

# Northwest Austin News

SERVING THE NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY

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## Your Northwest Austin Civic Association Spring To-Do List

By NWACA BOARD  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

With our brief winter at a close, it's time to be outdoors enjoying the nice weather; there are two options for you to join with neighbors in our green spaces. We also have an opportunity to be creative and generate a special project to support the neighborhood, and there are three events to put on your calendar.

Monthly Cleanup Steck Valley Greenbelt –  
March 8 Steck Avenue entrance

Looking for some exercise along the trail? Join the NWACA Parks Committee in its monthly Steck Valley Greenbelt cleanup, making the trail more accessible and beautiful. Plan to join us from 9 a.m. to noon, and please bring gloves, loppers, and hand saws if you have them.



NWACA, 9

## Grace Covenant Church Hosts Night to Shine for 150 Special Guests

By LYNETTE HAALAND  
Northwest Austin News

Grace Covenant Church hosted Night to Shine on February 7 where 150 young people with special needs were treated like kings and queens. Night to Shine has grown into a worldwide prom experience aimed to show every person they are loved, cherished, and an image-bearer of God. There was a full red carpet, a salon, dancing, limo rides, karaoke, face painting, and milkshakes bars!

“Our son, River, was an honored guest at Night to Shine and everything was wonderful!” shared Dawn and Tye Wilson, River’s parents. “This was his first time at the event, and he will definitely attend next year. River talked about it long after we got home and well into the next day with his sisters! My husband and I just smiled from ear to ear watching him enjoy himself so thoroughly. Thank you so much for a beautiful setting.”

“We were honored to have four firemen



from the Spicewood Springs Station and their truck join us as well as five Travis County deputies,” shared Teresa Snow, with Cru City Austin, who volunteered with Night to Shine.

Night to Shine is hosted globally every year by churches on the Friday before Valentine’s Day. Over the past 10 years, Night to Shine, through hundreds of churches worldwide, has provided over half a million honored guest experiences and over a million volunteer experiences.

“We are already committed to host Night to Shine February 2026,” Snow said.

### Night to Shine 2025

- 150 Honored Guest with disabilities
- 450 Volunteers
- 150 Parents honored, cared for and served at the simultaneous Night to Dine
- Firefighters and law enforcement support

NIGHT TO SHINE, 16

## Legendary Milk Grows from Studio to NW Austin Headquarters, Major Retailers

By LYNETTE HAALAND, Northwest Austin News

After the Feehans of Steiner Ranch had their first son nine years ago, Luna was faced with breastfeeding challenges. That experience led to the creation of Legendary Milk in 2015. The supplement company was started in the couple’s tiny 1,000-square-foot Austin studio with an encapsulator found on eBay. Last year Legendary moved into its 9,000-square-foot headquarters on Balcones Drive near RM 2222. Today it has 37 em-

ployees, a 25,000-square-foot warehouse, and some 55 products which can be found in Target, Walmart and on Amazon as well as hundreds of boutiques.

Being a company founded on breastfeeding, Luna and husband Joe had fun with the decor of their new offices last year. There are pink doors everywhere and the walls are loaded with murals related to womanhood.

“We basically just scrubbed the entire floor. We really tried to bring our personality into it,” Luna said. The cozy lactation room wallpaper is filled with drawings of breasts of all sizes and a massage chair for relaxing.

LEGENDAIRY 14-15

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# Anderson Upgrades to Begin on Athletic Fields, Gyms, Entrance, HVAC, Plumbing, etc.



By **LYNETTE HAALAND**, Northwest Austin News

L.C. Anderson High School is getting major upgrades which are expected to start this summer.

The Austin ISD construction project is part of the

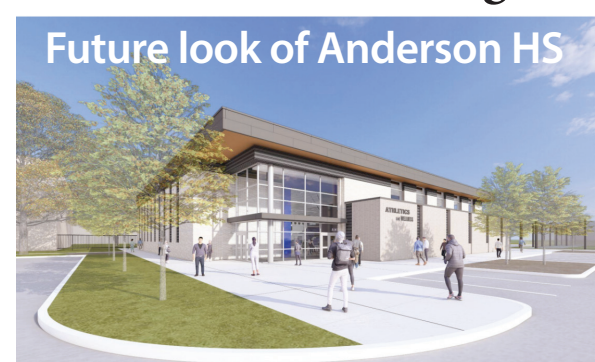
\$2.44 billion bond package that voters passed in 2022. The majority of the bond or \$2.3 billion is going toward the modernization of schools and facilities in AISD.

Located at 8403 Mesa Dr., Anderson renovations include adding a secure entry vestibule, HVAC, electrical and plumbing improvements, and athletic upgrades including a turf competition field and renovations to the gyms and locker rooms. The project was to begin in fall 2023.

AHS renovations are expected to be complete in two years, January 2027, according to Michael Mann, AISD's executive director of construction management.

He said some campus areas will be fenced off for construction and students and staff may experience temporary changes in school entrances.

The Campus Architectural Team, composed of campus staff, parents and community members, is working with the district and project team to determine the scope of



the modernization in order to best meet the needs of Anderson's students, staff and community.

"We appreciate the community's support while we go through the construction because it is disruptive to everybody," Mann shared in reports.

## Austin ISD Announces Hiring Freeze as Budget Deficit Grows to \$110M

By **BECKY FOGEL**, KUT

Austin ISD will institute a districtwide hiring freeze on March 1 as the school district tries to claw its way out of a financial hole that has grown deeper since the 2024-25 budget was approved in June.

Though district officials initially anticipated a \$78 million budget deficit, that figure climbed to \$92 million. Now, it's reached \$110 million, despite Austin ISD already making \$26 million in spending cuts. Only special education services will be exempt from the hiring freeze, according to a district spokesperson.

Austin ISD's interim Chief Financial Officer Katrina Montgomery shared the sobering news about the budget deficit with trustees during a school board information session Thursday. She said efforts to reduce the deficit must continue, especially to keep the district's savings account from getting too low.

"We can't stop here. We can't just say we made the \$26 million (in cuts) and stop," she said.

Montgomery said a combination of spending requests and lower-than-anticipated federal funding for the School Health and Related Services program drove the deficit up. Those requests

included \$16 million for education evaluation contracts, \$7 million for instructional materials and \$6 million for repairs and maintenance.

"What is being very courageous in reducing an additional \$32 million (in costs)," she said.



The goal, Montgomery said, is to get the deficit back down to \$78 million during the current fiscal year. In addition to the hiring freeze, other strategies Austin ISD is using to reduce the deficit include reorganizing departments, selling district properties and improving student attendance rates, which bring in more state funding. A spending freeze is also on the table.

Montgomery said a variety of headwinds have made it harder to cut spending and increase revenue. Among them is an uncertain political climate for public schools at the state and federal levels as the Texas Legislature considers creating a school voucher program and President Donald Trump issues educa-

tion-related executive orders. That includes allowing immigration authorities to enter schools and houses of worship.

"We have parents who are possibly keeping their kids at home because of their fearful state," she told trustees.

Austin ISD's financial situation has also been exacerbated by other factors such as inflation and underfunded school safety mandates state lawmakers approved in 2023. Montgomery noted Austin ISD received \$2.5 million from the state for school safety – but the actual expense tops \$23 million. Both the Texas House and Senate have proposed increasing school security funding by \$400 million to help bridge the funding gap.

Austin ISD is not the only Central Texas school district to see its projected budget deficit grow this fiscal year. The Eanes ISD school board, in an effort to cut a projected \$6.3 million deficit next school year, voted to close an elementary school and consolidate it with another.

Leander ISD officials also announced in February they anticipate a \$34.4 million budget shortfall. To reduce that sum, the district plans to cut more than 200 school-based positions after the current school year ends.

## Nandina's Problematic 100 Years in Austin

By **JIM ROSS**

**Bull Creek Foundation**

*Nandina domestica*, commonly known as heavenly bamboo or sacred bamboo, is a popular landscaping plant with a familiar backstory. Native to East Asia, it was brought to England in the early 1800s. *Nandina* became popular because of its colorful compound leaves, which shift from green to red, and its white flowers, which turn into dozens of bright red berries that last through winter.

*Nandina* arrived in Austin in 1925, and it has shown no intention of leaving. It quickly escaped from gardens and planned landscapes. Like other imports, glossy privet and chinaberry, *nandina* became an invasive plant that has spread widely along our area's creeks, waterways, parks, and wild spaces. Near Bull Creek you might find dense stands of *nandina* over seven feet tall. *Nandina* tolerates shade, enabling it to out-compete native plants in the understorey of our oak-juniper forests.

