

Northwest Austin News

SERVING THE NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY

Volume 15, Issue 11

November 2024



Seasonal Pointers

By NWACA BOARD
Northwest Austin Civic
Association



Happy Halloween – check out who won the 2024 NWACA Halloween Decorating Contest on page 14. Looking ahead, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving too! Between now and then, a few pointers for you.

2024 NWACA Membership

It's not too late to make your NWACA membership payment for 2024. In this issue, we have our usual membership form, but also a QR code on page 17, so you can quickly and easily go online and join/renew. Note that this newspaper is sent to most of the neighborhood, not just NWACA members. So just because you receive the newspaper, it doesn't mean you're a current member. Check to see if you're a member by using the QR code and following the links there.

For Our History Buffs

For those who love Rich Denney's articles in the monthly newsletter, here's a good video

NWCA, 2

Austin & Travis Co. Issue Disaster Declaration for Wildfire Risks

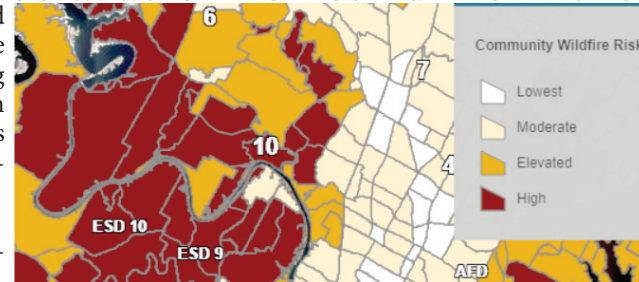
By LUZ MORENO-LOZANO
KUT

Austin and Travis County are issuing a disaster declaration in preparation for severe risk of wildfires as dry conditions elevate fire weather conditions.

Travis County Judge Andy Brown

and Mayor Kirk Watson each signed a declaration on October 17. Those came just three days after Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 143 counties, including Travis County. Hays and Williamson Counties are also included.

Watson said signing the declara-



WILDFIRE, 2

This Travis County Wildfire Hazards map shows the Northwest Austin Civic Association footprint as well as District 10. The area has all four levels of wildfire risk.

AHS Homecoming 2024 “Party in the USA”

The Anderson Trojan 2024 Homecoming Parade was a patriotic hit with the theme “Party in the USA”. Hundreds of parade goers enjoyed many floats and the AHS marching band, dance teams, cheerleading and candy. The homecoming game is October 25 vs Hays at House Park with a 7:30 p.m. kickoff. Photos by Northwest Austin News' Lynette Haaland on pages 11, 20, 21 and 23.



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It’s Still Wildfire Season. Are you Prepared?

By JOYCE STATZ
Northwest Austin Civic Association

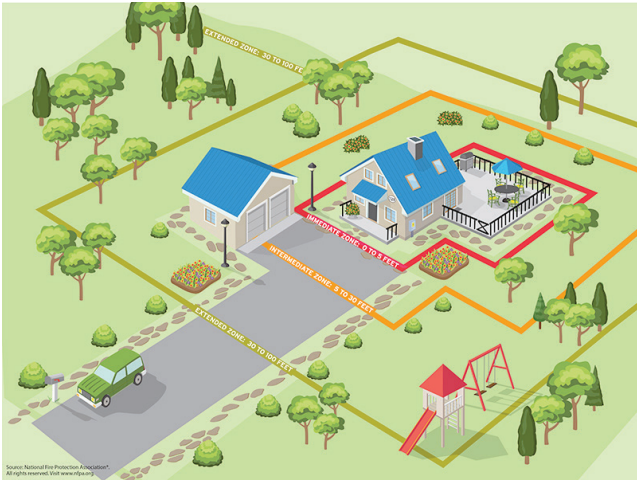
Communities across the country know that the wildfire season is nearly year around; Texas is no exception. Our drought conditions make our green spaces into wildfire fuel, both those near and those more distant from our homes. What is beyond our property lines may be out of our control, but we must tend to that which is near our homes to mitigate the impact of a fire.

The National Fire Protection Association and its Firewise program define three zones that are crucial:

- Immediate – 0 to 5 feet from the home; needs to be free from anything flammable
- Intermediate – 5 to 30 feet from the home; must be monitored and maintained, removing dead vegetation and other flammable materials, keeping grass mowed and

- watered
- Extended – 30 to 100 feet (or further, depending on the property line); must be kept clear of dead and down brush and other flammable debris

In addition to vegetation, the home structure also needs to be as hardened as possible, so that embers from a fire have minimal chances of causing damage. Cleaning gutters regularly, especially if they don’t have covers; removing dead vegetation from containers on a deck; ensuring tree limbs don’t scrape on the roof – these are some of the items that should be on regular checklists. For more suggestions, review the Ready, Set, Go brochure you can find by using the search tool on the NWACA web site, www.nwaca.org. For a review of the three zones around your home by a pair of trained evaluators, go to the NWACA web site and use the Quick Link for a Wildfire Safety Evaluation to schedule a visit.



WILDFIRE FROM 1

tions is preemptive. It allows the city and county to put resources into place to respond quickly should a fire start.

“It means we can do things like prepositioning resources in high-stakes areas, which is already happening,” Watson said. “And increasing staffing on shifts so we are ready [to respond] 24/7.”

The disaster declaration also fast tracks the reimbursement process from federal and state government agencies.

Austin has gone more than 40 days without measurable rainfall, which is a hundredth of inch or more. Meteorologist Matthew Brady told KUT the last time Austin’s main weather station — Camp Mabry — saw measurable rainfall was on September 5.

Unfortunately, there is no rain in the forecast. That is abnormal for this time of year, said Brady, who works for the National Weather Service. He said September and October are normally the wettest months in Austin, but storm systems moving too far north are contributing to the lack of rain. Over the next few months temperatures are expected to be warmer and dryer than normal as well.

NWACA FROM 1

of him with some Bull Creek History - www.fox7austin.com/video/1525824 Enjoy!

Parking and Bike Lanes on Far West Boulevard

In NWACA Notes and on NWACA Facebook, updates have been provided regarding changes to the bike lane and parking lane on Far West Boulevard. In response to concerns raised by neighbors, several NWACA leaders met with a City of Austin Transportation Department representative and the Austin ISD manager who schedules use of the Murchison

“Between the dry conditions and windy days, we are in a precarious situation, and we need everyone’s help in order to keep everyone safe,” Watson said.

Travis County is currently under a burn ban prohibiting outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of the county. The Austin Parks and Recreation Department has also issued a burn restriction, which prohibits the building of fires and grilling in all city of Austin parks, greenbelts and preserves.

But there is more the community can do to prevent a fire. Local officials shared the list below.

