

Northwest Austin News

SERVING THE NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY

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February 2025

Annual Survey, Safety Tips, Wildfire Risk Evaluations, Special Projects

By NWACA BOARD
Northwest Austin Civic Association



Annual Survey – It's February, the time of year when the NWACA Board asks the entire neighborhood, not just NWACA members, to indicate where the Board and Committees should focus. The survey is now open, with an end date for input of March 5. Please go to this link to take the survey: tinyurl.com/NWACA2025Survey

Shred Event – Neighbors have asked to have a second paper shredding event this year. We are pleased to say that there will be two

such events this year, one at the Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 27, and one on Saturday, August 16. The latter is open to NWACA members only, but the one in April is open to everyone in the neighborhood.

See Something, Say Something – A neighbor reported an unfortunate loss of cash recently, when a thief broke into his car while he was shopping at CVS. The thief had apparently watched him as he got money out of the Wells Fargo Bank ATM on Far West Boulevard just before going to CVS. So, two lessons from this: don't leave anything of value exposed to those peering inside your vehicle; and if



NWACA, 2

2025 Northwest Austin Valentine Couple ~ Jack & Bebe Boone

By ERIN SEITZLER
Northwest Austin News

The year is 1958 and the University of Texas at Austin has 18,000 students. While occupying seven jobs to afford his \$900 tuition, Jack Boone found himself stuffing envelopes at the Pi Beta Phi house. Bebe Boone, a “blonde vision” according to Jack, walks down the stairs and in that moment Jack knew that this was the woman for him.

Now married for 61 years, the Boones have exemplified endurance, tenderness, and loyalty in their relationship—qualities that continue to inspire those around them. Overlooking the city, the couple now lives on Mountain Villa Cove in Northwest Austin. Interacting with each other in a playful and loving way, the couple shares their story.



Bebe explains what drew her to Jack: “He was an amazing boot scooter... has a great sense of humor, as you can see. Just so smart and handsome.”

Jack, reflecting on his feelings for

Bebe, said, “What is the definition of a marriage? Okay, the guy is supposed to be this leader and breadwinner and all this stuff. It doesn't matter, he can't do it if he doesn't have a wife who supports him.” With a hand to his forehead and tears in his eyes, he adds, “But that's how I feel about her. God I love her.”



Jack and Bebe Boone fell in love at University of Texas in 1958. They built careers in law and education and raised two children. They have been married 61 years and have five grandsons and one great grandson. The Northwest Austin 2025 Valentine Couple shares their story of love and commitment for six decades.

Love struck some 66 years ago for the two. Bebe invited Jack on their first date, insisting that studying for his geology final should be put on the back burner. Sharing a love for country classics like Ray Price, Eddie Arnold, and Marty Robbins, Bebe picked up Jack to go see Bobby Helm perform at the Skyline Club; he had no car. The Skyline was the only honky-tonk in the area, out on North Lamar, Austinites would go on Wednesday nights for “dime wine at the Skyline” for 10 cent beer. This was the last venue that Hank Williams performed at in 1952 before his passing, Elvis Presley performed there in 1955.



Before Broken Spoke and Amy's Ice Creams, the couple had their own Austin staples. El Patio and the Night-hawk, on south Congress near Town Lake, were the only two restaurants students would go to. “You knew every-

NW AUSTIN VALENTINE COUPLE 14



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Austin ranks 5th in major cities vulnerable to wildfires

By KATY MCAFEE
KUT

Those who were in Austin in 2011 remember the tragic wildfires that hit Bastrop, Steiner Ranch and Spicewood that summer. The fires collectively burned through thousands of acres of land and destroyed over a thousand homes.

“You can still drive down 21 in Bastrop and see where the trees were,” Travis County Fire Marshal Gary Howell said. “The scar is still there. And it’s starting to grow back up, but you can still see some of the trees that were burned. ... They’re like toothpicks sticking up out of the ground.”

In the wake of the devastating wildfires that have blazed through more than 40,000 acres in the Los Angeles area, local officials are warning about the growing risk of similar fires here.

According to an August report by property data company CoreLogic, Austin is ranked fifth in the nation in homes at risk of being destroyed by wildfires. The report asserts Austin has more than 94,000 homes with elevated risk. The top four cities are all in Southern California.

Central Texas doesn’t have the same high-powered winds that are accelerating wildfires in Southern California, but there are similarly hot and dry conditions and dense vegetation that can fuel fires.

Those conditions are projected to get worse over time. By 2036, Texas is expected to quadruple the amount of 100-degree days compared to the 1970s and ’80s, according to a 2024 report from climate researchers at Texas A&M University.

Who is at greatest risk?

Houses within the city’s wildland-urban interface, or WUI, face a greater threat of being destroyed in a fire. WUI refers to the space where human development meets untouched natural land on the outskirts of the city.

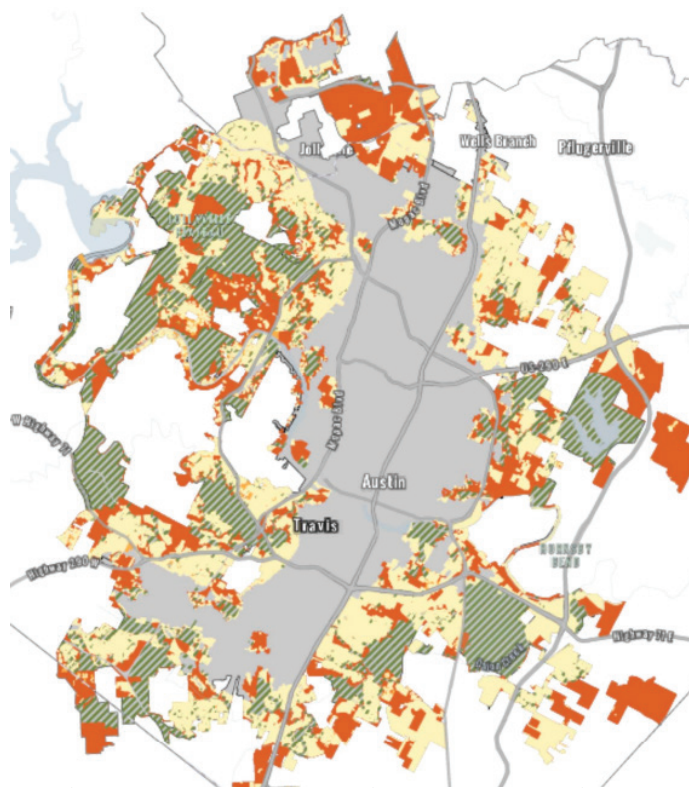
Both sides of Austin face wildfire risk, but Randy Denzer, a member of the Austin Firefighters Association, said the folks living on the west side of Travis County face a particularly high risk of intense wildfire.

“I’ve been warning about this for years,” Denzer said. “What you saw on TV (recently) in LA, can and most likely will, in time, happen if we don’t do anything in West Austin.”

Denzer said parts of West Travis County near Bee Cave and Lago Vista have record levels of fuel loading, a term for the amount of combustible material in an area.

The Austin Fire Department regularly performs prescribed burns and “shaded fuel mitigation,” a fancy term for thinning out vegetation to slow down a fire. But Denzer says those practices are not enough to stop a wildfire, and the department’s current

code doesn’t support creating fuel breaks, or



Most of Northwest Austin is not part of the wildland-urban interface as shown in the middle section of this Austin Fire Department map. But risks still apply with all of the greenbelts in Northwest Austin.

strips of land that are cleared of all vegetation to stop an intense fire from spreading further.

Is Austin prepared for wildfires?

Austin has learned a lot of lessons since 2011. In 2020, the AFD adopted a new code for people living in the wildland-urban

interface areas, which requires new and remodeled homes and buildings to be “hardened” with fire-resistant materials. The rules have been in place since 2021, and so far 5,000 structures have been built up to code.

