

Northwest Austin News

SERVING THE NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY

Volume 15, Issue 10

October 2024

Fall into Fall



By NORTHWEST AUSTIN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

This year's NWACA National Night Out (NNO) events happen throughout the neighborhood, rather than in one large gathering, with about 25 leaders hosting block parties for the neighbors on their streets.

The parties started September 15 (see some photos on page 13), with half a dozen doing parties then, but others will be happening throughout the months of September and Oc-

tober. Each neighborhood gets a little stronger and a little safer, as everyone gets to know each other better. Thank you to all who hosted (and who plan to host) parties and to all the attendees!

This fall is full of activities, some described in more detail in this issue and others in the September newsletter:

- October 5, 8 a.m. to noon – Neighborhood Garage Sales. The list of homes doing sales will be posted to www.nwaca.org

on October 1 and also advertised on Craigslist.

- October 9, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Election Forum for District 10 and Mayoral Candidates. There will also be tables with candidates for AISD Trustee at Large and ACC Place 9 Trustee. Huffman Hall, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church – use 4121 Steck Ave. parking lot.
- October 19, noon to 2 p.m. – Electronics Recycling Event for NWACA members in



NWACA, 2

Anderson defeats McCallum 57-40 in the 23rd annual Taco Shack Bowl



By LYNETTE HAALAND
Northwest Austin News

Anderson High School defeated McCallum High School 57-40 in the 23rd annual Taco Shack Bowl. The event opened the 2024 Central Texas high school football season.

"It was a great way to start off the season, especially when you get a win over one of your biggest rivals," shared Donald Hatcher, Anderson football head coach.

The August 29 matchup at House Park drew a crowd of more than 5,000.



Only six miles separates the two rivals and this was the 52nd time they have played each other.

"The atmosphere of the game is always one of the best ones I've ever been a part of," shared Donald Hatcher, Anderson football head coach. "Both teams played at a high level and with emotions all night. Offensively Max Garlic had a great game along with Ed Small."

Hatcher added, "the senior class was not



gonna lose that game. They played great all night. Couldn't be more proud of the guys."

Anderson leads the all-time series 32-20 and 13-10 since the game became known as the Taco Shack Bowl.

More Taco Shack Bowl photos on pages 14, 17, 18 and 19 thanks to Phil Swann Photography, Maren Weinstein, Olivia Bushore Photography, and Jennifer Pham.

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2024 NWACA 4th of July Parade & Freedom Fest Survey Results

From mid-July through September 17, Northwest Austin Civic Association conducted a survey of the neighborhood regarding the 4th of July approach taken in 2024, where the parade and Freedom Fest were moved from the south side of the neighborhood to the north side. 107 people completed the survey.

Q1: What is your Zip Code? (107 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
78731	82.24%	88
78759	16.82%	18
Other -78729	0.93%	1

Q2: Did you attend the 4th of July events – Parade and Freedom Fest? (107 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Cima Serena was fine, and you should use it every year.	6.12%	6
I would prefer another parade route near Anderson High, instead of Cima Serena.	12.24%	12
It was fine, and you should alternate with the old route along North Hills Drive every few years.	19.39%	19
You should use only the North Hills Drive route.	62.24%	61
	Answered	98

Q3: If you attended the parade, what did you think of the route along Cima Serena Drive, from Hill Elementary to Anderson High? (98 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Only the parade	22.43%	24
Only the Freedom Fest (after-parade event at North Parking Lot)	6.54%	7
Both parade and Freedom Fest	60.75%	65
Neither parade nor Freedom Fest	10.28%	11

Q4: If you attended the Freedom Fest, what did you think of this Anderson High School location? (86 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	
It worked better than the Doss Elementary School location.	16.28%	14
Either location works fine.	38.37%	33
The Doss Elementary location works better.	45.35%	39
	Answered	86



Joyce Statz with an iron from her collection.

Q5: What else would you like to see at the parade, or what would you like to see changed? (71 responses, with many of them saying multiple things)

Responses fell into these general categories, arranged by frequency of mention

Count	Response Category
12	Move back to south side – Far West or North Hills
12	Parade route was too narrow *1
10	Parade route was too short
10	More shade is needed along the parade route
7	Kids and families on bikes and scooters were missing *2
7	Need more floats *3
7	Float rules were too restrictive; asked floats to not throw candy at people, don't use water guns *4
7	Parade itself was too short – too few units; need more performers
5	More groups needed – businesses, youth groups, car clubs
5	Good all-around experience
3	Other schools missing – Doss, Murchison, Hill
3	Easy parking was appreciated
3	Suggested Mesa as a route, ending at Randall's or First Presbyterian
Misc. with only one or two responses	Either location is okay. Okay to alternate locations. Have a mister, to help cool off Bigger water containers at Freedom Fest Have each parade unit play some music-recorded or other Late start for parade meant spectators got overheated *5 Freedom Fest needs music Problem: Visitors had problems finding the parade location; unfamiliar with streets. Problem: some spectators were shooting silly <u>string</u> . Problem: some were shooting bang toys. Problem: some parade spectators had to look directly into the sun.

Notes on the responses:

*1 – This was exacerbated by people parking cars along the parade route. Residents along the route had been asked to avoid parking there. However, spectators parked on the route. The planning team didn't anticipate that, so didn't have it blocked off.

