

# Northwest Austin News

SERVING THE NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY

Volume 15, Issue 12

December 2024

## Happy Holidays, Everyone!



By NWACA BOARD  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Lately temperatures have been in the 70s and 80s and sunny – not quite what we think of for December holidays. But that's likely to change, and so will the holiday decorations in the neighborhood. The NWACA Board is looking forward to seeing some very festive yards in the coming weeks, with a team scheduled to

judge the candidates that you submit. When you see a yard that's outstanding (and it might even be your own yard), please send that address to [info@nwaca.org](mailto:info@nwaca.org) before December 19. Good luck to all the contestants!

Past issues of the newsletter have highlighted the improvements being made to the Steck

NWACA, 4



## Late Archaic Woman Resident of NW Austin



Cairn burial drawing, Texas Beyond History

By RICHARD DENNEY  
Northwest Austin  
Civic Association

There are scores of archeological sites – prehistoric and historic – within our NWACA neighborhood. But one in particular captures the imagination; it is associated with a woman who called our neighborhood home some 1,600 years ago.

In 1970 - 1971, the Texas Highway Department (today's Tx-DOT) carried out archeological excavations along the route that

ARCHAIC, 5

## AHS Theater Performs "Puffs"

Anderson Theater performed its fall production "Puffs or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic" October 17-16 featuring a double cast.

For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This was not his story but rather 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 heartfelt and epic journey takes the classic story to new

PUFFS, 22-23

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# APD 100-Day Plan: A Message from the Chief Davis

I am honored to serve as your Police Chief. I will be rolling out a 100-day action plan aimed at improving

- Our agency's recruitment, retention, and morale,
- Community trust and prevention initiatives, and
- APD's capacity for excellence and innovation.

I am deeply grateful to the community members who previously shared their voices and experiences to help shape APD's 5-year Strategic Plan. This 100-day process will further guide us in achieving our strategic objectives.

Over the next 100 days, I will be listening,

learning, looking for, and launching initiatives to improve our agency and public safety in this great City.

While I am out in our unique communities and connecting with you, I am also directly seeking your feedback as part of this process. Your thoughts and ideas are crucial to our success.

Please take a moment to complete the short survey: [www.austintexas.gov/apd-100day-plan](http://www.austintexas.gov/apd-100day-plan)

Feel free to answer (or skip) as many questions as you like—every bit of input helps.

Lisa Davis, Austin Police Chief

By JOE HUTCHINSON  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Modern Americans usually think of streets as places for cars. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than two out of every three Americans commute to work by car, even in the post-COVID-19 age of telecommuting(1), but here in Northwest Austin, our streets offer much more. Neighbors walk their dogs, kids ride bikes, and families take evening strolls.

Recognizing this pattern across Austin, the City has developed the “Living Streets” program.(2) This program aims to reclaim our streets for the people who live here, turning them into spaces for walking, biking, gathering, and connecting. The program features two key components: “Healthy Streets” and “Play Streets.”

“**Healthy Streets**” is a simple, yet effective concept. With just a few cones, barrels, and signs, the City can transform local streets into safer, more inviting spaces for pedestrians and cyclists. These

modifications discourage through-traffic, making the streets safer for all users. The program is temporary, ranging from three to six months depending on the community's interest and needs. While through-vehicles are still allowed on Healthy Streets, the program reduces vehicle volumes and speeds.

“**Play Streets**” is all about fun and togetherness. This initiative, also temporary in duration, allows residents with help from the city, to partially close a single block to motor vehicle traffic for up to three days per week, for up to 12 hours per day, creating a safe space for children and adults to play and socialize. Imagine kids playing tag, neighbors chatting, and impromptu street parties all outside your door!

Many Austinites have already experienced the benefits of these programs. In the Wooten neighborhood, locals on Wooten Drive have implemented the Healthy Streets initiative and have seen a reduction in through-traffic and slower driving speeds.(3) Although the changes are temporary, the hope is that they spark lasting im-

provements in driving behavior and street usage. Not all streets are eligible for the program, and any successful Healthy Street activation requires the buy-in of at least 60% of adjacent parcels.

The NWACA Transportation Committee wants to help you bring this program to our neighborhood. If you are interested, please email [info@nwaca.org](mailto:info@nwaca.org) for more information, and we can help you through the steps to evaluate whether this program is a good fit for your street. While the most recent round of applications closed in October, there will be new opportunities to apply in early 2025. We look forward to hearing about the first successful Healthy Street in Northwest Austin!

1 [www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/travel-to-work-since-pandemic.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/travel-to-work-since-pandemic.html)

2 [www.austintexas.gov/LivingStreets](http://www.austintexas.gov/LivingStreets)

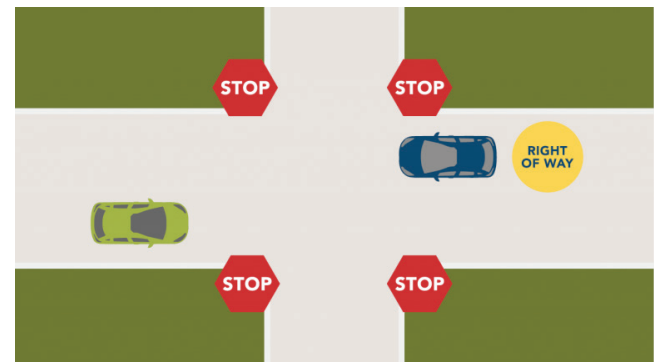
3 [communityimpact.com/austin/south-central-austin/transportation/2024/03/20/austin-expands-living-streets-program/](http://communityimpact.com/austin/south-central-austin/transportation/2024/03/20/austin-expands-living-streets-program/)

By NWACA Transportation Committee  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Throughout the neighborhood, there appear to be both young and experienced drivers who find 4-way stops to be confusing. These simple rules apply:

- Each vehicle (including bicycles) must stop at a 4-way stop before proceeding.
- Each vehicle (including bicycles) must yield to pedestrians crossing the intersection.
- Each driver who intends to turn at the intersection must signal that intention.
- If one vehicle arrives at the stop before another, that first vehicle has the right to proceed first.

- If two vehicles arrive at the stop at the same time and they are side by side, the rightmost vehicle has the right to proceed first.
- If two vehicles arrive at the stop at the same time and are facing each other, if one is going straight through and the other is turning, the one going straight through has the right to proceed first. If one is turning right and one is turning left, the one turning right has the right to proceed first. If both are turning in the same direction, each can proceed, since their paths won't cross.
- If three vehicles arrive at the same time, the rightmost vehicle has the right to proceed first, no matter what direction each is facing. Remaining vehicles follow the rules above.
- If four vehicles arrive at the same time, drivers will determine which has the right of way; there is no specific rule.



## APD solves crimes with new license plate reader program

By AMY SMITH  
Austin Monitor

The Public Safety Commission was briefed a month ago on some early results of the license plate reader program that rolled out in March with cameras at undisclosed sites across the city.

The Austin Police Department credits the cameras for the 40 arrests patrol officers made for stolen vehicles and the 20 stolen vehicles recovered with no arrests. Additionally, police investigators identified and arrested two murder suspects and one aggravated

robbery suspect, APD said. The use of the cameras also generated nine leads in other felony cases.

The LPR program's 40 cameras, geographically distributed across Austin, went live in March. APD retains the captured data for seven days, which the department says is the shortest retention period of any law enforcement agency in the country. City Council added the seven-day rule in response to local controversy regarding the program.

