

Northwest Austin News

SERVING THE NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY

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Spring into Action!

By NORTHWEST AUSTIN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

As we welcome spring flowers and watch green leaves appear on trees, we also get energized for a host of spring activities.

Leading off on **April 1** at 1 PM at the Old Quarry Library is a discussion with the Austin Police Department's Office of Community Liaison, preparing for a SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) resource fair. Those who attended the NWACA Crime and Safety Town Hall last year may remember hearing about the SALT program. SALT's goal, through information fairs and presentations, is to inform seniors about frauds and scams, as well as to increase senior safety and security. You're invited to attend this discussion to provide input on what topics and organizations you are most interested in; the results will be used to shape an upcoming fair.



SPRING, 3

More people are now leaving Travis Co. than moving in

By AUDREY MCGLINCHY
KUT

Between July 2022 and July 2023, roughly 2,500 more people moved out of Travis County than moved in. This figure, which comes out of population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau in mid March, marks a reversal in population trends

over the last two decades.

"I haven't seen negative net migration to Travis County in a long time," said Lila Valencia, demographer for the city of Austin, most of which sits in Travis. The last year fewer people moved to the county than left was 2002.

TRAVIS COUNTY, 10

Anderson Teacher and Staff Lounge Unveiled



Anderson High School teachers were all smiles when their new lounge was unveiled on March 19 after spring break. After many, many years of not having a lounge, the new principal, PTSA, students, and the community all made the new room possible.

By LYNETTE HAALAND
Northwest Austin News

Anderson High School teachers did not have a lounge and the new principal got the idea to create one last summer. Then the Parent Teacher Student Association found funding, the layout and artwork ideas were executed, and the finished room



Anderson HS students Ruth Sushell and Carol Sushell enjoyed working on a colorful paper collage scene with a cactus for the new staff lounge.

was unveiled right after spring break.

"It was kind of hard to believe that the staff at Anderson did not have a lounge or teachers area, besides a small mailroom with one table," shared Julie Choyce, PTSA president.

Brian Lancaster – first-year Anderson principal who be-

ANDERSON, 21

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Travis County declares local disaster ahead of April 8 total solar eclipse

By LUZ MORENO-LOZANO
KUT

Travis County declared a local disaster on March 8 ahead of the April 8 total solar eclipse.

The eclipse is expected to bring an influx of people to the area, putting a major strain on roads, emergency services and other needs.

The declaration allows Travis County Judge Andy Brown to control and coordinate traffic and other needs during the eclipse. It also requires business and property owners planning to host events with more than 50 attendees to register with the county to ensure proper life safety and critical infrastructure is in place.

“The emergency services personnel asked me to enter this declaration so that we have the ability to regulate traffic to allow for the passage of emergency vehicles during the eclipse,” Brown told KUT. “We also want to make sure we have a good sense of all events in that area and how that will impact traffic.”

Eric Carter, the chief emergency management coordinator for Travis County, said the registrations help the county know where large viewing events are so EMS and other public safety officials can plan appropriately.

“This will allow Travis County to access the tools we need to be better prepared as best we can for the unexpected surge of folks that will come to our area,” he said.

Carter said the county is also working with

HELPFUL TIPS FOR THE SOLAR ECLIPSE



APRIL 8

- Expect strains on traffic and cell service
- Schedule important errands before the eclipse
- Fill your tank and stock vehicle with essentials
- Check the weather regularly; plan accordingly
- Do not stop on roads or shoulders to watch



Photo by Renee Dominguez/ KUT News. Travis County commissioners voted on the disaster declaration March 8.

the Texas Department of Transportation and other entities to keep roads clear and safe. No road closures are expected to occur that day, he said.

Brown encouraged residents to stay home and watch the eclipse if they're able to and to reschedule any nonurgent appointments that day. Additionally, residents should make sure they put gas in cars and do errands before April 8.

Travis County and the Texas Hill Country are in the path of totality, which will result in several minutes of total darkness, depending on the location.

The county is particularly concerned about parks in the western portion of the county, like Hamilton Pool Preserve, and the strain the event could put on the road in and out of the area.

Travis County will soon announce additional operational changes – like day use passes – for parks in the western area of the county.

Overnight camping reservations are already full at Pace Bend and Arkansas Bend parks. Hamilton Pool already requires reservations and is full.

Bell County, which encompasses Killeen and Belton just north of Austin, declared a local disaster last month in preparation for the eclipse. Several local school districts, including Del Valle and Hays, have also decided to close for the day but Leander ISD schools will be open as usual on Monday, April 8, 2024.

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

SPRING, FROM 1

NWACA is happy to promote this, responding to requests in our annual interest survey for more programs for seniors.

Throughout the country, **April 8** will be an exciting day, as we witness a total solar eclipse. From noon to 2 PM, the Old Quarry Library will have crafts and treats to celebrate. On April 6 from 4 to 6 PM, the library will host the Discovery Dome for you to learn about the upcoming total solar eclipse.

Like a billion other people on planet Earth, we will enjoy an Earth Day Festival on Sunday, **April 21**, from 2-4 PM at Doss Elementary School and Park. This is our second annual Earth Day event, and we encourage everyone from the youngest toddlers to the most senior among us. See the article in this issue that lists the wide array of activities and information

that will be available.

On Saturday, **May 4** a Wildfire Preparedness Symposium will be held by the Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division and several other Travis County and City of Austin departments. While it's not a NWACA event, we strongly encourage anyone with concerns and/or interest in wildfire mitigation to attend this event. It's full of helpful information about how to keep our homes and property resilient. See the calendar inside on page 15 for time, location, and registration information. And, if you haven't yet had a home wildfire risk evaluation, please sign up for one. It's free and performed by a pair of evaluators who have been trained by the Wildfire Division. Go to www.nwaca.org and use the Be Involved tab.

Please put the **May 15** Annual NWACA Neighborhood Meeting on your calendar. This year's presenters include Mayor Kirk Watson, Councilmember Alison Alter, and School Board Trustee Kathryn Chu. Supplemented by displays from NWACA committees and various City of Austin departments, it will be a very informative event.

In our May newsletter and at the Annual Meeting, we'll also describe the result of a project that's been underway for several months. Thanks to the efforts of several NWACA Board members and the extremely valuable assistance of Independence Title, we've been able to gather deed restrictions documents for 185 subdivisions within NWACA. This information will soon be available online from the NWACA web site, open to anyone in the neighborhood. Details coming in May.

Terroristic Threats, Theft , Harassment 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.

02/25/2024 4:01 AM
62XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
BURGLARY

02/25/2024 1:42 PM
48XX TWIN VALLEY
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

02/25/2024 4:17 PM
33XX NORTHLAND
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

02/25/2024 7:55 PM
72XX HART LN
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

02/26/2024 2:19 AM
60XX WESTSIDE
PUBLIC INTOXICATION

02/26/2024 3:19 AM
60XX WESTSIDE
PUBLIX INTOXICATION

02/26/2024 5:03 AM
75XX MOPAC EXPY
ASSAULT W/INJURY

02/26/2024 2:45 PM
58XX TIMBER TRL
BURGLARY

02/26/2024 4:30 PM
00XX NORTHLAND
POSS OF MARIJUANA

02/26/2024 4:47 PM
80XX MESA DR
SHOPLIFTING

02/26/2024 7:32 PM
80XX MESA DR
AGG ASSAULT

02/26/2024 11:22 PM
72XX HART LN
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

02/27/2024 12:56 PM
38XX DRY CREEK
THEFT

02/27/2024 1:13 PM
48XX CRESTWAY
STALKING

02/27/2024 7:40 PM

90XX MOUNTAIN RIDGE
DISTURBANCE

02/28/2024 4:31 PM
59XX DOWN VALLEY
THEFT

02/28/2024 8:27 PM
44XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS
TERRORISTIC THREAT

02/29/2024 7:53 AM
36XX GREYSTONE
THEFT

02/29/2024 11:23 AM
65XX EAST HILL
AUTO THEFT

02/29/2024 11:27 PM
45XX SPANISH OAK
THEFT

03/01/2024 10:26 PM
34XX NORTH HILLS
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