That accounts for only a small percentage of the homes susceptible to wildfire risk in Austin, but Carrie Stewart, the wildfire division chief for the Austin Fire Department, said hardening your home yourself can be easy, inexpensive and potentially life-saving.

She recommends cleaning out gutters and creating a “defensible space” between the house and any vegetation or combustible materials. She also recommends covering vents with a 1/8-inch mesh screen to prevent embers from catching inside the house.

“It is worth it, regardless of where you are in the city ... because we know these embers can travel a mile and a half or more during a wildfire event with high winds and can affect homes that are very distant from the actual flame front,” Stewart said.

You can also request a free structural ignition zone evaluation from the city. The fire department will visit your home and assess potential wildfire risks and provide recommendations on how to better protect the property. Stewart said AFD has received more than 70 requests for evaluations since the LA-area fires started.

The AFD also monitors wildfire conditions and will temporarily boost staffing on days when risk is high, Stewart said. The department will alert residents of wildfires, evacuation notices and other emergencies at warncentraltexas.org.

NWACA FROM 1

you observe a crime like this in action, take photos and report it immediately to 911.

Constable on Patrol – A quick reminder that NWACA pays for a Travis County Constable to patrol the NWACA area at random times throughout the week, generally around the middle of the neighborhood. If your street is one with persistent traffic violations, the constable can be asked to focus on your street for a while; just let us know at info@nwaca.org.

Special Project Applications – The NWACA Board has issued the spring call for applications for special

project funds. If you have an idea for something that will improve our neighborhood and be accessible to the whole community, submit your idea. Go to www.nwaca.org, and use the entry under Hot Topics for “Apply to the Special Projects Fund”.

Wildfire Risk Evaluations – Do you know what parts of your home and landscape are at risk if a wildfire occurs in our area? Embers from a fire are the primary way that wildfires move when lifted by the wind, some of that wind created by the fire itself.

All homes within several miles of green spaces are vulnerable to such embers. If you haven’t already had your free home wildfire risk evaluation, go to www.nwaca.org and use the

Be Involved tab to select option for Home Wildfire Risk Evaluation. The NWACA Wildfire Prevention Committee will set up a time for two of their trained evaluators to visit. They review with you the exterior of your home and the landscape around it, leaving reference material about wildfire and a checklist



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of items for you to address. Sign up and make your home more resilient, which in turn makes our whole neighborhood more resilient to wildfire.

Steck Valley Greenbelt Cleanups – Neighbors throughout NWACA are invited to join in cleanup of the Steck Valley Greenbelt trails. The NWACA Parks Committee coordinates a cleanup event the second Saturday of the month, focusing at this point on the Steck Avenue entrance. Bring gloves, loppers, and hand saws, if you have them. Thanks for helping make these trails ever more passable and welcoming!



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Most Austin-area Drivers Will Still Need a Vehicle Inspection Here's Where the Rules Have Changed

By NATHAN BERNIER
KUT

Mandatory vehicle safety inspections have been eliminated for many Texas drivers. But in 17 counties – including Travis and Williamson – an emissions test is still required to renew your vehicle registration every year.

The changes, which took effect Jan. 1, makes Texas the largest state not to require annual checks on noncommercial vehicles for things like tires, brakes, seatbelts and headlights.

Many drivers are still confused.

“I just sent someone home from Hays County,” said Patricia Deroo, a technician at 1626 Auto Inspections in Manchaca. Hays County doesn’t require emissions tests, so drivers there no longer need any annual inspection.

Besides Travis and Williamson, emissions tests are mandated in Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Ellis, Fort Bend, Galveston, Johnson, Kaufman, Harris, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall and Tarrant counties. Bexar County will require them in 2026.

The 17 counties are in major metro areas that are struggling to keep up with federal air quality standards. So the state of Texas requires emissions tests as part of a plan to comply with the federal Clean Air Act.

The vehicle safety inspection mandate was eliminated by the state Legislature. House Bill 3297 passed in 2023 but didn’t take effect till Jan. 1. The bill’s chief proponent had

said most states had abandoned such programs.

“Texas is one of only 11 states that still requires an annual safety inspection for passenger vehicles. Vehicle inspections are costly, time consuming and provide little benefit to public safety,” state Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, told lawmakers in April 2023 when presenting the legislation. “Today, modern vehicles are equipped with onboard diagnostic systems that constantly monitor their performance and can detect any potential issues.”

The changes were opposed by the industry. The Texas State Inspection Association (TSIA) argued safety exams help keep hazardous vehicles off the streets.

“Bad brakes and bald tires are dangerous, not just for the driver, but for all of us that share the roadways,” JoJo Heselmeyer with TSIA told lawmakers. She pointed to UT Austin research from 2018 that recommended the state’s safety inspection program be kept. The research found crashes involving vehicles with defects were twice as likely to result in death.

The industry also warned of the devastating financial impact on businesses that specialize in vehicle safety exams. Many were forced to close, like Jesse’s Auto Inspections in Hays County.

“Sometimes vehicles come in here that shouldn’t be on the road. We fail those and they’ll never come back,” said Marco Chavez, who did vehicle inspections at Jesse’s. “But on the flip side, I can see where people – you know – it could

be a bit of an inconvenience, especially if you have a newer vehicle.”

Safety inspections are still required on commercial vehicles in Texas. Commercial vehicles are defined weighing more than 26,000 pounds, transporting more than 15 people including the driver, or carrying hazardous materials. An F-150 used for a landscaping business, for example, wouldn’t need an annual safety assessment, because it doesn’t meet any of those criteria.

Even without the safety inspection, drivers will still have to pay an annual \$7.50 fee, included in the cost of vehicle registration. The only purpose of the new “inspection program replacement fee” is to prevent the state from losing money by terminating the inspection requirement. Some drivers are still willing to pay voluntarily for a safety inspection. 1626 Auto Inspections has started offering such nonmandatory tests for \$20 alongside the standard emissions assessment. The safety results are not reported to the government.

“I’m all for choice. People don’t want to have the safety (inspection), fine, but overall, I think it’s going to affect all of us down the line,” said Deroo, worrying about potential long-term impacts on road safety. “It’s going to be a domino effect.”

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

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Bird flu found in dead bird found near The Arboretum; Virus poises risk for cats, pets

By JOSH MONIZ
Hill Country News

The Austin Public Health department reported on January 8, that a dead bird - specifically a wild, migratory waterfowl - found near The Arboretum tested positive for bird flu at a local veterinary lab and again later when tested by the Texas Department of State Health Services. A release by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Division (TPWD) conflicted on one small point wit the Austin Public Health release by identifying the birds as domestic waterfowl, or “park ducks.”

The report is the first confirmed case of bird flu being found in Travis County, not far from its border with Williamson County. The TPWD has reported finding suspected instances of the bird flu in Harris, El Paso, Galveston, Wharton and Potter counties.

The bird flu poses a potential health risk for humans and

a high risk of death for pets, especially for cats.

So far, an estimated 66 people have been infected by the bird flu across the U.S., including one death. No human infections have been reported in Central Texas, although the virus has been detected in Austin’s wastewater. There are no reports so far of the virus passing from one human to another human.

In the event someone does contract the bird flu (H5N1), influenza antiviral medications currently used by medical professionals are believed to work on it. In other words, medical professionals have much more ability to combat the virus and can mobilize quicker compared to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Austin Public Health is urging people to be cautious about making any contact with wild birds.

“The best way to protect yourself and others from bird flu is to avoid sources of exposure,” the department said in a release.

“Bird flu is a disease that typically affects wild birds, especially waterfowl, and domestic poultry.”

Cats are particularly at risk of being infected by the virus and face an estimated fatality rate of 67% if infected, according to the University of Maryland’s School of Public Health.

Austin Public Health urges people and animals alike, especially cats, to be kept away from sick or dead animals and any of their droppings. Similarly, they also urge avoiding any consumption of uncooked food products, such as unpasteurized raw milk or cheese, since every state has had an outbreak among poultry and 16 states, including Texas, have had an outbreak among cattle.