- Don’t throw cigarettes butts out the window
- Towing trailers should avoid dragging chains and ensure they are properly secured
- Do not park or drive on dry, tall grass
- Take precautions when cooking outdoors

Use of ATVs and UTVs are expected to increase as hunting season begins in a few weeks. Fire officials said they should be used with extreme caution and warned against idling.

At home, residents can also lower risks of wildfires by clearing their gutters of leaves or other debris, trimming tree limbs away from homes and wires, and removing other flam-

Field. Some steps are underway to address issues raised, and progress will be reviewed in another meeting in several months. See the article on page 4.

Library Popup at the Old Quarry Library

See the graphic on page 18 near the article on happenings at the library. Come visit one of our favorite librarians and do some business! The Old Quarry Library staff is rotating through one Wednesday a month this fall. Come check it out!

mable items, including furniture, from outdoor areas.

“Most wildfires are preventable,” Brown said. “When fire danger is high any little spark can start a fire and be a real disaster.”

Austin Fire Chief Joel Baker said embers can travel up to 1.5 miles potentially impacting properties well away from the flames.

“The Austin Fire Department is doing its part to increase fire personnel staffing in high risk areas and mobilizing resources for immediate deployment should they be needed,” Baker said. “That is only one piece of the puzzle. Our community has the power to prevent fires.”

He said that includes staying informed and being prepared. Residents are encouraged to sign up for alerts about conditions and other critical information. He also said families should make a plan for evacuation.

To learn more about wildfire preparedness visit Ready-CentralTexas.org.

Join us for IMPD November 2, 9 a.m. to noon

It’s My Park Day for NWACA will be at Steck Valley Greenbelt this year, where we’ll be pulling out brush from the recent trail improvements. There’s a lot! Sign up at <https://givepuls.com/4u9uy6>

Plan December Holiday Decorations Now

NWACA will hold a December Holiday Decorating contest again this year, so if you didn’t win the Halloween Decorating Contest give this one a try! Winners will be selected around December 20.

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Next Steps on Mobility and Parking Near Murchison and Doss

By CITY OF AUSTIN and AISD
For Northwest Austin Civic Association

The City of Austin and Austin ISD recently met with Northwest Austin Civic Association leadership to discuss safety and mobility in and around Doss Elementary School and Murchison Middle School. The city has been implementing a series of projects to create safer routes to school for walking and bicycling as well as to improve visibility, air quality, encourage safer speeds and generally offer more mobility choices for everyone in the neighborhood.

The city, AISD and NWACA are working together to address concerns and questions that have arisen since many of the changes were implemented. The goal is to help everyone stay safe when moving about Northwest Hills, en-

courage use of the new walking and bicycling facilities and make modifications where necessary to meet the needs of the community.

Among the next steps that NWACA, AISD and the City will pursue are:

- **Walking School Buses & Bike Trains** – Research shows that kids who are active show up to school more ready to learn. The City's Get There ATX program, in partnership with the Doss and Murchison school communities, will support regular walking and bicycling to school together. Please email getthereatx@austintexas.gov if you're interested in getting involved in one of these efforts.
- **Community Outreach** - AISD is reaching out to the organizations that utilize the fields on the weekends, such as Aus-

tin Women's Kickball and i9 Sports, with an aerial map showing where they are legally allowed to park on the Doss and Murchison campuses. They will also be encouraged to bike, walk and car pool to help minimize the demand for parking in the area.

- **Increased Patrolling** - AISD Police will increase its routine monitoring of the Doss and Murchison campuses on the weekends. They will issue parking citations to any vehicles illegally parked in fire lanes on campuses as the safety and security of all community members is paramount and those driveways need to be kept clear in case of an emergency.
- **Ongoing Monitoring** - AISD will explore ways to help with traffic flow at morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up at both

campuses. AISD Police, Transportation and Operations Departments have all been engaged and are working together to identify what solutions can be implemented in the near future.

- **Future Improvements and Modifications** - The City will be adjusting the current parking breaks along Far West Boulevard between Northledge Drive and Hart Lane to open up additional parking spots along the street. The City is also evaluating areas for improved crossings along Far West Boulevard between Mesa Drive and Mo-Pac. To stay in touch with these changes, please subscribe for project updates at <https://tinyurl.com/NWHillsStreets>

APD Extends No Refusal Initiative Year-Round

The Austin Police Department is extending the DWI No Refusal Initiative to be year-round. The enforcement initiative will be in effect between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m., Monday through Sunday, throughout the entirety of the year.

This initiative is an effort to enforce DWI laws, keep the public safe by encouraging drivers to make responsible deci-

sions, and apply for blood search warrants on suspects who refuse to provide a breath or blood specimen, as required by law. This initiative will also focus on highways and high-speed roadways.

The Austin Police Department, along with the City of Austin Transportation and Public Works Department, con-

tinues to focus on preventing lives from being lost on Austin's streets, highways, and waterways. We are dedicated to making the roadways and waterways of Austin safe for residents and visitors through education and enforcement.

Don't drink and drive. #EndTheStreakTX

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Multiple DWI, Theft , Harassment in Police and Sheriff’s Report

09/12/2024 2:57 PM
76XX WOOD HOLLOW
MISSING PERSON REPORT

09/21/2024 9:34 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

09/22/2024 2:55 AM
71XX WOOD HOLLOW
PUBLIC INTOXICATION

09/22/2024 5:09 PM
79XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
THEFT

09/22/2024 8:32 PM
36XX JORGE DR
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

09/22/2024 8:05 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

09/22/2024 9:16 PM
84XX ARDASH LN
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

09/23/2024 7:44 AM
44XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS
THEFT

09/23/2024 8:54 AM
44XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS
THEFT

09/23/2024 9:52 AM
44XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS
THEFT

09/23/2024 2:40 PM
72XX HART LN
BURGLARY

09/24/2024 4:42 PM
44XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS
FRAUD

09/23/2024 5:46 PM
76XX WOOD HOLLOW
THEFT

09/23/2024 6:11 PM
68XX WOOD HOLLOW
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

09/23/2024 7:50 PM
44XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS
THEFT

09/24/2024 6:42 PM
70XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

09/24/2024 11:56 PM
38XX FAR WEST BLVD
ASSAULT W/INJURY

09/25/2024 2:08 PM
85XX MOPAC EXPY
FRAUD

09/26/2024 10:12 AM
52XX FM 2222
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

09/26/2024 2:01 PM
193XX FM 969
THEFT

09/26/2024 2:34 PM
52XX FM 2222
THEFT OF LICENSE PLATE

09/26/2024 4:58 PM
53XX OLD SPICEWOOD
SPRINGS
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

09/27/2024 1:20 AM
73XX WOOD HOLLOW
INJ TO ELDERLY

09/27/2024 7:59 AM
48XX PARKVIEW PL
HARASSMENT

09/27/2024 12:18 PM
80XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
THEFT