03/02/2024 6:07 AM
48XX FM 2222
DWI

03/02/2024 8:05 AM
41XX STECK AVE
AUTO THEFT

03/02/2024 12:58 PM
70XX VALBURN
THEFT

03/02/2024 1:15 PM
81XX MOPAC EXPY
DATIZNG DISTURBANCE

03/02/2024 4:31 PM
36XX STECK AVE
THEFT OF LICENSE PLATE

03/02/2024 11:19 PM
82XX NEELY DR
DISTURBANCE

03/02/2024 11:24 PM
82XX NEELY DR
DISTURBANCE

03/03/2024 9:14 AM
36XX GREYSTONE
BURGLARY

03/03/2024 10:21 AM
58XX MESA DR
THEFT OF LICENSE PLATE

03/03/2024 12:18 PM
41XX SPICEWOOD
THEFT OF BICYCLE

03/03/2024 3:51 PM
37XX EXECUTIVE CENTER
FORGERY & PASSING

03/03/2024 10:20 PM
40XX AUSTIN WOODS
DWI

03/04/2024 1:31 AM
79XX COMFORT CV
AUTO THEFT

03/04/2024 2:06 PM
35XX NORTH HILLS
SUSPICIOUS PERSON

03/05/2024 6:29 AM
65XX EAST HILL
THEFT

03/05/2024 7:11 AM
65XX EAST HILL
THEFT

03/05/2024 7:18 AM
76XX WOOD HOLLOW
THEFT OF BICYCLE

03/05/2024 8:15 AM
66XX VALLEYSIDE
THEFT

03/05/2024 9:24 AM
68XX WOOD HOLLOW
THEFT

03/05/2024 10:28 AM
79XX NORTHFOREST
THEFT OF LICENSE PLATE

03/05/2024 11:14 AM
34XX NORTH HILLS
THEFT

03/05/2024 1:56 PM
66XX VALLEYSIDE
THEFT

03/05/2024 10:17 PM
89XX GREAT HILLS
AUTO THEFT

03/06/2024 2:01 PM
66XX VALLEYSIDE
THEFT

03/06/2024 2:25 PM
35XX GREYSTONE
THEFT

03/06/2024 3:24 PM
68XX WOOD HOLLOW
THEFT

03/06/2024 5:45 PM
72XX WOOD HOLLOW
THEFT

03/07/2024 3:32 PM
42XX CAT MOUNTAIN
BURGLARY

03/07/2024 6:07 PM
35XX NORTH HILLS
TERRORISTIC THREAT

03/08/2024 3:03 AM
68XX WOODHOLLOW
DATING DISTURBANCE

03/08/2024 11:15 AM
43XX BULL CREEK
AGG ASSAULT

03/10/2024 4:33 AM
89XX CURRYWOOD
ASSAULT W/INJURY

03/10/2024 9:29 AM
38XX MOUNT BONNELL
THEFT

03/10/2024 11:33 AM
34XX NORTH HILLS
THEFT

03/10/2024 12:36 PM
36XX HIGHLAND VIEW
THEFT OF SERVICE

03/11/2024 6:41 AM
35XX GREYSTONE
ASSAULT W/INJURY

03/11/2024 10:20 AM
75XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
THEFT OF TRAILER

03/11/2024 11:22 AM
38XX MOUNT BONNELL
THEFT

03/11/2024 2:08 PM
35XX FAR WEST BLVD
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

03/11/2024 4:52 PM
35XX GREYSTONE
ASSAULT W/INJURY

03/12/2024 5:07 PM
38XX MOUNT BONNELL
THEFT

03/13/2024 4:00 PM
38XX MOUNT BONNELL
THEFT

03/14/2024 10:45 AM
81XX WEST CT
FRAUD

03/14/2024 9:20 PM
95XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
THEFT

03/15/2024 10:05 AM
34XX TIMBERWOOD
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

03/15/2024 1:02 PM
36XX GREYSTONE
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

03/15/2024 1:09 PM
34XX NORTH HILLS
ASSAULT W/INJURY

03/15/2024 1:49 PM
35XX FAR WEST
BURGLARY

03/16/2024 1:54 PM
53XX OLD SPICEWOOD
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

03/16/2024 5:49 PM
38XX MOUNT BONNELL
THEFT

03/16/2024 5:55 PM
72XX HART LN
AUTO THEFT

03/17/2024 1:56 AM
72XX WOOD HOLLOW
AGG ASSAULT

03/17/2024 5:28 AM
35XX FAR WEST
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

03/17/2024 8:58 AM
33XX NORTHLAND
FRAUD

03/17/2024 2:22 PM
75XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
BURGLARY

03/17/2024 2:47 PM
76XX WOOD HOLLOW
AUTO THEFT

03/18/2024 5:08 PM
68XX AUSTIN CENTER
THEFT

03/18/2024 5:57 PM
22XX 35TH ST
TERRORISTIC THREAT

03/19/2024 10:39 AM
81XX MOPAC EXPY
THEFT

03/19/2024 7:49 PM
68XX THORNCLIFFE
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

03/20/2024 12:21 PM
86XX WILLOWICK DR
ASSAULT W/INJURY

03/20/2024 7:21 PM
82XX NEELY DR
HARASSMENT

03/21/2024 3:12 PM
70XX MOPAC
FRAUD

03/21/2024 9:18 PM
95XX JOLLYVILLE
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

03/21/2024 7:39 PM
65XX MESA DR
THEFT

03/21/2024 11:23 PM
84XX MESA DR
ASSAULT BY THREAT

03/22/2024 2:35 AM
59XX WEST COURTYARD
DWI 2ND

03/22/2024 9:11 AM
77XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
THEFT

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

APD results on 2024 Spring Break & SXSW initiatives

The Austin Police Department conducted a DWI Enforcement and ‘No Refusal’ Initiative between March 7-17. As a result of this Spring Break operation, there were a total of 55 DWI arrests related to driving under the influence. Of these arrests, 19 were made through blood search warrants, 24 through breath samples with consent, and 14 through blood samples with

consent.

Of those arrests, the following number had enhanced DWI charges:

- Consent Breath Samples over .15v = 11
- Class A Misdemeanor DWI (with prior conviction) = 7
- Felony DWI (2 or more prior convictions) = 3

- Felony DWI Child Passenger = 1
- Intoxication Manslaughter = 1

To combat violent crime during the 2024 South by Southwest festival, APD launched a Violent Crimes Initiative in the downtown area. This operation was a collaboration with various units from APD and ran concurrently with SXSW from March 8-17.

APD seized a total of 46 firearms and made 153 arrests. Arrests include:

- Unlawful carrying a weapon
- Possession of controlled substance
- Warrants (homicide/robbery)
- Public intoxication (not eligible for Sobering Center)
- Fighting

Every year the city celebrates Spring Festival, the Austin Police Department along with all city departments work closely by coordinating to take necessary measures and precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of our community and visitors. Our joint efforts aim to create a secure environment for everyone to enjoy the festivities

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DOG BITES



MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS

Road Construction Report

By RUVEN BROOKS
Northwest Austin Civic Association

You may have read about TxDOT's decade-long project to reconstruct I-35. In our area, this project has been split into three pieces, North (US 290 E to SH 45 N), Central (SH 71/Ben White Blvd. to US 290 E) and South (SH 45 SE to SH 71/Ben White Blvd.). Construction has already started on the North and South segments, so if you're headed north of Koenig on I-35 or south of Ben White, expect construction delays. Check here <https://my35construction.org/projects/capex-north> or here <https://my35construction.org/projects/capex-south>.

The Central section is still under design, but construction is expected to start later this year and last through 2032. Among the work planned is removal of the existing I-35 upper decks and lowering the roadway. This will create an opportunity for creating decks across the roadway which, depending on their width, are referred to as caps or stitches.

The City of Austin has an extensive plan for the creation of four caps and four stitches because they will help unite the parts of the city now split apart by I-35. TxDOT is willing to construct these caps and stitches, as they did for the Klyde Warren park in Dallas, but the City of Austin must provide the funding. The



The city of Austin will turn to a state loan program as a major source of the funding for the more than \$500 million cost of constructing caps and a stitch over Interstate 35 after it is buried and expanded over the course of the next decade. Photo by Atkins Engineering, via the city of Austin

project cost for the caps and stitches is \$881 million. So far, the City of Austin has received a \$105 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation and is planning to borrow \$193 million from State Infrastructure Bank. Where the additional funding would come from is still an open question.

Construction continues on improvements to Spicewood Springs Road from Mesa Drive to

Loop 360. These improvements include widening the road to four lanes for the full length of the section, new bicycle and pedestrian shared use paths, and new water and sewer lines. The water system improvements account for \$10 million of the \$34 million cost of the project. (The original 2018 estimate for just the road widening was \$17 million.) The work is expected to be completed late in 2026.