*2 – There was no intent to keep them away, but apparently the parade promotion didn't make it clear that they were invited to participate as usual.

*3 – This is probably related to the next item about the float rules. We had fewer than half as many float entrants as last year.

*4 – We'll need to rethink this one. It's fine to toss candy to the crowd, but not at individual people, since hard candy can hurt someone. Water guns are a real problem for people with cameras, as well as when hitting small children.

*5 – The delay was due to equipment issues with the amplifier used for opening ceremonies.

date to the parade rules, which may encourage more floats and other marchers to participate.

In the September Northwest Austin News, the interview article with the NWACA Board president, Joyce Statz, included a photo with a missing caption. We're including the photo again with the caption! Yes, Joyce has a large collection of antique irons and trivets, some 270 of them! The collection pales in comparison to the thousands in the collections of other iron collectors, though; the Guinness Book of World Records acknowledges a Romanian collector with more than 35,000 pieces!

NWACA, FROM 1

the parking lot at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Dr. (The time listed in the September newspaper was incorrect.)

- October 19, evening – Halloween Decorating Contest is judged. See article on page 13. Now is the time to be planning your display
- November 2, 9 a.m. to noon – It's My Park Day at Steck Valley Greenbelt. See article on page 9 about the improvements being made there. Check www.nwaca.org for a signup link by mid-October.

Over the last several months, we've conducted a survey about the 4th of July festivities this year. See the survey report on page 2 with comments responding to the free-form survey comments. At its September meeting, the NWACA Board reviewed the survey results and decided that next year's festivities will return to the prior location. In addition, there will be more focus on inviting kids and families to march in the parade; there was no intent to discourage that this year, but there wasn't a strong message encouraging such participation, either. This year's committee tried hard to get more units in the parade, but didn't succeed; among the other changes will be an up-

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Austin Comprehensive Plan Update

The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan is a community-driven vision for the future of Austin. That's why we're assembling a Community Working Group to provide hands-on guidance to the equity-focused update of our comprehensive plan. This group will mirror the rich diversity of our city, reflecting residents of all backgrounds from all parts of Austin.

The application for the Working Group was open throughout August, and more than 200 people applied to take part! There will be 35-45 members of the Working Group, and we'll notify

those selected by mid-October.

"Two of our NWACA Board members have applied to be on the working group," shared Joyce Statz, Northwest Austin Civic Association president. "It'll be another long-term plan, so it's very likely to impact all neighborhoods. As this area becomes more 'central Austin,' its commercial shape is likely to grow. The last plan identified the Domain as a second downtown. I'm sure there will be impacts on residential housing."

The Working Group will be structured around seven priority programs that serve as Imagine

Austin's foundation. The Imagine Austin Priority Programs organize the plan's key policies and actions into related groups and build on existing policies and initiatives.

A brief look at the Imagine Austin Priority Programs:

- Invest in a Compact and Connected Austin
- Sustainably Manage our Water Resources
- Continue to Grow Austin's Economy by Investing in our Workforce, Education Systems, Entrepreneurs, and Local Businesses
- Use Green Infrastructure to Protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Integrate

Nature into the City

- Grow and invest in Austin's Creative Economy
- Develop and Maintain Household Affordability throughout Austin
- Create a Healthy Austin

Thanks to everyone who applied, we appreciate your willingness to step in and contribute to the growth of our city.

Learn more and help ensure the revised plan reflects our vibrant, evolving city at SpeakUpAustin.org/ImagineAustin.

Meet the Candidates for the November Election

By DANA WINER
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Northwest Austin Civic Association is presenting a non-partisan election forum in collaboration with over a dozen other West and Northwest Austin neighborhood associations on Wednesday, October 9 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 4121 Steck Avenue. For those unable to attend in person, an online option is provided.

The forum will be moderated by award-winning journalist Tony Plohetski and will include candidates for both Austin Mayor and District 10 City Council Representative.

There will be an optional meet and greet with the candidates beforehand at 6 p.m. and afterward at 8 p.m. In addition to the mayor and District 10 candidates, you'll have an opportunity to talk with candidates for Austin ISD and Austin Community College school boards during the meet and greet.

For more information, including the link to register and submit questions in advance, visit tinyurl.com/oct9forum

Here is a reminder of the key dates for the election:

- October 7 - Deadline to register to vote: vrapp.sos.state.tx.us/index.asp

- October 7 - Deadline to update your address if you've moved: www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/
- October 9 - Mayor and District 10 Election forum for West and Northwest Austin neighborhoods: tinyurl.com/oct9forum
- October 25 - Deadline for ballot by mail. Applications can be found here: elections.traviscountytexas.gov/voter-information/ballot-by-mail/
- October 21 - November 1 Early voting
- November 5 - Election Day

For more election information: votetravis.com

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Multiple DWI, 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.