09/27/2024 2:29 PM
36XX JORGE DR
ASSAULT W/INJURY

09/27/2024 7:57 PM
36XX NORTH HILLS
THEFT

09/28/2024 12:05 PM
35XX GREYSTONE
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

09/28/2024 5:05 PM
55XX BALCONES DR
ROBBERY

09/29/2024 6:16 PM
43XX FAR WEST BLVD
THEFT

09/29/2024 10:05 PM
81XX FOREST MESA DR
ASSAULT W/INJURY

09/29/2024 10:16 PM
81XX MOPAC EXPY
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

09/30/2024 2:17 PM67XX LAKE-
WOOD DR
THEFT

09/30/2024 6:18 PM
40XX STECK AVE
THEFT

09/30/2024 8:18 PM
81XX SONNET AVE
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

10/01/2024 6:42 AM
61XX HIGHLANDALE
THEFT

10/01/2024 7:31 AM
63XX HIGHLAND HILLS
THEFT OF BICYCLE

10/01/2024 3:19 PM
72XX HART LN
AUTO THEFT

10/01/2024 3:22 PM
82XX NEELY DR
FRAUD

10/02/2024 1:42 PM
00XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
THEFT

10/02/2024 6:20 PM
70XX LAKEWOOD
THEFT

10/03/2024 7:03 AM
33XX NORTHLAND
DISTURBANCE

10/03/2024 10:35 AM
38XX MOUNT BONNELL
THEFT

10/03/2024 6:08 PM
70XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/03/2024 7:54 PM
54XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
THEFT

10/04/2024 8:35 AM
68XX MOPAC EXPY
POSS CONTROLLED SUB

10/04/2024 1:53 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD
THEFT

10/04/2024 8:59 AM
34XX NORTH HILLS
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/04/2024 6:30 PM
79XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/05/2024 12:18 AM
71XX WOOD HOLLOW
ASSAULT W/INJURY

10/05/2024 3:06 AM
57XX MOPAC EXPY
ASSAULT ON PUBLIC SERVANT

10/05/2024 11:47 AM
88XX CAMELIA LN
HARASSMENT

10/05/2024 7:08 PM
88XX TALLWOOD
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/05/2024 7:23 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD
THEFT

10/06/2024 7:59 AM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/06/2024 5:02 PM
72XX HART LN
AGG ASSAULT

10/06/2024 8:06 PM
72XX HART LN
AGG ASSAULT

10/07/2024 3:43 PM
33XX NORTHLAND
DOC DISPLAY GUN

10/07/2024 1:53 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/07/2024 5:54 PM
58XX MOPAC EXPY
FRAUD

10/08/2024 4:15 AM
82XX MOPAC EXPY
DWI

10/08/2024 10:58 AM
71XX WOOD HOLLOW
THEFT

10/08/2024 2:37 PM
81XX MOPAC EXPY SVRD
ASSAULT W/INJURY

10/08/2024 7:10 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/09/2024 10:58 AM
71XX WOOD HOLLOW
THEFT

10/09/2024 1:39 PM
59XX BALCONES
THEFT

10/09/2024 4:17 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/09/2024 5:39 PM
71XX HART LN
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/09/2024 6:05 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/09/2024 7:28 PM
79XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
THEFT

10/10/2024 9:34 AM
87XX SILVERHILL LN
THEFT OF BICYCLE

10/10/2024 12:44 PM
84XX MESA DR
THEFT

10/10/2024 5:39 PM
71XX HART LN
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/10/2024 7:18 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/11/2024 6:06 PM
45XX GREYSTONE
FRAUD

10/12/2024 8:19 AM
41XX EDWARDS MOUNTAIN
DR
THEFT

10/12/2024 10:27 AM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/12/2024 2:37 PM
35XX GREYSTONE
DISTURBANCE

10/12/2024 10:14 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/13/2024 12:46 AM
35XX GREYSTONE DR
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

10/13/2024 8:19 AM
41XX EDWARDS MOUNTAIN
THEFT

10/13/2024 11:11 AM
36XX STECK AVE
THEFT

10/13/2024 8:55 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/14/2024 12:46 AM
35XX GREYSTONE
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

10/14/2024 8:20 AM
35XX NORTH HILLS
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/14/2024 9:12 AM
81XX BAYWOOD
AUTO THEFT

10/14/2024 11:23 AM
37XX TERINA ST
HARASSMENT

10/14/2024 3:47 PM
41XX STECK AVE
DISTURBANCE

10/15/2024 8:20 AM
35XX NORTH HILLS
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/15/2024 11:11 AM
35XX GREYSTONE
THEFT

10/15/2024 3:27 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD
THEFT OF AUTO PARTS

10/15/2024 5:43 PM
33XX NORTHLAND
SHOPLIFTING

10/15/2024 9:43 PM
38XX FM 2222
FAMILY DISTURBANCE

10/16/2024 6:40 AM
39XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/18/2024 9:10 AM
40XX FIRSTVIEW DR
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/16/2024 9:32 AM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/16/2024 10:01 AM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/16/2024 10:15 AM
46XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS
HARASSMENT

10/16/2024 10:22 AM
84XX TALLWOOD
SUSPICIOUS PERSON

10/16/2024 12:03 PM
55XX BALCONES
SHOPLIFTING

10/16/2024 2:20 PM
82XX MOPAC EXPY
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/16/2024 7:37 PM
53XX OLD SPICEWOOD
SPRINGS
THEFT

10/16/2024 8:22 PM
70XX LAKEWOOD DR
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/16/2024 8:32 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD
THEFT

10/17/2024 4:56 AM
61XX MOUNTAINCLIMB
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/17/2024 7:35 AM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/17/2024 9:10 AM
40XX FIRSTVIEW DR
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/17/2024 10:11 AM
80XX MESA DR
SHOPLIFTING

10/17/2024 2:39 PM
67XX LAKEWOOD DR
THEFT

10/18/2024 4:56 AM
61XX MOUNTAINCLIMB
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

10/18/2024 5:15 PM
36XX NORTH HILLS
AUTO THEFT

10/19/2024 5:15 PM
36XX NORTH HILLS
AUTO THEFT

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

APD Looking for Suspect

The Austin Police Department Robbery Unit requests the public’s help in identifying a suspect involved in an Aggravated Robbery with a Deadly Weapon that occurred at the Craig’s Pizza located at 5501 Balcones Drive on September 29 at 4:05 p.m.

The suspect, whose description and photos are included below, entered the business, brandished a handgun, demanded money, and left with an undisclosed amount of cash.

On Tuesday, October 1, at approximately 11:47 a.m., the same suspect entered the Tiff’s Treats located at 11011 Research Blvd., brandished a handgun and demanded money. When she was refused, she left the scene.