*Nandina* also contains cyanogenic glycosides, which are

toxic to birds and pets. Researchers have documented the deaths of cedar waxwings and tufted titmice from eating *nandina* berries. That may be because those birds sometimes gorge on berries, ingesting a fatal amount of cyanide.

Once *nandina* is established, getting rid of it is a pain. Birds and other wildlife disperse *nandina* berries far and wide. Very young *nandina* plants can be pulled up by the root, but older plants have brittle roots that break easily. Mature plants can be dug up, but new plants can propagate from any remaining section of root.

Our partner organization, A Rocha USA, has done some preliminary studies comparing different methods for treating *nandina*. In one plot, only the fruit and fruiting stems were removed. In a second plot, *nandina* plants were cut down. In a third plot, the *nandina* was cut down and the roots dug up. We hope future work will determine which of these methods is the most efficient.

While *nandina* remains widely available at garden centers, several cultivars now have fewer negative features than the standard *nandina*. These varieties don't produce berries, and



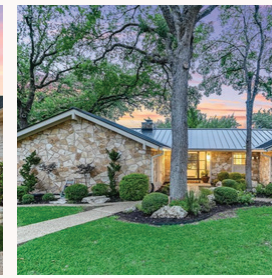
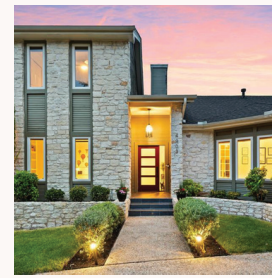
some don't spread by roots either. These cultivars include Blush Pink, Firepower, Flirt, Gulfstream, Lemon Lime, Nana, Obsession, and Woods Dwarf.

Ideally, homeowners will opt for native species instead of *nandina*. Recommended alternatives to *nandina* include American beautyberry, yaupon holly, bush germander, Texas sage and Barbados cherry. These colorful options promote diversity in our woodlands and also benefit wildlife.

For further reading: A study that measured *nandina*

toxicity: <https://tinyurl.com/NandinaResearch>  
The article is being reprinted with permission.





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# NWACA Addresses Improper Parking at Murchison Middle School

By JOE HUTCHINSON  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

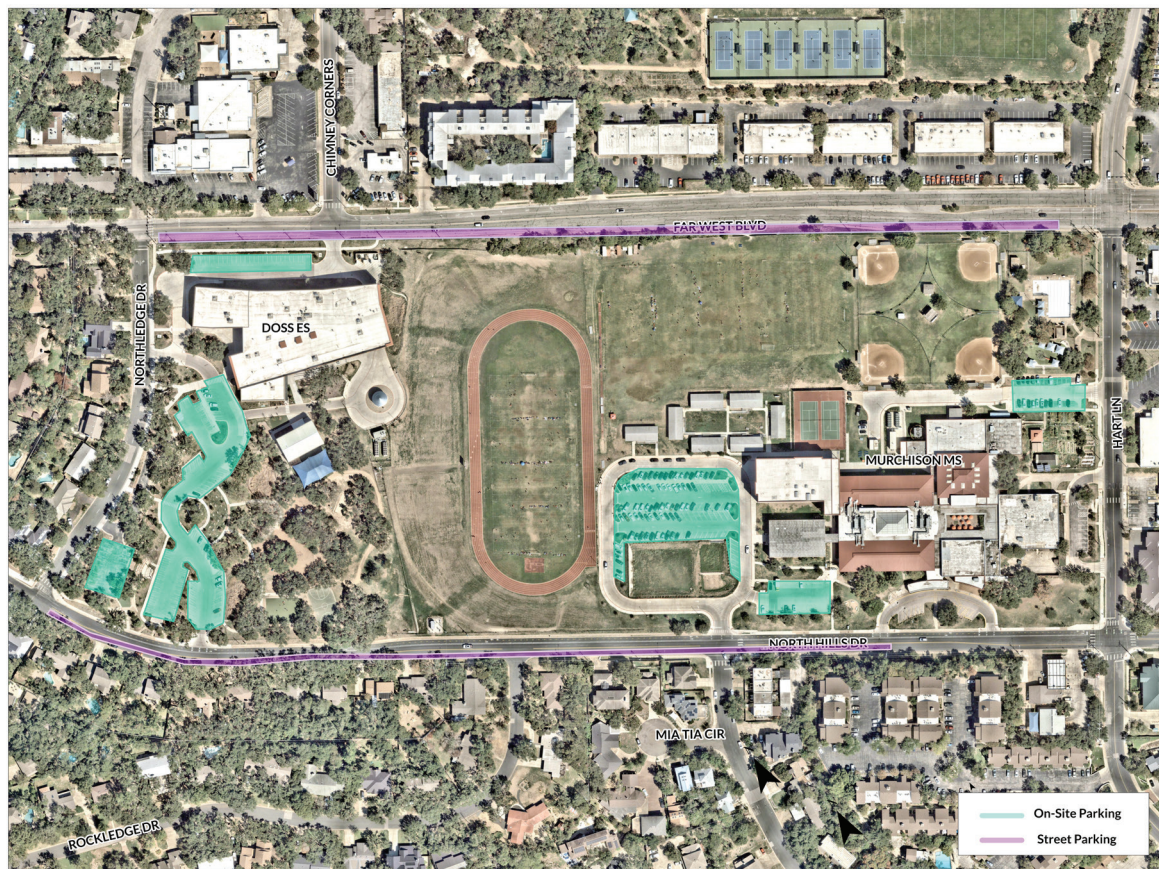
The Northwest Austin Civic Association (NWACA) has received numerous reports from the community regarding improper parking at Murchison Middle School on weekends. In response, NWACA has partnered with the Austin Independent School District (AISD) and the Austin Transportation and Public Works Department to raise awareness about this issue.

AISD has released a detailed map outlining acceptable parking areas for weekend visitors at Murchison Middle School, generally for use of the Murchison Fields. The map highlights street parking options on Far West Boulevard and North Hills Drive, as well as on-site parking lots at both Murchison Middle School and Doss Elementary School.

NWACA urges community members to review and share this map with anyone who uses the fields during weekends. It is important to avoid parking in fire lanes to ensure that emergency services, such as EMS and the Austin Fire Department, can access the fields safely and efficiently.

There are reports of available parking at Doss Elementary School during special events at Murchison Middle School. NWACA encourages the community to utilize these designated parking areas to help maintain safety and accessibility for all.

For more information, please contact NWACA directly at [info@nwaca.org](mailto:info@nwaca.org)



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# SpotCrimes Northwest Austin include DWIs, Assaults, Theft

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# Camelback PUD / Four Seasons at Lake Austin Project Updates Include More Parking

A February 11 meeting involved updates from Jonathan Coon, founder and co-owner of the future Four Seasons Private Residences Lake Austin just west of the Pennybacker Bridge, which is located in the Camelback PUD.

The changes are to the PUD plans, which were established with the City of Austin in 2018. Coon invited area neighbors to review and discuss the plans, which add 65 more acres next door. This additional land will allow their residents to go directly down to the lake without building the 800 foot long funicular (inclined elevator). Here is a recap of the meeting from Lake Austin Collective's Linda Bailey and Marisa Barreda Lipscher:

Neighbors gathered on February 11, for a community update on the Camelback PUD / Four Seasons at Lake Austin project, hosted by the Lake Austin Collective and developer Jonathan Coon. Around 80 attendees got the latest scoop on changes designed to improve access, reduce traffic, and enhance the experience for both area neighbors and visitors.

One of the most welcome updates is the addition of 75 parking spaces that will be closer to the scenic overlook



Four Seasons at Lake Austin future project

park entrance and monitored by the Four Seasons security team. (Note that the current illegal parking areas will be

closed by the Texas Department of Transportation.) Another big shift: the planned funicular has been replaced with a cart path that will accommodate Zoox electric vehicles, providing a smooth and eco-friendly way for residents to get to and from the boat docks. In an effort to keep traffic flowing better, the project has also adjusted its design to include more residences and less commercial office space, which means about 2,000 fewer vehicle trips per day—a major plus for the neighborhoods. Neighbors also agreed that restrooms at the scenic overlook will not be needed, as they could encourage longer stays and cause parking problems. And while we will all get to enjoy the beautiful scenic overlook area along the hillside, it's not meant to be a big gathering spot—just a peaceful, natural space to enjoy the surroundings. The Bridgepoint Road connection, which will link City Park Road and Loop 360, is coming along as planned and should be open in about three years. In the meantime, construction crews will mostly use City Park Road. Updates will be shared as things move forward.