08/14/2024 9:00 PM
72XX HART LN
DWI

08/20/2024 3:19 AM
67XX LAKEWOOD
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

08/23/2024 3:17 PM
71XX WOOD HOLLOW DR
FRAUD

08/24/2024 1:46 AM
82XX SUMMER SIDE
THEFT OF LICENSE PLATE

08/24/2024 3:27 AM
73XX RUNNING ROPE
DWI

08/24/2024 11:23 AM
68XX WOOD HOLLOW
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

08/24/2024 5:53 PM
00XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS
HWY
BURGLARY

08/25/2024 11:00 PM
88XX MOUNTAIN RIDGE CIR
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

08/26/2024 7:43 AM
34XX MOUNT BARKER DR
COUNTERFEITING

08/26/2024 9:58 AM
35XX NORTH HILLS
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

08/26/2024 3:27 PM
38XX BONNELL DR
BURGLARY OF VEHICLE

08/26/2024 9:13 PM
36XX NORTH HILLS
DATING DISTURBANCE

08/27/2024 8:34 AM
35XX NORTH HILLS
THEFT

08/27/2024 6:20 PM
85XX MOPAC EXPY
DWI

08/28/2024 5:31 AM
35XX NORTH HILLS
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

08/28/2024 11:43 PM
36XX GREYSTONE DR
ASSAULT W/INJURY

08/29/2024 2:52 PM
45XX BALCONES DR
THEFT OF BICYCLE

08/29/2024 7:24 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

08/29/2024 9:58 PM
72XX HART LN
ASSAULT W/INJURY

08/30/2024 1:51 PM
46XX MADRONA DR
AGG ASSAULT

08/30/2024 9:56 PM
89XX BUSINESS PARK
ASSAULT W/INJURY

08/31/2024 7:25 AM
34XX NORTH HILLS
THEFT

08/31/2024 1:03 PM
44XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS
THEFT OF BICYCLE

09/01/2024 11:27 AM
77XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS
HWY
AGG ASSAULT

09/01/2024 3:40 PM
76XX WOOD HOLLOW
HARASSMENT

09/01/2024 4:30 PM
64XX WESTSIDE DR
HARASSMENT

09/02/2024 9:02 AM
88XX MOUNTAIN PATH
ASSAULT BY CONTACT

09/02/2024 12:00 PM
58XX MOPAC EXPY
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

09/02/2024 6:01 PM
84XX ETIENNE CV
THEFT

09/03/2024 4:27 PM
71XX HART LN
HARASSMENT

09/06/2024 11:06 AM
66XX VALLEYSIDE RD
AUTO THEFT

09/06/2024 7:12 PM
35XX GREYSTONE DR
THEFT OF LICENSE
PLATE

09/06/2024 8:27 PM
53XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS
HWY
THEFT

09/06/2024 8:27 PM
38XX BONNELL DR
THEFT

09/06/2024 9:12 PM
81XX FOREST MESA
ASSAULT

09/06/2024 10:34 PM
74XX SHADOW HILL
THEFT

09/08/2024 10:57 AM
36XX GREYSTONE
THEFT

09/08/2024 2:10 PM
80XX MESA DR
SHOPLIFTING

09/08/2024 2:31 PM
62XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS
HWY
THEFT

09/08/2024 2:40 PM
36XX GREYSTONE
THEFT

09/08/2024 4:05 PM
35XX 35TH ST
THEFT

09/08/2024 9:43 PM
36XX GREYSTONE DR
THEFT

09/09/2024 7:21 AM
43XX WALHILL LN
CRED CARD ABUSE

09/09/2024 11:31 AM
36XX GREYSTONE
ASSAULT

09/09/2024 12:22 PM
81XX FOREST MESA
DATING DISTURBANCE

09/09/2024 4:24 PM
80XX MESA DR
SHOPLIFTING

09/10/2024 12:19 PM
53XX BALCONES DR
THEFT

09/10/2024 1:24 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

09/11/2024 11:56 AM
55XX BALCONES
SHOPLIFTING

09/11/2024 11:21 AM
55XX BALCONES
SHOPLIFTING

09/11/2024 1:20 PM
78XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS
HWY
THEFT

09/11/2024 3:28 PM
193XX FM 969
THEFT/LARCENY

09/11/2024 7:50 PM
35XX 35TH ST
THEFT

09/12/2024 10:18 AM
85XX APPALACHIAN
THEFT

09/13/2024 3:09 AM
36XX NORTH HILLS
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

09/13/2024 8:07 AM
35XX GREYSTONE
HARASSMENT

09/13/2024 6:33 PM
35XX 35TH ST
THEFT

09/14/2024 12:06 AM
72XX WOOD HOLLOW
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

09/14/2024 3:11 AM
73XX WOOD HOLLOW
DATING DISTURBANCE

09/14/2024 3:09 PM
69XX THORNCLIFFE
FRAUD

09/14/2024 5:46 PM
41XX BALCONES
BURGLARY

09/14/2024 7:43 PM
95XX JOLLYVILLE
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

09/14/2024 10:03 PM
35XX FM 2222
POSS CONTROLLED SUB

09/15/2024 3:59 PM
76XX WOOD HOLLOW
THEFT OF LICENSE PLATE

09/15/2024 5:57 PM
57XX MESA DR
BURGLARY

09/16/2024 2:05 PM
73XX HART LN
TERRORISTIC THREAT -
MASS CASLTLY

09/16/2024 5:42 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD
THEFT

09/17/2024 2:09 AM
74XX SHADOW HILL
ASSAULT

09/17/2024 7:59 PM
36XX JORGE DR
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

09/17/2024 10:11 PM
36XX ALTA CT
THEFT

09/18/2024 11:44 AM
36XX JORGE DR
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

09/19/2024 8:56 AM
35XX NORTH HILLS
DATING DISTURBANCE

09/19/2024 6:42 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

09/19/2024 6:59 PM
57XX EAGLE CLIFF
THEFT

09/19/2024 7:13 PM
82XX MOPAC EXPY
AUTO THEFT

09/20/2024 2:54 AM
67XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS
HWY
THEFT

09/20/2024 9:10 AM
53XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS
HWY
THEFT

09/20/2024 12:07 PM
42XX CANYONSIDE TRL
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

09/20/2024 11:48 PM
68XX MESA DR
ASSAULT W/INJURY

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

Elect a Neighborhood Champion: Vote Kathie Tovo for Mayor!