Lastly, they urge people to immediately contact a health-care provide or a vet, respectively, if you or a pet start feeling ill after contact with a sick or dying bird.

SpotCrimes Northwest Austin include DWIs, Assaults, Theft

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BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE
7500 BLOCK OF LONG POINT DR

Lynette Haaland compiled this report from www.spotcrime.comw

Marc Duchen sworn in on the Dais for District 10, Ready to Work

By JO CLIFTON
Austin Monitor

After besting his only opponent in the Nov. 5 election, Marc Duchen is getting ready to take the City Council District 10 seat. He will succeed Council Member Alison Alter, who is retiring after two terms.

Duchen represents a change in personality but has been in agreement with many of his predecessor's ideas, particularly as they relate to development. He made clear during his campaign that he was opposed to many of the changes Council made in adopting HOME and HOME 2 ordinances. Those changes were intended to make it easier to build more housing in most of the city through changes to the Land Development Code.

As a leader of the Community Not Commodity group, Duchen became familiar with the changes HOME and HOME 2 proposed for the land code and spoke out against various aspects of those changes.

Duchen hopes to convince his colleagues to reinstate regulations that have prevented developers from adding as many structures within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas of the district as other areas. Those rules expired on Nov. 16, and Alter expressed hope that her colleagues would reinstate those rules after she leaves Council. Duchen said, "I think it's absolutely worth trying to extend

those."

"The second-most prevalent way fires spread is from structure to structure," Duchen said, citing additional structures allowed by the changed rules as posing "a tremendous risk for those (WUI) neighborhoods, and we have quite a few of those in the district."

Duchen is also interested in finding out how many trees the city has lost as a result of changed setback regulations.

"It's really about putting more guardrails on things. ... The setbacks were significant. I already know of cases when six to 10 trees are coming out because of redevelopment," he said.

He noted that the mayor had asked for reporting on the impact of the regulations at regular intervals. Duchen in particular wants to hear about the impact of the new regulations on wildfire danger, tree loss and extra burdens on water/wastewater infrastructure to help Council consider amendments to the Land Development Code. He noted that he wanted information on how the changes had increased taxes but he does not expect to get that from

the city. In addition to his concerns about loss of trees and green space, Duchen is concerned

that changes to the city code will slow down emergency vehicles as they try to navigate through streets jammed with cars owned by people who don't have garages. He noted that concern during his campaign.

During the campaign, Duchen talked about auditing city programs

and making sure that the city had good data on its expenditures. The Austin Monitor asked him how that might apply to various departments and programs, such as parks. He remarked that "27 percent of the city is still parks deficient," not within a specific area but throughout the whole city.

The city is currently depending on outside groups, such as the Trail Conservancy, to handle various maintenance functions and fund a variety of enhancements along the Ann

and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail.

Without criticizing that particular group, Duchen said he would like to see real scrutiny of how much value the groups are providing to the city. His questions do not relate solely to parks. Duchen noted the large amount of funding going into nonprofit groups that help the city's homeless people and expressed a desire to see audits of those organizations that are taking in so much money.

He concluded that he would like audits that connect the money spent by the city and other governmental entities to the positive outcomes the city and the federal government were seeking when the money was set aside.

Duchen said he has a particular concern for the city because "You've got more and more entrenched, powerful and well-funded third-party groups," which are "associated with homelessness, parks, tourism, with a lot of the things the city would (otherwise) be responsible for." He said it's unclear how much value those groups are creating for the city and for themselves.

"I think we have a model that needs more scrutiny so that they don't become the independent, insulated architects of policy and funding," he said.

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



Marc Duchen, Austin City Council District 10

Travis County Commissioner Brigid Shea urges local climate resilience initiatives

By LINA FISHER
Austin Monitor

Travis County Commissioner Brigid Shea has been a mainstay of the Austin environmental movement for decades. Though she's seen many gains in that area since her political career began, the relentless changing climate of our region has kept up the challenges as well.

"Nothing else will dictate the fate of the region more than the loss of water," Shea said in an interview with the Austin Monitor. "Nothing destroys the economy, ruins all real estate values, causes the engine of the economy to absolutely grind to a halt than if you run out of water."

The county doesn't have direct control over any water use except in its county buildings, but Shea urges, "We can control how we use our water, and we can be thought leaders in the region. We can't change the fact that it's getting increasingly hot and there will be more and more evaporation from our large reservoirs, Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan, but we can change how much we waste water, and we can save and stretch our water supply."

Shea urges Austin to reuse more of its treated wastewater and she touts the county's purple pipe program as one of the best resilience measures in the region.

"We just won another national award this year for our resilience initiatives, the big one being water conservation" from the National Association of Counties. Shea says once the new civil and family courthouse at 17th and Guadalupe streets is hooked up with purple pipes, the plan is to extend it to the state Capitol complex, "which is the real prize," Shea said.

"We'll be permanently eliminating demand for 45 million gallons a year just by swapping out the water supply for our air conditioning systems in our major buildings downtown and our jail. It's not a complicated engineering task. I've spoken with a student government at UT, for instance, and I've urged them every year to urge UT to move more quickly towards purple pipe. If they hook that up and for the whole Capitol complex, they can save close to a billion gallons of water a year."

Another climate initiative that the county will pursue in 2025 is to install

solar panels on as many county facilities as possible, with battery backup.

"Because of the Biden administration relief funding to local governments, Austin Energy has \$30 some million to support that, so we're actively pursuing that, and the money will also be available for residential installations," she said.

Aside from resilience efforts, Shea has her eye on a combined threat to air and water quality, as well as time and convenience, from twin construction projects on two major corridors: "The construction that's commencing on I-35 in Downtown Austin will also be happening at the same time as North San Antonio undertakes major work on I-35 North. So the two major transportation hubs on each end of the Austin-San Antonio corridor will be under construction at the same time. And I keep thinking, what toddler planned this?"

A big priority for both Shea and County Judge Andy Brown is urging the Legislature during its next session to pony up the funding needed to build high-speed passenger rail between Austin and San Antonio.

"We have a line," she said. "Amtrak is very interested in it. It doesn't make sense to me that there hasn't been any movement on giving people more options besides being parked on I-35 for hours at a time. So I'm a big supporter of this, and I think it's something that just makes so much sense, because the lines are already there – the biggest part of this is scheduling and the addition and improvements of the quality of the rail line itself."

Looking toward another Trump presidency, Shea does worry about what might await: "I'm always surprised at the cruelty that can come out of some of the legislative changes. So I think there's probably going to be more targeting of women and women's attempts at reproductive care, and it's kind of hard to imagine what else they could do.

"I will say, with the retreat under the incoming president from really doing anything meaningful about climate, it does devolve to local governments. And in fact, 70 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions come from the cities of the world. So the obligation will revert, in a lot of ways in

the U.S., to local governments, and I suspect they may try and attack that as well, which is so incredibly harmful.

"I don't think there's any community in the country that has escaped the destructive impact of climate change-driven freakish weather. And if they take action to limit the ability of communities to prepare for that and to try and reduce their contributions to climate impacts, I think it's going to really hurt local residents. It will be difficult if the federal government isn't a partner, but we're going to continue that work."

Part of that work will be the implementation of the county's affordable child care initiative, which will be funded by a tax rate hike that passed this year. "It's hard to really grasp the enormous impact that that will have," Shea said. "I do think this will be transformative for thousands of families and their children – there's so much data on how investing in high-quality early childhood care improves graduation rates, improves health, improves earnings. All of it. So I think this is just a profoundly important investment, especially in the face of the horrible attacks on public education."

Meet NWACA Board Member Lori Steinberg

By **KEVIN KOTT**
Northwest Austin Civic Association

KEVIN: Hello Lori! You are one of the board's most recent members. Please tell us a bit about your background.