# Zoning & Platting Recs Against Historic Zoning for NW Knox Lane Ranch

By Miles Wall  
Austin Monitor

The Zoning and Platting Commission voted 7-3 to recommend against adding historic zoning to part of the site of the former Running Rope Ranch during a special called meeting on February 6, with Chair Hank Smith abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

The Austin Monitor has previously reported on the long process of redevelopment at the 5.77-acre property at 7304 Knox Lane, in Northwest Austin. The former home of the Knox family and their outdoors summer camp for boys, the site is home to a house and outbuildings but also multiple

natural springs and evidence of Native American involvement going back thousands of years.

Those features have made redevelopment contentious, with the Historic Landmark Commission fighting to apply historic zoning to the property over the objections of the owner, Jimmy Nasour, who currently seeks to build a 20-unit housing development on the property, originally triggered by an application for a demolition permit on the house.

After an independent review of its historic value concluded that the house itself had been too heavily modified over time to qualify as a landmark, the commission changed its proposal to include historic zoning only for the portion of the property that contains the natural springs.

Champe Fitzhugh, a lawyer who served as the primary speaker in favor of the historic zoning at the meeting, argued that it was necessary to protect the site's potential Native American history, which is closely connected to the springs.

He cited preliminary research by the University of Texas at Austin that found at least two burned-rock middens on the site, an archaeological feature typical of Central Texas created by the systematic use of heated rocks to slowly bake tough vegetable matter for eating by prehistoric peoples, including archaic Native Americans. Those sites are frequently found near sources of fresh water.

"We don't live in an area where the pre-recorded history is recognized as significant because there aren't large structures," Fitzhugh said. "This is an opportunity where that could be done or it could be destroyed, and I'd prefer to see it protected."

Several speakers at the meeting noted that the relevant tract is already protected by environmental regulations relating to the springs themselves, including Leah Bojo, director of land use

and entitlements with Drenner Group, who spoke against the zoning on behalf of the owner.

She argued that the regulations imposed by a historic zoning would only complicate the owner's efforts to comply with existing environmental regulations and restore the springs, which are currently compromised by a large concrete structure previously installed by the Knox family for swimming.

"There's several environmental features here with environmental buffers, a critical water quality zone, things like that. So it can't be developed anyway," Bojo said. "We didn't really see the purpose in zoning historic on top of those regulations that already exist."

Bojo said the developer was committed to voluntarily performing "shovel tests" before disturbing any part of the property, a means of testing for artifacts that might be destroyed by digging or development, and would be open to including that commitment in a restrictive covenant with the city.

In voting against the proposed zoning, the Zoning and Platting Commission contradicted the recommendation of both the Historic Landmark Commission and Planning Department staff. Several commissioners who voted "nay," including Alejandra Flores, Ryan Puzycki and Taylor Major, cited private property rights and concerns about normalizing the practice of city-initiated historic landmark zonings.

"This historic designation seems redundant, given the other protections in place already," said Puzycki. "I'm also uncomfortable, given some of the more recent (Historic Landmark Commission)-forced rezonings, that this will become a means of preventing sensible development from happening in the future."

Commissioners Betsy Greenberg, Carrie Thompson and Scott Boone voted in favor of historic preservation.

The proposal will now head to City Council, where it faces long odds, as owner-opposed historic zoning cases rarely result in historic status being granted.

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# DB90 Designation Signals Redevelopment on Hart Lane

By MILES WALL  
Austin Monitor

A proposal to rezone several tracts of land on Hart Lane to allow for more intensive redevelopment under the DB90, or Density Bonus 90, zoning district was recommended by the Zoning and Platting Commission by an 8-1 vote during a public meeting on February 18.

The locations at 7201, 7201 and 1/2, 7205, 7121 Hart Lane in the Northwest Hills neighborhood are currently zoned MF-3, or Multifamily-Medium Density, a zoning type intended for lower-density apartment complexes.

Those lots are currently occupied by three apartment complexes surrounded by parking lots that Michael Whellan, an agent speaking on behalf of the applicant, Price Acacia Cliffs LLC, said during the meeting are around a half-century old and nearing their “end of life.”

If ultimately approved by City Council, the DB90 designation would enable developers to go through with a plan to demolish those apartments and build between 650 and 700 new units on the property.

Commissioner Betsy Greenberg, the sole “nay” vote on the motion, noted that the advertised rent for the roughly 290 units currently on the site is about \$400 lower, on average, than the low end of the affordability limits on any new units set by DB90.

“We’re getting back some income-restricted units but not at the same affordability of what’s being lost,” Greenberg said.

Chair Hank Smith responded to Greenberg, pointing out the age of the units as he defended the proposal.

“The concern I’ve got is, the facility is so old and run down that at some point, it’s going to become uninhabitable, and it may be reaching that point already,” Smith said. “If we do nothing, then you’re going to have no affordable units on the site, versus the redevelopment which is going to give us considerably more.”

“Albeit, maybe not as deeply affordable,” he added. The version of the proposal accepted by the commission was amended by Planning Department staff, who suggested removing an MU, or mixed-use, combining district and including a CO, or conditional overlay, combining district prohibiting certain uses on the property.

Sherri Sirwaitis, a planner with the city presenting the staff recommendation, said that they proposed removing the MU district to remove any alternative to DB90 and the affordability requirements it includes.

Commissioners Lonny Stern and Carrie Thompson, who ultimately voted to approve the proposal, spoke against the limitations imposed by the conditional overlay, which both Planning staff and the applicant said was intended to

make the development more palatable to neighbors.

The overlay would prohibit virtually any commercial use of units on the property, including restaurants of any size, pet care services, barbershops, salons and grocery stores. Typically, commercial uses are a requirement included with DB90, with the intention of promoting neighborhood walkability and small-scale commerce as community benefits.

Price Acacia Cliffs LLC requested to be exempted from that requirement, which the Planning Department said in its report they would support.

In expressing her opposition to the seeming exception, Thompson cited the prevalence of DB90, and the ground-floor commercial requirements it includes, in recent rezonings across the city.

“This commission is even forcing that deep into neighborhoods, so this feels like a strange protection,” Thompson said.

No neighbors spoke against the proposal at the meeting, although a few submitted letters speaking against it that cited traffic, noise and other quality-of-life issues they contended the redevelopment would cause.

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

## Neighbors Voted Down on Reversal of Site Plan Approval for Bull Creek Office Building

By JO CLIFTON  
Austin Monitor

It’s a case that never ends. The Champion sisters filed suit against the city in 1994 and again in 2004 over what they could and could not do with their property. At least one slice of that property is still the subject of argument. City Council heard an appeal from a decision by the Zoning and Platting Commission a month ago over development of the North Trails Office Park at 6601 North Capital of Texas Highway.

Members of the Lakewood Club, Northwest Austin Civic Association, the Bull Creek Foundation, Lake Austin Collective, the Save Our Springs Alliance and two individuals – Marcus Shaftel and Louise Roholt – asked Council to reverse a decision by the Zoning and Platting Commission on January 30 that would allow the project to use a septic system rather than joining the city’s wastewater system.

There are several other items of controversy, some of which relate to the Hill Country Roadway Ordinance. The applicant, represented by attorney Michael Whellan with Armbrust & Brown, told commissioners that they should approve the site plan for the property, which is within the Hill Country Roadway Corridor, because the plan complies with the requirements of the ordinance. Under city regulations, the land use commission must approve a site plan for development in a Hill Country Roadway Corridor if the commission determines that the proposed development complies with the requirements of the ordinance. The Zoning and Planning Commission voted to approve the site plan by a vote of 6-1 with 4 abstentions.

Whellan noted that the plan had gone through eight different changes in order to meet city staff’s requirements.

District 10 Council Member Marc Duchon wrote on the City Council Message Board that the case “has a number of complexities including environmental implications to Bull Creek and the Colorado River, vested rights, etc., and we continue to look for alternate ways to minimize the environmental impacts.”

The neighbors used arguments put together by attorney Bobby Levinski of the Save Our Springs Alliance, which also opposes the site plan.

