment and the ability to effectively telework, balancing our need to be accessible to the public. It further supports a strong belief that being physically together on a regular basis will continue to strengthen our culture by fostering in-person collaboration, team building, and professional development," he continued. "In establishing this new flexible work arrangement policy, we will far exceed our efforts to meeting the goal of 15 percent of Austinites working from

home in 2039 as laid out in the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan."

The policy comes in response to a resolution sponsored by Council Member Vanessa Fuentes and approved by City Council earlier this month that was itself a response to a controversial potential change to telework allowances put into place during the height of the pandemic. The resolution focused on a series of recommendations from the city's Planning Commission that asked for an established telework policy that was in line with the city's climate and transportation goals.

"Working from home has become an invaluable resource for combating climate change, reducing traffic, and increasing Austinites' quality of life," Fuentes told the Austin Monitor. "I'm grateful the Interim City Manager worked closely with AFSCME leaders to develop a policy aligned with today's modern workplace and that advances the City of Austin's commitment to meeting our mode shift goals."

Under the new policy, employees that have been teleworking can appeal to an independent committee and, if they successfully prove that it is appropriate for their position, can have the amount of telework allowed changed.

Austin Monitor, an online, nonpartisan, 501(c)3 nonprofit publication that covers local government and politics in and around Austin.



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CATERING • EVENTS

December Happenings at the Old Quarry Library

By **MARTHA MILLER**
Northwest Austin Civic Association

All Austin Public Libraries will be closed on December 25th and 26th in observance of the Christmas holidays!

This year, the Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library will again be hosting a seasonal gift wrapping station. People can bring their gifts and use our paper, bows, and ribbon to wrap gifts. Seasonal Holiday cards are also available. If people have gift wrapping materials that they wish to donate, the library will be happy to accept these items. Just ask at the front desk!

Saturday, December 2 – Meditation Workshop

(10:30am–12:30pm) Join us for an hour of learning techniques for meditation and visualization from Farnaz Masumian, author and former UT lecturer on world religions. No experience necessary. Ages 18 and up. Please register at www.eventbrite.com/e/learn-to-meditate-workshop-tickets-753892592037

Saturday, December 2 – Audubon Society Presentation (2pm-3:30pm) – Join fellow bird lovers as we learn more about ducks and wading birds. Ages 18 and up. Please register at www.eventbrite.com/e/ducks-wading-birds-with-the-travis-audubon-society-tickets-753896523797

Tuesday December 5 – Making Air Travel Easier with the TSA (10:30am – 11:30am) – Officers from Transportation Security Administration will be on hand to answer questions about traveling through Austin-Bergstrom International Airport during the holidays and provide information on how to make things easier for older adults. This session will include a 20-minute presentation followed up by a Q&A. Ages 18 and up

Wednesday, December 6 – For the Love of Books Club (2pm-3:00pm) – Join fellow Book Lovers to discuss the books you're already reading and learn about others you should add to your TBR list. Eat snacks, talk books. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/for-the-love-of-books-club-a-no-home-work-book-club-tickets-709505539167

Friday, December 8 – Adult Morning Social (10am to noon) – Join neighbors and make new friends at this bi-monthly casual social. Games, puzzles, and simple craft activities will be available as well as light snacks and beverages.

Saturday, December 9 – Get Crafty: Winter Cheer Mason Jar Gifts (11am- 1pm) – Create the perfect mason jar gift! We'll be making M&M brownie mix or vanilla sugar scrub in a jar. These make wonderful gifts or keep them for yourself.

Monday, December 11 – Barking Book Buddies: Read to Hanna! She loves to listen! (4pm – 5pm) – Divine Canine's certified volunteers team with trained therapy dogs ready for kids to read to them! This program improves children's reading and communication skills by employing a powerful method: reading to a dog. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

Tuesday, December 12 – Fiber Arts Friends Group (6pm-7:30pm) – Whether you are an expert or brand new, join fellow crafters to work on your projects and learn new skills. Ages 18 and up.

Wednesday, December 13 – Old Quarry Gardening Group (11am-12:30pm) – Join fellow gardening enthusiasts to share tips and learn more about fall gardening. Ages 18 and up.

Wednesday, December 13 – The Crafty Adult: Sublimated Mugs (2pm – 4pm) Learn how to use sublimation paper to create festive and fun coffee mugs, for yourself or as a gift!

Thursday, December 14 – Chair Yoga Class (3pm – 4pm) Enjoy yoga no matter your level of mobility. Instructor Katherine will go through basic yoga steps to help with flexibility and strength.