All sworn personnel were to be trained on the cameras' software

by the end of October.

“I'm excited to see some success coming from (the program), especially as somebody who was somewhat skeptical of the process,” vice chair Timothy Ruttan said. He asked for APD to return next month with some “balancing measures” that would show the number of police stops that did not result in an arrest or recovered vehicle.

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



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## NWACA, FROM 1

Valley Greenbelt trail. On It's My Park Day, November 2, about two dozen volunteers came out to work on the trail, some at the Steck Avenue entrance and some at the Hyridge Drive entrance. Huge piles of brush were removed from the trail and made ready for pickup by City staff. Both of the entrances now look much more welcoming!

The NWACA Parks Committee will continue working on the trail with a monthly cleanup, generally from 9 a.m. to

noon on the third Saturday of the month, starting in December. Teams will continue clearing away debris and scattering broken-down brush away from the trail. Volunteers interested in helping should watch NWACA Notes for details or check out the calendar at [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org). The notices should indicate which end of the trail will be the starting point for a given day's work. Plan to bring gloves, loppers, and hand saws, if you have them.

National Night Out block parties continued into November, with some yet to be completed. The overall reaction has been

very positive. A final report will be shared in the January issue of the newsletter, along with the plans for how to celebrate National Night Out in 2025. Thanks to everyone who hosted a party this year!

There is a new element in the newsletter, starting with this issue – an overall annual calendar of NWACA events. Check it out on page 17.

We look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood and at these events in 2025! Have a great holiday season!

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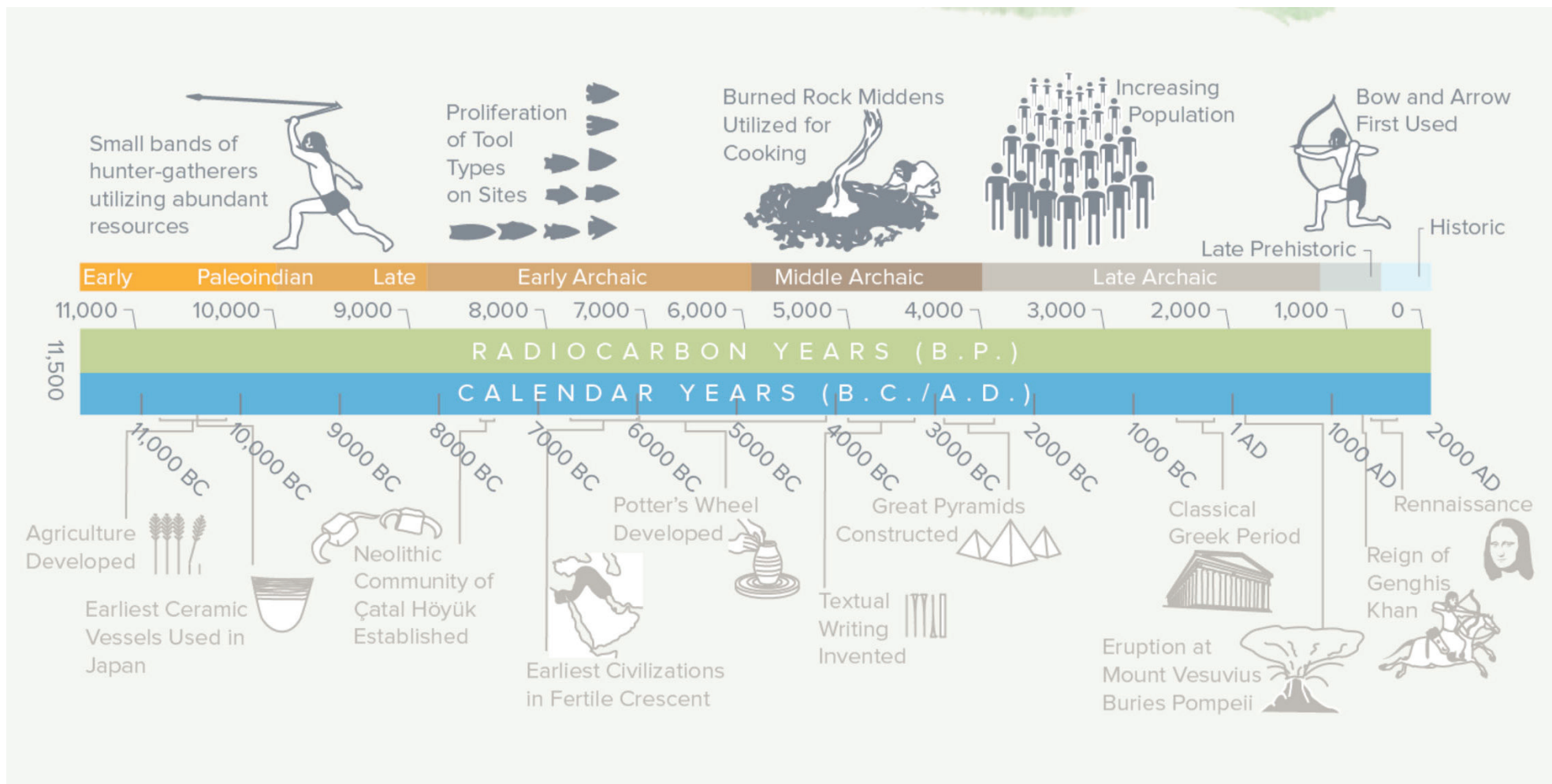
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Timeline from Texas Beyond History

## ARCHAIC, FROM 1

would be disturbed by building Loop 360. These excavations are called “salvage excavations.” They are done ahead of the proverbial and literal bulldozer to try to salvage information associated with sites before they are destroyed. One discovery was a “cairn burial,” not far from Bull Creek on the north-western boundary of our neighborhood under what is now Loop 360.

What is a “cairn burial?” From Texas Beyond History, a public education website of the Texas Archeological Research Lab (TARL) at UT Austin:

*“The countless stone mounds dotting the low hills and flat-topped mesas of west-central Texas have perplexed landowners and archeologists alike for more than a century. Known as “cairns,” these mysterious arrangements of rock can be found by the hundreds—and perhaps thousands—along the rocky ridgelines and bluffs overlooking the broad valleys of the Brazos and Colorado rivers and the canyons of their tributaries. Area ranchers typically have referred to these large cairn clusters as “Indian burial grounds”—and with good reason. Many of the cairns have been found to contain human remains—men, women, and children who long ago were carefully interred in*

*specialty prepared graves.”*

Unlike a navigation cairn built of stacked stones, a cairn burial is a tomb or a set of walls dug into the ground, encircled with a row of vertical slabs protruding from the ground. The slabs are topped with a large slab and / or mound of rocks. The architecture varies, just as European burials in Texas cemeteries vary.

Because the skeletal remains were not complete, little can be said about the person buried there: probably a female, age at death 35 or older. Stature is also indeterminate based on remains. There was no indication of death due to trauma, but because of the fragmentary remains this, too, is uncertain. Indications are that she had degenerative bone disorder, typically in load bearing joints, no doubt due to hard work in life.

Based on the dart point found in the grave and radiocarbon dating, she likely lived here about 1,600 years ago, the Late Archaic period between A.D. 380-570, before the bow and arrow was invented in North America. Texas Beyond History says: “The bow and arrow replaced the atlatl [spear thrower] and dart [ dart point] ... around 1300 years ago (A.D.

700). The new technology spread across much of North America around this time, although its precise origin is unknown.”