But Whellan also argued that the planned office use is of lower intensity and has less impervious cover than allowed. He added, “The water quality facility is current volume and built to the green infrastructure standards as a bioretention pond. Moreover, staff has concluded that the stormwater and water quality ponds use the most current effective method of releasing stormwater to prevent erosion.”

Shaftel, who lives right by the site, said via email, “The December ZAP meetings were

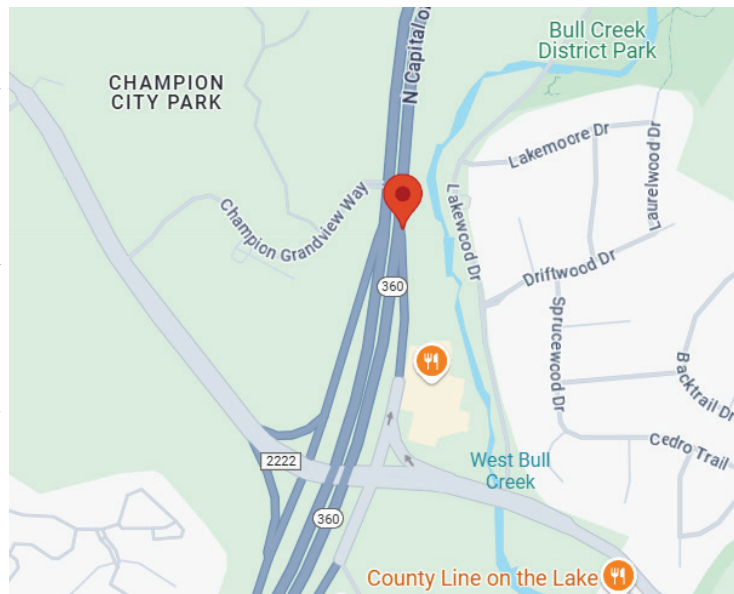
problematic for two reasons: the plans were approved with known errors in them, along with assertions by City Staff that weren’t accompanied by reports or supporting documents or statements. We continue to try and piece together the legal reasoning and paper trail that supports the City’s assertion the Champion Settlement Agreement applies to the proposed project. The project itself is being initiated after the expiration period in the agreement, and it’s on a subdivision that includes statements that no further development on Tract 5 was planned. We hope to be granted a postponement so we can get to the bottom of these issues while seeking a path forward that doesn’t put a septic field 60 above and next to Bull Creek, nor excavate a three-story parking structure in the karst limestone bluff.”

At the January 30 hearing, the City Council voted 9-1 against granting the appeal with Duchon the only dissenting vote.

“(Most of the) Council showed no concern for Bull Creek. Council chose to ignore site plan errors which should have led to granting the appeal based on legal grounds. No one would explain why the Champion settlement

was still in effect. City Council did not press the legal department for an answer,” Shaftel shared via email.

What next? According to Shaftel, “The developer builds... The bluff collapses. When it rains, the septic effluent flows into Bull Creek.”





## Alloy Personal Training Bull Creek Hosts West Austin Chamber Ribbon Cutting

Alloy Personal Training Bull Creek hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony last week with West Austin Chamber of Commerce on February 19.

"We want to improve your lifespan by improving your healthspan," said Mike Lazowitz, director of Alloy Personal Training. Lazowitz has 6 years of coaching experience and is a board-certified health and wellness coach.

For over 30 years, Alloy Personal Training has offered a personal training system that provides proven results for people who are focused on healthier, active lifestyles and not the latest fitness fads.

Robyn Pettinger, head coach at Alloy, has a master's degree in exercise physiology and over 17 years of experience in fitness.

"I love getting to personalize workouts for people in the small group setting. I especially love working with the 40+ crowd where the main priority is aging well by increasing strength, balance and mobility. We have a couple members over 80, and they're doing things that a lot of people 30 years younger than them can't do," Pettinger said.

Alloy is located at 6203 N. Capital of Texas Hwy Suite 850, Austin, TX 78731 and near the RM 2222 intersection.

"We know that people do better with coaching, encouragement, support and accountability," Pettinger said.

*Lynette Haaland compiled this report.*



Photo by West Austin Chamber of Commerce

## New Austin Global Methodist Church Marks First Year in NW Austin



The new Austin Global Methodist Church has been meeting at the Concordia University Texas Chapel for almost a year now. The church is growing and has plotted out its vision under the leadership of its first full-time pastor Rev. Lauren Green Yates, who joined the congregation in July.

**1) In a nutshell, what changes have taken place over the last several years in the Methodist church and how has that impacted the creation of Austin Global Methodist Church?**

The past few years have brought several changes to the Methodist Church. In 2022, many churches disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church to form the Global Methodist Church over doctrinal differences. Several churches did not meet the threshold vote to leave the UMC and many

members set out to create remnant churches or church plants. The landscape of the Methodist denomination has changed and is still changing as the Global Methodist Church expands and grows.

Austin Global Methodist Church is what one would consider a remnant church, a collection of people from a few area churches that joined together in fellowship. However, we consider ourselves a revival church. We are a church that has been awakened by the Living Word and seek to worship God, love others, and share the Gospel as biblically as possible.

**2) What brought your congregation to Concordia's chapel and when?**

Austin Global Methodist Church got its start in a Mexican food restaurant in October of 2023, moved to a Saturday service at Twin Lakes Fellowship soon after, and in March of 2024, moved into the Concordia University Chapel for Sunday morning worship. Soon Sunday school classes were developed and the congregation grew. Austin GMC began to partner with Concordia University through ministry opportunities such as Refuge on Thursday nights, move in day, the welcome party, and an upcoming mission trip to El Salvador.

In July of 2024, Austin Global Methodist Church welcomed its first full-time pastor, Rev. Lauren Green Yates. She is also the Director of Prayer for the MidTexas Conference of the Global Methodist Church and the Administrative Assistant to the MidTexas Board of Ministry. Pastor Lauren is continuously looking for new opportunities to partner with people in mission across the Austin area.

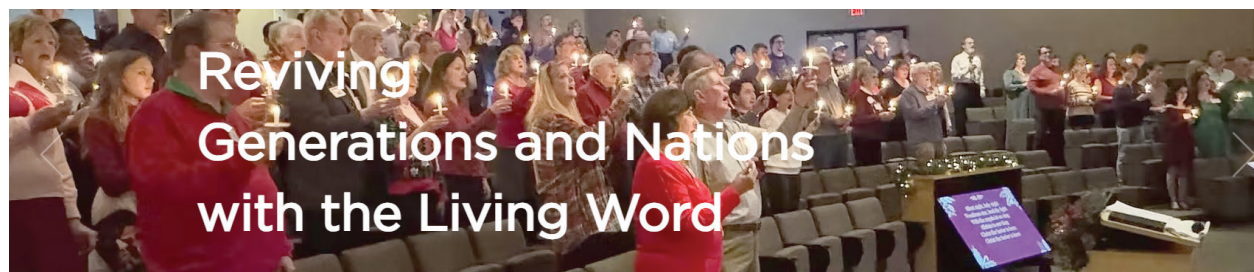
**3) What has this move meant to your congregation and why has it been an important step?**

Worshipping at Concordia University Chapel as a Global Methodist Church has allowed us to be a church on a mission. We don't want to exist for ourselves or just rent a space. We want to partner with the Holy Spirit to help revive Austin with the Living Word, make disciples of Jesus Christ, and spread scriptural holiness across Austin and beyond. Right now our closest mission field is Concordia University and its students. We can show them the love of Jesus, be great tenants, and continue to outreach locally, regionally, and internationally with God's help.

**4) What are your goals over the next several years?**

In November 2024, Austin Global Methodist Church entered its first Building Fund Campaign. Our goal is to not only buy a property or build a church but to build a godly heritage that will increase Christ's Kingdom starting in Austin, Texas. We will patiently wait on the Lord to reveal the property he has in mind for us as we faithfully give and serve. This next year, our hope is to increase in our prayer ministry, grow a children and youth program, host an international Vacation Bible School with other churches, see more people come to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, more people baptized, and more people answer the call of ministry. We are fully expecting God to give us the increase in our future!

Austin Global Methodist [austinglobalmethodist.org](http://austinglobalmethodist.org) meets on Sunday mornings at 11400 Concordia University Dr., Austin, TX 78726. Sunday school is 9:30-10:30 a.m., fellowship is 10:30-11 a.m., and worship service starts at 11 a.m. The worship leader is Sebastian Thomas.