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NWACA Partners with Neighborhood Associations to Host Election Forum

By DANA WINER
Northwest Austin Civic Association

The Northwest Austin Civic Association presented a non-partisan election forum in collaboration with over a dozen other west and northwest Austin neighborhood associations on October 9. There were 110 neighbors in person and 20 more online to hear award-winning journalist Tony Plohetski interview the candidates for Austin Mayor and District 10 City Council Representative. They described their reasons for running for office and their views on major issues facing the city including housing, public safety, and infrastructure.

In addition to the forum, neighbors got a chance to talk with candidates during a meet and greet before and after the forum. Those at the meet and greet included candidates for mayor, District 10, and AISD and ACC school boards, as well as representatives with information about the Travis County and AISD tax propositions.

If you haven't already voted early, make a plan to vote on Tuesday, November 5! Go to votetravis.com for information including polling locations, wait times, hours of operation, and voter status lookup.



Northwest Austin Civic Association presented a non-partisan election forum on October 9. Approximately 110 people attended and another 20 participated online.

Austin City Council District 10 candidates do not agree on much

By JO CLIFTON
Austin Monitor

There are just two candidates running for the District 10 City Council seat: Marc Duchen and Ashika Ganguly.

While both have lived in West Austin for a number of years, Duchen, 46, has a longer track record. Duchen has an MBA and has served on the board of his homeowners' association as well as the Austin Neighborhoods Council executive committee and the Community Not Commodity board of directors.

Ganguly, 29, who is a former grade-school teacher, has spent the last few years at the Texas Capitol working as a legislative aide to Democratic Rep. John Bucy. Like Duchen, she has a master's degree, but unlike Duchen, she has not spent much time at City Hall. When asked whether she had attended any Council meetings, Ganguly explained, "I stream almost every City Council meeting." She said she was "balancing my job at the Capitol and the campaign."

Duchen got his first taste of Austin politics when he ran former Council Member Betty Dunkerley's reelection campaign in 2005. The following year, Duchen managed a successful House race for a Democrat in a normally Republican district in Corpus Christi. He returned to Austin to work for the Texas Progress Council and served as the research director for the Texas Democratic Party. After that, he started a technology engagement company, and six years ago he returned to consulting.

Ganguly told the Austin Monitor she decided to run for the Council seat in May 2023. Her website notes that, "During the 88th legislative session, Ashika found her-

self fighting for equitable legislation amidst attacks on inclusion efforts, LGBTQ+ rights, school finance, voting rights, local control, and much more. These experiences propelled her towards her new mission: advocating for her community at City Hall."

As noted on his website, Duchen "became active in neighborhood issues and local politics" in 2015. He joined his local homeowners' association volunteer board of directors, got involved with the fight over how to redevelop the Austin Oaks PUD and then the 2016 District 10 Council race, helping Council Member Alison Alter beat Sheri Gallo in the runoff.

Now, Alter has endorsed Duchen. In an email to her supporters, Alter wrote, "Marc has demonstrated that he will consistently show up, ask questions and listen....He has worked to improve our city. For years, Marc has spoken at Council meetings, voted consistently in runoffs and May elections, served as a local leader and collaborated to solve problems. On the campaign trail, I have seen Marc put in the time to truly hear voters from across the district."

Duchen recently told a neighborhood group gathered at the Highland Elementary School that the city's HOME initiative does "not have enough guardrails" to protect trees and infrastructure, among other things. "Going forward, that's something we need to address." Those distressed by those changes should "make a collective case to figure out how do we get that changed."

Duchen has a lengthy critique of city policies on his website, including the following: "Austin is a city full of potential, but we're currently facing some significant challenges related to affordability, housing, transit, public safety, and parkland. ... The H.O.M.E.

amendments to the Land Development Code were passed despite serious public concerns about displacement, increased property taxes, adequate infrastructure, emergency vehicle access, and loss of trees and green space."

During an interview with the Monitor, Ganguly was asked whether she had ever advocated at City Hall. She said she had not, "but every minute of my adult life has been spent working to serve my community. My work ... my person is centered around building things up. My opponent has advocated at City Hall many times, but it's always about something he's upset about ... I feel that my opponent wants to take us backward and is a bomb thrower and he doesn't want to work with others to deliver real results for the district."

Ganguly concluded that she can be a bridge builder between different factions just as she has at the Legislature.

When the Monitor asked Duchen for a response to Ganguly's comment, he said via email, "When you lack experience and have no record of service to stand on, the only thing you can do is attack and misrepresent, which she has done in virtually every forum. Experience and willingness to question decisions is part of what responsible public servants do. Leadership does not mean being a 'yes' person. Our job is to represent the public's interest."

Ganguly expressed optimism about the city's forward progress in making housing more affordable and said she was "optimistic" about the HOME initiative. As for the recent addition of the DB90 category, which has displeased many neighborhood advocates, she said, "I believe policy is a living process," and noted that staff is charged with providing a

yearly report so citizens can see the impact of the policy on affordable housing units. "I do believe that at its core it's a supply-and-demand issue, and the prices will come down."

Both Ganguly and Duchen said public safety was their No. 1 issue. However, the problem of not enough officers in a growing city is not one that can be solved by one ordinance or a series of them. Ganguly is hoping to add more police by starting a program at Austin Community College to get students on the path toward becoming officers. She also noted that Austin is not affordable for many police officers who could work in a suburb and make the same amount without having to drive into Austin.

Duchen has said the city should "create a civilian response unit, instead of police, for minor vehicle collisions," and model it after TxDOT's Highway Emergency Response Operators, or HERO.

Ganguly has been endorsed by Council members Zo Qadri, José Velásquez, Paige Ellis and Ryan Alter. She won the endorsement of the Central Labor Council and the Austin-Travis County EMS Association as well as several members of the Legislature. The urbanist group AURA has also endorsed her. In addition to Alter, as of publishing time, Duchen has been endorsed by the Austin Sierra Club, Austin Environmental Democrats and Central Austin Democrats, as well as Travis County Commissioner Brigid Shea and former Council members Laura Morrison and Brewster McCracken and Travis County Constable Pct. 3 Stacy Suits.

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

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Restrictive Covenants Between NWACA and Developers

By BEN LUCKENS
Northwest Austin Civic Association

As many Northwest Austin Civic Association members know, NWACA negotiates with developers regarding zoning cases. Some negotiated conditions are items included in the City's Land Development Code, for example, limitations on otherwise allowable uses, and ingress and egress points. If recommended by city staff or the Zoning and Platting Commission, these items can be included in the City Council's action granting the zoning change or can be added by City Council during the zoning hearings.

Sometimes a developer will agree to items that are not included in the Land Development Code, for example, building materials and signage. Those items are typically not included in the ordinance granting the zoning. These agreed upon items can, however, be included in a restrictive covenant between NWACA and the developer. It is the responsibility of NWACA to ensure compliance with restrictive covenants.