While she would have lived here about 1,600 years ago, the site overall shows occupation from about 8,000 years ago through about 1,250 years ago; a roughly 7,500-year period. Regarding her tribe, Dr. Michael Collins points out that “The present territory of Central Texas was not the long-term ancestral homeland of any indigenous group for whom an ethnographic account exists. The ethnographically well-known Comanche, Apache, Wichita, Kiowa, and even the Tonkawa arrived in Central Texas just before or during the early European contact period.” It may be that the concept of a “tribe” may be less appropriate for that time period than a “band” or just extended family unit. While little is known about this lady, it is clear she was an early resident of the neighborhood. Given the effort required for a cairn burial, she was obviously someone loved.

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



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Madison Pharis compiled this report mostly from SpotCrime at [www.spotcrime.com](http://www.spotcrime.com) and also from CrimeReports.

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Hart Lane Fatality Murder Arrest Made

On August 7 at approximately 2:36 a.m., Austin Police Department officers responded to a single vehicle crash in the 6800 block of Hart Lane. Andrew Fonseca Reyes was transported to a hospital and died the next day. The driver and two other passengers of the car left the scene.

Detectives identified that Jeremy Josue Giron Hernandez was the driver of the stolen vehicle that resulted in the crash that killed Reyes. On October 8 Giron Hernandez was arrested in Williamson County and charged with First Degree Murder.



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## **Proudly serving Northwest Hills, the Greater Austin Area, and those who want to be here.**

*Home for the Holidays*

**Supporting nonprofits that focus on housing initiatives** during the holiday season ensures that vulnerable families have a safe and stable place to celebrate and build memories. By contributing to these organizations, we foster community resilience and spread the spirit of giving where it's needed most. Please reach out if you have questions.

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# A-Plus Air Conditioning Honors Disabled Veterans

By LYNETTE HAALAND  
 Northwest Austin News

A-Plus Air Conditioning & Home Solutions teamed up with Lennox International to give back to a family of deserving disabled veterans just in time for Veterans Day last month.

Shannon and Jonathan Taylor were nominated to the Lennox Feel The Love program by a family friend because of their dedication to serving others both in the military and within their local community of Kyle.

The Lennox Feel the Love Campaign supports deserving families and individuals who are in need of newly installed HVAC systems that have hit a hard time and cannot afford a new system.

Lennox donated a new HVAC system and A-Plus donated the labor to install the new system at the Taylor family residence at 160 Spruce Dr., Kyle, Texas. A-Plus installed an air conditioner/furnace free of charge for the Taylor family on October 8.

Shannon, a retired U.S. Army veteran, is on 90% disability due to her service. Despite her own challenges, including surviving a non-cancerous brain tumor removal and living with Hashimoto's disease, she remains a beacon of strength and compassion. She devotes her time to various community volunteer efforts, including the local food bank and church and youth ministries.

Jonathan, also a veteran with a disability rating, was a medic in

## Special fund could help Council respond to neighborhood

By AMY SMITH  
 Austin Monitor

Under a proposal approved November 7, City Council members may have the ability next year to fund projects in their districts without following the usual planning and budgeting processes.

The resolution, sponsored by Council Member Vanessa Fuentes, directs the city manager to explore a pilot program to establish a special fund for each Council member to promptly respond to neighborhood needs, such as providing funding for sidewalk repairs or park improvements.

The funding program would take effect in the 2025-26 budget cycle. It's uncertain how much funding would be allotted for each district or how each project would be managed.

The resolution calls for the consideration of several factors regarding the allocation of funds, including equitable dispersion, areas of historical disinvestment, high-growth areas and alignment with the city's Capital Improvement Program.

As Fuentes explained before the vote, "This district service fund I believe is a great way for our offices to show tangible improvements in the neighborhoods that we serve. I also see it as a great way for us to build on the 10-1 system, especially as we approach the 10-year anniversary of having district representation throughout the city."

Co-sponsors of the item included Council members Ryan Alter, Paige Ellis and Zo Qadri, with Council members Chito



Afghanistan, providing critical care under challenging conditions. Jonathan's compassion extends beyond his military service; he has donated a kidney, demonstrating his selflessness and commitment to saving lives. Furthermore, he founded DOVE (Donors Offering Veterans Everything), an organization dedicated to organ donation for veterans, ensuring that those who served receive the vital support they need. Jonathan's unwavering dedication to helping others and his impressive contributions to both the military and civilian communities make him a true hero.

Serving the Austin area since 1977, A-Plus Air Conditioning & Home Solutions is a local, family owned and operated HVAC, home repair, and home remodeling company.

Vela and José Velásquez signing on at Thursday's meeting.

Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison said she would also like a better understanding of the status of resolutions that have been approved but not yet funded.

"Let's clear those out before we bring any more money asks," she said. "I think it's difficult for staff to be able to accommodate our requests when there is already a backlog." She added she would "lead by example" by not bringing forward additional resolutions that require funding until the backlog has been resolved.

Alter expressed enthusiasm for the proposal. Having immediate access to such a fund would expedite certain neighborhood-level safety improvement projects like speed bumps or protected crosswalks that have already been identified by staff but might be at the bottom of a lengthy to-do list managed by Transportation and Public Works.

"There are instances where there are other prioritizations that need to be made," he said.

The cities of San Antonio and Houston have established similar funding mechanisms for their city council offices, according to the resolution.

The Fuentes proposal lists a set of guardrails to be applied to ensure transparency regarding how the funding would be used. The city manager is expected to report back to Council with possible recommendations by March 1.



# Meet NWACA Board Member Carol Dochen

By KEVIN KOTT  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

**Kevin:** Carol, you are recognized in the community not only as a successful businesswoman but also as a generous philanthropist. Your professional bio is available on the NWACA website. For this interview, let's focus more on your personal life.

**Carol:** I was born in Dallas. My parents split up when I was seven, which was difficult. Mom raised me and my brother, and on weekends we spent time with Dad.

**Kevin:** What was your favorite part of growing up?

**Carol:** I loved singing in high school musicals. I was very influenced by both my elementary and high school music instructors. Since then, I have sung in choirs, and I go every year to Broadway with a group of women; we spend a week seeing 7, 8, or even 9 shows!

**Kevin:** Please describe your transition from those early years to becoming successful in

real estate.

**Carol:** After I graduated from UT, I moved to Houston and I worked two years in public relations for a real estate developer, Gerald Hines. I met and married Sandy Dochen, and our honeymoon was the drive to a very cold Washington DC, where Sandy started his job on Capitol Hill with Congressman Jake Pickle.

There, I found a job with an ad agency, and then became a public relations director for a real estate trade association. Sandy was born and raised in Austin, so when the Congressman asked him to come back to his hometown to run the congressional Austin office, the timing was right, as Sandy's mother was losing her struggle with lung cancer.

We moved directly into his parents' house on Far West Boulevard which they had built in 1967, and I took care of his mom for the last six weeks of her life, often staying up all night. That experience really changed me. I decided I wanted a career where I could help people in some way, and that

opportunity presented itself when I met a Dochen family friend, Irene Smith, who was a real estate broker. For the next 10 years she taught me everything. I then started my own real estate company, and in a blink, more than 40 years have passed.

We raised our 2 children in their grandparents' home close to Doss and Murchison, and eventually moved to a bigger house off Valburn Drive. And a year ago we became grandparents!

**Kevin:** Your bio says that you donate a percentage of your annual real estate income to Habitat for Humanity and Community First! Village.