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## First Monthly Cleanup of the Year at Bull Creek District Park March 15

You're invited to help keep Bull Creek District Park vibrant by joining the NWACA Parks Committee the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. until noon in the cool months; 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the hot months. Sign up at this link: <https://givepul.se/436xjo>

## Recruiting Ideas for Special Project Funding Deadline: March 15

Applications are open for the NWACA Board's special project fund. We welcome ideas for projects that deliver value to our community and are accessible to everyone. Examples of past projects include bike repair stations at our elementary schools, support for the Anderson Band trailer, and funds for the Murchison Community Garden. Anyone up for building a carpooling app that could be used by people throughout the neighborhood to share rides to school and to events? Or some other bright idea? Let us know! Get an application form at [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org) or email [info@nwaca.org](mailto:info@nwaca.org) for more information.

## NWACA Annual Meeting March 26, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

The Annual NWACA Neighborhood Meeting is early this year, trying to make it easy for parents with kids in school to attend. Mark your calendars: Wednesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Huffman Hall. Exhibitors will be at tables from about 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.; presentations will run from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; tables open again from 7:30 to 8 p.m.

## NWACA MICK KOFFEND\* EARTH DAY FESTIVAL



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Our focus this year will be on the serious matter of wildfire mitigation. Speakers include these:

- Marc Duchon, our new District 10 Councilmember
- Chief Carrie Stewart from the Wildfire Division of the Austin Fire Department
- Matt McCaw with Land Management in the Austin Parks and Recreation Department
- A representative of Austin Energy
- A representative from Austin Water

Each will address what their organization does with respect to wildfire mitigation. In addition, other City of Austin departments, NWACA committees, and road construction organizations will be present to address transportation issues, zoning and land development, road safety, and a host of other topics. Please join us!

## Property Tax Protest Presentation & Discussion April 9 6:30 p.m.

Responding to a common area of interest in our annual survey, NWACA is pleased to host a presentation and discussion about the property tax protest process for Travis County. The event will be in Huffman Hall at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church on Wednesday, April 9, starting at 6:30 p.m. A representative from Platinum Property Tax will provide the presentation.

## Mick Koffend Earth Day Festival April 27, 2-4 p.m.

2025 is the third year we're holding the Earth Day festival, which was founded by Mick Koffend and is now named in his honor. Bring your family and friends! And... we'll also have a paper shredding station open to all.

## Neighbor Tip: Curb the Leaf Blowers, please!

By ANONYMOUS NEIGHBORS

Northwest Austin Civic Association

In the last few months, several neighbors have raised the issue of noise and air pollution from leaf blowers. The request from each is that there be an article in the newsletter asking people in the NWACA area to please limit their leaf blower use (or ask their yard workers to limit leaf blowing). The noise is problematic for those who hear it seemingly incessantly. Could it be limited to a short duration, like 15 minutes? For those who work from home, the extended period of noise is a significant distraction; for those who work nights and need to sleep during the day, it's more than annoying.

Another issue raised is that those using the devices are merely blowing the leaves into a neighbor's yard, or in many cases, into the street. When in the street, leaves drift into the storm drains, which take them into the local water supply; that's not good for anyone. It would be much kinder and better for the environment if those handling the leaves would rake them up, bag them, and take them to the appropriate processing location. If it's the homeowner raking and bagging them, the bags of leaves will be happily removed by Austin Resource Recovery on the designated trash day.

Thank you for helping keep the NWACA area a green and healthy community!



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MEDIAN SALES PRICE

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SALES VOLUME

 **\$456**  
AVG LIST PRICE PER SF

 **\$487**  
AVG SALE PRICE PER SF

 **\$1,050,000**  
MEDIAN LIST PRICE

 **100**  
AVG DAYS ON MARKET

 **9**  
CLOSED SALES

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- **Declutter & Depersonalize** – Cleared spaces help buyers envision their future in your home.
- **Stage to Sell** – Professional staging highlights your home's best features and appeals to more buyers.
- **Boost Curb Appeal** – First impressions matter – make your exterior as inviting as the inside.
- **Marketing That Moves** – Market your home everywhere – across digital, print, and social – with stunning photos, videos, and strategic promotion.



The way we live in our homes is different from how we should present them to sell. I'm dedicated to helping clients prepare their homes to attract buyers and achieve top dollar—quickly and efficiently.

If buying or selling is on your agenda for 2025, let's connect and get your home buyer-ready together!

*Julie Waidelich*



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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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# Importance of Black History to Our Collective Human Journey



**MARSHALL E. HIWATT**  
Opinionist

Reflecting on Black History Month, I recall my university days when I had the profound honor of meeting two pivotal figures in the civil rights movement: Rosa Parks and James Farmer. These encounters, coupled with my studies of authors such as Ralph Ellison, deeply influenced my approach to life, understanding people, and our ongoing journey towards equality.

## Rosa Parks: The Power of Respect & Understanding

When Rosa Parks visited our university, I was fortunate to speak with her backstage before her speech to our student body. Her message during our discussion was clear and profound. Parks stated with conviction, “While we may never fully know another’s person or their life experiences, we must always strive to respect, listen to and understand each other. Doing so will result in true progress toward a truly equal and unified society.” Parks’ act of defiance on that Montgomery bus was not just about a seat; it was a stand for dignity and respect. I will always remember her not only as a very sweet, warm, wise and compassionate person but also a very strong human who accepted her role in life as a civil rights icon and strove to use that mantle to positively impact present and future generations. As she once said, “I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free... so other people would be also free.”

## James Farmer: Recognizing the Unsung Heroes

The year after I met Rosa Parks, I had the honor of introducing James Farmer to our student body. It was another moment of revelation. Despite his instrumental role in founding the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and organizing the Freedom Rides, many, including myself, were initially unaware of his contributions. Farmer recounted a pivotal meeting where he, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis, and others deliberated on who should lead the movement. During our pre-speech conversation Farmer said to me, “We all knew it had to be Martin. Martin knew it had to be him. He knew the many risks to himself and his family. But he accepted despite the risks because

he knew that the movement must succeed for our community and society to progress. And that success depended on the contributions of many individuals from all walks of life.” This humility and strategic foresight underscore the collective effort behind the movement. Farmer’s reflection reminds us that while prominent leaders are celebrated, countless individuals, known and unknown, have propelled the causes of equality and justice. Farmer aptly stated, “We, who came together to form CORE, were idealists. We believed that if we acted on the ideal of brotherhood, we could make America live up to its creed.”

*“While we may never fully know another person or their life experiences, we must always strive to respect, listen to and understand each other.”*

**Rosa Parks**

## The Collective Power of Peaceful Protest

A recurring theme from these reflections is the emphasis on peaceful, collective action. The civil rights movement’s success was rooted in its commitment to nonviolence and the involvement of individuals from all walks of life. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. articulated this interconnectedness, stating, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.” This approach was key to fostering real change. When people march together, not in anger or with acts of violence against property or person, but in conviction, the world listens. The lesson remains relevant today: meaningful progress comes when we work together toward solutions rather than fragmented silos fostering division.

## Revelations From Travel: People Are Inherently Good

Through my travels across the world—from the former Soviet Union to the vibrant cultures of Asia Pacific, across the European Union, the Middle East, and throughout the United States—I have met people from all walks of life. And what I have come to understand is simple: people, at their core, are good. Yes, there are always bad apples in every group, but overwhelmingly, people love their families. They care about their friends. They want a good life. They want their children to grow up safe and happy.

The real problem isn’t everyday people but rather the institutions, organizations, and governments that set agendas, demand allegiances, and push us to take sides. They fuel division rather than encourage unity. But if we step away from those imposed divisions and just see each other as people, we realize that we have far more in common than we do in difference. I always contend that any group of toddlers put in a sandbox together are not going to care about race, religion, or nationality. They’re going to play. They’re going to laugh. They’re going to share. They’re going to be kids. It’s only when adults step in, imposing biases and divisions, that the innocence of that unity is lost.

## Additional Cultural Reflections

Ralph Ellison, author of “Invisible Man”, captured this sentiment when he wrote, “America is woven of many strands. I would recognize them and let it so remain. Our fate is to become one, and yet many.” Ellison’s classic novel explores how society often reduces individuals to labels rather than recognizing them



as complex human beings. His narrator struggles with invisibility—not in a literal sense, but because people refuse to see him beyond their assumptions. “Invisible Man” is a reminder that true equality is about more than representation; it’s about truly seeing and respecting each other.