LORI: I grew up in McCloud, a small town in Oklahoma, raised by a single mom, along with two sisters. I loved and had horses, pigs, chickens, ducks ... and a cow. Basically, I am an all-around animal lover.

KEVIN: What brought you to Austin?

LORI: I left Oklahoma after attending Rose State College and The University of Oklahoma. After leaving college I began working as a property manager in an apartment community in Oklahoma and then transferred to San Antonio in the mid-1980s. After four years in San Antonio, I then transferred to Rancho Cucamonga, California, working for the same management company. However, I became very nervous after experiencing an earthquake and transferred back to Victoria, Texas, where I worked for four years. I then wanted to get my daughter into a good

quality high school which would lead her acceptance in a good college. So, with the same company, I transferred to Austin where she attended Round Rock High School.

KEVIN: I'm curious about your experience studying Swiss Biomedicine.

LORI: I've always been interested in nutrition, wellness, and supplements, and how they work in symphony within the body. My current job was stressful, and I was not very healthy. Then about eight years ago I met Matt, who has a dental practice in Austin focused on Oral Systemic Health and Sleep Medicine, and we eventually married. While we were dating, he told me that he wanted to make it his mission to get me healthy. Matt then arranged for us to go to Switzerland to study with Dr. Thomas Rau, a world class physician, in a two-month course which covered his wellness philosophy utilizing nutritional medicine and supplements. This treatment worked miracles for me. And as a bonus, we both received certification in his philosophy and methodology.

KEVIN: What is your current profession?

LORI: Real Estate has always been my gig for making money. I work with KW Commercial in commercial real estate. I help clients decide whether it's a good financial opportunity to buy this property or that property. I'm currently working on attaining my Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation.

KEVIN: What do you do that you most enjoy?

LORI: At this point in my life, the bright spot is philanthropy. My heart is in volunteering and supporting The Center for Child Protection where abused or neglected children can tell their story and receive supportive services. I love supporting other non-profit organizations that help people and I look forward to providing my energies to support NWACA goals. Otherwise, I also love gardening and healthy cooking; they relieve stress.

*Check out Lori's bio at www.nwaca.org
ABOUT/BOARD OF DIRECTORS.*



Lori Steinberg

Business Spotlight: C-Mart Neighborhood Convenience and Community



Zull Momin, C-Mart owner, and Suraj (left), manager

By **JANICE GREEN**
Northwest Austin Civic Association

They have many names – corner store, bodega, mom-and-pop shop – but the concept of convenience stores took hold in 1927 when the Southland Ice Company of Dallas expanded their ice stores to carry basic groceries for extended hours (thus the 7-Eleven moniker) and cater to the growing urban populations. Since the 1960s, first-generation immigrants found such businesses a way to access “the American dream” when other employment opportunities were limited.

Zulfikarali Momin – owner of C-Mart at 700 Village Center Drive at the corner of North Hills – immigrated from India in 1997 to Houston. After the tragic death of his brother, Momin relocated to Austin in 1999 and worked in a convenience store. Eventually he had the opportunity to buy the C-Mart business from a fellow “willing to finance my loan and who saw past my shoes that were in

bad shape.”

Then 9/11 happened and business dropped to a trickle, he said, due to some who equated immigrants to terrorists. But Momin hung in there, forged long-standing relationships with neighbors, and was able to provide for his family. His two children who played in the store are now an engineer and physician's assistant. He refers to C-Mart as his “third child” – a tribute to the neighbors who have stood by him for 25+ years.

This neighborhood support is why Momin is intent on giving back to his community. He has contributed ice for events sponsored by Northwest Austin Civic Association and school activities, school supplies for children in need, make-shift raincoats and restroom facilities for those unhoused and in need. If he sees someone struggling, he tries to help and instills this intention in his employees, many of whom have found long-term employment at C-Mart.

Touring Momin's store gives a

greater sense of his offerings which also includes the U-Haul and Texaco features. In the back of C-Mart is Taqueria Ivan offering take-out breakfast and lunch Mexican food. Beyond the lottery tickets, ice and soda, are a variety of convenience items: a large selection of wine and beer, staple grocery foods, first aid supplies, school and office supplies, baby basics, pet food, car and cleaning items, toys, hardware, t-shirts and caps, chips and drinks (including an assortment of Mexican chips and drinks), nuts and chocolates galore. There are Stouffer's and Amy's frozen meals, Ben & Jerry's ice cream, and there are new items all the time.

Need a last-minute item? There is a high probability C-Mart has it.

The story of Momin and C-Mart is a prime example of “what goes around, comes around.” The community support and gratitude he experienced is a two-way street in our Northwest Hills.

C-Mart (512) 795-8148.

The Rational Rambler: Jimmy Carter's Greatest Term —A Life of Service Beyond Politics—



By **MARSHALL E. HIWATT**
Opinionist

In the film *It's a Wonderful Life*, Zuzu Bailey famously says, "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings." It is a moment in an iconic holiday classic often quoted with great affection and relevance to life events.

On December 29, 2024, my wife and I were catching up on emails and news of the day while relaxing together. A mutual gasp filled our room as we read the news on our phones at the same time: Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States had passed away. It was a moment of shared reflection and sadness. We paused to consider the immense legacy of a man who had touched so many lives (ours included) through his humility, faith in humanity, true spirituality and servant leadership.

Immediately the world began discussing and sizing up President Carter's legacy. Carter served a single term from 1977 to 1981. Those years were a time marked by very significant social and geopolitical challenges leading many pundits and citizens to label him the worst president in our history. At that moment, I couldn't help but think that no life—especially one spanning a full century—should ever be defined by just four years. Would any of us want our lives to be summed up by a single period, like high school, university, or a job? Carter's true measure lies in the body of work he built over a lifetime, not just his term in office.

I was in first grade when James Earl Carter Jr. took the oath of office. My earliest memory of any president involved watching President Gerald Ford leave Washington D.C. on Executive One after Carter's inauguration. I thought the helicopter was so cool and I asked my mom "Where is that man going?" Mom explained, "He gave the White House keys to the new president, and he is going home now." It was my first introduction to the peaceful transfer of power, a hallmark of democracy and our unique constitutional federal republic. Little did I know that Carter's legacy would extend far beyond his presidency and that his example of humility and service would resonate throughout my own life.

For my parents and grandparents, Carter's presidency was defined by many challenges including the escalating Cold War with

the Soviet Union, the Iran hostage crisis, economic stagnation, high inflation, unemployment, the 1980 Olympic Games boycott and the energy crisis.

As a young child I didn't fully understand or really feel the economic turmoil of the era. Instead, my worldview included the fun of helping mom and dad hunt for gas stations with green flags signaling available fuel for our car. While my parents likely found the situation frustrating, I saw it as an adventure, a kind of game that brought the family together.

Another standout memory as a child was Carter's Presidential Physical Fitness Program, which encouraged children to develop healthy habits. The annual fitness tests were a highlight for my classmates and I, even though pull-ups were my nemesis. The program included everyone and we relished the camaraderie, cheering for one another, and especially the colorful patches we earned.

Space exploration was seen as the final frontier and the Voyager spacecraft launched during Carter's presidency. This was another significant event capturing the imagination of my generation. These missions, carrying the Golden Records (no, unfortunately not Houses of the Holy or Dark Side of the Moon) with messages from Earth, symbolized hope, exploration, and a desire for connection. As a child, I couldn't fully grasp their significance, but the idea of Voyager traveling beyond our solar system (which then included Pluto as a planet) inspired awe, curiosity and dreams of one day being an astronaut myself.

Reflecting on President Carter's life, I see his term as one ephemeral chapter in a much larger story. Carter's work after he left the Oval Office defined true servant leadership. Unlike many public figures today who prioritize recognition, monetary compensation or social media clicks, Jimmy Carter embodied humility. He didn't just lend his name to causes; he showed up, hammering nails alongside volunteers, demonstrating that leadership means action, not applause. The term "virtue signaling" never applied to Carter and he sought to be a good person the entire week, not just sixty minutes of a weekly Sunday church service.