Over the past few years NWACA has entered into restrictive covenants with the owners of the Luby tract and with the owners of 8200-8300 North Mopac Highway. These restrictive covenants are on the NWACA website, www.nwaca.org in the Zoning section of the Library under the Resources tab.

The Luby's Restrictive Covenant conditions, extending what was included in the ordinance granting the zoning include:

- Exterior building materials
- Parking garage screening
- Building height limitation of 890 feet mean sea level
- Providing a monument sign at the Mopac/Steck intersection displaying the words "Northwest Hills"
- A pledge to support having the PARD fees from the project spent within NWACA

The 8200-8300 N Mopac Highway's Restrictive Covenant conditions not included in the ordinance granting the zoning include:

- 75-foot setback from the existing residential lots on Bent Tree Road
- Limitation on new vehicular access from the project site onto Bent Tree Road unless required by the City
- A requirement that each phase of the project incorporate and take into account background traffic of previous phases
- Building height limitation of 890 feet mean sea level
- Providing a monument sign on Steck Avenue displaying the words "Welcome to Northwest Hills/Westover Hills"
- Use of bird friendly building materials
- Pledge to make a reasonable effort to preserve the wooded area located on the north side of the property for preservation or onsite parkland

As site plans are submitted to the City for these projects, NWACA's Zoning and Transportation Committee will review the plans for compliance with the ordinance granting the zoning and with the conditions of the restrictive covenants between the developer and NWACA.

Land use is one of the many things NWACA is involved in, as we all strive to make our neighborhood even better in an ever-changing city.

NWACA has 10 Parks, Trails, Preserves

By Parks Committee
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Did you know that there are 10 parks, playscapes, greenbelts, or preserves within the Northwest Austin Civic Association boundaries? Here is a list and description of these green spaces.



Allen Park
Westside Drive and Westside Cove, 78731

This county-owned 10-acre park is a limestone plateau covered by a Juniper/Oak woodland interspersed with small, semi-open grassland areas. The park offers a natural setting with panoramic views of the city to the east. It has a large picnic shelter and several wooded picnic areas with barbeque pits.

Bull Creek District Park and Greenbelt
6701 Lakewood Drive, 78731

Bull Creek Foundation has 32 square miles of ecologically unique terrain to tend and protect. Bull Creek watershed includes limestone seeps, springs, and waterways; scenic cliffs and waterfalls; interesting archaeological and cultural features and more.



Doss Elementary School Park
7005 Northledge Drive, 78731

Doss Park is a small park and playground at Doss Elementary School. It includes a running track and sturdy, colorful playground equipment. It is blessed with a lovely collection of oak trees, including a burr oak, and a good view of the downtown skyline. As the park is attached to an elementary school, there is no public access during the school day on weekdays.



Hill Elementary School Park
8601 Tallwood Drive, 78759

Hill School Park is a park and playground attached to Hill Elementary School. It includes fun playground equipment such as swings and slides, a basketball court, a volleyball court, and a multipurpose field. As the park is attached to an elementary school, there is no public access during the school day on weekdays.





Loewy Family Playground
3700 North Hills Drive, 78731

This playground is the only play area within NWACA boundaries that is open while school is in session. Opened in March 2020, it includes a playscape and features that appeal to children in a wide range of ages.

Murchison Pool
3700 North Hills Drive, 78731

This is a small, pleasant, neighborhood pool, recently renovated with picnic tables, a pavilion, and shade cover. It is open only during the summer months



Shinoak Valley Greenbelt
3900 Dry Creek Drive, 78731

This trail is a short and sweet lollipop that can be picked up northwest of the intersection of Dry Creek Drive and Mountain Climb Drive. Cross over a wet-weather creek and head back into the woods to find a peaceful path.



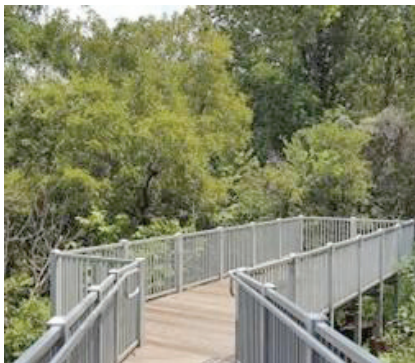
Steck Valley Greenbelt
8403 Adirondack Trail or 4298 Hyridge Drive, 78759

The trail has two entry points – one at the end of Steck Avenue at Adirondack Trail and one at the end of Hyridge Drive. The trail is gradually being transformed from a very informal trail to a well-defined trail that takes you on a winding path through the woods.



Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve
7810 Sterling Drive, 78731

The Preserve's paved trail winds through a magical landscape of moss-covered junipers. Visitors are asked to stay on the trail, as the area is home to endangered plants and birds. There are benches along the trail and a recently- renovated observation deck at the trail's end.



The final entry in our list is Barrow Preserve on Long Point Drive. This is a 7-acre preserve. It is currently closed to the public to encourage recovery of several rare plant species.

To find out more about these and other parks in the area, visit Austin Parks Foundation: www.austinparks.org/parks/

Dear Neighbors,

We're writing to you to encourage you to support Marc Duchen for the Austin City Council – District 10.

We have a crucial opportunity to elect someone who understands the City's challenges and has actively worked on real solutions. He has the qualifications, skills, and experience necessary for the job.

Marc has lived in our community, right here in D10, for 24 years, and has a **long history of showing up and advocating for us at city hall** and the legislature during this time.

Marc knows that we want safe streets and homes and so he will give our first responders, including police, fire and EMS, the funding and staff levels they need to keep us safe, reduce response times, and be accountable to all of us.

Marc wants to ensure our tax dollars are spent wisely. **He has taken the time to go through city budgets over the last decade to understand where we are spending and the impact of that spending.** Making sure our expenditures do what they are supposed to do is not a Democratic or Republican issue. He will use data to inform his decisions and increase the number of program audits.

He will insist that all stakeholders be at the table when we change the way Austin develops. More housing is needed, but it also needs to address our district's concerns about emergency access, property taxes, infrastructure, and the loss of mature trees.

The overwhelming majority of Marc's support and donations come from right here in District 10, while his opponent's money and supporters are from outside our District. Let's make sure we have someone in City Hall who listens to us, fights for us, and protects our quality of life.

We believe Marc Duchen is the leader we need.

Sincerely, **YOUR NEIGHBORS IN NORTHWEST HILLS**

Sarah Bird
Marjorie Burciaga
Elizabeth Christian
Chris Hadju

Paula and
Tom Coopwood, MD
Mary Kahle
Vicki DeWeese
Dana DeBeauvoir

Bobbi Kommineni
Ann O'Connell
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Beth Payan



MarcForAustin.com | [@marcforaustin](https://twitter.com/marcforaustin)

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Spotlight: Austin Kolache - Pizza & Koffee, aka Austin Kolache Shoppe

By JANICE GREEN
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Debra Ford's entrepreneurial spirit was first reflected in her hair salon, "Cleopatra's," which was located next-door to the "Old Burnet Road Kolache Shoppe." She was an avid fan of the kolaches and saw for herself the lines of loyal customers extending out-doors each morning. When the owner of the Shoppe was closing for good, Debra decided to indulge her joy of baking and buy the kolache business.