Saturday, December 16 – Get Crafty: Wrapping up the Holidays (1am- 3pm) – Come make a custom gift bag and gift tag to give your holiday presents some extra personalization. Supplies will be provided while they last. We provide the supplies; you provide the creativity. Program length is approximately 1 hour. All ages welcome.

Monday, December 18 – For the Love of Books Club (6:30pm-7:30pm see description on December 6)

Friday, December 22 – Adult Morning Social (10am to noon see description on December 8)

Saturday December 30 – All Ages Lego Lab (1pm – 3pm) Spend an afternoon engaging your imagination - and maybe your silly side - with this open play session. With Legos, you can build anything you can imagine and tell any story you can dream up. Come to the Lego Lab to hear, see, make, and create different stories, all while building with Legos provided by the Library! All ages welcome.

Every Tuesday, Tech Time (1pm-3pm) Learn to download books and use digital library resources. Bring in your tablet, smartphone or eReader for help navigating the Virtual Library Ages 18 and up.

Mark Your Calendars

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

December 16 or 17

Judging of the Holiday Yard Decorating Contest

December 19

Parks Committee – virtual

January 16, 7 PM

Parks Committee – virtual

January 23, 5 PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees – virtual

January 24 – 8:30 PM

NWACA Board Meeting – 5280 Burger

Anderson HS Winter Concerts

Winter Choir Concert with Murchison MS
Westover Church of Christ, 8332 Mesa Dr.
Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7pm -9pm

Winter Band Concert
Featuring Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band
AISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd
Monday, Dec. 11, 7pm – 8pm

Composting and Re-using For the Holidays

By **MERRIESSA ANTON**
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Now is the time to buy compostable plastic bags and compost your holiday season food waste. All turkey parts and everything else you are preparing to serve can be composted. Remember, “IF IT GROWS IT GOES,” into your compost collection bin.

I contacted Lowe's about collecting used Christmas lights. I was told to check their Black Friday flyer or look online for the dates this collection will occur. Lowe's will take your old, broken, or unused Christmas light bulbs at this time of year and they take old batteries, fluorescent lights, and light bulbs anytime.

The Austin Creative Reuse Center, in the Windsor Park neighborhood at 2005 Wheless Lane, Austin, 78723 is both a wonderful place to bring holiday items you no longer use and to pick up new ideas for decorating and gift giving. The center, which sells gently used creative materials donated by individuals and businesses, is open six days a

week; it is closed on Mondays. Check out their events calendar for workshops and volunteer opportunities. It is also a wonderful place to take children and grandchildren during school holidays. Perhaps you can get your children started on an art project.

I have looked online for ideas for re-using Christmas decorations you no longer need. These include using old tinsel to pack items you are sending in the mail, making gift tags from Christmas cards, and saving ribbon and gift bags for future gift-giving.

There are lots of great gift-wrapping ideas. Instead of a box and gift wrap, use a recycled shopping bag, kraft paper, or the Sunday comic strips. If you have takeout containers (which I clean in my dishwasher) you can package your special food gifts in them. Plastic and fruit containers can also be reused.

Reusing items for gift giving not only saves money, but it shows how creative you are and adds to the thought behind your gift.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. MATTHEW'S!

Pick the service that feels best for you!

4 PM • Kids Interactive Pageant

Calling all angels & shepherds! No rehearsal required; come 15 minutes early to get your costume in the lobby.

7:30 PM • Choir Concert with Popular Carols

8 PM • Christmas Service with Choir

10 PM • Candlelight Service with Incense

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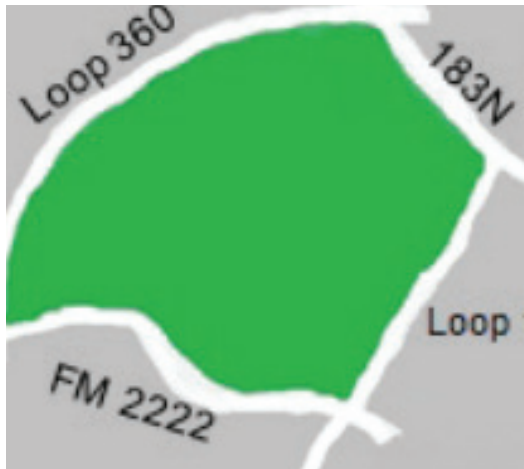
Key Contacts

Austin Citywide Information Center	512-974-2000 or 311
Emergency, Police	911
Non-emergency (coyote sightings, compliance issues)	311
APD District Representative Officer, Phillip Sparkman	phillip.sparkman@austintexas.gov
District 10 Councilmember, Alison Alter	512-974-2110
To get the District 10 monthly newsletter	bit.ly/d10newsletters
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 NWACA Notes and the ability to join the NWACA closed Facebook group, to keep in touch with each other and with the latest news about NWACA.