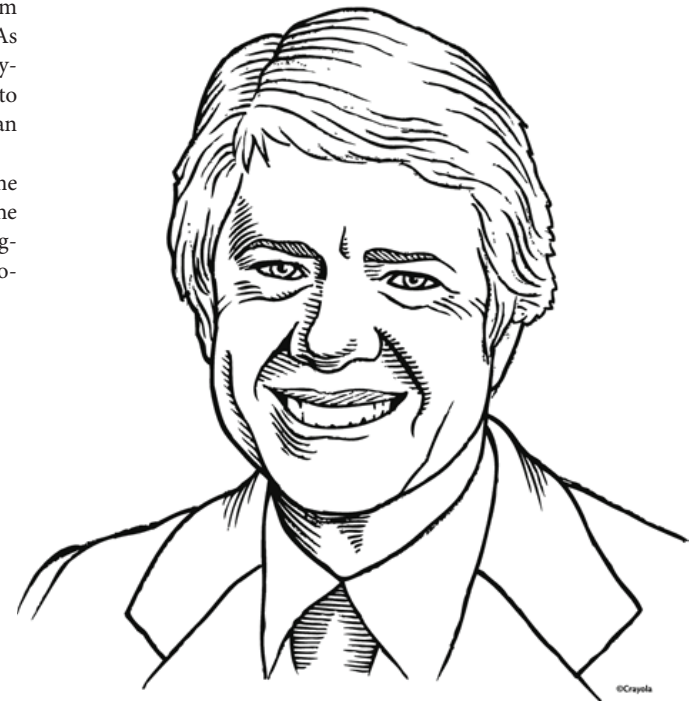
Since partnering with Habitat for Humanity in 1984, Carter and his wife Rosalynn helped build, renovate, and repair more than 4,300 homes in over 14 countries through the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project. Habitat for Humanity itself has built, rehabilitated, or repaired over 1.4 million homes globally, providing shelter for more than 35 million people. These efforts have inspired countless others to join the cause, making it one of the most impactful initiatives in modern history.

During my time at university, my roommate and I volunteered for Habitat for Humanity on many occasions. One of my more memorable jobs included building solid supports for a family

porch swing. Safe to say, we did an outstanding job—so outstanding, in fact, that the project manager joked it could hold a cement truck. We also assembled and hung the swing. Weeks later, when the home was finished, the family hosted a thank-you BBQ lunch for everyone who pitched in. My roommate and I met the family who would live, love, and grow together in that home. Meeting those impacted by our contributions had a great effect on me. It's a day and moment that has stayed with me over my life, because I valued the experience of serving others. A trait epitomized by President Carter that moved me and many others to volunteer.

Jimmy Carter's example reminds us that true leadership isn't about accolades or power; it's about making a difference, one nail, one house, and one life at a time. His legacy of quiet servant leadership that has inspired generations set a very high bar for those who follow. Carter created an outstanding post presidency template for men and women who will serve as our future presidents.

President Jimmy Carter
39th President of the United States



Reflecting more on Carter's legacy, I'm reminded of another scene from *It's a Wonderful Life*, where Mary Bailey offers bread, salt, and wine to the Martini family as blessings for their new home: "Bread, that this house may never know hunger. Salt, that life may always have flavor. And wine, that joy and prosperity may reign forever." Carter's life—both during and after his presidency—embodies these blessings. He sought to end hunger, add flavor to the lives of the less fortunate, and bring joy and prosperity to communities worldwide.

So, to you President James Earl Carter, Jr., I respectfully bow my head and tip my pen to you sir, viewing you as one of the greatest presidents in our history and knowing that I do not have to wait for any bell to ring. Your wings, sir, were already waiting!

I invite you to email me at marshall.e.hiwatt@gmail.com and share your memories and views about President Carter's legacy!

“ He sought to end hunger, add flavor to the lives of the less fortunate, and bring joy and prosperity to communities worldwide. ”

MARKET UPDATE

NORTHWEST
HILLS
AND
WESTOVER
HILLS

 \$1,407,500
MEDIAN SALES PRICE

 \$7,145,000
SALES VOLUME

 \$477
AVG LIST PRICE PER SF

 \$540
AVG SALE PRICE PER SF

 \$1,255,000
MEDIAN LIST PRICE

 101
AVG DAYS ON MARKET

 4
CLOSED SALES



ABOR MLS including data from January 1-27, 2025 for single family homes. Based on NWACA boundaries: Mopac/Hwy 360/2222/Hwy 183.

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JULIE WAIDELICH



Love Where You Live

This year brings renewed optimism and heightened activity in the residential market—an exciting time for buyers and sellers alike! Every day, I celebrate the opportunity to help people make their dreams come true, whether it's finding the perfect home or moving on to exciting new adventures.

If your plans for 2025 include buying or selling, let me put my experience and the resources of Nest Properties Austin to work for you. May your homes and hearts be filled with love, laughter, and peace throughout the year.

Julie Waidelich

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Writers Corner: The Fountain of Youth



By IDEE KWAK
Northwest Austin
Civic Association

Retired after 37 years of practice, psychotherapist Lisa Mersky is a proponent of National Endowment of the Arts research, sure that creating art keeps us young. Benefits include stimulated mental engagement, increased physical activity, and invigorated positive attitude. Creative pursuits also provide engagement in communities of fellow artists.

When Writer's Corner featured Mersky's book of poetry, *Unexpected Guests*, (July, 2020) we heard how her expressiveness blossomed in 2017 at an Omega workshop in New York's sumptuous Hudson Valley (www.omega.org/workshops/workshops-topic/workshops-events). Mersky was drawn to the program by multi-media artist Lynda Barry who helps her students discover "all forms of art are right at our fingertips."

Inspired by Barry, Mersky started working with writing coach, Abriel Louise Young. At the same time, she began immersing



herself in visual arts courses, both online and in person, some as close as Laguna Gloria, others outside Austin. Her glorious home replete with sculptures, paintings, glasswork, and artifacts from many sources, and her studio now bursting with supplies, Mersky continues to diversify, the act of creation bringing her a youthful joie de vivre. She works in pottery, photography, wa-

ter colors, oil pastels and colored pencil, along with more esoteric pursuits in collage, assemblage (www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/a/assemblage), encaustic painting (www.moeart.org/encaustic-painting), and book-making.

Some of her books repurpose hard-back book covers. Others have covers she makes herself. An interesting format is an assemblage of panels of art into a long strip that is then folded accordion-style. First and last pages are two-sided, creating front and back and covers for the book.

Mersky doesn't sell her art, and she gifts it only when sure of the recipient's enjoyment. But the placement of finished products is not her goal. The process of making them is. In Mersky's words, "Most people want a creative outlet but are inhibited by self-doubt." If they break from their self-imposed restrictions, they can find freedom and empowerment in the personal expression art unleashes.

An exercise she suggests is drawing spirals on a large sheet of paper until the pencil finds its way to other designs. Many of Mersky's works are abstract, exploring colors and shapes



Lisa Mersky with abandon, the liberation of her spirit and the exploration of her emotions captured by the point of the pencil, the tip of the brush, the stylus across the clay, the glue on the unexpected object; the possibilities are boundless.

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A Tribute to Mick Koffend

By NWACA BOARD
Northwest Austin Civic Association

The NWACA Board members will be forever grateful to Charlie Galvin for introducing us to Mick Koffend in 2021. Since then, Mick has been our financial wizard. As NWACA Treasurer, he refined our reporting, improved our methods, and made sure that money in the bank was earning the most interest it could! But more than that, Mick was a lively, friendly, earnest friend. Unfortunately for all of us, Mick left us to enter heaven on January 14, and our hearts are broken.