In this spirit, we are reminded of President John F. Kennedy’s words during his 1963 commencement address at American University, where he emphasized the shared bonds that unite humanity: “If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is

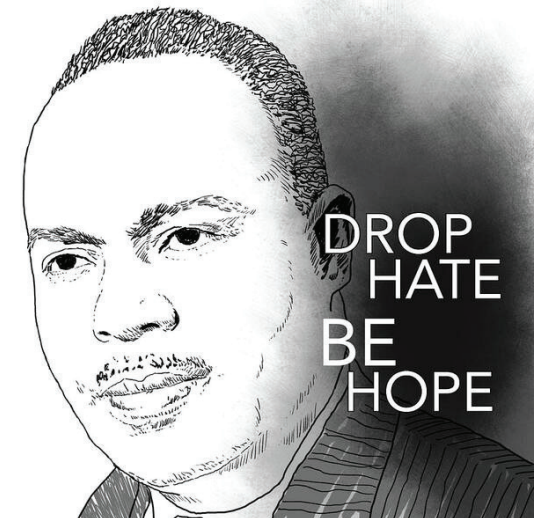
that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s future. And we are all mortal.” Kennedy’s message calls for a collective effort to foster a world where diversity is not only accepted but celebrated.

## From Understanding to Action: Moving Forward Together

Black History Month is important and relevant to every member of our diverse society. It is a reminder that progress has always been a collective effort, that true justice and equality require constant vigilance, and that history belongs to all of us. By listening, learning, and honoring the stories of those who fought (and still fight) for a better world, we strengthen our understanding of each other and our role in building a future where respect, dignity, and opportunity are shared by all.

*I invite you to email me at [marshall.e.hiwatt@gmail.com](mailto:marshall.e.hiwatt@gmail.com) and share your thoughts!*

## James Farmer by Daniel Frey





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**LEGENDAIRY MILK, FROM 1**

“This is our photography room,” Luna shared during the tour. “This is where we also do TikTok live, so we have a live host who will come every night and talk about products.”

“We have a pretty robust community of moms on Instagram and TikTok and actually Facebook, too. There’s almost a million followers now that we have,” she said. “And really at the heart of it, it’s been about the education and support because motherhood, new motherhood, especially is so isolating.”

**Beginnings**

Luna and Joe – college sweethearts from University of Kentucky – now share a corner office with a view of the city scape. The couple moved to Austin and began working here and eventually started their family.

“I had my first baby and he was three weeks premature. And I was being pushed to give him breastmilk, that was very important to help him to thrive during that period, but I could not get him to latch for the life of me,” Luna shared.

After she left the hospital, it was hard to find lactation consultant support. “They were kind of like, you’ve been discharged, good luck.”

She got a breast pump rental and was pumping up to 12 times a day.

“It was pretty much my whole life for nine weeks straight. I would latch him on, he wouldn’t latch, he wouldn’t be able to transfer milk, then I would pump, then I would feed

“ Yes, it’s very surreal to think that it was in our 100-square-foot studio that I was making all this to now being in national retailers. It’s pretty amazing. ~Luna Feehan, Founder & CEO of Legendairy Milk ”

that pumped milk to him, and then I’d go and clean bottles, and we’d start the whole process over again,” she remembered.

Luna admits she was “kind of obsessed with making more milk” to help her baby thrive as a preemie. She also noticed that she needed more support. She turned to online pumping and nursing groups on Facebook.

“Honestly, I learned so much from those groups,” she said. Pumping and best practices for maximizing milk production were more taboo a decade ago.

She ended up being an exclusive pumper just because baby Jojo could never properly latch.

**Make more milk**

Luna also connected with an in-home lactation consultant who recommended an herb called fenugreek to increase milk supply. But she had an extreme reaction where it dropped her blood sugar so low that she could not get out of bed. She was already sensitive to blood sugar fluctuations because of gestational diabetes during pregnancy.

Out of the experience with fenugreek, she started trying to find other options. She knew how to read clinical studies from her pharmaceutical sales background, so she started re-

searching different herbs that women in different countries had been using for centuries. Luna researched historical data and ancestral learnings that had been passed down from generation to generation. She was hopeful to find something relatively unknown to women in the U.S.

Luna ended up ordering herbs like milk thistle and moringa. She started to become her own guinea pig. She would grind up the herbs and put them in an encapsulator machine she bought on eBay for \$100.

“I would mix things up and try it out for a couple of days to see if it helped increase my milk supply,” she said. “I ended up finding these formulas that were working for me.”

**Create a shop**

Luna thought about other moms in her online groups who were struggling and thought her formulas may work for them too. By then Jojo was four-month-olds and she had an idea – create an Etsy shop.

“I’ll make (supplements) in my little studio. This is just a little hobby. If I get one order a month, it’ll be very rewarding for me,” Luna said.

She created fun names and labels to go with her products. The name Legendairy Milk is kind of a play on a dairy cow, she said. “Our milk is legendary, it’s liquid gold, so just a fun little play on words.”

Luna could crank out 40 pills in an hour. She never had any debt because as soon as orders would come in, she would pay for the herbs and supplies.

With all of her research, she was also providing a lot of support to the moms who reached out. “It became almost like I was a therapist/lactation consultant with them,” she recalled.

“Someone in one of those Facebook groups purchased the product and shared it in that group of 20,000 moms



**Joe and Luna Feehan with sons Jojo (9) and Talan (4) of Steiner Ranch, near Lake Austin and Lake Travis.**

and I got 50 orders overnight. I was not ready for that by any means,” Luna shared.

Not long after it was getting very crowded in the Feehan studio. At that point they had two employees filling orders in a space half the size of their current office. Their spare bedroom had boxes piled floor to ceiling. The mail truck would come around and they would fill the whole truck. Then they got to where they were following the mail truck to the post office to send Legendairy mailings.

**Stretched**

Time for change came about a year into opening the Etsy shop.

Joe told Luna, “You’re stretched too thin, like, we can’t continue this way. You don’t sleep.”

He was right. For that first year, their typical routine was Joe would watch the baby – who was fussy and colicky – when he got home from work as a banker at JP Morgan. He would help make pills until 8 p.m. Then Luna would typically put Jojo to bed. Then she would go make more pills and respond to messages until about 2 or 3 a.m. Then she would get up around 7 a.m. and care for the baby and repeat the routine.

Around then is when they found a manufacturer at a U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulated facility that had a Good Manufacturing Practices certification. This manufacturer took a risk with Legendairy because their first orders were so small, others turned them away. Now, nine years later, Legendairy is their biggest client.

**Growth**

The company really started taking off in 2016 and in March of 2017, they launched a website.

Legendairy didn’t have a sales person at that point and

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**LEGENDAIRY MILK, FROM 14**

the demand and following of the products were enough to convince large retailers to carry the line. In 2018, Legendairy got into Target. “They just wanted us on the shelf.”

After 12 years at JP Morgan, Joe retired from his day job in August of 2018.

“I was a banker, so I went from banking to breastfeeding, a natural transition,” Joe said with a laugh. “That’s when all of a sudden we were both full time.

“We also launched on Amazon at that point, and then we also had probably about 200-250 small boutiques around the U.S.,” Luna said. Then in 2023 Legendairy launched in Walmart.

Legendairy has distributors in the Philippines, South Africa and Singapore.

Warehouse space was added as Legendairy grew. They started out in a small 2,000-square-foot warehouse in Pflugerville with a connected office. A couple of years later they moved to another warehouse across the street with about 9,000-square-feet. Then in the spring of 2024 they moved into the 25,000-square-foot space in East Austin and also into the headquarters in Northwest Austin.

Legendairy has launched 55 or so products with 24 just in 2024. Liquid Gold is Legendairy’s top selling product and Sunflower Lecithin, that helps unclog ducts, is the second top seller. Milkapalooza, Pump Princess and Cash Cow are other popular products.



**Luna Feehan founded Legendairy Milk nearly a decade ago and last summer moved to their Northwest Austin headquarters. Husband Joe Feehan is Legendairy’s chief financial officer and chief operating officer. There are multiple murals celebrating womanhood in their offices.**

**Expansion**

Last year the Legendairy team launched women’s health supplements, a lactation powder for cookies or brownies, and a mobile breast pump.