Debra researched and tested handed-down recipes to perfect the art of her traditional Czech kolaches. When the original building on Burnet sold, she moved her Austin Kolache Shoppe to the Mesa Woods Shopping Center.

That location came furnished with a sit-down eating area and brick pizza oven, so naturally Debra recognized that as an opportunity rather than a deterrent. With her son's friend, David Perry, she found a pizza chef who had lots of experience. It was a natural fit.

Let's pause for a Texas history lesson. From the 1850's and early 1900's, Czech immigrants came through Galveston to settle in Central Texas. Their communities preserved and celebrated their heritage, culture and kolaches,

eventually evolving into the popular Westfest and Caldwell's Kolache Festivals.

Kolache is the Czech word for "wheel," that round Czech pastry made with fluffy yeast dough traditionally filled with fruits and cream cheese, a food associated with celebrations. Texans embraced this treat and kolaches are now sold all over Texas – from dedicated bakeries to roadside food kiosks.

Kolaches later morphed into savory klobasneks which are kolaches stuffed with meats. Debra stuffs them with ham, bacon, and with sausage and venison sourced from our local Hudson's Meat Market. Couple any of those with cheese and egg and you have a yummy breakfast treat.

Debra makes certain items on designated days; e.g., sticky buns on Friday and Saturday only. Plus, she prepares special orders (with at least a day or two advanced notice) for groups such as film crews, coffee shops, and churches. She also contributes to Caritas of Austin.

For the holidays, take a load off and forget about making your own yeast rolls, because the dinner rolls Debra makes are worth buying in advance. Her cinnamon bread loaves make wonderful Christmas gifts.

Austin Kolache Pizza & Koffee now serves

espresso and coffee drinks. The pizza menu includes New York style thin-crust "pizza by the slice" and these specialties: Mediterranean, Margherita, Hawaiian, loaded meat filled, Buffalo Chicken Ranch, with more to come. Menus are online and delivery is available. Her website (below) has photos of most of the pastries and comes with a funny but well-intended warning: "Don't Drool on Yourself."

Debra's day begins at 2:30 a.m. when her alarm goes off. She starts baking at 3 a.m. so that the authentic Czech kolaches are fresh and available for her Northwest Hills neighbors. That is dedication.

CONTACT: 512-551-3115; 8127 Mesa Dr. Suite B-202; austinkolache.com
Hours: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Tues-Sun (pizza by the slice available from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.)



Debra Ford tested handed-down recipes to perfect the art of her traditional Czech kolaches.



Fruit filled kolaches at Austin Kolache - Pizza & Koffee



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NWACA Halloween Decorating Contest Winners Announced

By NWACA Board
Northwest Austin Civic Association

We are pleased to announce the winners of our 2024 neighborhood Halloween Decorating Contest:

- 1st Place – 4209 Cat Hollow Drive
- 2nd Place – 3606 Serena Woods Court
- 3rd Place – 4502 Deepwoods Drive

There were 19 homes nominated for the contest by neighbors, and winners were selected by neighbor votes. Thanks to Kasey Gilliam, Realtor, for sponsoring the contest, and hats off to Kim Jowers and others on her staff who organized and ran the contest!



Score! All of the skeletons, including the dogs, enjoy the warm "fire" while entertaining those who look up to see them rooftop at the Stemple house on Serena Woods Court.



Brian and Brittany Copland -- and kids Teddy, Cal, Posey and Benny --4502 Deepwoods Dr. won 3rd Place in the 2024 NWACA Halloween Decorating Contest. Everyone has gotten used to the giant skeleton hanging out in their front yard.



Walker and Laura Stemple with their sons Jackson and Tobin at 3606 Serena Woods Ct. won 2nd Place in the 2024 NWACA Halloween Decorating Contest.



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Photos by
Lynette Haaland

RIGHT: Alicia and Cuatro Groos at 4209 Cat Hollow Drive won 1st Place in the 2024 NWACA Halloween Decorating Contest. Realtor Kasey Gilliam presented them with a gift certificate to a local eatery.



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Thank you, NWACA Business Members

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



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Why NWACA National Night Out block parties?

By CRIME AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
Northwest Austin Civic Association

While reading this monthly Newsletter, you may have pondered the article title, given the requests for block party hosts. National Night Out is an annual program promoted by Austin Police Department, Travis County Sheriffs and Constables offices, the Central Texas Crime Prevention Association, and the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), in addition to NWACA.

The concept started 40 years ago by NATW, a Pennsylvania non-profit organization working to support local police and responders. In early years they promoted holding porch vigils as a show of support. As the organization grew, it promoted cookouts, block parties, festivals, and parades to promote community comradery. In 2018, NWACA joined the growing NNO movement, holding annual festivals with participation from local law enforcement, firemen, and other first responders. Before that, since 2015, NWACA had been organizing Neighborhood Watch groups, based on police advice that having

local groups of neighbors watch out for each other is the best step for a community to deter crime.

Volunteer Neighborhood Watch Block Captains observed that block parties were not only effective but also a feel-good activity, stimulating cohesiveness. Participants felt more comfortable doing things like watching each other's property during vacations. Participants became better friends and more trusting in supporting each other. In addition, neighbors had a great time celebrating together while getting better acquainted.

This experience, combined with relatively low attendance at the NWACA NNO festivals, led us to try an experiment. Could we get more attendance and participation with smaller more intimate events such as block parties, as opposed to the larger, more expensive NNO fests? So, we launched the 2024 NWACA NNO approach, soliciting hosts to organize block parties.

There were 24 volunteer NNO block party hosts this year. Hosts scheduled parties

at convenient times between September and November. So far, 10 hosts have held their block parties. One of the first hosts to report having a successful party was Parker Blevins, who has been hosting block parties for his Neighborhood Watch Group on Shadyrock Drive for many years. He reported that at his September party 29 new and established neighbors gathered to share Shadyrock memories, while children raced scooters in a blocked off section of the street.



Residents of Shadow Mountain Cove enjoy a NNO Block Party

Joyce Statz, NWACA president, reported that the Valburn Circle party included a bouncy house contributed by a neighbor to entertain the children for the evening. Carol Dochen, NWACA Board member, had pizza delivered and recognized both the newest neighbor and the first settlers on the block.