The immediate benefits from project completion will be new bicycle and pedestrian shared-use paths on both sides of the road. Congestion reduction for vehicle traffic will have to wait for completion of the TxDOT Loop 360 project which will replace the stop lights at the intersection of Spicewood Springs and Loop 360 with an overpass.

Construction on the Loop 360 project is expected to begin in 2028 with construction lasting about three years. Users of Spicewood Springs Road west of Mesa and Loop 360 can expect to encounter construction for six of the next eight years.

The other large highway construction project in our area is the CTRMA 183 North Mobility Project. Construction is underway with targeted completion in 2026. Details of individual closures and detours can be found here: <https://www.183north.com/>.

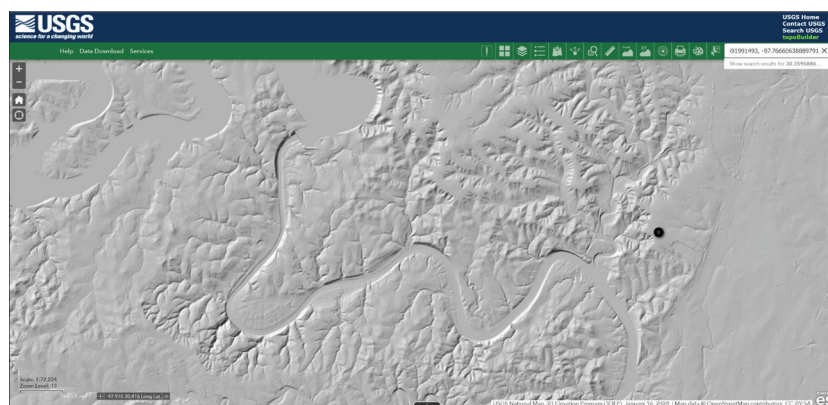
Project Connect is beginning work on its Environmental Impact Statement, required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with the expectation of completion by fall of 2025. Design work continues and has resulted in several opportunities for cost reductions which were presented at open houses throughout the city and virtually in February.

Light Detection and Ranging for History and Archeology

By RICHARD DENNEY

You've probably heard of LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). It's what enables many self-driving cars to sense their surroundings. LIDAR works by emitting laser pulses, then measuring the time it takes for the pulses to travel to objects and back, using this information to create detailed 3D models of objects.

In addition to being mounted to a car, LIDAR can also be mounted below an aircraft, drone, or even a satellite to build digital elevation models of the earth's surface - "bare earth" models excluding trees, buildings, and other surface objects. This has been a game-changer in fields like archeology, enabling the detection and mapping of features such as old trails, structures, burial depressions, and geologic features that are hidden beneath dense vegetation and hence not visible in aerial photos, and which can also be difficult to access and survey in person.



An archeology use commonly reported in the news has been the detection and mapping of lost Mayan cities in the dense jungles of Central America where ruins are hidden beneath the jungle canopy. Here in Travis County we have a similar problem; rather than jungle, we have trees and other vegetation covering much of the county, for example in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) west of our neighborhood. While it is a preserve now, this was home to Native Americans for thousands of years, and starting in the 19th century Europe-

an American settlers constructed ranches and farmsteads there.

I recently had a chance to examine several sites in the BCP with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) LIDAR data. One site we visited a few years ago, about 6 miles northwest of the neighborhood, was a collection of stacked limestone walls. It was quite a hike reaching them through a thicket of trees and brush, and once there, it was hard to make sense of the layout. Oral interviews collected by archeologists when the area was acquired by Travis County for inclusion in the BCP suggested the site had been a stage stop along a historic road from old Jollyville to Anderson's Mill, with nearby springs for passengers to enjoy. With LIDAR the assemblage of old roads to and from the site, layout of corrals and buildings, and location of springs

in nearby rock shelters became very apparent.

A drawback with LIDAR is that the data reflects the time at which it was collected. Since it is a relatively new technology, many areas you'd like to investigate have already been developed, hence the LIDAR is reflecting the development, not features of an historic site. Still with areas like BCP and other preserves like those in our neighborhood's canyonlands it is a powerful tool for "seeing" what is there hiding beneath the dense overgrowth.

LIDAR data is publicly available in varying resolutions through the USGS. Included here is a birds eye LIDAR view of our own NWACA neighborhood. To orient you, the black dot is at the intersection of Mesa Drive and Far West Boulevard. Enjoy!

Richard Denney is Vice-Chair of the Travis County Historical Commission. For more on this topic and other local history, visit <https://travis-countyhistorical.blogspot.com/>

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Meet NWACA Board Member Mae Levitan

By KEVIN KOTT
Northwest Austin
Civic Association

Kevin: Mae, while you are NWACA's newest Board member, you have been active in the Austin community for quite some time. Let's explore between the lines in the official post-ed bio. First, tell us about your early years.

Mae: I'm originally from Forest Hills, New York. As an only child, I developed an early sense of independence exploring the amazing city whenever possible with my girlfriends. We took the subways to downtown fashion stores and restaurants - even at the age of 10. We also took family trips to the many museums, which I loved. Before college I saved money from my babysitting business and used the money to buy stylish gifts for my mom and grandmother. We were a very close-knit family. I paid my way through St John's University in Queens by working at First New York Bank.



Mae Levitan

Kevin: You've lived in several cities. Which was your favorite, and why?

Mae: While I love the museums in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio, Austin is my favorite. It allowed me to raise my two children in a relatively safe environment, exposing them to different kinds of people. It's a very

special, accepting, progressive city. When I moved here in 2002, it was just starting to grow. I've been lucky to be part of a community that has grown, leaps and bounds, and watch the buildings go up. Austin exudes a real "can do" attitude. The vibe was good for my children, who both now live and work in New York but come back to Austin as often as they can. In fact, my daughter recently returned to Austin to be married at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. We belong to Congregation Agudas Achim, where both children had their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We are also very thankful for the Dell Jewish Community Center which has been recently upgraded to a top-notch facility for exercise, learning, and family activities. I was honored to serve on the boards of both of those institutions.

Kevin: You are now working in real estate. What brought you to that profession?

Mae: Well, I've lived all over, bought and sold many of my own homes. And I've experienced some good realtors and some bad

realtors. After one very disappointing experience, I resolved to ensure that client families are happy and that their interests and passions are considered in the home buying and selling process. I pride myself in becoming friends and providing resources for my clients.

Kevin: What are your favorite past-times?

Mae: I enjoy traveling to exciting new places to learn about different cultures and to sample the culinary delights. I enjoy hiking and climbing with my family, binge watching TV, and I love animals, especially dogs. Since my recent beloved pet dogs have passed, I am now anticipating my next furry "child" experience. Of course, I love spending time with my husband and our two children and their spouses.

Readers can get an overview of Mae's professional background by checking her "official" bio at <https://nwaca.org/board-of-directors/>.

Spotlight: Jeff Satterwhite, Artist

By JANICE GREEN
Northwest Austin
Civic Association

Jeff Satterwhite is a long-time resident of Northwest Hills and someone I wrote about three years ago in his "prior life" as an Apple technology expert. Jeff is now a full-time artist - a major career change that warranted further conversation.

Jeff studied illustration and graphic design at UT, then veered into the world of Apple technology as a safer career choice. For 25 years his tech work dominated, but four years ago he began to make art again. However, when trying to do tech work and art at the same time he often experienced competition between his "day job" and the mental energy it takes for artistic expression. In the early phases of the pandemic, he displayed his work in popular Austin restaurants. Working with pencil and charcoal was his medium of choice, as well as using his iPad to create purely digital or hybrid natural media/digital works.

His charcoal/pencil portraits and scenes are beautiful, stunning in detail. "Within the image you enter a world where every element is important; the background is es-



sential in creating the space the subject lives in. With charcoals you work from light to dark, blending, smearing, and erasing until

the full depth of the image is visible." For black/white work the specific characteristics of paper influence his process: the weight, stiffness, and tooth of the paper -- these below-the-surface elements dictate how light is reflected through the layers within the image.