The company is expanding into more women’s health products like with Girl’s Gotta Go, which is geared for urinary tract infection. She’s Thirsty, launched last fall, is a coconut water

electrolyte mix which has potassium, zinc, iron and vitamin C. “This can be really supportive when a mom is chronically dehydrated,” Luna shared.

**Humor and heart**

The Legendairy product development team continues to come up with catchy phrases and product names.

“We bring a lot of humor. I think our packaging kind of speaks to that. And it’s almost an inside joke that you wouldn’t know unless you were breastfeeding, that a mom might just get a little chuckle out of it, just feel a little bit better that she’s not alone,” Luna shared.

“Supplements are not sexy but it’s something that you kind of can look forward to taking because the packaging is clever,” she added.

Legendairy has 37 employees including a lactation consultant who works with moms virtually and in the office.

Legendairy’s customer service team all are certified breastfeeding specialists with a 90-hour training. Team members troubleshoot before recommending any product. The Legendairy social media accounts take that same approach.

Emotional connection with moms has been key to the success of Legendairy.

“I go back to the moms just being such huge advocates for the brand. We go to conferences now and sometimes women will come up to us in tears saying, ‘You saved my breastfeeding journey,’” Luna shared. “We’re meeting moms where they’re at.



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 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](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. Board Members can be reached at [info@nwaca.org](mailto:info@nwaca.org) or by phone at 737-235-7325

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 Parks Fund \$10 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_  
 Mick Koffend Earth Day 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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#### Volunteer!

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks              |  |

Members, please request to join our **Facebook Group** and sign up for **NWACA Notes**, our weekly email.  
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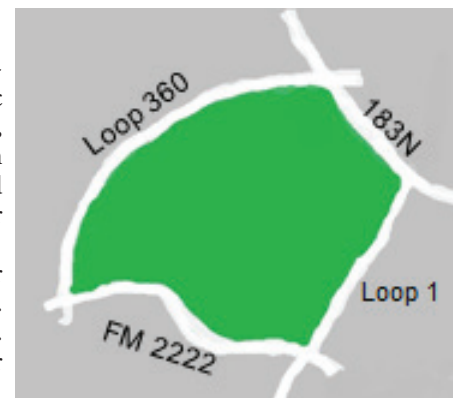
### By NWACA BOARD Northwest Austin Civic Association

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](http://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](mailto:info@nwaca.org), or phone us at 737-235-7325.



## Special Thanks to Members

Donations to the 4th of July Parade Fund help NWACA to host the best 4th of July parade in Austin! The Parks 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. The Mick Koffend Earth Day Fund helps us run the

annual Earth Day Festival.

NWACA thanks members who generously contributed to our various special funds between January 24, 2025, and February 20, 2025.

Arthur Cook  
 Patricia Horridge  
 J. Edward Jones  
 Cassandra Knobloch

Valerie Laubacher

Donald R. Paul  
 Dottie Riley  
 Carrie and Christopher Schnoor  
 Robert and Nanette Sechler  
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 (and, apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)



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# NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS

## New City of Austin On-Demand Curbside Services

By MERRIESSA ANTON

Northwest Austin Civic Association

Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) has changed how it handles bulk and brush collection for customers in single-family homes up to fourplexes. Rather than scheduling pickups twice per year, ARR now has on-demand services to fit individual schedules and needs. Each home address can schedule up to three collections for each service per calendar year, with the collection count reset at the beginning of the calendar year. Along with the new bulk and brush collection, household hazardous waste collection was launched in 2025. Each of these on-demand services is booked in the same ways.

There are two ways to schedule your appointments for bulk, brush, and/or household hazardous waste: online using the Austin Recycles app or by calling 3-1-1. The app shows which items can be collected, and you select all the items you will be setting out. Different types of items are collected by different trucks and may be collected at different times throughout your scheduled day. If your items have not been collected by 4:00 p.m. on your day, call ARR through 3-1-1 or send an email using their web page at <https://www.austintexas.gov/emailarr>. A reported missed collection will be picked up within 2 business days.

This new on-demand service provides a more efficient and cost-effective waste collection for customers than the prior approach. Households no longer wait six months between col-

lections and can pick dates that fit their needs to dispose of bulk, brush, or hazardous materials.

After scheduling an appointment, whether on the Austin Recycles app or by calling 3-1-1, a confirmation email will be sent with details of the reservation. Another email is sent ahead of your appointment, reminding you to set out your items by 5:30 a.m. on your scheduled day.

Household hazardous waste curbside collection is for leftover household products that may be harmful or dangerous. These items are ones that catch fire easily or react or explode under certain conditions. They can be corrosive or toxic or contain hazardous ingredients and require special disposal. Individual containers larger than 5 gallons cannot be collected and there is a 30-gallon limit for the total amount of material collected during each scheduled hazardous waste appointment. If you have more than 30 gallons or containers larger than 5 gallons you can drop them off at the Recycle and Reuse Drop-off Center, 2514 Business Center Drive, Austin, 78744. Appointments are necessary and can be made on the Austin Recycles App or by calling 3-1-1. Commercial or industrial materials cannot be collected; this curbside collection is for residential use only.

A future column will have more information about this new on-demand program. Meanwhile, load the Austin Recycles App. Using this on-demand program keeps the items out of our landfill and helps Austin reach its zero waste goals.

## March Library Events in the Northwest Hills Area

By MARTHA MILLER

Northwest Austin Civic Association

Because of Spring Break, we won't have a pop-up library outreach event at the Old Quarry Library this month.

### Events at the Yarbrough branch

**Wednesday, March 5 & 19** – Sound Bath Meditation (6:30-7:30p.m.) Join us for this monthly gentle yoga and sound bath meditation class open to all fitness levels. Adults (18+) only.

**Monday, March 3** - Ecology Talk: Insects & Fungi (2-3p.m.) Join us and learn from Chris Garza, a certified ecologist, about insect and fungi.

**Monday, March 10** – Brush and Beyond Miniature Painting (5:30-7:30p.m.) Join us as we paint miniatures from our favorite tabletop games. Teens and Adults welcome

**Saturday, 15** - Crafty Adult: 3 Gradient Smudged Pastel Geometric Canvases (2-4p.m.) Are you a crafter? Do you wish you were a crafter? 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 and learn with us!

**Fridays, March 14 & 28** – Adult Morning Social (10a.m. – noon) Join neighbors and make new friends at this casual social.

**Saturday, March 22** – Seed Gathering (1-2p.m.) Join us and Sunshine Gardeners to share your passion 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, March 24** - Mending Circle at Yarbrough (6- 7:30 p.m.)

Bring your favorite garments that need some tender loving care. Ages 18 and up

### Events at the Howson branch

**Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20 & 27** - Tech Time (10-11a.m.) 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, March 3** – Yarn and Ya.m.mer (6 - 7:30 p.m.) Come hang out with other yarn crafters! Ages 18 and up

**Thursdays, March 13 & 27** - Yoga with Tracy (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.) Please 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, March 9** – Mending Circle - (noon -2 p.m.) Bring your favorite garments that need some tender loving care.

**Wednesday, March 12** The Fragrance of Ink: Chinese Calligraphy for Beginners (2:30-4p.m.) - Come appreciate the art of Chinese calligraphy and painting, learn simple strokes and characters, get hands-on experience in writing characters using a brush, and taste a variety of authentic tea. No previous experience is required. All materials provided. This program in both English and Chinese Mandarin.