As a Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem, I fought for neighborhoods and everyday Austinites. I led key environmental initiatives, opened the Sobering Center, helped bring Major League Soccer to Austin, voted to increase wildfire prevention, and supported public schools and working families.

As Mayor, I will:

- Support policies that favor renters and homeowners, not speculators and developers.
- Oppose growth-at-any-cost land use policies that have weakened flood prevention and environmental rules and may displace long-time residents.
- Champion transparency and accountability at City Hall.
- Protect our water, air, and open space.

Working together, we can create the Austin we all want to see!
I ask for your support and your vote.



kathieforaustin.com

Kathie



September 2024 Road Construction Report

By RUVEN BROOKS
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Construction continues on the improvements to Spicewood Springs Road from Mesa to Loop 360 with the expected completion date late in the year 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 Road and Loop 360 with an overpass.

While the Texas Department of Transportation continues to make progress on other Loop 360 projects, construction on the Loop 360 project at Spicewood Springs has now slipped by another year, with construction now expected to begin in 2029 and last about three years. Even if the City of Austin project to widen Spicewood Springs Road is completed late in

2026, there will not be any congestion reduction for vehicles at the intersection until 2032.

Construction is still underway on the CTR-MA 183 North Mobility Project with completion also forecasted for 2026. Details of individual closures and detours can be found here: <https://www.183north.com/>

Business Spotlight: Azul Tequila

By JANICE GREEN
Northwest Austin Civic Association



L-R Erick, Sonia, and Sergio Varela

Azul Tequila, a family-owned Mexican restaurant, has relocated from its ten-year location on Dry Creek Drive to the heart of Northwest Hills on Mesa Drive. Their new home reflects the Varela family's love and passion for food, family, and customers with whom they've built friendships during their tenure in our neighborhood.

As soon as you enter the Mesa location you see and feel the vivid and festive colors of Mexico via the murals

and art throughout. The indoor multi-level dining areas are open and bright, yet cozy. The extensive cocktail bar is in the center. And there is the option of outdoor dining on the wooden deck for meals or a Home Blue Margarita and Tejanos Nacho treat after a bike ride.

Sergio, Erick, and Sonia Varela all worked in Austin's food industry before striking out on their own in 2001 when they opened the first Azul Tequila still located on South Lamar Boulevard—one of the first restaurants to feature both Tejano/Tex-Mex and Interior Mexico cuisines. Their expansion in 2014 to a second location on Dry Creek filled a need for our neighborhood to experience a dual-cuisine Mexican restaurant.

The culinary journey of the Varela family began three generations ago in Central Mexico. Their maternal grandparents were a taco vendor and butcher; their mother had a taco business in south Central Mexico. Family recipes originating from these generations are some of their most popular dishes (e.g., Chile Relleno en Crema and Mole Poblano). The Varela family sources locally from Mexican vendors for fresh ingredients, especially spices and seasonings.

I asked Sergio and Erick to describe the differences between Tejano and interior/authentic Mexican cooking. Tejano (a blend of Northern Mexico and Tejas tastes) uses more dry and ground/powdered ingredients (e.g.,

chilies) and grains. Interior features more "green" ingredients like mint, avocado, cilantro, and plantain leaves. The processes of preparation and cooking are also different. Mexico's various cuisines stem from its diverse geography and cultures going back for 30 centuries.

Examples of Interior Mexican dishes on their menu include pork dishes such as cochinita, ceviche, fish Veracruzano, and carnitas. Items from the Tejano cuisine include Presidio Camarones (grilled shrimp) and Hill Country Rib Eye. And there are enchiladas from both traditions.

To what do they attribute their success, especially after all the recessions and pandemic small businesses have experienced? "Persistence, consistency, and a passion for preparing and serving Mexican food." Sergio, Erick and Sonia continue to stick to their established menu; for example, their method and recipe for creating their margarita mix has remained the same over decades. The fact that some employees have been with them for 20+ years also echoes consistency.

Azul Tequila has moved but retains its original essence. There are also lunch and brunch menus, and they are open seven days a week. When asked how on earth they could work a 7-day schedule, their answer was, "We are a family here, and our customers are part of our family."

Friendship Force of Austin

Learn about Friendship Force by attending monthly meetings on the third Tuesday each month from 2:15 - 4:15 p.m. at Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock 78756 or join us for Happy Hour following the meeting at Jack Allen's Kitchen, 3010 W. Anderson Lane at 4:30 p.m. Contact Carol at 512-971-0197 or blanchardc56@gmail.com and visit our club website at ffiaustin.com.