**Carol:** To me, housing is everything! It creates stability in a person's life. Giving people a permanent home is one of the most important things we can do. Housing gives people a sense of security and responsibility and leads to better mental and physical health. Many may think I am in real estate sales, but I really think of myself as helping people with life's transitions.



Carol and Sandy Dochen with their grandbaby.

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A photograph of a family of four (two men, two women) and a dog sitting on a large air conditioning unit. The unit has the 'LENNOX' brand name on it. The background is a white wall with a blue and orange curved graphic element.

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A photograph of a house with a sign for Matthew Lorand Roofing. The sign is white with blue and yellow accents and features the company logo, name, phone number, and a 'Since 1998' banner. The house has a brown roof and a chimney.

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# Duchen Prepares to Lead District 10 in NW Austin

By LYNETTE HAALAND  
Northwest Austin News

Although the race was extremely close, Marc Duchen claimed victory in the District 10 City Council contest over his only opponent, Ashika Ganguly. Duchen finished with 20,810 votes to Ganguly's 20,321, with only 489 votes separating the two.

“It hasn’t entirely sunk in,” shared Duchen in a Four Points News interview the week after he won the November 5 election.

In the head-to-head race to represent District 10 in Northwest Austin, the two well-educated and well-spoken candidates worked hard to win over voters in the second-wealthiest district of the city. District 8 in Southwest Austin has the highest median income in the city.

The new council members will be sworn in and seated on the dais in early 2025.

Duchen hit the ground running the day after the election, shifting gears from running his campaign and his business to now putting his company in hibernation mode and getting up to speed on District 10 concerns.

I’m shedding most of my clients and putting my business on hold,” Duchen said.

Being a council member is a full time job and some estimate 50+ hours a week is average. The annual salary for council members is just over \$121,000.

Duchen is working on staffing and he expects his staff will include four to five people. The city of Austin expanded the pay to \$600,000 for district staff when the 10 district system was approved.

“Even with five staff, they will usually be working multiple positions... as District 10 serves nearly 100,000 people,” he said.

Duchen is also meeting with various groups like Firewise and attending meetings with current and former council members. He is visiting with current council member Alison Alter and her staff.

“There’s a learning curve to get familiar with things,” Duchen said.

Duchen says he’ll be working on a number of challenges in Northwest Austin which includes the 2222 corridor and as far west as Steiner Ranch, and River Place.

“There are a number of challenges,” he said. “A

big one is infrastructure and traffic management out there. There’s a lot of congestion and it’s a public safety risk. We need comprehensive traffic solutions.”

Road expansions or widening and improving throughput where that makes sense along 620 and 2222 is one of Duchen’s ideas.

He’d like to see more smart traffic light systems and improving timing of signals during peak times in the morning, afternoon and evening.

Duchen likes the idea of transit options like a bus stop and a dedicated route in the Northwest.

“Nothing in the city moves people east and west,” he said and he wants to see that change.

Safety is another concern. For example, people in River Place have shared that police don’t show up in a timely manner and they feel like they are not getting the response they need.

In some neighborhoods in District 10, Duchen has heard of an uptick in crime like with vehicle break ins.

Some crimes go unreported but he encourages residents to report crimes to the police because then resources are made available when areas need more

policing.

He wants to see more Austin Police Department district reps working with the communities. Those officers are supposed to be the first point of contact. The city cut APD community liaisons with budget cuts several years ago and now they are rebuilding those staffs again and re-engaging with the communities they serve. They are supposed to have quarterly meetings with their communities as well.

He cited that in the Baker sector, district reps and local police got involved to help curb speeding motorcycles along RM 2222. Resources were employed and solutions were being built out to address the need.

Wildfire prevention is another initiative he is taking very seriously in District 10. Much of Northwest Austin is surrounded by parks, greenbelts, and preserve lands including the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.

“I will continue to support funding for wildfire prevention, fire safety, responsiveness, and readiness. I want to see enhanced wildfire strategies, towers with AI for detecting fires early, fire breaks, education, structural ignition zone evacuation strategies or SIZE, community outreach, and better responsiveness,” Duchen said. “... because District 10 is all in high risk areas.”

## Kirk Watson avoids runoff, secures new term as Austin mayor

By LUZ MORENO-LOZANO  
KUT

Kirk Watson has officially won a new term as Austin’s next mayor.

Watson led his four challengers on November 5, but did not have enough votes to claim victory outright. He had to win a majority of the vote, or 50% plus one vote, to secure a new term and avoid a runoff.

After adding in overseas military ballots, certain domestic mail-in ballots and provisional ballots – which were counted through last week on November 12 – Watson had enough votes to avoid the runoff with Carmen Llanes Pulido, who had the second most votes.

Final tallies released last week on November 14 showed him to have earned 175,090 votes, about 13 votes over the threshold he needed to avoid a runoff. Those votes include tallies across Travis,

Williamson and Hays counties.

“I want to thank voters for their confidence in me, and for electing me to serve as Austin mayor for a 4th time,” Watson said in a written statement. “We knew that winning outright, with no runoff, against four opponents in a presidential year would be extraordinary.”

Llanes Pulido told KUT in a written statement she was waiting for an official tally from the three counties.

“We owe it to Austinites who have made it clear that they want new and accountable leadership, to ensure that every single vote is accurately counted and every voice is heard,” she said.

She said she has not decided if she will seek a recount.

This will be the fourth time Austin has elected Watson as mayor.

Watson first served as mayor in 1997 and stepped down in 2001 to run for attorney general. He lost that race to Gov. Greg Abbott. He served in the Texas Senate for 13 years before running again for mayor in 2022. That race was decided in a runoff election against Celia Israel. He won with just 933 more votes than her.

Watson raised over \$1 million during his latest campaign – more than double his opponents’ cash combined.

Under Watson’s reign, the Austin City Council has made sweeping changes to the city’s land code, opened and extended a temporary homeless shelter, and signed a five-year, \$218 million with the city’s police union. He faced criticism for these efforts as well as a partnership with DPS to add patrols in the city.

Watson told KUT in a new term he and the council will remain focused on addressing affordability, workforce development and homelessness.

### November 5 Election Results Travis County

**FEDERAL**  
**U.S. President**  
(Statewide total)  
\* Donald Trump (R) 56% or 6,375,318 votes  
\* Kamala Harris (D) 42% or 4,806,441 votes  
\* Chase Oliver (L) 1% or 82,299 votes  
\* Jill Stein (I) 1% or 68,266 votes  
(County total)  
\* Donald Trump (R) 29% or 170,781 votes  
\* Kamala Harris (D) 68% or 398,968 votes  
\* Jill Stein (I) 1% or 5,886 votes  
\* Chase Oliver (L) .63% or 4,631 votes

**U.S. Senate**  
(Statewide totals)  
\* Ted Cruz (R incumbent) 53% or 5,973,370 votes  
\* Colin Allred (D) 44% or 5,002,513 votes  
\* Ted Brown (L) 3% or 266,062 votes  
(County total)  
\* Ted Cruise (R incumbent) 27% or 157,197 votes  
\* Colin Allred (D) 70% or 407,198 votes  
\* Ted Brown (L) 2% or 13,889 votes  
**U.S. House District 37**  
(County total)  
\* Jenny Garcia Sharon (R) 23% or 73,859 votes  
\* Lloyd Doggett (D incumbent) 75% or 238,460 votes  
\* Girish Altekar (L) 2% or 6,855 votes