Mick was an enthusiastic NWACA Board member, ready to take on new activities and inspiring the rest of us to get involved, too. It was he who developed, championed, and led the first of our Earth Day Festivals two years ago. And last year, while he shared that leadership, he devoted the

same level of energy as when he started it. Thus, the NWACA Board has agreed to name this festival in his honor. Going forward, we'll be holding the Mick Koffend Earth Day Festival each year, as close as possible to April 22. And, to help support the effort going forward, we've initiated the Mick Koffend Earth Day Fund, much like we have a longstanding Fourth of July Fund.

An avid cyclist, Mike took part in many MS 150 bike rides, thus this photo. We featured him in the July 2024 issue of this newsletter, in the column that interviews a NWACA Board member. You can check it out in the newsletter archive at www.nwaca.org. Ride on, Mick!

Please join us on April 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Hill Elementary School for this year's Mick Koffend Earth Day Festival. More details will be provided in the March issue of this newsletter.



Anderson High School Tennis Court Changes

By BART ARNOLD
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Effective February 1, 2025, a court reserve system called Smart Access will be activated that will allow patrons to reserve a court online, pay a small fee and access the court via a digital code that will unlock the gate at the time of the reservation. This will allow the Anderson High Tennis Team to generate funds to maintain and improve the courts. AISD provides no funding for this purpose, and maintenance of tennis courts is expensive; the cost to resurface one court is \$8,000.

How it works: Signs have been placed on each court entry gate that contain a QR code. Use your phone to scan the code, and it will take you to the USTA website. Once there, you can select your court, block the time desired in 30-minute increments, and pay the fee. Fees for use will be \$4 per 30-minute increment with

a 2-hour maximum.

Between February 1st and February 10th, no fees will be collected, but you will be required to reserve a court using the QR Code. From February 10th onward, the stated fee will be required. Courts 1-4 and 7-8 will be made available to the public for use. Courts 5-6 will remain locked and off limits for AHS Tennis Team use.



"Religious Rights Violated?"
If a governmental entity has imposed another religion's practice on you, kindly contact the
Austin Area Freedom From Religion
Foundation Chapter
austinffrf@austinffrf.org 978-577-5916
<https://austinffrf.org>

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body in there, you would all eat off each other's plates," Jack says. Going to the Paramount Theatre to watch a movie was another way to pass time, Bebe states how it would be more of a social hour than actual film watching. "Everybody was hollering and talking to each other and not half even listening to a movie", she says. Sticking up in the sky were only two tall



Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Bebe Boone cutting the cake at their wedding on June 7, 1963 in Houston.

buildings, the Texas State Capitol and the UT Tower.

Bebe thought Austin "was a hick town" compared to Houston where she grew up a city girl who rode horses on her dad's ranch in Rock Springs, Edwards County. At UT, Bebe and her sister started the Los Charros Rodeo Club. In order to become a club, the handful of founders needed to get it approved by the UT Board of Regents "Among its 2,000-some signers were Gov. Price Daniel, Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson, and the iconic Roy Rogers," according to an article by The Alcalde. The sisters and other members participated in many events and traveled all over the region.

Growing up in Memphis, a small town in the Texas Panhandle, Jack learned how to pick cotton. He was drawn to UT Austin from his American Legion Boys State program, leading him into politics. In addition to being a member of the Tejas club and the Cowboys at UT, Jack was a counselor and tutor, worked at the Texas Capitol, Moore-Hill Hall, the press box, waiter in Ma Grif's athletic dining hall, the Hemphill Bookstore, and for a laundry franchise.

Post graduation, the two parted ways. Jack was commissioned to go into the U.S. Marine Corps. As a second

lieutenant, he made \$314 a month less than he did working his seven jobs. He was stationed in Okinawa helping to keep the peace and regional security after WWII. Earning the title of Major Jack Boone, he came back stateside and married Bebe. "In June of '63, we wind up getting married. You know we were friends for those five years. She was around the world doing her thing."

Bebe was adventurous before settling down at age 27 to marry Jack. Her first year out of college, she and four of her friends moved out to Coronado, Calif., neighboring San Diego, to teach school, "and had a blast because the Navy was in our backyard," she says. The year after that she moved to the island of Oahu in Hawaii with her sister to train Quarter Horses for showing.

A year after the Boones were married their daughter Kathy was born and then Jack finished law school in the summer of 1965. He always wanted to move back to his hometown to hang his own shingle and run for public office so they moved to Memphis. He recalls, a week after successfully running for the democratic primary in 1968, he gets a call that the district attorney was murdered. Recalling the phone call he received, they told him, "Jack you're the new DA. Go get them." His first case was to prosecute the man who killed his predecessor. His career as a DA continued to be exciting, including being featured in True Detective magazine.

Bebe was settling into the rural town and getting to know the "country folk." Their son Marshall was born

there in a "tiny, little hospital with a country doctor. There was one nurse, one baby, and I was the only patient," says Bebe. Jack sent her roses and the florist asked if Bebe could give the vase back after the flowers died.

During their time in Memphis, Bebe was also building her career and made a huge mark on education. She started the first kindergarten in town. Also around that time President Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, launching the Head Start program. The superintendent came to Bebe stating they have the funding but needed her to run the program. With little guidance, she wrote the first Head Start curriculum. This led to over 50 years teaching special education from pre-k to high school in both Memphis and Austin.

In 1973 John Hill, the attorney general of Texas, asked Jack to be on his team in Austin, and the Boones moved back. Appreciating Bebe, Jack said "You wanna know what kept us together? Her saying 'okay', I'll follow you anywhere, and she did."

The family spent seven years on Lake Austin where Kathy and Marshall would water ski many times before school at Eanes Elementa-

ry. They went on to attend Westlake High School and today both have successful careers and families of their own with five sons between them. Kathy and Marshall have followed their parents' adventurous spirits.

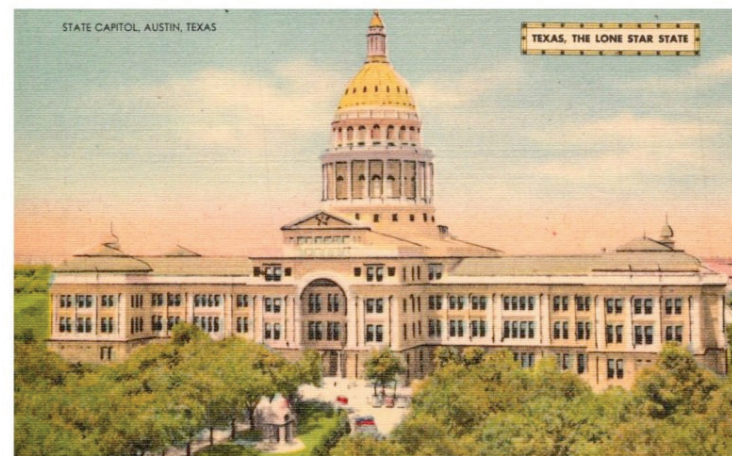
Jack worked for the Attorney General's Office until 1980 when he entered the financial service industry, retiring in 2023.

For six decades, faith and strength have been the foundation of Jack and Bebe's journey together.

"We are together because our home is Christ-centered,"

she says. "A couple that prays together, stays together."

Jack adds, "There's nothing smooth about growing up together. But it turned out to be real smooth the last 30 years." What begins as a challenging journey—raising kids, building careers, and facing life's challenges—has settled into a peaceful, steady rhythm. He says "... things seem to settle down, jobs settle down, income settles down, a level of comfort sets in. And the seas are choppy and all of a sudden they become calm."





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www.NorthwestHillsAustin.com

Is **Buying a Home Part of Your 2025 Plan?** Let's explore starting your home search before the spring market. I'll help you navigate the process and make the most of your purchase this year. Together, we'll focus on your goals and needs, ensuring you're ready to find the perfect home for your lifestyle. **Reach out for a solutions-driven real estate experience.**

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, have a need, or would like to be involved.**

Some of the organizations we support that support HOUSING:

- Rebuilding Together Austin
- ABoR Foundation
- Community First Village
- The SAFE Alliance
- Foundation Communities
- Austin Habitat for Humanity

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NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS

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

2024 – 2026 NWACA Board of Directors

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



ARE YOU A NWACA MEMBER?