A few years ago Jeff took a step often contemplated by those who wish to change gears later in life. He followed his intuition and closed his computer office to devote his full attention to art. This pursuit combines his original passion for visual work, technical problem-solving,

and an attempt to understand how emotion is transferred from artist to viewer. In this transition he rediscovered a part of his brain

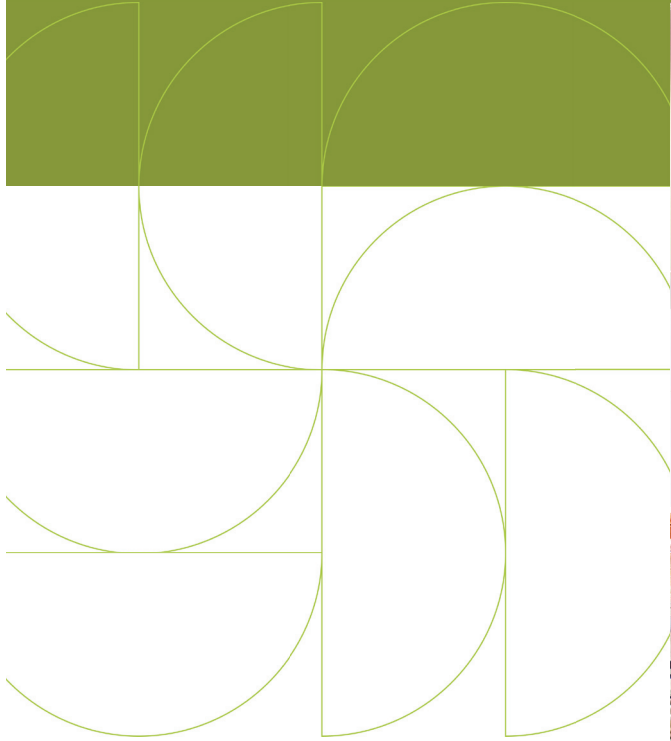
completely unused in his tech work. "Being an artist (defined as anyone who creates) is a state of mind to be embraced. It is moving toward what you love, it is humbling because every element on the page reflects the level of your skill, and it is a space where you emotionally resonate."

Recently Jeff moved his studio from his home to Good Dad Studios - a consortium of 130+ artist studios on South I-35 and the largest studio complex in Texas. The reason Jeff decided to share space with other artists is that it provides artists, who often work in isolation, an opportunity to talk shop with others about techniques, tools, and marketing in an environment that promotes camaraderie and inspiration. Good Dad Studios also sponsors an open house the second Saturday of each month where its artists display their work.

One of the goals for this column has been to discover the arts/crafts talent residing under the radar in Northwest Austin. Reconnecting with Jeff was such a discovery, with the bonus of learning how he approached and embraced his next chapter.

CONTACT: jeff@rbinky.com; 512-557-5422; Instagram: @JeffSatterwhiteArt

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TRAVIS COUNTY, FROM 1

Travis County has long been known for its ability to attract tens of thousands of transplants each year. Despite dwindling migration numbers recently, the county's population still climbed by about 7,000 people between the end of 2022 and the first half of 2023. The increase was driven by births instead of by people moving here.

The U.S. Census Bureau does not provide reasons for why more people are leaving the county than moving in. But Valencia has several theories – starting with the obvious.

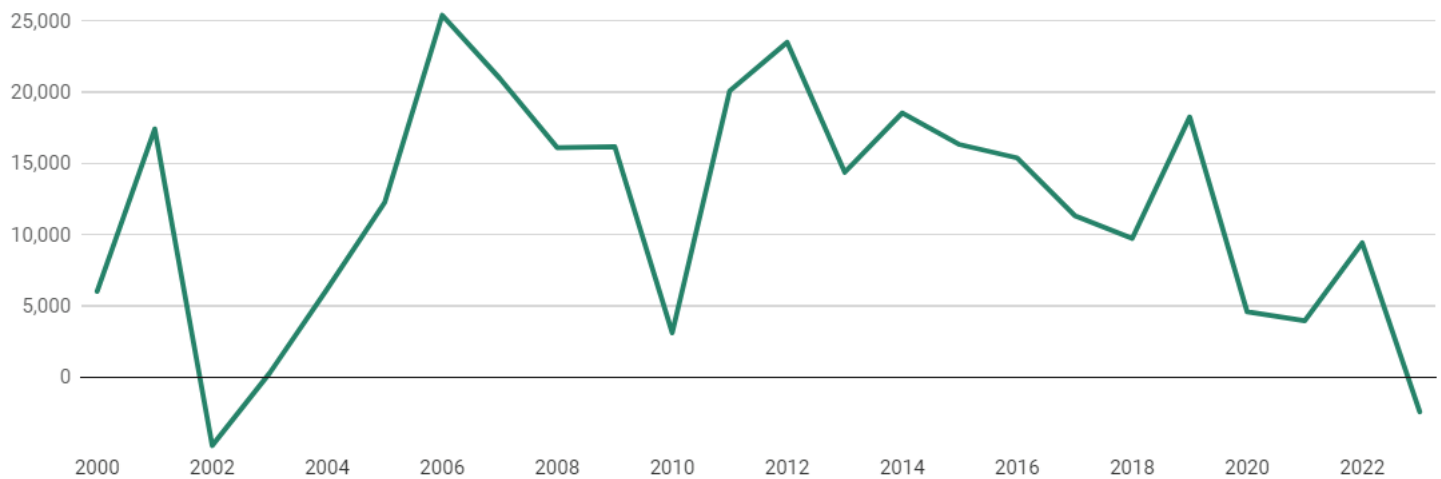
“Austin is not as affordable as it used to be,” she said. Between 2019 and 2023, the median sales price of homes rose nearly 53 percent. Rent prices also climbed, though at a slower rate.

Valencia said historical county-to-county migration data shows people are leaving Travis County for neighboring areas.

This includes Williamson County to the north and Hays County to the south. In the last half of 2022 and the first half of 2023,

More people saying 'goodbye' than 'hello' to Travis County

These numbers represent net migration, or the number of people moving to the county minus the number of people leaving.



roughly 20,000 more people moved to Williamson County than left. Although home prices there have shot up since the pandemic, homes are still cheaper than in Travis County and Austin.

Valencia also said Austin's changing job landscape may be impacting the county's mi-

gration numbers. Tech companies that have defined the city's job market since the early aughts announced layoffs over the past couple of years, although it's unclear how many Austin-based employees have been affected.

While employers in construction and health services added jobs in the Austin

metro last year, there were fewer jobs in the information sector. This could explain Travis County's lower migration numbers as fewer people move to Austin for high-paying tech jobs, Valencia said.

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

Imagine Austin series looks at equitable development amid rapid growth

By CHAD SWIATECKI
Austin Monitor

Austin's combination of intense population and income growth and state laws that limit inclusionary zoning might make it difficult to institute equitable housing policies, but a national land use leader advises there are still ways for the city to adapt to the demands of being a growth center.

At the recent Imagine Austin Speaker Series talk on equitable and sustainable zoning, Cornell University law professor Sara Bronin said Austin's recent moves to remove parking minimums and increase density on residential properties are needed steps to keep up with the demand for housing. As a Houston native and former University of Texas student, Bronin shared her perspective and experience, including working on the failed 2000 mass transit initiative that she said would have totally transformed the city for the better.

As a current resident of Hartford, Connecticut, Bronin helped pass a total overhaul

of that small city's building code, a process that failed in Austin and has been completed in only about two dozen cities nationally. Instead, Austin is moving forward with piecemeal building code changes, which she said tend to take more work and time than wholesale new plans.

Bronin supports policies that reduce the amount of public hearings needed for residential projects for more than one family, since hearings take longer and increase building costs that get passed on to owners or renters and increase the cost of living. In her own city, Bronin noted that in primarily residential areas, projects for three or more families required hearings more than 90 percent of the time. In mixed areas including residential use, the number dropped to just over 60 percent for projects suited for three families or more, which was still seen as a cost barrier for eventual occupants.

Looking at the movement toward equitable transit-oriented developments (ETODs) built near Austin's eventual transit corridors, Bronin said the city should eliminate as many

approval steps as possible since other ETODs around the country have floundered when they've been too difficult to plan and build efficiently.

“Don't require complicated formulas for affordable housing but do include, where it is appropriate, mandates for affordable housing. Others around the country have seen that overcomplicating transit-oriented development actually means that it does not get built,” she said. “Eliminating public hearings, eliminating minimum lot sizes, eliminating minimum parking requirements ... all of those things to smooth the process to make development easy will result in development.”

Bronin said while it's often fairly easy for state and federal officials to make sweeping laws covering land use, zoning changes at the local level tend to be more combative and harder to enact because of the tendency for neighbors and neighborhood groups to mobilize quickly.

“It's because individuals care what their neighbors think about them, and so the peo-

ple who are making a lot of decisions at the local level hear from their neighbors directly and people that they know,” she said. “It's maybe more abstract and removed if you're a state legislator representing far more people than you might on a city council or a town planning commission.”

In those cases, she said she's seen success in Hartford and other cities that a community activist or leaders outside of the governing political body get behind a land use policy the public wants to see approved.