Common feedback was that the Texas heat in September, (even October 13 was 99 degrees) was too warm for many of the parties – all held outside in yards, streets, and cul-de-sacs. Some hosts provided fans to supplement the shade. However, many of the attendees said they liked the block parties better than the previous festivals, because of the opportunity to spend quality time with nearby neighbors.

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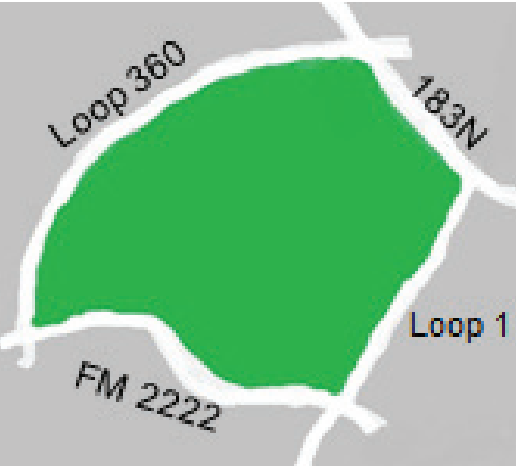
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Northwest Austin News Co-Editors Joyce Statz and Dana Winer

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).

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Volunteer!

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

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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



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!
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November Library Events in the Northwest Hills Area

By MARTHA MILLER

Northwest Austin Civic Association

Note! All locations will be closed November 10 and 11 in honor of Veteran's Day.

Notice the graphic about the popup events this quarter, right here at the Old Quarry Library!

Events at the Yarborough branch

Friday, November 1 - **STARBASE Austin Presents: Coding Rocket League** (1-2:30pm) Coding adventure to learn robotics fundamentals. Ages 9-12

Saturday, November 9 - **Mending Circle** (10-11:30 am) Bring your favorite garments that need some tender loving care. Ages 18 and up

Tuesday, November 12 - **Board Game Night** (5:45 - 7:45 pm) Ages 10 and up

Mark Your Calendars

These events are as planned as of October 18. As you consider participating in one of the events listed, please check first with the organizer.

November 2, 9 a.m. – noon

It's My Park Day Event
Steck Valley Greenbelt –
register at <https://givepul.se/4u9uy6>

November 19, 5 p.m.

NWACA Zoning and
Transportation Committees – virtual

November 19, 7 p.m.

Parks Committee – virtual

November 20, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

NWACA Board Meeting –
Dell Jewish Community Center
Friedel Board Room

December 17, 5 p.m.

NWACA Zoning and
Transportation Committees – virtual

December 17, 7 p.m.

Parks Committee – virtual

December 20

Identify Winners in
December Decorating Contest

Friday, November 15 - **Chair Yoga** (10:30 - 11:30 am) Ages 18 and up

Saturday, November 16 - **Dungeons & Dragons (Teens)** (1:30 - 4:30 pm) Teens 13-18 only! Register

Thursday, November 21 - **Dungeons & Dragons (18+)** (5:45 - 7:45 pm) Ages 18 and up Register

Saturday, November 23 - **Bullet Journal & Planner Social** (11am - noon) Bring your own planner or use one of ours! Teens and adults

Saturday, November 23 - **Seed Gathering** (1 - 2 pm) Bring your own seeds to share or help us process donations. Teens and adults

Saturday, November 30 - **The Crafty Adult: Painted Terracotta Planters & Handmade Paper Plants** (2 - 4 pm) Ages 18 and up

Events at the John Gillum branch (formerly North Village)

Saturday, November 2 - **Roots & Wings Festival Events!**

Garden Club Team Up Plant Show (12:30 - to 4:30 pm) All ages welcome

Beekeeper/Honey Program (1 - 2pm) All ages welcome

The Crafty Adult presents birdseed balls (2:30 - 4pm) Age 18 and up

Thursday, November 14 - **Tech Savvy Seniors** (2-4pm) Bring in your tablet, smartphone or eReader for help navigating the virtual library, downloading eBooks, audiobooks, digital magazines, etc. Ages 18 and up

Tuesday, November 19 - **Cafe au Lit Book Club** (6 - 7:30pm) Coffee, conversation, companionship. All ages welcome

Events at the Spicewood Springs Branch

Wednesdays, November 6 & 13 - **Free ESL Classes at Spicewood Springs** (6 - 7:30pm) Ages 18 and up

Saturday, November 9 - **Tween D&D at Spicewood Springs** (1- 4pm) Ages 9-12

Wednesday, November 13 - **The Fragrance of Ink: Chinese Calligraphy for Beginners** (2:30 to 4pm) Appreciate the beauty of Chinese paintings and calligraphy, learn basic Chinese strokes and characters, and taste a variety of authentic teas. Ages 18 and up

Sunday, November 17 - **Mending Circle** (noon – 2pm) Bring your favorite garments that need some tender loving care. Ages 18 and up

Thursday, November 21 - **The Crafty Adult: Seed Bead Earrings** (2 - 3:30 pm) In honor of Native American heritage month, make a simple pair of earrings inspired by centuries of history, led by Choctaw tribe member Juliann Krute. Ages 18 and up



Recycling Plastics - Part Two

By MERRIESSA ANTON

Northwest Austin Civic Association

Last month this column focused on plastic bags and what happens to them when they are recycled. This month continues the focus on plastic.

First a caution: I was told that if you order items from Amazon and they arrive in a white plastic bag, you can take those bags back to the Amazon Counter at some grocery stores and they will recycle them. I stopped by a grocery store that has an Amazon Counter and asked them if they take back the white mailers. They told me they are happy to take back the mailers, but they just put them in the store's trash bin.

There are two types of Amazon mailers. The poly-mailers are not lined, and they can be taken to the Recycle and Reuse Drop Off Center (RRDOC). The "bubble mailers" must be put in your trash. Bubble wrap is accepted at the RRDOC, but mailers with a layer of bubble wrap inside are not. The clerk at the Amazon Counter noted that Amazon has a new mailer made of corrugated cardboard. This type of mailer would be a great improvement over the poly-mailer.

Just like the mailers, we have two types of plastic to deal with in

our homes. Plastic that can be stretched with your fingers or crinkled and that has been cleaned thoroughly can be dropped off at grocery stores or dry cleaners that collect the plastic. You can also take this plastic to the RRDOC. The RRDOC is for Austin/Travis County residents and is located at 2514 Business Center Drive, east of I-35 on Highway 71 (Ben White Boulevard). As an Austin resident, you must make an appointment to drop off your plastic, but dropping off is free of charge. To make an appointment, use the Austin Recycles app.

Hard plastic that cannot be stretched goes into your blue recycling bin. Please make sure the plastic has been rinsed out and is somewhat clean. Many bottles are hard plastic, as are the containers used to carry fresh meat, vegetables, and fruit home from a grocery store. The bottle caps should be attached to a bottle after the bottle has been rinsed.