Fall Back into Wellness Event

Mantra Wellness' Fall Back into Wellness Festival & Farmers Market
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Meet NWACA Board Member Bart Arnold

By KEVIN KOTT
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Kevin: Bart, as a native Austinite, what was Austin like in the good-old days?

Bart: I consider myself a native Austinite although I was born in Galveston where my dad was in medical school. But we moved to Austin when I was three, after Dad did a two-year stint in the Navy. In the early sixties, Austin was a small college town of just under 200,000 people. I grew up in Tarrytown where it was so quiet I could hear my mom on our front porch call me from several blocks away. There was no Mopac! There were huge tracts of undeveloped land here in Northwest Hills. I couldn't go into restaurants like Matt's El Rancho or the Night Hawk without running into many of my friends. Austin was a very close-knit community.

Kevin: Please tell us about your family.

Bart: My wife Kelly, originally from Fort Worth, and I have a 15-year-old son Dylan,

currently at Anderson High School on the tennis team. I have an older son Lee, living in Spain, who has our grandson, Oihan, now 15 months old; and I have a grown daughter Emily living in St. Louis with her husband.

Kevin: What are some of your favorite non-professional activities:

Bart: I love boating and fishing on the area lakes. We also love traveling to Spain to see my son and his family. In the summer of 2023, we stayed with them for five weeks. The food and wine were delicious and very reasonably priced. I generally spent 110-120 Euros on dinner for seven people. We love the lifestyle there.

Kevin: What do you like about living in Austin?

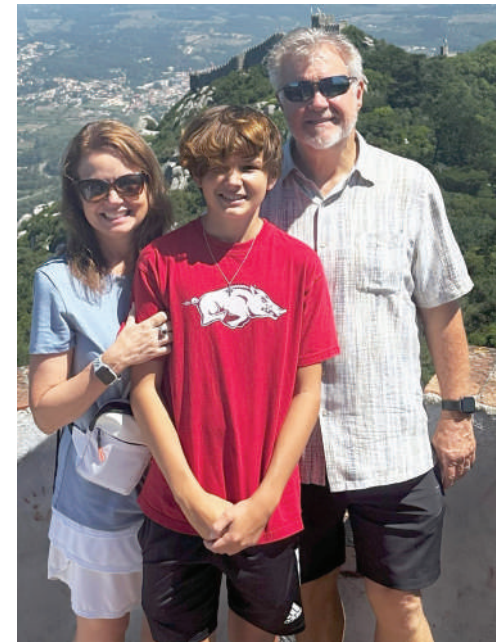
Bart: Unlike many natives, I am not someone who hates growth. While growth has brought complications and the traffic is awful, there is so much more to do now. Instead of the few decent restaurants that we patronized in the 70's and 80's, there are so many that choosing

becomes a major task. My wife and I go down to Zach Theater and see plays all the time.

One of my favorite parts of Austin is the music scene. I was lucky to be here in the 70's when Willie Nelson, Doug Sahm, The Greezy Wheels, Jerry Jeff Walker, and many more were performing at the Armadillo World Headquarters and other South Austin clubs, mixing country, rock, and blues into the Austin Sound. Later, I experienced Stevie Ray Vaughn's incredible guitar work. Austin music has evolved into something I really like. We've seen Willie at the Moody, Gary Clark Jr. at ACL, and we enjoy Skyrocket performing seventies and eighties covers at 3Ten.

Kevin: So, what have you been doing in your new role in NWACA?

Bart: After 25 years in high-tech, I restarted my real estate practice in 2021, and I felt that being part of NWACA would be a perfect way for me to give back to the community while staying abreast of local activities. So far, I've volunteered to be the NWACA representative on the Austin Neighborhoods Coun-



Bart Arnold in Portugal with his wife, Kelly, and son, Dylan.

cil, I'm responsible for the weekly NWACA Notes newsletter, and I am now the NWACA Facebook administrator.



8001 MESA DRIVE
AUSTIN, TX 78731
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Sunday, Oct. 27 🥚 4:30-6:00 Pm



Hot Dogs 🍔 Games 🎲 Costume Contest

Breakfast

Time

8:00am - 12:00pm

Highly

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MEDIAN SALES PRICE



\$27,561,825
SALES VOLUME



\$476
MEDIAN LIST PRICE/SF



\$407
MEDIAN SALE PRICE/SF



\$1,225,000
MEDIAN LIST PRICE



64
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET



24
CLOSED SALES

NORTHWEST
HILLS
AND
WESTOVER
HILLS



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM AUGUST 1 - SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON NWACA BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY360/2222/HWY 183

nest
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Update On the Knox Preserve

By **RICHARD DENNEY**
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Margaret Thomas Knox passed away on January 20, 2022, allowing development of the Knox Preserve subdivision to proceed. Several articles about Mrs. Knox have been published in past newsletters, so her history isn't covered here. Briefly for context, her husband, James Knox, inherited the property from his parents. His father, Captain Warren Penn Knox, prominent in Boy Scouting in Texas, acquired the property, and after WWII, he started Running Rope Boys Ranch. By 1946 the newspaper reported "W.P. Knox" buying the 184-acre property (The Austin American, 26 Apr 1946, Fri,

Page 20). By 1947, Running Rope Ranch was up and running, and in the news.