ARE YOU A NWACA MEMBER?

Receiving the newsletter does not guarantee membership.
Not sure? Visit nwaca.org to confirm!

Here are 5 great reasons to join today!

GREAT NEIGHBORS = GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

Together, we can continue to do great things for our neighborhood!

STAY INFORMED ABOUT ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU

We are actively involved in our community and advocate for our residents.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

We encourage friendships among residents through our events - July 4th parade, National Night Out, Recycling Collection, Garage Sales, and more!

PROTECT AND IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY

Learn about fire safety, crime prevention, oak wilt, environmental concerns, park development, wildlife management, zoning/planning, and more!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

We are deeply invested in building strong relationships within our business network to positively impact our neighborhood.

Together we can make a difference!

JOIN TODAY @ NWACA.ORG/MEMBERS

2022 – 2024 NWACA Board of Directors

Joyce Statz, President
Julie Rawlings, Vice President
Mick Koffend, Treasurer

Julie Waidelich and Bridget Keating, Co-Secretaries

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

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).

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

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SALES VOLUME



\$455
AVG LIST PRICE PER SF



\$426
AVG SALE PRICE PER SF



\$1,170,000
MEDIAN LIST PRICE



42
DAYS ON MARKET



13
CLOSED SALES



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM OCTOBER 1-31, 2023 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES, BASED ON NWAC BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY360/2222/HWY 183

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JULIE WAIDELICH

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

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Photos by Austin All Stars Photography

By LYNETTE HAALAND
Northwest Austin News

The Anderson Trojans boys basketball team faced the McCallum Knights in the inaugural Taco Shack Shields Collide Game on November 10 at the Delco Center.

As we mark the 50th Anniversary of our current Anderson High School, when the McCallum and Navarro attendance zones

were split to create the new location for Anderson HS.

"This game was set against the backdrop of our future return to the 5A league and the rekindling of this historic rivalry," stated Eric Swanson, head coach of the Trojans.

It is more than just a game; it is an homage to the enduring spirit of basketball in Austin and an opportunity to recognize past players

from both schools, Swanson added.

"Our team has put in immense work to get here, and the Taco Shack Shields Collide Game is a tribute to that effort," states Eric Swanson, Head Coach of the Trojans. "The community's support means the world to us as we honor our legacy and ignite a new tradition. This game is more than a competition; it's a celebration of where we've been

and where we're going."

The players were excited about the opportunity to kick off the season against McCallum, as many of them grew up playing in NWAYBA little leagues together.

The final score was Anderson 37, McCallum 51.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

As Thanksgiving nears, we're grateful for your unwavering support. You're the reason we smile each day. Thank you!

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2024 Anderson High School Wrestling Team

Class of 2024 Will Celebrate with Trojan Games at Project Graduation

By LAUREN WARD
Northwest Austin Civic Association

The Anderson High School Class of 2024 has faced a number of challenges during their high school careers, including online learning during a pandemic and adapting to three principals in four years. Nevertheless, they are ready to celebrate their accomplishments with a free, all-night party on graduation night—a 25-year tradition.

Project Graduation, a non-profit initiative established as a 501(c)(3) organization, aims to create a safe and celebratory environment for over 500 graduating seniors, keeping them

off the streets on a night historically associated with high-risk driving behaviors. The party, entirely funded by donations from the community, is a drug- and alcohol-free event.

“Our goal is for every graduate to walk out with a prize,” shared Megan Helmbrecht, Co-Chair of the event and a Class of 2024 Mom. “We’ll be auctioning iPads, smart TVs, AirPods, and hosting a cash grab. There will be a hypnotist, bounce houses, a casino, and plenty of activities aligning with our 2024 Trojan Games theme, inspired by the 2024 Olympics.”

With activities like office chair luge races and dizzy bat competitions, Project Graduation promises a memorable night of laughter and fun. However, realizing this vision requires significant fundraising efforts. “We invite the community to support these hard-working and resilient students who have overcome so much,” encourages Beth Pay n, another Class of 2024

Mom and Co-Chair of the Project Graduation team. “Help us create an unforgettable night of celebration!”

There are numerous opportunities for community involvement. The Anderson Parent Party, presented by ECPR Texas, will be held on February 24, 2024, at the Headliners Club downtown. Featuring live music by Shotguns Ready, auctions, dinner, and drinks, the event offers a chance to contribute directly to Project Graduation. Tickets and donation options are available now through the website (click on Parent Party): www.ahsprojectgraduation.org/parentparty.