If you don't yet have the Austin Recycles app, you might want to load it on your phone. This app lists what service you are receiving on your trash day. The app also gives you the date of your brush or bulk item collection dates. At the bottom of the app there is a place to ask what to do with a certain item. **What Do I Do With** is a great place to find ways to recycle or discard household items.

What's that Chirping? Field Crickets

By WIZZIE BROWN
Texas AgriLife Extension

Field crickets seem to be popping up in large numbers in Central Texas lately and the big question that I receive is WHY? Adults are out and about in the fall because it's mating season and they need to mate and lay eggs before they die from old age or cold winter temperatures. Crickets overwinter as eggs in the soil.



Field crickets are about 1 inch long when fully grown, and dark brown to black in color with large hind legs used for jumping. They also have two cerci, or appendages that come off the tip of the abdomen. Female crickets have a large sword-like structure, the ovipositor, protruding from the tip of the abdomen (see image). The ovipositor is used to deposit eggs into soil.

Crickets feed on plant material as well as other insects. They can cause damage to seedlings and sometimes large populations can be destructive. Large masses of dead crickets around doorways or other areas can be distasteful to view and cause a foul odor.

Field crickets are primarily outdoor insects

Anderson Theater Presents "Puffs" October 24 and 26

There are two performances left of Anderson Theater's production of "Puffs" or "Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic".

Thursday October 24 at 7 p.m. and Saturday October 26 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Get tickets at www.andersontheater.com/events.

For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered

but may occasionally venture indoors. When crickets do come indoors, they may bother residents with their chirping. Males chirp to attract a mate, creating the sound by rubbing their forewings together.

Cricket management is more easily accomplished in the summer when nymphs, who cannot fly, are present. Unfortunately, this usually isn't when large populations of crickets are discovered.

Before turning to pesticides to manage your cricket problems, try these ideas:

- Turn off outside lights at night or use bulbs that are less attractive to insects
- Seal with sealant the cracks and crevices where insects can enter structures
- Remove debris stacked near the structure
- Keep lawn and surrounding areas mowed
- Stuff weep holes with copper mesh

Fortunately, "cricket season" usually lasts around 4-6 weeks so they won't be here forever... until next year.

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

evil. This, however, is not his story. "Puffs" gives a new look at a familiar adventure from the perspectives of three potential heroes from another house, just trying to make it through the perils of growing up in a magic school. Alongside them are a group of loyal outcasts with a thing for badgers. Their heart-felt and epic journey takes the classic story to new places and reimagines what a boy wizard hero can be.

Wellness event

Mantra Wellness' Fall Back into Wellness Festival & Farmers Market
Sunday, Nov. 3rd 1-5 p.m.
Chair massage, facial skin consults, local vendors and the Farmers Market!

Friendship Force of Austin

Friendship Force of Austin, a local club of Friendship Force International, will meet on Tuesday, November 12 at Yarborough Library from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about citizen diplomacy and

cultural exchanges nationally and internationally, please join us at the meeting or at the following Happy Hour at Cover 3 on Anderson Lane. Check us out at ffiaustin.com

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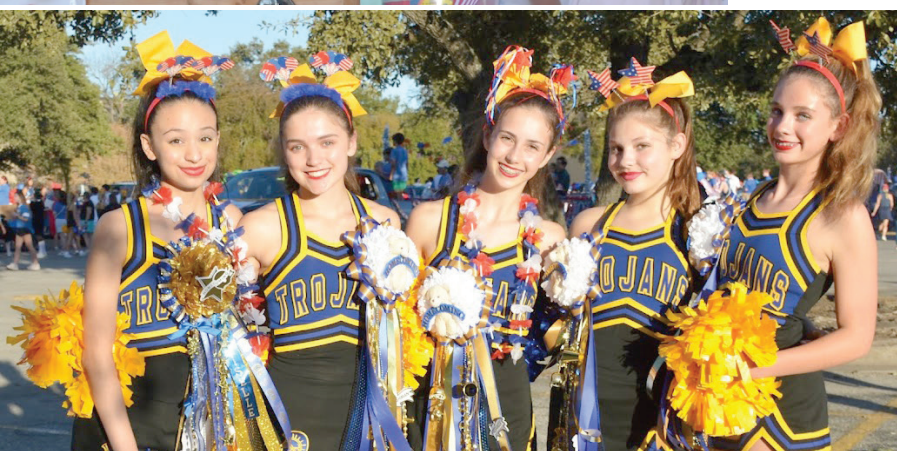


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MARKET UPDATE



\$1,150,000
MEDIAN SALES PRICE



\$24,658,613
SALES VOLUME



\$480
MEDIAN LIST PRICE/SF



\$437
MEDIAN SALE PRICE/SF



\$1,399,999
MEDIAN LIST PRICE



64
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET



19
CLOSED SALES

NORTHWEST
HILLS
AND
WESTOVER
HILLS



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 19, 2024 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON
NWACA BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY360/2222/HWY 183

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PROPERTIES AUSTIN

GIVING THANKS

At Nest Properties Austin, our passion for giving back and serving our community is made possible by the loyal support of our clients. As November brings a season of gratitude, we want to express how deeply thankful we are for the chance to do what we love while supporting organizations close to our hearts. Here are a few that inspire us to make a difference. Join us in spreading kindness this season—together, we can make a lasting impact. Thank you for being a part of our journey!

Alzheimer's Association
American Heart Association
American Red Cross
American Youthworks
Archibald Project
Austin Humane Society
Austin Pets Alive
Breakthrough Austin
Boulder Crest Retreat
CASA of Travis County

Center for Child Protection
Central Texas Food Bank
Community First
Habitat for Humanity
Helping Hand Home
Keeping Austin Beautiful
Lifeworks
MD Anderson
Mobile Loaves and Fishes
Nicaragua Resource Ntwk

SafePlace
Side By Side Kids
Soldier's Angels
The Refuge for DMST
The Trail Conservancy
Tunnel to Towers



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"Our experience with Dawn Lanier as our real estate agent was excellent from start to finish. She really listened to our hearts, to what our needs were, and offered to do a private listing so that our family's summer plans could stay in place. Dawn was a super resource as we readied the house and she walked us through every step of the process. She was encouraging and just fun to work with!"

Our house sold in just a few days, and Dawn was there to guide us through that whole process. Even beyond closing, we turned to Dawn for advice on several matters. She was always the consummate professional, but she was also a caring friend through this process, and that was exactly what we needed. She even soldiered on through a case of Covid to communicate with us, and kept in touch with us during both an anniversary trip with her husband and the week of her daughter's wedding!

We recommend Dawn Lanier wholeheartedly. During what could have been a stressful transition for us, she guided us with patience and grace. *We think she's absolutely the BEST!* What an asset she is to her clients!" ~Becky & Mark F.



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