**STATE**  
**Texas Senate District 14**  
\*Sarah Eckhardt (D) 100% or 321,021 votes  
**Texas House District 48**  
\*Donna Howard (D incumbent) 83% or 72,631 votes  
\*Daniel Jerome McCarthy (L) 17% or 14,871 votes  
**Texas House District 49**  
\*Gina Hinojosa (D) 100% or 80,490  
**CITY**  
**Mayor**  
Carmen Llanes Pulido 20% or 68,042 votes  
Jeffery Bowen 8% or 27,055 votes  
Doug Greco 5% or 15,768 votes  
Kirk Watson 50% or 166,890 votes  
Kathie Tovo 17% or 55,715

**District 10**  
Marc Duchen 50.6% or 20,810 votes  
Ashika Ganguly 49.4% or 20,321

**AUSTIN ISD**  
**At-Large Position 8**  
Lindsey Stringer 26% or 52,181 votes  
Nathaniel Hellman 6% or 11,339 votes  
Dylan MacAdams 9% or 17,381 votes  
Nick Franke 4% or 7,159 votes  
Fernando Lucas de Urioste 32% or 65,263 votes  
Amy Moore 24% or 47,757 votes

“Two years have gone by pretty fast and we have made enormous strides,” Watson said. “In fact, a lot of people think when I came in that City Hall didn’t move fast enough and was too slow and inefficient, and I think most people would agree now that it moves with a different speed and that we are getting things done. But we are not done.”

When Watson was elected in 2022, his term was limited to two years. That was part of an effort to align mayoral races with presidential elections to increase voter turnout. Normally mayor and council members serve four-year terms.

Watson’s new term will allow him the full four years.

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

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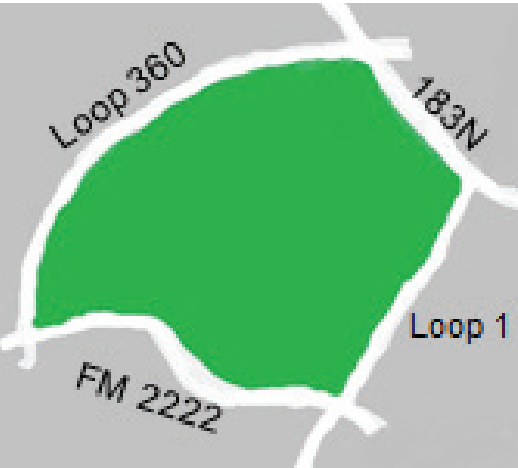
## Key Contacts

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](http://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.



## 2024 – 2026 NWACA Board of Directors

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| • Carol Dochen     | • Mae Levitan     | • Emmy Ward      |
| • Mike Harrel      | • Ben Luckens     |                  |
| • Megan Helmbrecht | • Griffin Meroney |                  |

Each of the Board Members can be reached at [info@nwaca.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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

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#### Annual dues \$25

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Fourth of July Parade \$10 \_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_  
Parks Fund \$10 \_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

#### To join:

go to [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) and pay online via credit card  
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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)

## Special Thanks

### to Members

NWACA Membership Committee

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the 4 th of July Parade Fund, the Park Fund, and the Constable Fund, between August 19 and November 18, 2024.

Donations to the 4 th of July Parade Fund help NWACA to host the best 4 th of July parade in Austin! The Park Fund helps us do events in our parks and revitalize parks in the NWACA area.

- Charles and Beverly Locklin
- Mitzi McGlone
- (and, apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)



## ARE YOU A NWACA MEMBER?

Receiving the newsletter does not guarantee membership.  
Not sure? Visit [nwaca.org](http://nwaca.org) to confirm!

*Here are 5 great reasons to join today!*

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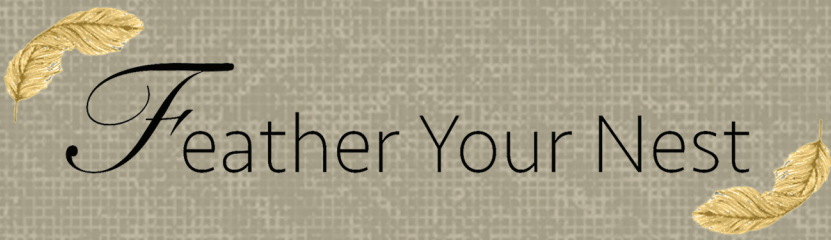
### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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# MARKET UPDATE

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	\$17,308,350 SALES VOLUME
	\$539 AVG LIST PRICE PER SF
	\$440 AVG SALE PRICE PER SF
	\$1,397,500 MEDIAN LIST PRICE
	82 DAYS ON MARKET
	13 CLOSED SALES



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 15, 2024 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON NWACA BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY360/2222/HWY 183

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### FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS!

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Wishing you a beautiful holiday season and a joyous year's end! Cheers to a New Year filled with warmth, love, joy, peace and exciting adventures ahead!

With gratitude,

*Julie Waidelich*

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# December Library Happenings Nearby

By MARTHA MILLER  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

View events at all Austin Public Library locations: [library.austin-texas.gov/events](http://library.austin-texas.gov/events)

Attention: All library branches will be closed December 13 (Staff Develop.m.ent Day), 24 and 25 (Christmas), and 31 New Year’s Eve.

**Events at the Yarborough branch**  
Monday, December 2 - Literature Live! Presents: Tales from Graves A puppet show trilogy (3:30–4 p.m.) Ages 3+

Tuesday, December 7 – Percy Jackson Party (10:30 a.m. –noon) Ages 8 -14

Tuesday, December 10 - Board Game Night: iKnow & Spyfall (5:45 -7:45 p.m.) Ages 10+

Fridays, December 13 & 27 - Adult Morning Social (10 a.m.–noon) Join neighbors, make new friends at this casual social

Monday December 16– The Crafty Adult: Collaged Coasters (5:30-7:30 p.m.) Ages 18+

Thursday, December 19 - Dungeons and Dragons (18+) (5:45–7:45 p.m.) Join us for our monthly one-shots. Please register

Friday, December 20 - Chair Yoga (10:30–11:30 a.m.) Gentle form yoga in a chair, Ages 18+

Saturday, December 21 - Dungeons & Dragons for Teens (1:30–4:30 p.m.) Join us for our monthly one-shot. Please register Teens 13-18 only!

Saturday, December 28 - Bullet Journal & Planner Social (11 a.m.–noon) Bring your own planner or get started with provided basic journals. Craft supplies, sample calendars, tracking sheets, pens provided, teens and adults

**Events at the John Gillum Branch**  
Thursday, December 12 - Tech Savvy Seniors (2-4 p.m.)

Tuesday, December 17 – Café au Lit Book Club (6-7:30 p.m.)

**Events at the Howson Branch**  
Wednesday, December 4 – Biz Aide Business Orientation (10-11:30 a.m.) learn what resources are available from the City of Austin for starting your own business. Please register

Wednesdays, December 4, 11 & 18 – Gentle Yoga and Sound bath Meditation (4:30 – 5:30 p.m.)

Thursdays, December 5, 12 & 19 – Tech Time (10-11 a.m.)

Thursday, December 19 – Winter Cheer Celebration with String Quartet (5-7:30 p.m.)  
**Events at the Spicewood Springs Branch**  
Monday, December 2 - Yarn and Yammer (6-7:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 11 - The Fragrance of Ink: Chinese Calligraphy for Beginners (2:30-4 p.m.)