The farmstead (a core house that was extended over the years; outbuildings; cleared fields) can be seen in the 1937 aerials of Travis County that have recently become available. An oral interview of Margaret Knox for the book *Austin Originals*, 1982, puts the farmhouse at ca. 1900 at least. Based on the history of this area, could the property be older? Maybe. For example, Esperanza School, which was above Spicewood Springs, was a one room log cabin started in 1866 serving this area. The school was less than a mile from the Knox Preserve. Old aerial photos seem to indicate an older entrance to the property may have been off Spicewood Springs Road not far from the school. Could the property be that old? We don't know without a lot more research, but from the history of the school we know there was sufficient population in the community of Spicewood Springs in 1866 to warrant a school. The log cabin school was open until 1893, close in time to the age of the Knox house quoted by Margaret Knox.

The Thurms, a German family, settled on Bull Creek in 1855 on what is today's Old Spicewood Springs Road, at the bottom of what was known then as Thurm's Hill. Their homestead was in today's Bull Creek Park, roughly the 5300 "block" of today's Old Spicewood Springs Road; most of it was obliterated by Loop 360



House at 7304 Knox Ln.

construction; the current round of work is probably finishing off any potential sub-surface remains. Settlement in this area clearly goes back a long time, and the Knox Preserve, with its own spring (called out on property plats as "Indian Springs") close to Spicewood Springs, its namesake road and Esperanza School would have been ... what's the saying in real estate? Location, location, location.

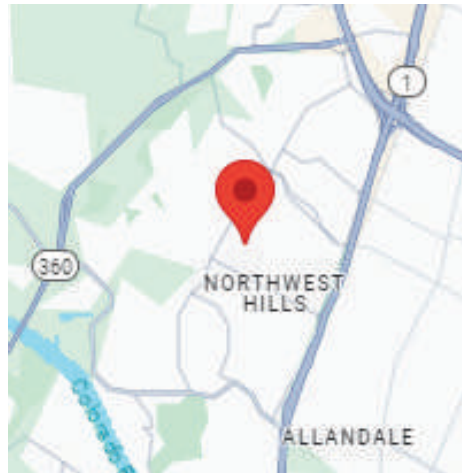
Ms. Kalan Contreras, Historic Preservation Officer, City of Austin Planning Department is also examining the history of the property. At the Historic Landmark Commission meeting September 4th, she noted that they are considering "initiation of historic zoning on the property." The review includes not only the

house, but potential archeology of the site. In general, all tentative at this point. An argument is being made to preserve the house, either on-site (possibly to an alternate spot on-site) or off-site to another location.

The Knox Preserve is one of the last relatively untouched areas in Northwest Hills, so it would be good if the developer

would hire a firm to conduct a more thorough archeological assessment of the property as a whole. A cursory survey by UT was done in 1969 confirming prehistoric Native American presence on the property. While the wetland critical environmental feature (CEF; the springs area) will be preserved, once the bulldozers move in for development outside the CEF, anything that is there is going to be lost. Fingers crossed.

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/>



7304 Knox Ln is in the heart of Northwest Hills.

Steck Valley Greenbelt Update

By **CHARLES UPSHAW**
Northwest Austin Civic Association

The Steck Valley Greenbelt Community Activated Parks Project (CAPP) is proceeding apace through the summer. Through grant funding from Austin Parks Foundation and Northwest Austin Civic Association, Phase 1 of the CAPP project has been completed by a team from the Texas Conservation Corps (part of American Youthworks). Improvements included trimming back branches and growth, limbing up and removal of invasive and downed trees along the trail, and significant clearing and mulching at the Hyridge Drive trailhead.

There is still much work to do! We will be hosting an "It's My Park Day" clean-up for the Steck Valley Greenbelt on Saturday, November 2nd. Because of multiple ice storms,

there are a lot of downed branches and cleared limbs that still need to be hauled out and/or dispersed for faster decomposition (not to mention always helpful trash pick-up). There will be two crews working, one from each of the Steck Avenue and Hyridge Drive trailheads, so there are plenty of opportunities to help.

There will also be more opportunities to volunteer this fall/winter/spring to help further improve the greenbelt. Please watch NWACA's Facebook page and the weekly NWACA Notes for more information on volunteer dates. If you're not a NWACA member and aren't accessing these media, let us know of your interest at info@nwaca.org, or better yet –join us as members of NWACA (www.nwaca.org)!

With the improvements to the trail and the weather cooling off, now is an excellent time to go explore this hidden gem of a trail as well!



Steck Valley Greenbelt entry



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Mark Your Calendars

These events are as planned as of September 26. As you consider participating in one of the events listed, please check first with the organizer.