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

Here are 5 great reasons to join today!

GREAT NEIGHBORS = GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

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

STAY INFORMED ABOUT ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU

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

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

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

PROTECT AND IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY

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

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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

Together we can make a difference!

JOIN TODAY @ NWACA.ORG/MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____
 Address: _____ Zip: _____
 Email (confidential): _____



Annual dues \$25

Optional Contributions:

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

To join:

go to www.nwaca.org and pay online via credit card
 or send this form and payment to:
 NWACA P.O. Box 26654, Austin, TX 78755

Volunteer!

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

- Communications
- Crime & Safety
- Events
- Neighborhood Watch
- Parks
- Business Membership
- Tree, Environment, and Wildlife
- Wildfire Prevention
- Zoning and Transportation

Are You a NWACA member?

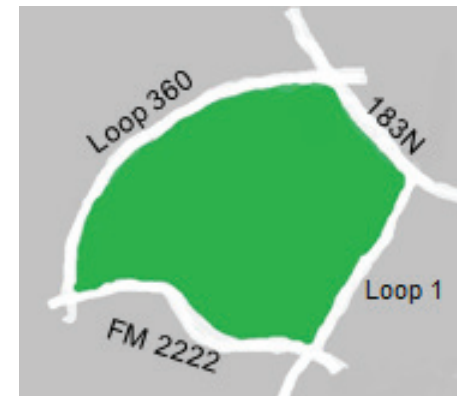
By NWACA BOARD
 Northwest Austin Civic Association

If you are, congratulations on being an important contributor to the success of Northwest Austin Civic Association – an association devoted to improving safety, security, efficiency, communication, and livability within our neighborhood. Without your support, NWACA could not provide the events and services that we do. You are our hero!

If you are not a member, you are not alone. Fewer than 10% of NWACA households are NWACA members. Yet the \$25 annual membership fee seems a small sacrifice. You couldn't buy a week's worth of Starbucks coffee, or three glasses of cheap wine instead.

NWACA's Board and committees are all volunteers who work throughout the year to help build a stronger, safer, more informed community. Please review this newsletter's Mark Your Calendars and 2025 Calendar of Events on page 18 to get a quick snapshot of the numerous projects and events that we host and support. This year we are seeking to increase our membership, so that more of our neighbors care about and participate in decisions and community building activities that keep our neighborhood vibrant. Members vote, participate in targeted surveys, and are eligible for many benefits. Please take this step to be a positive force in the NWACA community. Go to www.nwaca.org and use the green Membership button, or use the membership form in this newsletter to join by U.S. mail.

If you would like more information about household membership, please email your questions to us at info@nwaca.org, or phone us at 737-235-7325.



PREVENT OAK WILT



Special Thanks to Members

By NWACA

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to the 4th of July Parade Fund, the Park Fund, and the Constable Fund, between November 18, 2024 and January 23, 2025.

Donations to the 4th of July

Parade Fund help NWACA to host the best 4th of July parade in Austin! The Park Fund helps us do events in our parks and revitalize parks in the NWACA area. The Constable Fund allows us to have a random patrol of the neighborhood by a Travis County

Constable.

- Jill Gentry
- Tom and Nancy-Jane Griffith
- Jill Klucher
- George and Carolyn Meihaus
- Patricia Tippie
- (apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)

NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS

Sustainable Food Sources for Austin

By **MERRIESSA ANTON**
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Sustainable food is produced in a way that minimizes environmental impact and promotes well-being. Food that is grown or produced in or near Austin creates the opportunity for residents to buy sustainable, healthy food. Distance and extreme weather conditions should not be of concern. Large farms rely on trucks that travel long distances, which not only allows the food to degrade, but also creates environmental problems such as greenhouse gas emissions.

How can you eat more sustainably? Buy your fruits and vegetables locally. Know what grows in our geographic area. Fruits and vegetables brought in from South America cause environmental problems because of the distance they must travel. For the same reason, eat fresh food that is in season in our area. Support sustainable fishing practices and limit meat and animal products.

Small-scale farms are critical to Austin's food security. Many of these farmers are regenerative farmers, that is, they look out for soil health. Healthy soil holds more water, carbon, and nutrients. Healthy soil also requires fewer chemicals to produce food. Most industrial farms grow one type of crop and exhaust soil nutrients, thus they often use fertilizers which can create toxic runoff and pollute waterways.

Supporting small-scale farms is easy in Austin, since we have many farmers' markets that are accessible and affordable. The more we

support them, the more small-scale farms and farmers' markets will be available to us.

Some of Austin's farmer's markets:

- **Farmer George Farmers' Market** opening again in late spring around Mesa Drive; info@farmergeorge.market
- **Sustainable Food Center (SFC) Farmer's Market Downtown** 9 am to 1 pm Saturday, Republic Square, 422 Guadalupe Street
- **Sustainable Food Center Farmer's Market Sunset Valley** 9 am to 1 pm Saturday, Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones Road
- **Texas Farmer's Market at Mueller** 10 am to 2 pm on Sunday, 2006 Philomena St. Mueller's Branch Park Pavillion (20,000 SF indoor)
- **Boggy Creek Farm Market** 8 am to 1 pm, Wednesday to Saturday, 3414 Lyons Road
- **Barton Creek Farmers' Market** 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, 2901 South Capital of Texas Highway
- **Green Gate Farms Market** 9 am to 12 pm, Saturday, 8310 Canoga Avenue. A certified organic family farm in East Austin.
- **Texas Farmer's Market at Lakeline** 9 am to 1 pm, Saturday, 11200 Lakeline Mall
- **Lone Star Farmers' Market** 4-7 pm, first and third Thursday, Steiner Ranch (Cups & Cones Shopping Center, N. Quinlan Park Road)
- **Good Shepherd Farmers' Market** typically 9 am to 1 pm, Saturday, depending on the season, 3201 Windsor Road.

February Library Events in the Northwest Hills Area

By **MARTHA MILLER**
Northwest Austin Civic Association

All locations will be closed on Sunday, February 16 and Monday, February 17 in observance of President's Day.

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 (1-4pm): Join us in the Old Quarry parking lot for a visit from the Pop-Up Library! Check out some books, pick up a craft kit and get help with the Virtual Library!

Events at the Yarbrough branch

Wednesday, February 5 - Sound Bath Meditation (6:30-7:30pm) Join us for this monthly gentle yoga and sound bath meditation class open to all fitness levels. Adults (18+) only.

Saturday, February 8 - Lunar New Year Dance Party with Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team (11am -12:15pm) A high-energy Lunar New Year-themed blacklight dance party complete with face paint, firework and dragon crafts, and a grand finale with dancing lions from Texas Dragon Dance Team. All Ages Welcome!

Fridays, February 14 & 28 - Adult Morning Social (10am - noon) Join neighbors and make new friends at this casual social.

Saturday, February 15 - Black History Month: Pamela Allen & Co Band (11am - noon) Come celebrate Black History Month - country blues, ragtime, some jazz and a little gospel by Pamela Allen & Company! Instruments include guitar, harmonica, fiddle, and ukulele.
Saturday, February 15 Crafty Adult: String Pinned Pictures (2-4pm) We'll focus on a different craft every month; we'll learn the basics, we'll learn the ins and outs, and then we'll let loose. Come learn with us!

Friday, February 21 - Chair Yoga (10:30-11:30am) Ages 18 and up
Saturday, February 22 - Seed Gathering (1-2pm) Join us and Sunshine Gardeners for seed saving, gardening and sustainable living. Bring your own seeds to share or help us process donations for the

Seed Collection to keep it growing.