“There has to be a leader at the local level, and they just have to decide that they're gonna do it, come hell or high water. ... They're just gonna be committed to do it,” she said. “That's what something like a planning department needs: an external champion and a political champion.”

Austin Monitor is a nonpartisan, 501(c)3 nonprofit publication that covers local government and politics.

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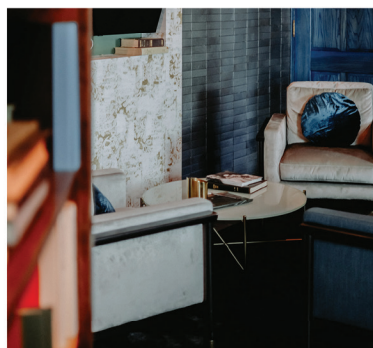
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Blue Door Dental Design is comprehensive cosmetic dentistry by Dr. Robin Bethell in North Austin. Dr. Bethell sits down to discuss the inspiration behind the practice and the experience he brings to his patients.

What sets your cosmetic dental office apart from others in the area?

Dr. Bethell: Blue Door isn't your ordinary dental office. Designed as a dental speakeasy, our patients receive care in a luxurious lounge like setting that eliminates the cold environment of a traditional dental office. Throughout your treatment, our small team gets to know both you and your smile goals for a completely tailored experience.



Can you share some of the specialized treatments that your office provides?

Whether you're looking to refresh your smile with composite veneers or ready for a complete smile makeover with porcelain veneers, we handle it all from start to finish.

What are composite veneers?

Composite veneers are an additive procedure where tooth colored filling material is bonded to the front surface of a tooth to enhance its appearance by improving shape and/or shade.

"Composite veneers can typically be completed in a single visit without shots."



BEFORE AFTER

What's the difference between composite veneers and porcelain veneers?

While porcelain veneers boast a longer lifespan, most patients opt to replace their composite veneers every 5-7 years, as they stain similarly to natural teeth. Additionally, composite veneers are a more affordable alternative to porcelain veneers.

Can you still get porcelain veneers later on?

Yes! Many patients choose composite veneers to start so they can enhance their smile non-invasively and switch to porcelain veneers later in life. However, patients that have extremely worn teeth may be a better candidate for porcelain veneers from the start.



BEFORE AFTER

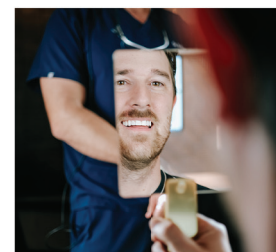
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BLUE DOOR



Meet Dr. Bethell

Owner, Blue Door Dental Design

Dr. Robin Bethell is the founder of Blue Door Dental Design.

He graduated from the University of the Pacific in San Francisco in 2007 and has become an industry leading dentist, teacher, and award winner. He is Invisalign Faculty and a Top 1% Invisalign provider in Texas.

He has completed training in Koils Education, Digital Smile Design, and has been delivering full mouth reconstruction and diagnosis in Austin for the last 10 years.

He and his family call Central Texas home, and his aim is to bring the highest quality orofacial design, diagnosis, and treatment options to Texans.

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The Austin Business Journal Residential Real Estate Awards is a beacon of recognition, spotlighting the remarkable achievements and unwavering excellence within the vibrant residential real estate landscape of Austin, Texas.

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We are honored to share that the Keenan Group was ranked as the #14 small team in Austin by ABJ.

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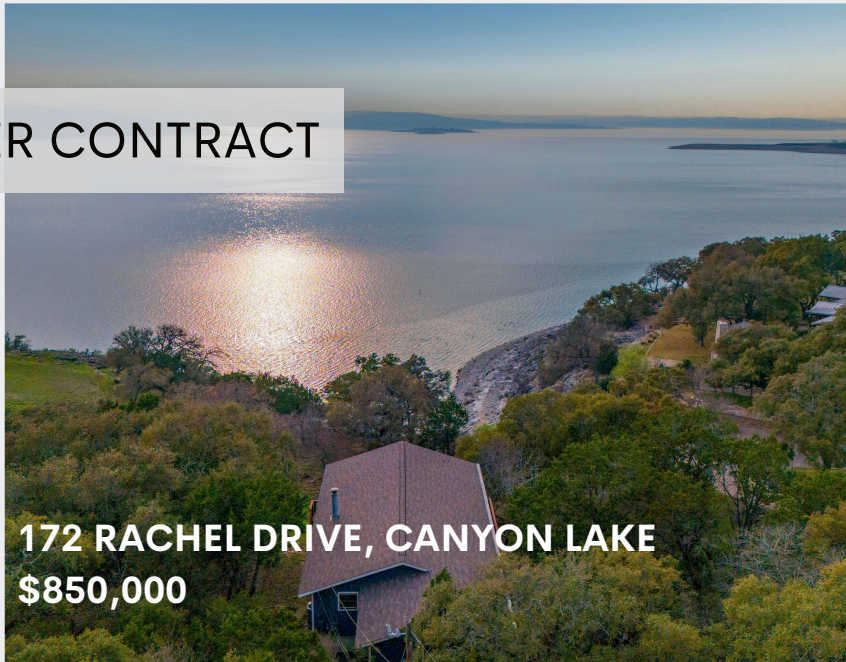
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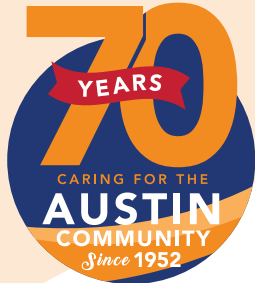




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Northwest Austin Civic Association Earth Day Festival April 21

By **DANA WINER**
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Please join us for NWACA's second annual Earth Day Festival for kids and adults! It will be held on Sunday, April 21 from 2 to 4 PM at Doss Elementary School and Park. There will be fun for the whole family, including:

- Start your own garden in an egg crate,
- Make a bird feeder from recycled goods,
- Face painting!
- Make your own repurposed earrings from aluminum cans - bring two matching colorful aluminum cans.
- Try your skill with earth-themed word search and scavenger hunt,



- Visit the petting zoo!
- Snacks!

Adults will also enjoy the opportunity to:

- Find out where to dispose of unused medication,
- View a variety of electric cars and trucks,
- Test drive an electric vehicle,
- Learn about charging networks for electric vehicles,
- Learn about rebates for energy-efficient home improvements,
- Ask about solar rebates from federal funds and Austin Energy,
- Get answers to recycling and reuse questions.

Earth Day started in 1970 and it is now the largest civic event on earth, mobilizing over 1 billion people across 192 countries each year. Visit www.earthday.org to learn more about the 2024 Earth Day theme "Planet vs. Plastics".



Leafcutting Ants Typically Forage When Temperatures are Cooler

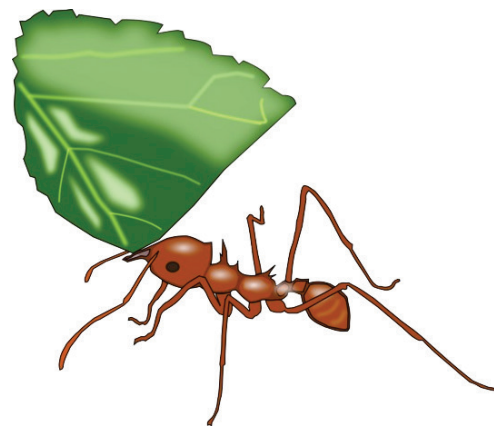
By **Wizzie Brown**
TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Texas leafcutting ants, *Atta texana*, are fascinating ants native to Texas, Louisiana, and parts of Mexico. Leafcutting ants create large, extensive colonies, often with multiple mounds clustered in a single area. Mounds are volcano or crater-shaped with a centralized opening and may be mistaken for fire ant mounds, but fire ant mounds do NOT have a centralized opening.



Usually, worker ants of this species, who forage for food, are the most commonly seen leafcutting ants, but in spring it is possible to see reproductive ants, or swarmers. Workers are relatively large ants, reddish-brown in color with three pairs of spines on the thorax and one pair of spines on the back of the head. Workers come in various sizes but can be up to half an inch long. Reproductives look similar to worker ants but are much larger in size, with female swarmers being over an inch long. Mated queens have a special area within their mouth to carry fungal spores used to create a fungus garden in the newly founded nest.