October 5, 8AM to Noon
NWACA Neighborhood Garage Sales
(hosted by NWACA Members)
See www.nwaca.org for locations of sales

October 9, 6:00 – 8:30PM
Election Forum for Mayor and
City Council District 10
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Huffman Hall
Parking at 4121 Steck Avenue

October 15, 7PM
Parks Committee – virtual

October 16, 6:30 - 8:30PM
NWACA Board Meeting – Dell Jewish Community
Center
B14, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church

October 19, 8-11AM
Monthly cleanup at Bull Creek District Park
Sign up at <https://www.givepulse.com/event/dates/429602>

October 19, Noon to 2PM
Electronics Recycling Event for NWACA members
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church Parking Lot
8134 Mesa Drive

October 19
Identify Winners in Halloween Decorating Contest

October 22, 5PM
NWACA Zoning and
Transportation Committees – virtual

November 2, 9AM – noon
It’s My Park Day Event
Steck Valley Greenbelt – registration link coming

November 19, 7PM
Parks Committee – virtual

November 20, 6:30 - 8:30PM
NWACA Board Meeting –
Dell Jewish Community Center
Friedel Board Room

November 26, 5PM
NWACA Zoning and
Transportation Committees – virtual

Halloween Decorating Contest

Halloween is coming soon! We can’t wait to see your creative outdoor decor. Northwest Austin Civic Association is conducting its second annual Halloween decorating contest. This year, our Halloween contest is being sponsored by Kasey Gilliam, neighbor and Realtor at Bramlett Residential, so we’ll even have gift cards for the first, second, and third place winners. (Thank you, Kasey!)

We’ll be asking for your input, so let us know which of your neighborhood Halloween displays are impressive and should be entered into the contest. Nominees can



be submitted two ways: 1. email the home address of the candidate yard to kasey@bramlettresidential.com or 2. use the QR code that will be published on www.nwaca.org, in the weekly NWACA Notes, and on Facebook. Submit your nominations by October 15th. We’ll then publish the addresses of the nominations and ask you to vote for your favorite by October 19th.

Votes will be tallied to identify the winners, which will be published in the November NWACA newsletter. Thanks for being part of the fun!



NWACA Sponsored Garage Sales October 5

By NORTHWEST AUSTIN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

This year’s NWACA-sponsored neighborhood garage sales will be held on Saturday, October 5 from 8 a.m. to noon. The event is for sellers who are NWACA members only, so if you’re not a member and want to hold a sale promoted by NWACA, please go to www.nwaca.org to join today! Participation is easy: you sell things in your garage and keep all the proceeds; NWACA does

the advertising for you, bringing customers to your garage.

Register on the NWACA web site from September 1 through September 30 using the link under “Hot Topics” on the home page at www.nwaca.org. Neighborhood sales locations will be posted on the NWACA web site; notices will appear in NWACA Notes, on Craigslist, on the NWACA Facebook page, on NextDoor, and on Instagram. NWACA provides participants with

yard signs, as well as deploying signs around the neighborhood saying that the sales are underway. In past years, as many as 50 homes have held sales; the more underway, the more customers will come to the neighborhood.

Good luck as you clean out your closets! The old adage “one person’s junk is another person’s treasure” definitely applies.

Collection Event October 19: Electronics, Styrofoam, Etc.

By JOANIE ARROTT
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Gather up your outdated computer monitors, old microwaves, iPhone3s, and blown-out stereo equipment. On Saturday, October 19 from noon to 2 p.m., the St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church Mesa Drive parking lot will be the site of the Northwest Austin Civic Association’s (NWACA) Electronics Collection event. We’ll be collecting old electronics, Styrofoam, bathroom supplies - toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, used razors, and dental floss containers. This event is open to NWACA members only. If you’re not a member, you can join at the event for \$25.

We will accept:

- Used electronics such as computers and related supplies, printers, batteries, cameras, phones, LCD televisions, routers, stereo equipment, microwave ovens, and small refrigerators; all consumer electronic devices and appliances
- Clean Styrofoam blocks, egg cartons, cups, and containers
- Used toothpaste tubes and floss containers
- Used disposable razors, replaceable-blade cartridge units, and razor plastic packaging

We will not accept:

- Rear-projection TVs or those with wooden frames
- Dirty Styrofoam food or drink containers – please put those in the regular trash
- Packing peanuts or plastic foam
- Household hazardous wastes including used oil, paint, light bulbs, or chemicals; keep the oil and paint for our spring recycling collection

We’re always looking for volunteers for our collection events. Any questions or volunteer sign-up can be sent to info@nwaca.org.

October Library Events in the Northwest Hills Area

By MARTHA MILLER

Events at the Yarborough branch at 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756:

Tuesday, October 1 - **Coffee Talk Series with Desnudo Coffee (6-7PM) ***

Monday, October 7 - **The Crafty Adult: Repujado (Embossed Tin Art) (5:30-7:30 PM)** a Hispanic Latino Heritage Month event, limited supplies, first come first served *

Thursday, October 10 - **Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange (6:30-7:30 PM)** Mayor’s Book Club *

Friday, October 11 - **Adult Morning Social (10AM – noon)** Join neighbors and make new friends

Saturday, October 12 - **Mending Circle at Yarborough (10-11:30AM)** Bring your favorite garments that need some tender loving care. *

Thursday, October 17 - **Dungeons & Dragons (18+) (5:45-7:45 PM)** Seasoned player or new to the game, all welcome to grab your dice and

immerse into fantasy and imagination. *. Registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/Dun-geonLibrary>

Saturday, October 26 - **Bullet Journal & Planner Social (11AM - noon)** Craft supplies, sample calendars, tracking sheets, and pens provided, bring your own planner or get started with one of our basic journals, teens and adults welcome

Events at the John Gillum branch (formerly North Village) 2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757:

Saturday, October 5 - **How Austin Works City Government 101 (1-3PM)** Learn basics of Austin government, from City Hall to daily life

Thursday, October 10 - **Tech Savvy Seniors (2-4PM)** Learn to download books and use digital Library resources, bring tablet, smartphone or eReader

Tuesday, October 15 - **Cafe au Lit Book Club (6 - 7:30 PM)** coffee, conversation and companionship

Events at the Spicewood Springs branch 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78759:

Tuesday, October 1 - **Spicewood Springs Mystery Book Club (6:30-7:30PM)** Join us to discuss “Beware the Woman” by Megan Abbott *
Wednesday, October 2 & 16 - Free ESL Classes (6-7:30 PM) *

Saturday, October 5 - **Puzzle Swap (10-11AM)** Need a new jigsaw puzzle to complete? Make a swap or two or three!