Sunday December 15 - Mending Circle (noon-2 p.m.) Ages 18+

Thursdays, December 12 & 26 - Yoga with Tracy (9-10 a.m.) Ages 18+

Tuesday, December 17 – Spicewood Springs Afternoon Book Club (1:30–3 p.m.)

# Recycling and Thanksgiving

By MERRIESSA ANTON  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

I recently had about 20 people over for dinner. I challenged myself to find a way to feed all these people while keeping my practice of composting and recycling. I used my collection of old and new stainless utensils instead of using plastic utensils. I used paper plates, as I happened to have an unopened package. Drinking glasses were also plastic, as I had a large collection of plastic glasses. I did provide a marker so everyone could write their name on their glass and not waste multiple glasses. Cleanup was easy. I placed a bowl with an open compost bag in the kitchen sink where we put the paper plates, food scraps, and paper napkins. I just threw the utensils in the dishwasher after dinner. Thanksgiving can be this easy. Use what you have in your house including your dishwasher. As you prepare your dinner, use your compost container. Vegetable skins, eggshells, turkey bones and skins, all belong in your compost bin. Relax and enjoy your company.

A problem some people have right now is what to do with your election yard signs. I used the **Recycle ATX** app, which I have mentioned before. At the bottom of the home page click “What do I do with...”. I found that corrugated plastic signs cannot be placed in the blue recycling cart. These signs and the metal stakes used to place them in the ground must be taken to the Recycle and Reuse Drop-off Center. Cardboard signs are different from the corrugated signs. They can be recycled. The metal stakes still need to go to the Recycle and Reuse Drop-off Center. Or you can reuse the stakes and signs. Turn the signs inside out and use them for your next garage sale.

I find the **Recycle ATX** app especially important at this time of the year, as it informs me when my trash will be picked up when holidays fall on a Thursday. This app also reminds me when my Recycle Day occurs. The app is free and provides a lot of good information.

## Mark Your Calendars

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

**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

**January 15, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**  
NWACA Board Meeting –  
Dell Jewish Community Center  
Friedel Board Room

**January 21, 7 p.m.**  
Parks Committee – virtual

**January 28, 5 p.m.**  
NWACA Zoning and  
Transportation Committees – virtual

## NWACA 2025 Calendar of Events

**Monthly, 1st Saturday**, 9 a.m. to noon– Steck Valley Greenbelt Cleanup

**Monthly, 3rd Saturday**, March – October; 8 a.m. to noon – Bull Creek District Park Cleanup

**March 26**, 6:30 to 8 p.m. – Annual Neighborhood Meeting

**April (TBD before April 12)** – Tax Protest Workshop

**April 27**, 2 to 4 p.m. – Earth Day Festival

**May 3**, noon to 2 p.m. (tentative) – Spring Recycling Event – BOPA

**June (date TBD)** – Pool Opening Celebration

**July 4**, 9 a.m. to noon – 4th of July Parade and Freedom Fest

**August 16 (tentative)** – paper shredding event  
September 27, 8 a.m. to noon – NWACA Neighborhood Garage Sales

**October (dates TBD)** – National Night Out events

**October 18**, noon to 2 p.m. (tentative) – Fall Recycling Event – Electronics

**October** – Halloween Decorating Contest

**December** – December Holiday Decorating Contest



# Writer's Corner: "Love is for the Birds"

By IDEE KWAK  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

"Love is for the Birds" is the third book published by Diane Owens Prettyman, following "Thin Places" and "Redesigning Emma".



An eco-friendly romantic adventure novel, "Love is for the Birds" had its book release on October 13 at the lovely Northwest Hills home of its author, Diane Owens Prettyman. Published by She Writes Press and distributed by Simon and Schuster, the book is what Kirkus calls "light, breezy, and comforting as a block of fudge."

The story opens in the aftermath of a hurricane that has destroyed much of South Padre. The residents of fictional Bird Isle grieve over the catastrophic devastation and emotional trauma of the storm which is based on 2017's Hurricane Harvey, the Texas Gulf Coast's "hurricane of the century."

The Amazon Net Galley Review tells us, "it accurately captures the visual devastation and emotional trauma of the residents of Bird Isle... Prettyman's main characters are grieving losses that we have all endured in one way or another: loss of a wife, mother, partner, relationship of a child, and through the hurricane, loss of property."

Teddy, who's lost her mother and her business, wisely realizes that loneliness is the common denominator. The

recovery efforts on Bird Isle and the residents' devotion to restoring the Aransas Wildlife Refuge for the annual arrival of the Whooping Cranes is Prettyman's backdrop. In the hurricane aftermath, this novel of second chances and life changing epiphanies packs another punch with vivid descriptions of the marsh, the delicate balance of nature to support the Whooping Cranes, Brown Pelicans, and Gulf Coast ecosystems. The loyalty of a lost dog and community relationships built on faith and hope complete the forecast for the return of clear blue skies along the Texas shore."

The storm has caused loss of property but no loss of life and, though the characters' paths haven't been smooth, almost everyone finds love by the end of the book.



Diane with her boogie board.

Diane took inspiration from the four-year rebuilding of Port Aransas in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. She knows the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding area well, having visited once or twice a year since the 1990's.

She especially enjoys boogie boarding on Port Aransas beaches. Diane first took it up along the Oregon coast where she grew up. Passionate about the sport, she's boarded in the waters of California as well as

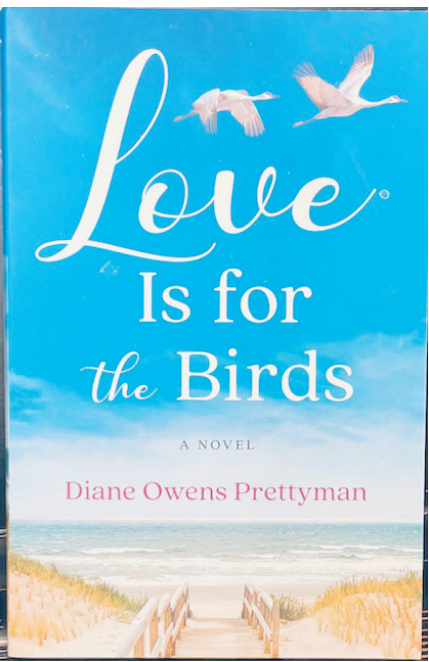
Cape Town, South Africa; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. When she was in Ireland re-

searching "Thin Places", she enquired about boogie boarding there but found the law allowed access only to students taking a beginner's class.

Her initial reaction to boogie boarding in Port Aransas was delight; the water temperature there is so much warmer than at the other places she'd been.

A boogie board enters the story as does a family candy store the heroine hopes to rebuild. The fictional store is patterned after Port Aransas's beloved Winton's Island Candy. The owners hosted a book signing where, among the assorted jellybeans and fudge, beside the stuffed rattlesnake, "Love is for the Birds" sold out.

<http://dianeowensprettyman.com>, prettymanreads on Instagram.



## Music Commission explores opening park spaces for community, cultural events

By CHAD SWIATECKI  
Austin Monitor

The Music Commission has signaled it intends to ask the city to waive fees and streamline the administrative processes involved in allowing small community groups to hold arts and music events in local parks facilities.

The meeting in early November included discussion prompted by a request from the Sunday Sessions arts and wellness group to ask the city to waive fees for its monthly gatherings held in parks around the city. The group promotes a combination of music and creative pursuits as well as wellness activities such as yoga and guided breath work in locations such as Zilker Park.