Leafcutting ants typically forage when temperatures are cooler, such as at night or in the morning. They can sometimes cause complete defoliation of plants or small trees overnight. These ants remove leaves and buds from plants in the landscape which they chew and get some nutrition from sap, but mainly place chewed leaves in an underground garden within their colony and use it as a base to grow fungus that they eat. Leafcutting ants tend a particular species of fungus and weed out any other fungus



from their garden.

Colonies may exist for years and can exceed over two million ants. It is not unusual for a single colony to cover an acre of land. Colonies are usually found in well drained, sandy or loamy soils and are more common in Central to East Texas than other parts of the state.

Unfortunately, leafcutting ants can be difficult to manage, and almost impossible to eradicate

completely. Prized plants can be temporarily protected by using spray adhesives around the base of the plant, but adhesives need to be refreshed often when dirt or debris accumulates. Temporary protection can also be provided to prized plants by utilizing contact insecticidal sprays or dusts labeled for "ants." These insecticidal products can also be used along foraging trails and openings where the ants go into the ground. If mounds are present, Amdro Ant Block, which is the only product labeled for use against leafcutting ants, can be broadcast with a hand-held spreader in the mound area. You do not want to use ant bait and residual dusts and sprays in the same area, as pesticidal dusts and sprays can contaminate bait and cause the ants not to pick it up.

When managing leafcutting ants, set expectations at managing, not eradicating. Often when you treat, you'll knock back a portion of the worker population, but the colony will remain.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at ebrown@ag.tamu.edu.

Mark Your Calendars

These events are as planned as of March 20. As you consider participating in one of the events listed, please check first with the organizer. Items in italics are outside NWACA.

April 20, 9AM to Noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park
Sign up at <https://www.givepulse.com/event/dates/429602>

April 16, 7PM

Parks Committee – virtual

April 17 – 8:30PM

NWACA Board Meeting – Dell Jewish Community Center
Tocker Engagement and Education Center

April 21, 2-4PM

Earth Day Festival
Doss Elementary School Park

April 23, 5PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees – virtual

May 4, 10 AM to 3PM

2024 Wildfire Preparedness Symposium
Rosewood-Zaragosa Neighborhood Center,
2800 Webberville Road, Austin, Texas, 78702
Register at <https://forms.office.com/g/tMqU4kCNKj>

May 8 – 8:30PM

NWACA Board Meeting – Dell Jewish Community Center
Fridel Board Room

May 15, 6:30 to 8:30PM

NWACA Annual Neighborhood Meeting
Huffman Hall, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
4121 Steck Avenue

May 18, 9AM to Noon

Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park
Sign up at <https://www.givepulse.com/event/dates/429602>

May 21, 7PM

Parks Committee – virtual

May 28, 5PM

NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees – virtual

Answers to a Few Recycling Questions on Foil, Car Seats, Markers

By MERRIESSA ANTON
Northwest Austin Civic Association

This month we'll cover many of the questions you may wonder about when trying to decide what to do with items we come across every day.

What should I do with aluminum foil and aluminum foil baking dishes? I took my aluminum foil to Austin Recycle and Reuse Center. They told me I no longer must recycle aluminum foil separately at the recycling center. I need to take the aluminum foil home and put it in my blue recycle bin. A good way to deal with the foil is to wad it up into a ball, adding more to it, until it's about the size of a tennis ball.

While at the Recycling Center, I asked if we need to smash our metal cans before placing them in the recycling bin. They assured me that cans need to be

washed out but do not need to be flattened.

I am always looking for ways to get rid of items without throwing them into the landfill. I have a children's car seat in my garage that my grandson outgrew. I found that Target takes back used children's car seats. I called management at two Target stores in Austin, off Highway 183. So far, all they know is that between April 16 and April 29, used children's car seats can be taken to Guest Services at Target. You will be given a 20% off coupon for a new children's car seat or a new booster seat. It's unclear if they will take them during this whole period, so you might check your Target store online or call Guest Services in April for exact dates.

While Crayola has discontinued their takeback program for used markers, Austin Creative Reuse Center is a great

place to donate them, especially if they are still useful. Austin Creative Reuse Center is located at 2005 Wheless Lane, 78723. Their hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 11 AM to 7 PM and Sunday 12 PM to 6 PM. This is a wonderful place to donate items you no longer use in your home. They take office products, yarn, pictures, picture frames, and so many other items. To see all the materials they accept, go to <https://austincreativereuse.org/material-donations>. Then visit this Reuse Center and see what you can donate or purchase for use in your own creations.

The best way to answer many of your recycling or trash questions is to load the app "Austin Recycles." If you don't know what to do with an item, check the bottom of the app "What Do I Do With...". You'll find plenty of answers!

April Happenings at the Old Quarry Library

By MARTHA MILLER
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Old Quarry Library 7051 Village Center Dr. (512) 974-8860

Monday, April 1 Collaborative Community Meeting with APD for Older Adults 1 – 2PM APD's Office of Community Liaison is hosting this meeting to plan a future SALT (Seniors And Law Enforcement Together) resource fair, to be held at the Old Quarry Library. Interested older adults are encouraged to attend and tell us which topics and organizations are of most interest to you and help shape the event.

Wednesday, April 3 @ 2 – 3PM & Monday, April 15 @ 6:30 – 7:30PM - For the Love of Books Club please register

Wednesday, April 3 – Talk Time 6:30 – 7:30PM

Saturday, April 6 - Stars & Science Planetarium Show 4– 6PM See the stars, the moon, and the planets inside a Stars and Science Austin's inflatable discovery dome. An astronomy educator will lead the Totality Over Texas program about the upcoming total eclipse on April 8. Recommended for ages 3 and up; children to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. First come, first served. Space will be limited!

Monday, April 8 Total Eclipse Party noon – 2PM - Celebrate the Total Solar Eclipse with eclipse themed crafts and treats for all ages! Glasses provided while supplies last! We will have some pairs for sharing once we've run out! We are excited for you to

ride CapMetro for free to the Austin Public Library Eclipse Watch Party! Deadline to request your pass is Thursday, April 4 @ 4PM.

Monday, April 8 & 29 - Barking Book Buddies: Read to Hanna! 4– 5PM

Monday, April 8 Teens Create: Cactus Rock Art 4 – 5:30PM

Tuesday, April 9 – After School Lego Lab 3:30– 5PM, please register

Wednesday, April 10 – Old Quarry Gardening Group 11AM – 12:30PM

Wednesday, April 10- Crafty Adult: DIY Wall Clock 2 – 4PM
Friday, April 12 & 26 - Adult Morning Social 10AM – noon, please register

Tuesday, April 16 – Fiber Arts Friends Group 6 – 7:30PM

Wednesday, April 17- What is That? Using iNaturalist, e-Bird, and Merlin to Identify Plants and Birds and Contribute to Community Science 6:30– 7:30PM

Thursday, April 18 Naturalist Book Club 6:45– 7:45PM

Saturday, April 27 – Get Crafty: Perler Beads 11:30AM – 2PM

Tuesday, April 30 – Computers 101 1-3PM

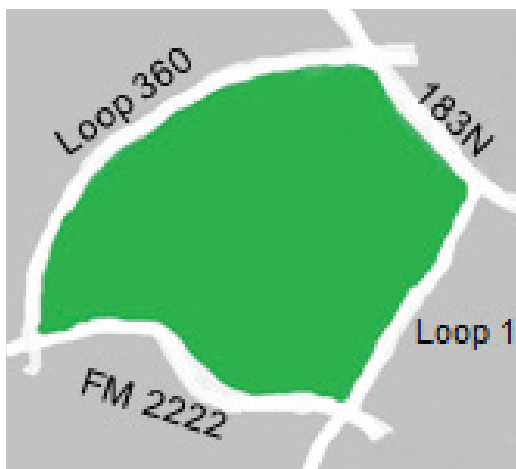
Key Contacts

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
Austin Police Department Crime Report, internet search	APD Chief's Monthly Reports
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.



2022 – 2024 NWACA Board of Directors

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Each of the Board Members can be reached at info@nwaca.org or by phone at 737-235-7325

The NWACA Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of 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

NWACA Membership Committee

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the 4th of July Parade Fund, the Park Fund, and the Constable Fund, between February 19 and March 20, 2024.

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.

- Dianne Field
- Valerie Laubacher
- Sharon Roberts
- Nanette and Robert Sechler
- (and, apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)



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

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
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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

MARKET UPDATE

 \$1,340,000
MEDIAN SALES PRICE

 \$22,648,495
SALES VOLUME

 \$433
MEDIAN LIST PRICE/SF

 \$476
MEDIAN SALE PRICE/SF

 \$1,150,000
MEDIAN LIST PRICE

 29
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET

 16
CLOSED SALES

NORTHWEST
HILLS
AND
WESTOVER
HILLS



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM MARCH 1-23, 2023 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON NWACA BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY360/2222/HWY 183

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Debe M.