Wednesday, October 9 - **The Fragrance of Ink: Chinese Calligraphy for Beginners (2:30-4PM)** Appreciate the beauty of Chinese paintings and calligraphy *

Sunday, October 13 - **Mending Circle at Spicewood Springs (12-2PM)** Bring your favorite garments that need some tender loving care. *

Thursday, October 17 - **The Crafty Adult: Discovering Diamond Art (2-3:30PM)** Create one-of-a-kind coasters, earrings and magnets with bling! *

** is for ages 18 and up*





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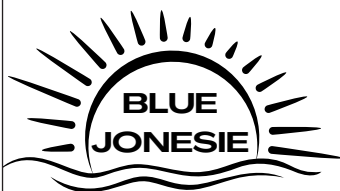
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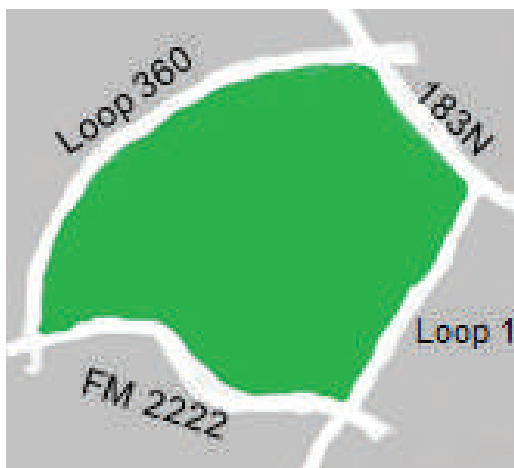
Key Contacts

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
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 Dana Winer

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.



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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 third 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 _____
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"/> Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning and Transportation |
| <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](mailto:info@nwaca.org)

Neighbor Tip: Pick Up the Barker's Egg!

Anonymous

Those who walk the neighborhood are continuing to see barker's eggs all over the place! Some are in black bags, some in green bags, and unfortunately, some are just fully exposed in the pathway. If you're a dog walker, please be kind to the neighbors: put your barker's egg into a bag and take that bag home with you.

Be sure to put the bag in the trash bin, not yard waste, not compost. Barker eggs belong only in the trash.



Packaged barker's eggs

Thank you!



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.

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- Community First Village
- AusTIN CANs Anderson Robotics
- The SAFE Alliance
- Foundation Communities
- Austin Habitat for Humanity

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"I am a very recent and **very satisfied client** of Dawn Lanier, who sold my home in The Courtyard neighborhood about two weeks ago. Over the past 34 years, I have bought and sold a number of homes in CA and TX. During that time, my experience with the real estate agents and the overall buying/selling process has been fair at best and beyond frustrating at worst. Admittedly, I am not the easiest client-some may say demanding or difficult-but **Dawn was patient and understanding** and ensured my past real estate experiences were behind me.

Working with Dawn has been nothing short of extraordinary across all aspects of the transaction. From the initial consultation and pre-sale preparation to managing the showings, negotiating a contract, and closing, **Dawn supported me at every step**. She is **thoughtful, knowledgeable, and strategic among many other important qualities**. Let me explain in more detail: Consultation and Pre-Sale. Dawn shared her knowledge of the Austin real estate market, including the most recent trends and, importantly her understanding of buyer behavior in this dynamic environment. **She helped me identify the most impactful and cost-effective improvements** I could make to my home to prepare it for listing. While no seller is interested in pouring money into a home they intend to leave, **Dawn's keen eye for detail and current buyer preference ensured my home improvement spending would likely be recovered in a strong offer**.

Showings and Buyer Agents. **Dawn kept me informed of all showings and any anecdotal feedback** she received from a potential buyer and their agents. If there was any interest in the property, **she was quick to follow up with them, provide more information, and keep them interested**.

Initial Offer, Contract, Inspections. **Dawn's experience was invaluable during this period**. Upon receipt of the initial offer, she was patient in allowing me to process what I felt was a low offer, thoughtful in her advice on countering, and creative in helping bring all sides to an agreement and final contract. **She was understanding and supportive of the emotional as well as the business aspects of the transaction**. She ensured that the **many inspections were done in a timely and non-disruptive manner**, and answered every question I had about this aspect of the home sale.

Closing. Once we passed the option, loan contingency, and appraisal contingency periods, it was time to look for a rental home and make preparations to move. **Dawn had resources and recommendations for everything. From movers, roofers, cleaners, plumbers, etc., Dawn saved me countless hours of researching and contacting vendors to complete the "fix-it" items per the contract requirements and plan my move**. It was a delight to sign the documents to complete my home sale in the comfort of the Capital Title offices, all in about 15 minutes." - Marc B.



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