**Monday, March 17** - Literature Live! Presents: Tales from Graves A Puppet Show Trilogy (11-11:30a.m.) recommended for ages 3 and up

## Mark Your Calendars

*These events are as planned as of February 20. As you consider participating, please check first with the organizer.*

**March 8, 9 a.m. to noon**

Steck Valley Greenbelt Trail Cleanup Steck Ave. Entrance

**March 15, 9 a.m. to noon**

Bull Creek District Park Cleanup

Sign up <https://givepul.se/436xjo>

**March 15 - end of day**

Applications due for Special Projects

**March 18, 7 p.m.**

Parks Committee virtual

**March 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

NWACA Board Meeting

Dell Jewish Community Center Friedel Board Room

**March 25, 5 p.m.**

NWACA Zoning & Transportation Committees virtual

**March 26, 6:30 – 8 p.m.**

NWACA Neighborhood Annual Meeting

All neighbors invited ~ 4121 Steck Avenue

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church - Huffman Hall

**April 9, 6:30 p.m.**

Property Tax Protest Presentation and Discussion

All neighbors invited ~ 4121 Steck Avenue

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church - Huffman Hall

**April 12, 9 a.m. to noon**

Steck Valley Greenbelt Trail Cleanup Steck Ave. Entrance

**April 15, 7 p.m.**

Parks Committee – virtual

**April 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

NWACA Board Meeting

Dell Jewish Community Center Friedel Board Room

**April 19, 9 a.m. to noon**

Bull Creek District Park Cleanup

Sign up at <https://givepul.se/436xjo>

**April 22, 5 p.m.**

NWACA Zoning & Transportation Committees virtual

**April 27, 2-4 p.m.**

Mick Koffend Earth Day Festival

Hill Elementary & Park, 8601 Tallwood Drive

Also paper shredding onsite

## NWACA 2025 Calendar of Events

**Monthly, 2nd Saturday, 9am-noon**

Steck Valley Greenbelt Cleanup

**Monthly, 3rd Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon**

March – October Bull Creek District Park Cleanup

**May 3, noon-2 p.m.** (tentative)

Spring Recycling Event – B.OPA

for NWACA members

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

**July 4, 9 a.m. -noon**

4th of July Parade and Freedom Fest

**August 16** paper shredding event, NWACA members

**September 27, 8 a.m. - noon**

NWACA Neighborhood Garage Sales

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

**October 18, noon - 2 p.m.** (tentative) –

Fall Recycling Event – Electronics

for NWACA members

**October** Halloween Decorating Contest

**December** – December Holiday Decorating Contest

**We LOVE Northwest Austin news! Share team, group and organization updates. We want to feature news from all ages and stages! [Lynette@FourPointsNews.com](mailto:Lynette@FourPointsNews.com) "Thank you advertisers and NWACA for making this happen for our community!"**





## Doss Family Time



Doss Elementary families gathered together at the Thanksgiving lunch. "It's moments like these that remind us what Doss is all about - community and connection."

Posted on Doss Elementary PTA Facebook



## Murchison MS Junior Belles at AISD Dance Spectacular

"We want to congratulate our amazing Junior Belles on their stunning performance at the AISD Dance Spectacular! We've heard rave reviews from around the community and district! Bravo, Mats!! Thank you to Ms. Taylor, Ms. Templeton and our Jr. Belle's parents for their support in making this event happen!" Posted on Murchison Middle School Facebook page on December 5.



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## Is Selling Your Home Part of Your 2025 Plan?

Let discuss if listing your home ahead of the spring market rush makes sense for you. I'll help you make the most of your sale. We'll work together to determine your desires and needs, as well as the key aspects of owning a larger or smaller home so that you are prepared for your move.

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## 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:

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

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COMPASS





## Doss Elementary Kindergarteners at Their Finest

LEFT: "Snow much fun seeing these little penguins bring the winter vibes!" Post by Doss Elementary PTA



LEFT: "From tiny walkers to oversized glasses and pearls, our littlest learners showed up as the cutest group of 100-year-olds you've ever seen. It's been 100 days of learning, growing, and making memories, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!" Post by Doss Elementary PTA on February 11.





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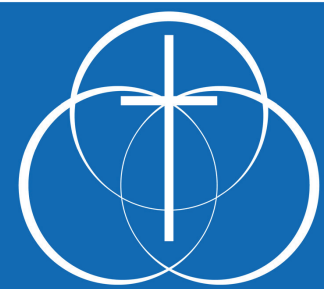
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# AUSTIN GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



# Anderson Trojan Boys Soccer Spotlight



## Roster and Jersey Number

- Levi Abrahams #1
- Jay Fullmer #2
- Rehan D'Souza #3
- Dax Popelka #4
- William Rodgers-Price #5
- Hernan Alberico-Gonzalez #6
- Luke Reuter #7
- Hugo Sanchez-Lopez #8
- Trevor Rener #9
- Kyler Sharp #10
- Luis Marquez #11
- Reymundo Rodriguez #12
- Ben Meachum #14
- Andrew Saeger #15
- Phoenix Radabaugh #16
- Jose Lopez-Cardenas #17
- Kean Olles #18
- Austin Eckerman #19
- Dylan Pascoe #20
- Rowan Martin #21
- Santiago Pelaez-Cordero #22
- Cove Darbyshire #24
- Mathias Riploi Duran #25
- Sebastian Garavito #27
- Jake Roberts #31
- Nikolai
- Chachanashvili #34

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

We have a very technical team with a lot of heart. We are in a new district for we didn't know a lot about the teams that we were playing on the first half of the season.

### 2) Is a team already predicted to win district? How does your team stack up against them?

The district is still open. In the past LASA dominated the district and currently are in first place. We won our last game against them. I feel that we have quality to beat any team, but we need to be more consistent.

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

## Q&A David Olles Anderson HS Boys Head Soccer Coach

The main thing for me is that we play like a unit. We defend together and we attack together.

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

I value more the work as a team. Everyone has an important part in the team. One player alone can't win a game.

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

I have known a lot of these boys since they were in six grade. My own son is on the team. I feel very honored to be their coach. They are not only great players, but they are also great young men.



I've been helping Anderson High, Vandergrift, LASA and Austin High families navigate the college admission process since 2013.

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**LACROSSE**  
**Anderson**  
**Trojan**  
**Boys**  
**Lacrosse**  
**Spotlight**

2025 Anderson Trojan Lacrosse Varsity Team: Top L-R: Cal Meroney 4, Hank Holland 25, David Lopez 22, Hudson Case 11, Mark Heatley 18, Rhys Jowers 7, Reese McDavid 2, Teddy DiSorbo 16, Sebastian Marlowe 17, Trey Leach 3; Bottom L-R: Coach Brian Donovan, Landen Fazio 1, Dylan Garner 2, Griffin Nebrat 19, Jack Charrier 15, Wright Clements 8, Alex Longoria 10, Alex Morgan 14, Jack Fredrickson 13, Levi Cukierman 5, Asst Coach Carter Casselberry Asst Coach Artie Schweitzer

**1) What are your team's strengths and concerns this season?**

Our team's strengths this season are a combination of solid leadership, improved discipline, and a winning mentality that's become ingrained in our culture. We've made huge strides over the last two seasons in building a strong, unified program where each player holds themselves accountable. Our work ethic has significantly improved. Our players are disciplined, organized, and can execute through adversity.

One area to solidify is our consistency. Showing up, day in and day out, looking to improve and embracing the grind will be necessary to achieve our team goals. Maintaining our high standard throughout the season is something we continue to work on.

**2) Is a team already predicted to win district? How does your team stack up against them?**

One of our team goals this year is to win our district championship. We don't focus on predictions or what outsiders have to say. At the end of the day, it's about what we do on the field at practice and in games, not what anyone thinks will happen. We control our own destiny through hard work, discipline, and executing our game plans. We've made great strides, and we'll let our performance speak for itself when it matters most.

**3) What are some key strategies for you this season?**

This season, it's about playing smart, playing with intensity, and sticking to our fundamentals. We've also placed a big emphasis on remaining positive season, ensuring guys can maintain that high level of play duration of any disciplined through the ups the season is 4) Any up-and-downs of key.

**Q&A**  
**Brian Donovan**  
**Anderson HS Boys**  
**Lacrosse Head Coach**

**4) Any up-and-downs that we should know about?**

There are definitely a few players who have been making a lot of noise recently but we value the team over the individual. We have a lot of experience and depth on our roster so we should have several players who will be candidates for All-District and perhaps even All-State honors this season. The players have worked hard on their own to improve over the last two seasons and their hard work is already starting to pay off this season. If

they keep putting in the work, good things will continue to happen for them on and off the field.

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

One thing many people don't know about me as a coach is that I'm really into the mental aspect of the game. It's not just about X's and O's for me—it's about building a championship mindset. I spend a lot of time helping our guys develop leadership and mental toughness through things like reading assignments or biographies of high performing teams and athletes, which I believe is the difference between good and great teams. It's all about preparing them for when things get tough, so they know how to stay composed and make the right decisions under pressure.

As for the team, something people may not realize is just how close-knit we are. Our players truly care about each other, and that's a huge advantage. It's not just about winning games—it's about creating an environment where everyone supports one another, both on and off the field. That bond has really propelled us forward in the last two seasons and is one of the reasons we've seen such great growth.



**2025**  
**District**  
**Champs**  
**AHS**  
**Lady**  
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