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Writer's Corner: Cordovan Art School

By IDEE KWAK
Northwest Austin
Civic Association

According to Picasso, every child is an artist. Our children love to experiment with art materials and explore new techniques. It's lots of fun to do at home—but sometimes messy.

For a wide range of experimentation and exploration, children can go to the Cordovan Art School and Pottery Parlor on Mesa Drive. Bright and airy, the rooms are lined with paints and brushes, pencils and chalks, paper and canvases, and yet-to-be-painted pottery. There's even a potter's wheel and kiln.

Throughout the year, weekly classes are offered in all media at all skill levels, while over summer and school breaks, children's art camps are offered as well. Divided into half-day or full-day sessions for different age brackets, the fun-themed camps are run by traditionally trained artists, experienced in working with kids.

Picasso's quote goes on: the problem is remaining an artist once you grow up. Looking at the students' finished work adorning the walls and shelves at Cordovan, it's easy to see that they embrace remaining creative. Various classes are offered to adults; there's

even a discounted Ladies Night Out every Thursday after 4 PM. In addition, there's a Family Fun Day every Tuesday, all day long, with only one studio fee for all participating family members.

You can also register for Open Clay Day which takes place the fourth Saturday of every month. People of all ages, all skill levels, can build and sculpt their own clay creations.

There's lots to see and do at Cordovan. You can check out all the classes, camps, and workshops by dropping in or by visiting online. www.CordovanArtSchool.com and www.PotteryParlor.com.



Watch Out for Wildlife with Their Young Ones

Public Service Announcement

It's springtime in Northwest Austin, so we'll soon be seeing young fawns and their mothers in the neighborhood. Please be careful as you drive, because the young ones move a bit unpredictably. In addition,



be wary of getting near the mother deer while out walking or running, since they may become aggressive to protect their babies. Also, if a deer leaves a fawn in your yard, please don't touch or move it. Its mother will be back to retrieve it.

If you find a fawn that is sick, injured, or in an unsafe area, call Austin Wildlife Rescue at 512-472-WILD (512-472-9453)

Now is also the time to be aware of coyote pup

rearing season.

- Coyotes breed in February and March; pups are born about 60 days later.
- During this time, male coyotes do not tolerate other canines in their territory; many conflicts between coyotes and domestic dogs result from this territorial behavior.
- An average coyote litter contains 4 or 5 pups, born in dens. In urban environments, dens can be in storm drains, under storage drains, in holes dug in vacant lots, parks, golf courses, or any other dark, dry place.
- Coyote pups are cared for, fed, and protected by both parents. The pups mature quickly and can eat meat and move about easily by the time they are a month old.
- Nursing females and the grouping young need lots of food until late summer. As peo-

ple and their pets spend more time outdoors during this time, the possibility of a coyote encounter increases.

- It is not unusual to observe a family of coyotes traveling through urbanized areas.
- If food is deliberately or inadvertently provided by people, the pups quickly learn not to fear humans and develop a dependency on easy food sources.

As a reminder, evaluate what food attractants you may be inadvertently providing. Pick ripe fruit from trees and off the ground, secure garbage and compost bins, don't feed pets outdoors, don't throw food scraps for wildlife, keep bird feeders from overflowing, and eliminate artificial water sources. Additionally, close off crawl spaces under porches, decks, and sheds!



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Austin's giant troll is finally finished. Here's where you can find her.

By **CHELSEY ZHU**
KUT

Pease Park's newest art installation is tucked away in the woods, but she's hard to miss. Malin is an 18-foot-tall troll made of local and repurposed wood. And in her hands is an offering: a basin full of water to nourish the wildlife.

But the water is there only if humans remember to pour it.

"It's trying to remind the humans to think about the animals and have them share the water," said Thomas Dambo, the artist behind the troll. "If we don't share, there's not enough for everybody."

Dambo finished building Malin in mid March, just before introducing her to the Austin community. You can find her (and add water to her basin) right off the trail north of Kingsbury Commons, the southern entrance of the park. People driving to visit the troll are encouraged to park at the Austin Community College Rio Grande parking garage or the Austin Recreation Center. Over the next few

weekends, volunteers will be there to provide directions.

Malin is the latest of 129 trolls that Dambo has built across the world. Dambo, a self-described "garbage artist" from Denmark, specializes in art with environmental themes and recycled materials.

"We've all grown up in this society that has taught us that trash is dirty, disgusting and dangerous, but if we want to save our world from drowning in trash ... we have to start praising and valuing our trash," he said at an artist's talk sponsored by Pease Park in mid March.

Dambo's specialty is turning trash into treasure. That treasure often takes the form of big trolls inspired by Danish folklore and lullabies his mother sang to him. He thinks of his trolls as "the protectors and the voice of nature."

Materials & Cost

The Pease Park troll is primarily made from local, recycled and repurposed wood. Dambo built some parts of the body in Denmark and shipped them to Austin for logistical reasons. Malin's head, for example, took around 100 hours to build in Denmark – but the rest of the troll came together in Pease Park throughout early March. Several dozen local volunteers helped Dambo's team construct the troll.

A Bastrop sawmill provided eastern red cedar for Malin's inner frame. An Austin sawmill supplied repurposed wood harvested from an old water tower on UT Austin's J.J. Pickle Research Campus. The water tower wood makes up Malin's skin and "fur," Dambo said.

The roots of Ashe juniper trees – Texas' beloved producer of cedar fever – serve as Malin's hair. The Pease Park Conservancy has more details about the construction materials on its website.

The sculpture cost around \$300,000 to install and was funded by private donors, according to Allison Johnson, director of community engagement for the Pease Park



Thomas Dambo (bottom left) and his team put the finishing touches on the troll at Pease Park on March 15. Photo by Deborah Cannon/KUT News

Conservancy. Most of the funds came from the Tejemos Foundation. H-E-B and the William Knox Holt Foundation also donated money for the project.

"(Funding) is not coming from taxpayer dollars. It's not coming from city money," Johnson said. "It's coming from the support of our donors who really value public art."

Pease Park has a license to display the troll for 15 years. Johnson said the conservancy plans to incorporate Malin into school field trips and other existing programming.

Protector of animals, provider of water

On top of using locally sourced materials, Dambo also creates stories for his trolls inspired by each specific place. He first visited Austin in August 2023 – during one of the hottest summers the city has ever experienced. Austinites lived through triple-digit temperatures for 45 days in a row, and the city instituted stricter drought restrictions that are still in effect now.

Dambo learned that Austinites put out bowls of water to help squirrels and birds. That idea of human-animal cooperation formed

the basis for Malin's design.

Troll's troll

On your way to Pease Park, you might spot another troll welcoming you to the neighborhood. Gary Schumann, the caretaker of BEPI Park – a mini-park created out of a traffic median just a few blocks away – built his own troll to welcome Malin to the city.

The BEPI Park troll, informally dubbed "the traffic troll," is Malin's slightly less elegant, slightly more "Austin" counterpart.

"The Pease Park troll is up in the woods, and it's very peaceful and tranquil," Schumann said. "Whereas my troll is out in the middle of this busy street, and it's gesticulating wildly. And what I'm telling people it's saying is, 'Slow down, slow down!'"

Schumann called it a "troll that's trolling a troll." But he imagines the two creatures are friends.

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



"When I'm out there working on it, literally every car will stop and people roll down their windows and talk to me," Gary Schumann said. Julius Shieh/KUT News.

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Anderson Tennis in Spring Tournaments

The Anderson varsity and JV tennis teams played their first spring tournaments prior to spring break and many medals were won.

Varsity

1st place finishes:

Thomas Nguyen and Ian Balachandran - boys doubles Vivian Fernandez - girls singles

2nd place finishes:

Emmy Ward and Lily Stone - girls doubles

Ian Pham - boys singles

3rd place finishes:

Davis Nabers and Amelie Kentor - mixed doubles

Tyler Samman and Josh Hiller - boys doubles

Rachael Pantaleoni - girls singles

JV

1st place finishes:

Faith Ramirez and Arianna Sidel - girls doubles

Finn McCreery and Emi Brenner - mixed doubles

Jojo David and Nelly Kivenko - girls doubles

3rd place finishes:

Cole Nielsen and Ben Burke - boys doubles

Gillian Kinsey and Morgan Weegar - mixed doubles



ANDERSON FROM 1

came an administrator at AHS five years ago – says this lounge is really needed.