Monday, February 24 - Mending Circle at Yarborough (6- 7:30pm) Bring your favorite garments that need some tender loving care. Ages 18 and up

Events at the Howson branch

Tuesday, February 4, 11, 18 & 25 - The Story of You: Memoir Writing Made Easy (1:30-2:30pm) - Participants will explore how to pinpoint the essential moments that define their life narratives. Our presenter, Rosa Latimer will explain methods for reflecting on personal experiences.

Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19 & 26 - Gentle Yoga and Sound bath Meditation (4:30 - 5:30pm) Classes include gentle movement with the addition of crystal sound bowls. Ages 18 and up

Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27 - Tech Time (10-11am) Learn to download books and use digital Library resources. Bring your tablet, smartphone, or eReader for help navigating the Virtual Library, downloading eBooks, audiobooks, digital magazines and more!

Events at the Spicewood Springs Branch

Monday, February 3 - Yarn and Yammer (6 - 7:30pm) Come hang out with other yarn crafters! Ages 18 and up

Thursdays, February 13 & 27 - Yoga with Tracy (9:30 - 10:30am) Bring a thin yoga mat if you have one and wear comfortable clothes. The library will have a few mats to share. Ages 18 and up

Sunday, February 9 - Lunar New Year Dance Party with Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team (noon -1:30pm) A high-energy Lunar New Year-themed blacklight dance party complete with face paint, firework and dragon crafts, and a grand finale with dancing lions from Texas Dragon Dance Team. All Ages Welcome!

Mark Your Calendars

These events are as planned as of January 23. As you consider participating in one of the events listed, please check first with the organizer.

February 8 @ 9am to noon
Steck Valley Greenbelt Trail Cleanup
Steck Avenue Entrance

February 18 @ 7pm
Parks Committee - virtual
February 19 @ 6:30 - 8:30pm
NWACA Board Meeting -
Dell Jewish Community Center
Friedel Board Room

March 8 @ 9am to noon
Steck Valley Greenbelt Trail Cleanup
Steck Avenue Entrance

March 15 @ 9am to noon
Bull Creek District Park Cleanup
Sign up at <https://givepul.se/436xjo>

March 18 @ 7pm
Parks Committee - virtual
March 19 @ 6:30 - 8:30pm
NWACA Board Meeting -
Dell Jewish Community Center
Friedel Board Room

March 25 @ 5pm
NWACA Zoning and Transportation Committees - virtual

NWACA 2025 Calendar of Events

Monthly, 2nd Saturday @ 9am-noon

Steck Valley Greenbelt Cleanup

Monthly, 3rd Saturday @ 8am-noon

March - October Bull Creek District Park Cleanup

March 26 @ 6:30 - 8pm

Annual Neighborhood Meeting

All neighbors invited

Huffman Hall, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

4121 Steck Avenue

April (TBD before April 12)

Tax Protest Workshop

April 27 @ 2 to 4pm Earth Day Festival

Also paper shredding onsite

May 3 @ noon-2pm (tentative)

Spring Recycling Event - B.OPA

for NWACA members

June (date TBD) Pool Opening Celebration

July 4 @ 9am - noon

4th of July Parade and Freedom Fest

August 16 paper shredding event

for NWACA members

September 27 @ 8am-noon

NWACA Neighborhood Garage Sales

October (dates TBD) National Night Out events

October 18 @ noon-2pm (tentative) -

Fall Recycling Event - Electronics

for NWACA members

October Halloween Decorating Contest

December - December Holiday Decorating Contest

NORTHWEST AUSTIN NEWS



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Murchison Middle School Girls Basketball in Spotlight



Murchison Middle School 8th grade A girls basketball team in December 2024.



Murchison MS 8th grade B girls basketball team in December.



Murchison Boys Soccer Goes Undefeated



“We are the Champions!!! Murchison Boys Soccer wins the City Championship (December 17) with a 2-1 win over Small MS ... ending the season undefeated! Congrats to our players and coaches! Way to go, Mats!!” posted on the Murchison Middle School Facebook page.

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Anderson Varsity Boys Basketball 2024-2025

Photo by Robyn Eckermann

“ Our boys are battling in district play right now. We have a pretty balanced team, so not many stats that jump out for individual accolades within the season. That being said, we have had great contributions from Seniors Sol Mierzwa, Drew Donahue, and Jason Smith; Juniors Ben Burris, Luke McReynolds, Noah Perkins, and Miles Rickards; and sophomore Jack Penders. ~Eric Swanson, Anderson head coach boys basketball.”



Trojan Basketball Roster 2024-25

- 0 Sol Mierzwa 6'5" Sr.
- 1 Luke McReynolds 5'9" Jr.
- 3 Josh Liberman 5'8" Sr.
- 4 Miles Rickards 6'5" Jr.
- 5 Noah Perkins 6'2" Jr.
- 10 Bryant Gitcho 5'10" Sr.
- 11 Drew Donahue 6'2" Sr.
- 12 Ty Donelson 6'0" Sr.
- 13 Zach Wallis 5'10" Jr.
- 14 Jude Mccharen 6'4" So.
- 20 Will Mcelvaney 6'1" So.
- 21 Kaleb Kurian 6'1" So.
- 23 Ben Burris 5'9" Jr.
- 24 Jack Buie 5'8" Jr.
- 25 Damari Perkins 5'9" So.
- 30 Archie Spitzer 6'2" Jr.
- 32 Jack Penders 6'6" So.
- 35 Jason Smith 6'4" Sr.

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Murchison's Concert, Symphonic and Wind Ensemble Bands at the Winter Concert



Anderson's Trojan Times Shout Out: Congratulations to Henry Hoffacker (Music Composition) and Alexa Moy (Dance Choreography) for advancing to the state level of the PTA Reflections competition. The Reflections program, which

sees participation from over 60,000 students annually, recognizes artistic excellence in various categories. Henry and Alexa's advancement to the Texas PTA level is an impressive achievement, considering that less than 3% of participants reach this stage!

"We applaud the creativity and hard work of all students who participated in this year's Reflections program!"

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Teachers of the Year!



Gabe Rangel was named 2025 Anderson High School Teacher of the Year. He is a DELTA (Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and math.



Anderson High School's Teacher of Promise, Hayes Harkins



Murchison Middle School's Teacher of the Year, Theresa Lê



MURCHISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
AUSTIN Independent School District



Teacher of the Year

Tricia Hughes, PE teacher, was named Doss Elementary School's Teacher of the Year. Coach Hughes was nominated by and voted on by her peers at Doss.



DOSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AUSTIN Independent School District



Teacher of Promise

Rebecca McEnroe, first grade teacher, was named Doss Elementary School's Teacher of Promise. The award goes to a first-year teacher who was nominated by and voted on by her peers.



Murchison Middle School's Teacher of Promise, Ryan Johnson

“I recently closed on a house in central Austin with the help of Dawn Lanier as my Realtor. I am a first-time homeowner, and the process can be intimidating and confusing at times. Miss Dawn was nothing but wonderful from start to finish.

I was able to buy in an area I desired with all of the amenities I was looking for. None the less just 4 streets down from my brother whom she helped with his first house a few years ago. I am one satisfied customer! It is with great appreciation for Miss Dawn’s experience, professionalism and kindness I was able to get exactly what I wanted.

**I was referred to Miss Dawn and will continue to pass her name along to friends and family. Thank you to Miss Dawn, Princess and the entire team for making a long-time dream come true.”
Grateful, Christian Trice**



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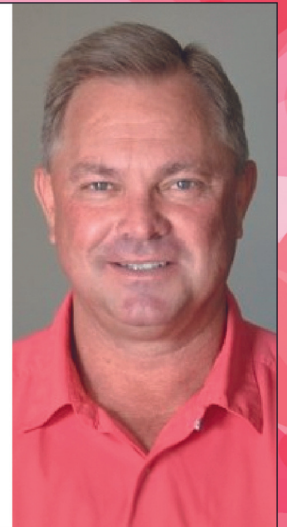
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