The Sunday Sessions request referenced the fees required by the Austin Center for Events as a financial bar-

rier for the events that are free to attend. It also invoked the resolution from earlier this year, connected by the city's move to preserve the Blues on the Green concert series, that called for the city to encourage greater use of city facilities for cultural gatherings organized by small community groups.

The request, which was not voted on, also sought exploration of ways to reduce the administrative oversight needed for small gatherings "to ensure continued access to free, open-to-the-public events that promote cultural inclusivity and community engagement in Austin."

Commission members were supportive of the concept of making city spaces more available for small community and cultural gatherings but opted to hold off on making a request to City Council on behalf of one specific group.

Pedro Villalobos, chair of the Parks and Recreation Board, told the Austin Monitor that financial considerations about staff needs during events and the availability of any parks spaces or facilities are the two main concerns he could foresee with the effort, along with making sure there is wide access and consideration given to all community groups.

"I'm always in favor of making sure that we're showcasing local talent that exists here in Austin and making sure that we're doing everything that we can to be supportive of local musicians and local artists and giving them space that they can perform and so that they're also able to practice and hone their craft," he said. "The question always comes down to mechanically how does it work, and making sure that everyone has access to this program or everyone has an equal opportunity to do this and that the process feels open and transparent."



# Anderson Tennis Reaches Regional Semifinals



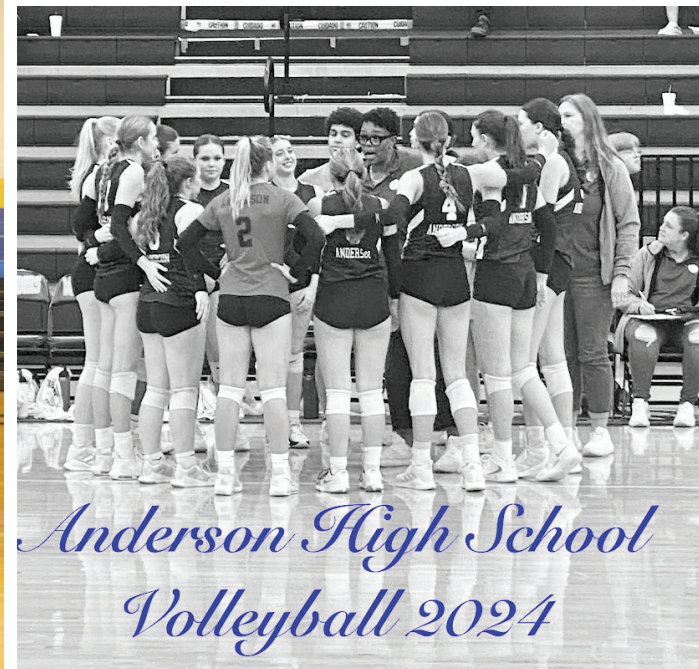
The Anderson tennis team made it all the way to the regional semifinals for the first time since 2016.

After a stellar pre-season, the team worked their way to district finals, winning 2nd place overall. The team then sailed through their area tournament and had a decisive win in the regional quarter-finals against Henderson HS. The team traveled to College Station to compete in the regional semi-finals against A&M Consolidated HS.

Congrats Trojans on your amazing accomplishment!



# AHS Volleyball Undefeated in District, Bi-District



"Anderson Lady Trojan Volleyball season ended GREAT!!! We ended up Undefeated District Champs 14-0 and Bi District Champs," said Shalanda Byers, Head Volleyball Coach at Anderson. "Our JV and Freshman teams also claiming district champs as well. Ready to reload for next year."



## Q&A Eric Swanson Anderson Water Polo Head Coach

### 1) What were your team's strengths and concerns this 2024 season?

We had many new faces this year on both teams, so it's been fun to see the growth both individually and collectively. Pre-district games were all about learning how to play the game and coming together as a team and then we executed during district play.

### 2) Who does your team compete against and how did your team stack up against them?

Our district consists of Austin, Bowie, LASA, and McCallum. It's a growing sport in the Austin area, so most teams in our district are in a building phase.

On the boys' side, Austin has one of the best individual talents in the entire state, so he always gives them a chance to compete with anyone. LASA boys have the most depth, and multiple very good players and will be favored in our district this year. Both McCallum and Bowie (inaugural seasons) were developing programs and were the X factors in 23-6A. With that being said, I like where we were in our development with the boys' team. Many of the boys were in new roles this year, and they began to understand how much they can impact the team and affect our

overall success. We were led by Max Bisang and Jake Roberts - two all district performers from a year ago. They built confidence at the right time of the year which was really fun to see.

On the girls' side, there are a few more unknowns. LASA and us are the only two AISD schools to field teams over the past two seasons. Austin, McCallum, and Bowie are all in their first full seasons. I think we've grown a lot as a group over the course of our schedule and amidst all the uncertainty with this year's district. We were led by Sarah Kester, a returning All-Region player from a year ago, and we remained excited about the opportunity.

### 3) What were some key strategies for you this season?

Because of the sport being so new in the area, and having so many fresh faces, our pre-district season was all about learning and growing as an extension of practice time. By mid-season, we had played in three tournaments and been challenged with a pretty good slate of opponents to help us be prepared for district play and beyond.

### 4) Any up and coming stars that we should know about?

Girls: this one may be abnormal for the question, but Senior Katya Veazey was a primary piece to our success. She was a great communicator for our defense and made it difficult for teams to have success close to the goal. First year goalie, Meghan Cavanaugh, had greatly improved throughout the season and came up with many big time stops for us in net.

### 5) Tell us one thing many don't know about you as a coach and/or one thing about your team.

The water polo community has been very welcoming and

supportive for newcomers. If you enjoy being in the water and have a competitive drive, water polo is a great way to incorporate both!

### 6) How did the season end up?

Girls: Finished as District Champs for the 3rd straight season at 7-1 in district, 13-14 overall. They won their first round playoff game vs Hays, before falling in the Area round to Westwood. This season marked the 3rd straight of advancing past the bi-district round. All-district honors included:

Sarah Kester district MVP  
Katya Veazey Offensive POY  
Meghan Cavanaugh - 1st team all district  
Danika Vedder - 1st team all district

Boys: Finished as District Runner-Ups at 5-3 in district and 17-11 overall. They also won their bi-district matchup vs Hays before falling to Round Rock. This was their 3rd straight season of advancing beyond the bi-district round. All-district honors included:

Jake Roberts - Offensive POY  
Max Bisang - 1st team all district  
RC McPherson - 1st team all district  
Evin Fox - 1st team all district  
Campbell Bayne - 1st team all district

We will host some try-it-out sessions in the spring for those curious about the sport that runs August through October. Until then, there are practice sessions with AquaTex as well as Longhorn Aquatics throughout the year.