Group of friends at the casino table.

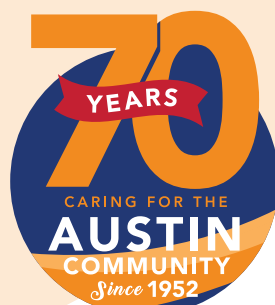
Please consider supporting PG24. Opportunities begin at \$24 to support the Class of ‘24. We are looking for “Sponsor a Senior” donors who will contribute \$150, the approximate cost per student, to host this event. Donations can be made at www.ahsprojectgraduation.org/ Finally, we’ll be holding a Mattress Sale in April to raise funds; more information is forthcoming.

Join us in celebrating the graduating class and ensuring a safe, enjoyable, and rewarding Project Graduation experience.

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AHS Sports Medicine Receives Dave Campbell's Texas Football Superstars Award

The Anderson HS student trainers were given the Dave Campbell's Texas Football Training Staff Superstars Award. This award honors athletic training squads around the Houston and Austin area "for working hard behind the scenes to help their athletes to be their very best when the lights turn on."

The AHS Sports Medicine Program consists of 25 student athletic training aides, two certified full-time staff athletic trainers, Michael

Busby and Amy Ngo, and one team physician, Dr. Joe Volpe.

Students take Sports Medicine courses during the school day in conjunction with assisting practice, game, and treatments outside of school hours. They are also certified in Stop the Bleed and Heart saver First Aid/CPR/AED through American Heart Association.

Many of our students will go on and pursue a career in health care but also have students who later pursue business, theater, mathematics, and art.

"On top of caring for the football athletes, our team also services ~850 athletes in a variety of sports, year-round," shared Ngo. "Coach Busby and I are so lucky to have these students in the program and we would not be able to give our student-athletes the high-quality care they deserve without them. They elevate all those around them and we are so proud of them."



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AHS Water Polo Boys Win Regional Quarterfinals, Girls Win Area

By LYNETTE HAALAND
Northwest Austin News

The Anderson HS boys finished the season 21-6-1, with an appearance in the region semifinals (sweet 16) on October 21. The Trojans finished 2nd in district and beat Midway, Hays and Round Rock to reach the region semis.

The team finished with 4 - 1st team all

- district players: Jake Roberts (Defensive MVP), Evan Minter, Seth Crowley, and Max Bisang. It also had 3 - 2nd team all-district players: Stephen Szygenda, Dylan England, and Evan Schaffer.

“We enjoyed a lot of success this year due to the work that they all put in during the offseason and passion to help each other improve throughout the season,” said Eric Swanson, AHS head water polo coach.

The AHS girls finished the season 10-13, with a lot of good competition throughout the season. The team finished as back-to-back district champs and advanced to the region quarter finals. During the playoffs, the Lady Trojans knocked off Cedar Ridge and San Antonio Pieper before being eliminated by a tough Round Rock team. The team was led by 4-1st team all district performers: Sarah Kester (District MVP), Rachel Cavanaugh (Defensive MVP), Erin Blumentritt (Goalie of the Year), and Phoebe Jaggers. The team also had 3-2nd team all-district players: Maryam Zoweil, Abbey Amato, and Zoe Nagro.

“The experience from last year gave us a great foundation to build from and allowed us to be successful in district and post season play,” said Swanson, who was named Girls Water Polo Coach of the Year District 22-6A.



Front L-R: Simone Frey, Rozhon Arbabian, Sophia Lifschitz, Maryam Zoweil
Middle L-R: Coach Swanson, Zoe Nagro, Abbey Amato, Rachel Cavanaugh, Phoebe Jaggers
Back L-R: Rowan Hunter, Erin Blumentritt, Sarah Kester, Kathleen Wallace, Charley Silkenson



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222

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Front L-R: Jackson Stemple, Stephen Szygenda, Gus Lott, Ben Jaggers, Larry Hong, Zay Herrera
Middle L-R: Ethan David, Dylan England, RC McPherson, Tyler Tracy, Owen Vera, Coach Swanson
Back L-R: Max Bisang, Evan Minter, Ryan Dean, Jake Roberts, Evan Schaffer, Evon Fox

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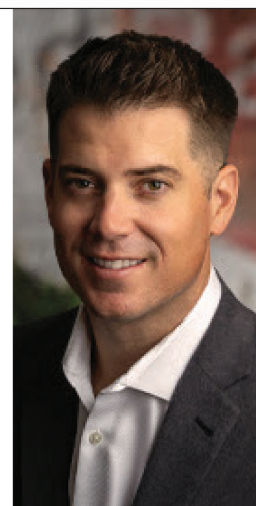
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