“This was an art classroom, then we used it as an ISS room. It has clearly been a chemistry classroom,” Lancaster said. “Over the summer as I started the interim role, we made the decision we wanted to feel more connected as a staff, and so we moved ISS out of here and started the process to make it into a teachers’ lounge.”

PTSA allocated about \$3,500 for the project from increased fundraising this year.

“The PTSA has set aside funds to convert a classroom into a space for faculty,” shared Lauren Ward, volunteer. “We have had students and parents help a bunch.”

The community donated things including chairs, the refrigerator, and an industrial coffee maker. The space also has a reading

nook and will have Harry Potter books there in honor of one donor’s son who loved the series and who tragically lost his life after graduation.

Caroline Mounger, who runs design firm Elevate Interiors, donated her time and came up with a design for the lounge including spots on the wall for art.

“We made the walls a canvas for art so that we could then get the art students to do the art,” Mounger said.

The art included abstract and three dimensional artwork including origami paper cranes, yarn rings, and a paper chain medalion.

Anderson students Ruth Sushell and Carol Sushell enjoyed working on a colorful paper collage scene with a cactus.

“(Ward) directed the student art that has just transformed the room,” Choyce said.

Before the art could go up, Ward did all the paint and supply purchasing and coordinated student volunteers to paint the space over a weekend. Her husband, Davis Ward, assembled furniture too.

Principal Lancaster said that ever since the pandemic, the staff has been feeling very disconnected with each other because of spending so much time apart.

“Especially for a school, when you have so many experts in the field of education, when they don’t talk to each other, it becomes fragmented,” Lancaster said. “(The new teachers’ lounge) builds a better, friendly workplace where they have somewhere to go to share ideas, to talk about things, to complain about their boss, and to do all of the things that normal working people get to do, and feel that shared connection.”



First-year Anderson principal Brian Lancaster says this lounge is really needed especially since the pandemic.



L-R Parent Teacher Student Association treasurer Krista Saeger, Caroline Mounger, PTSA member, Julie Choyce, PTSA president, and Lauren Ward, PTSA chair of beautification, all worked to make the new teachers’ lounge a reality at Anderson High School.

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Anderson Girls Basketball 2023-2024



Q&A LaTanya Counter - Anderson Girls Basketball Head Coach

1) How did this season turn out: a highlight and a challenge?

Highlight: Our highlight was the improvement in teamwork and morale throughout the season. Players came together to support each other.

Challenge: One of our biggest challenges was dealing with a series of injuries, which tested our depth and adaptability.

2) What district team is always your biggest rival and why?

Our biggest rival is always McCallum High School. The rivalry is intense due to the two schools' history and our matchups' competitive nature.

3) What does your team do extremely well, and what areas of your program need improvement?

Our team excels at defense, which has been a key strength this season. However, we need improvement in offensive efficiency and scoring consistency.

4) Do you have an interesting story to share about the team that most would not know about?

One interesting story is how our team supported Murchension Middle School for their first home game, showcasing our players'

commitment to their community.

5) How many years have you been coaching at AHS and what is making this season special to you?

This is my first year coaching at AHS, and what makes this season special is the resilience and growth I've seen in the players. Despite setbacks, they've shown incredible determination and improvement, which has been truly inspiring.



Anderson HS Girls Basketball Rosters

Varsity

Aria Holloman
Leah Heckmann
Marta Sanchez-Garcia
Andrea Kelly
Nour Zoweil
Ella Wilkins**
Brooke Fuller **
Nonye Muoneme
Sophia Greenaway-Dickson
Nevaeh Arnold
Cayla Mosby
Julia Beevers

** 2023-2024 Captains

JV

Carlie Thomas
Leah Heckmann
Isabella Salva
Ava Pippins
Ifu Muoneme
Bailey Santos
Lauchly Johnson
Willa Glover
Gabiella Flores

Managers

Aaliyah Edmondson
Bethanya Harpaul
Andreanea Jackson
Tristan Martinez
Elisha BrooksLuna Ibarra
Gabi Dietrich
Caroline Castaldi

Coaches

LaTanya Counter
Mack Oliphant

Anderson Girls Varsity 2023-2024



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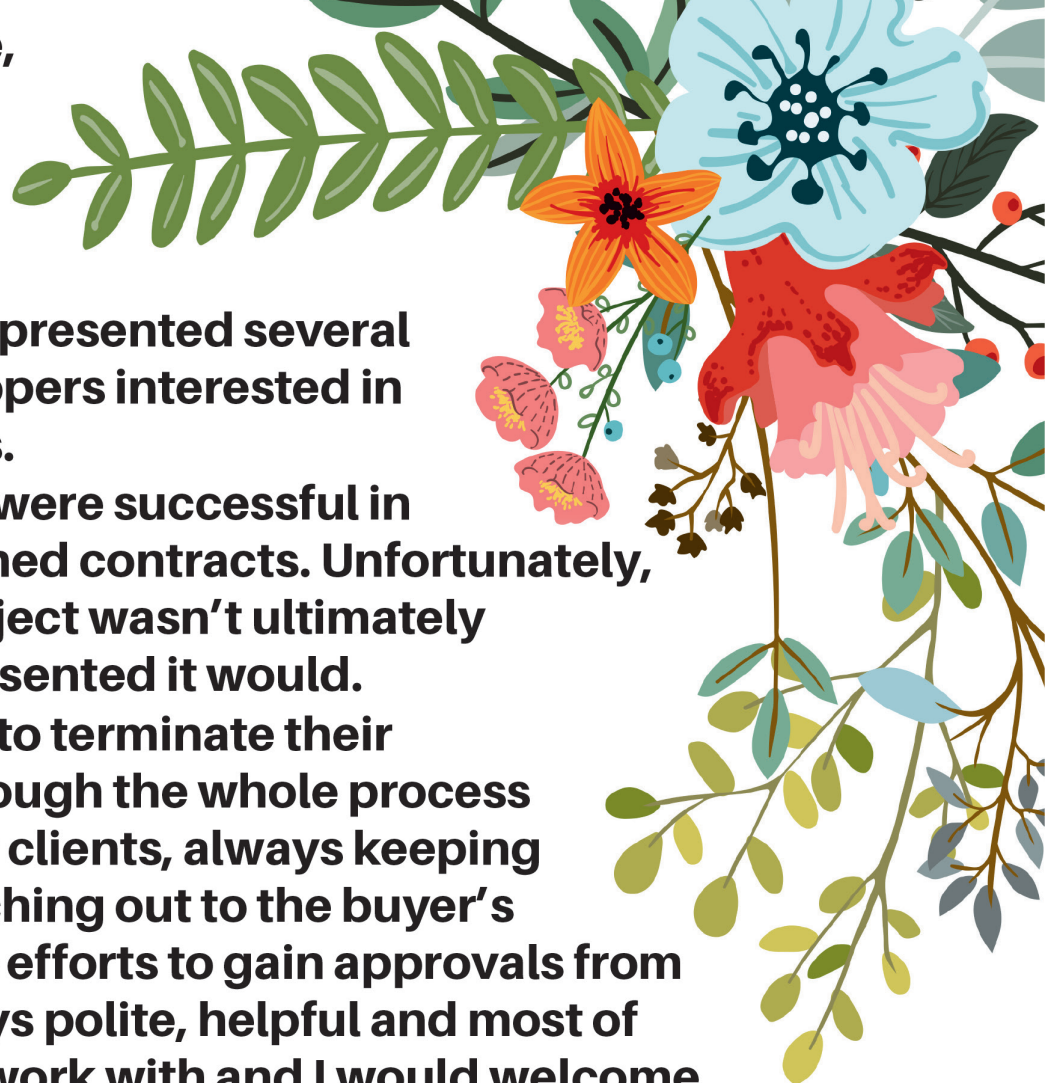
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Through our cooperative efforts, we were successful in negotiating and securing favorable signed contracts. Unfortunately, the Buyer's proposed development project wasn't ultimately supported by the city as it initially represented it would.

Consequently, the Buyer was forced to terminate their proposed purchases. Nevertheless, through the whole process Dawn worked tirelessly on behalf of our clients, always keeping everyone informed and repeatedly reaching out to the buyer's representative offering assistance in its efforts to gain approvals from the city. Dawn was persistent, but always polite, helpful and most of all, professional. She was a pleasure to work with and I would welcome the opportunity to do so again. She is the consummate professional and an extremely nice person." ~Leland Enochs



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