#### BOYS

Will Livingston  
Korvin Chawla  
Evin Fox  
Campbell Bayne  
Jackson Stemple  
Jacob Brutsche  
Max Bisang  
Quentin Flores  
Jake Roberts  
RC McPherson  
Grady Chrisman  
Tyler Tracy  
Cade Cazin

#### GIRLS

Meghan Cavanaugh  
Kathleen Wallace  
Rozhon Arbabian  
Anna Csizmadia  
Sarah Kester  
Reyna Giles  
Taylor Roberson  
Carmen De La Sierra Llorente  
Avery Yadav  
Rowan Grayum  
Abbey Amato  
Maggie McNelis  
Simone Frey  
Emily Bishop  
Danika Vedder  
Chloe Moreau-Gobard  
Katya Veazey



# Anderson Trojan Water Polo Spotlight



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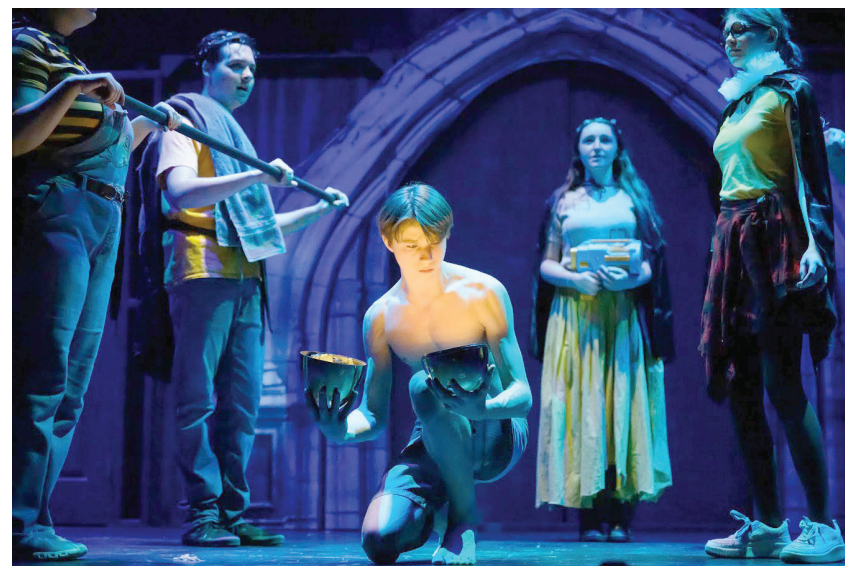
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YEARBOOKS

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Cast (all dates)

Wayne Hopkins  
Oliver Rivers  
Cedric; Mr. Voldy  
Ernie Mac; A Very Tall Man; Seamus; A Certain Potions Teacher; Professor Turban;  
Ghost History Teach; Professor Locky; Mr. Nick; Sal; Second Headmaster; Real Mr. Moody  
Hannah; First Headmaster; Professor McG; Professor Sprouty; Xavia Jones; Professor Lanny; Runes Teach; Ms. Babble

Niffler Cast

Megan Jones  
Narrator  
J. Finch Fletchley; Uncle Dave; Goyle; Fat Friar; Clumsy Longbottom; Hermeoone #3; Viktor; Mr. Bagman; Zach Smith  
Leanne; Ginny; Helga; Frenchy; Goldstein; Scorpy  
Sally Perks; Hermeoone; Blondo Malfoy; Rowena; Rita Scooter; Bippy  
Susie Bones; Harry; Colin; Hermeoone #2; Ric Gryff; Myrtle

Kneazle Cast

Megan Jones  
Narrator  
J. Finch Fletchley; Uncle Dave; Goyle; Fat Friar; Clumsy Longbottom; Hermeoone #3; Viktor; Mr. Bagman; Zach Smith  
Leanne; Ginny; Helga; Frenchy; Goldstein; Scorpy  
Sally Perks; Hermeoone; Blondo Malfoy; Rowena; Rita Scooter; Bippy  
Susie Bones; Harry; Colin; Hermeoone #2; Ric Gryff; Myrtle

Aidan Auger  
Atticus Sencenbaugh  
Joseph Kirkovits

Cruz Clark  
Kate Price

Steely Schmid  
Belle Robinson  
Ronan Woodruff  
Eva Padavic  
Kat Larkin  
Olive Grim

Vivian Bamberg  
Gretchen Palm  
Pablo Boyd  
Summer Gottschalk  
Danny Pavkovic  
Ace Grossman

Production Team Heads

Director	Mr. Justin LaVergne
Assistant Director	Miss Morgan Leavy
Technical Co-Director	Avery McBride
Technical Co-Director	Ellie Tumbusch
Stage Manager	Ayla Marchman
Assistant Stage Manager	Chance Gottschalk
Costume Head	Jacqueline Buckland
Lights Head	Ellie Tumbusch
Props Head	Maya Fuller
Scenic Co-Head	Hayes Rosprim
Scenic Co-Head	Uriah Shaffer
Sound C0-Head	Gianna Navarro
Sound C0-Head	Jeffrey Pickell

Production Team Heads

Costumes	Mason Chen
Costumes	Mason Chen
Costumes	Mason Chen
Costumes	Brianna O’Neal
Costumes	Charlotte Reed
Costumes	Penelope Rey
Lights	Legion Bodell
Lights	Legion Bodell
Props	Ava Alfaro
Props	Finley Brown
Props	Edgar De La Rosa
Props	Abriel Demoville
Props	Aspen Florey
Props	Sam Krebs
Props	Raffi Pellegrini
Props	Roman White
Scenic	Caleb Bari
Scenic	Jason Berger
Scenic	Salomé Casey
Scenic	Colleen Foley
Scenic	Jack Harper
Scenic	Gwen Kjallbring
Scenic	Maksym Klimov
Scenic	Marley Ruiz
Scenic	Finn Strittmatter
Scenic	Jordan Wilson
Sound	Avigail Glazer
Sound	Nolan Strippoli
Sound/Props	Aarón García
Sound/Props	William Sanders

PUFFS, FROM 1

places and reimagines what a boy wizard hero can be.

Justin LaVergne, co-theater director, shared in the program:

This year, we’ve taken on a thrilling challenge. Our students have poured their hearts into crafting a show that celebrates friendship, perseverance, and the magic of being uniquely yourself. From the imaginative costumes to the spirited performances, every element has been created with passion and joy.


“Puffs” is more than just a play; it’s a tribute to resilience, acceptance, and the importance of standing by your friends. Through the misadventures of our lovable protagonists, we’re reminded that it’s okay to be different and that every journey — no matter how quirky — holds its own kind of magic.

Our dedicated cast and crew have worked tirelessly to ensure that every moment of this production is packed with laughter, charm, and heart. We believe the messages in “Puffs” resonate with everyone, emphasizing the strength found in camaraderie and the power of supporting one another.

Compiled by Lynette Haaland, NW Austin News





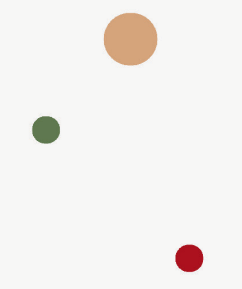




"We've been friends with Dawn for what seems like forever. She held our now 34 year old baby boy at the hospital the day he was born, so that says something of our friendship. But working with her as a Realtor is something different, sort of. Our family has relied on Dawn a few times over the past couple of years to do multiple transaction moves, and she has done a tremendous job for us.

Our most recent home purchase was for me and my husband, who also has a broker license. My husband's hobby over the past few years has been searching for the ideal home for us to transition to for the long haul. He really has spent the majority of his spare time culling listings all over north Austin while I mostly dug my heels in because I don't particularly like change. This home search really gave Dawn the opportunity to show her gift of patience. There's no telling how many homes we viewed over the search period, but she was always ready, willing, and able, and never failed to meet us with a smile on her face and a cheerful disposition. Surely she can't be like this with all her clients, but I think she is! She truly gives everyone preferential treatment! When we finally found "the one", Dawn went over and above to ease the process.

She has a full arsenal of contacts for every need we could encounter, and she was often willing to meet contractors for us if we had a conflict and couldn't be there. Even an hour before closing, she contacted her roofer to check out the house for hail damage from the previous night's storm before we signed on the dotted line." ~N & K



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