

# Northwest Austin News

SERVING THE NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY

Volume 16, Issue 4

April 2025

## Your Northwest Austin Civic Association Spring Checklist

By NWACA BOARD  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Thank you for taking the annual survey. This issue includes a summary of the results of the annual NWACA neighborhood survey. An outstanding result is that the civic issue which was 7th last year is in 1st place this year – wildfire mitigation! That's also apparent in the more than 50 free home wildfire risk evaluations requested so far this year, a record for NWACA. If your home and its environment have not yet been reviewed, consider signing up at [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org).

The reviewers will not ask you to cut down your trees; the shade from trees is key to wildfire mitigation in Central Texas. They will point out the little issues that can subject your home to great risk, most of them related to ember damage.

**Concerned about property taxes?** As in the past, another civic issue of great concern is property taxes. Homeowners will receive property tax estimates by April 15, and protests can be made until May 15. To help neighbors understand the protest process, NWACA will host a property tax protest



NWACA BOARD, 4

## AHS AusTIN CANs Robotics Team State Bound

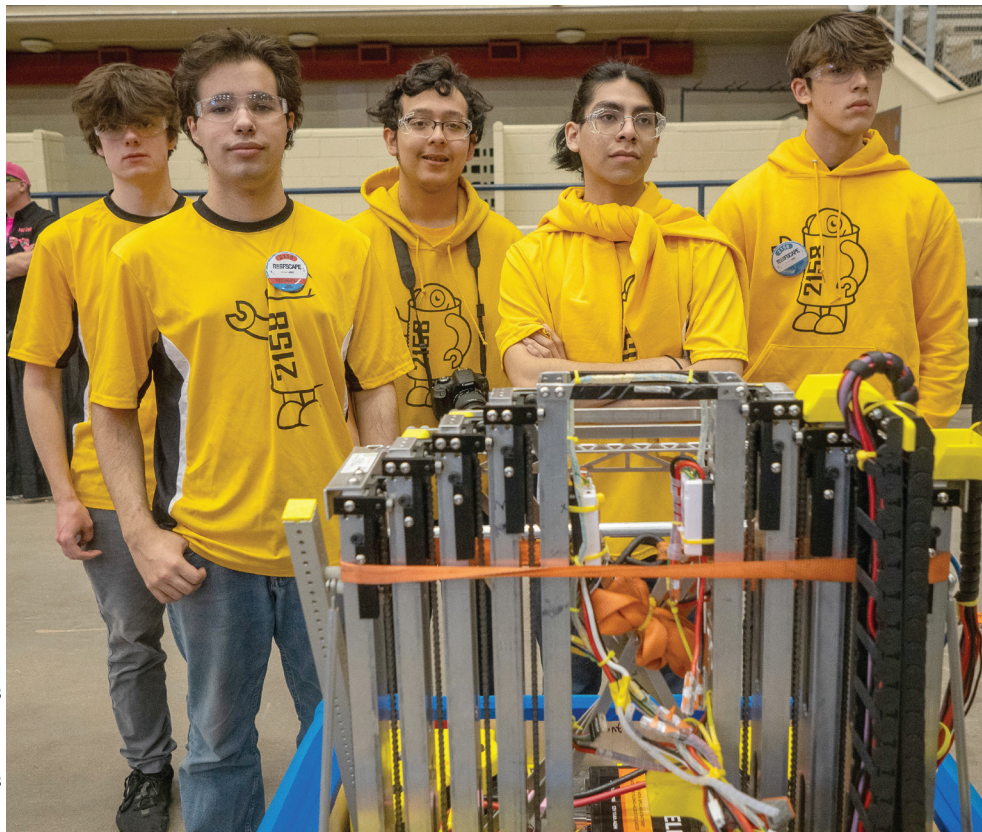
By JULIE ALLEN  
Contributor

The AusTIN CANs, or Explorer Post 2158, is a co-ed program based out of Anderson High School, providing competitive robotics programs/teams (VEX and FRC) for local youth. Students get a real-world, hands-on education in technology design, programming, business skills, manufacturing and engineering.

Each Spring, multiple student teams receive the rules for the competition season, then feverishly build their robots and gear up for competition. Competition season generally occurs between February - April.

When the team is not building or competing, students are also working on community education/outreach at events around the Northwest Hills neighborhood and offers occasional evening robotics camps called "Night of the Robots" for students in grades 1-5 where campers can see VEX and FRC robots in action, problem-solve with Legos, learn how to program via Scratch, and much more.

Currently, Explorer Post 2158 serves approximately 45-50 students on all of the teams.



Anderson's FIRST Robotics Competition drive team – who battle in the field during the competition games – stands behind the robot. L-R: Greg Shatman, Daniel Trujillo Zaragoza, Anthony Cuervas, Emiliano Monjardin and Zain Jawad

ANDERSON ROBOTICS, 19

## Austin has had 5 high-risk wildfire days in March: Why so many red flag warnings?

By LUZ MORENO-LOZANO, KUT

The state could see more days with an elevated risk for wildfires as urban sprawl continues to grow and as hot and dry weather patterns persist.

So far this year, Austin has had five of these days, also known as red flag warning days, and all of them have been in March.

Texas State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon said over the last 20 to 25 years, Texas has seen many large wildfires. He said a combination of human activity and climate change are contributing factors to those fires. The risk levels, though, are going to vary from year to year and can also depend on weather patterns, he said.

"La Niña, which is when the tropical Pacific is unusually cold, tends to lead to drier winters in Texas and stronger winds in springtime," Nielsen-Gamm, n said. "So it's not surprising that we are seeing wildfire risk during this particular year."

There are three main factors meteorologists consider when determining if the wildfire risk is enough to issue a red flag warning. Bob Fogarty, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said those alerts happen when grasses, brush and trees are really dry; the relative humidity, or the amount of moisture in the air, is less than or equal to 20 percent; and winds reach 15 mph or greater.

"The thing that we are really looking at is the weather doesn't usually cause the fire, it causes the fire to move rapidly," he said. "When we get

WILDFIRE RISK, 6



CALL TODAY FOR YOUR  
FREE CASE EVALUATION

(737) 265-8188

FAMILY LAW | AUSTIN + SAN ANTONIO + SURROUNDING

It's only *April*, plenty of time  
to start new in 2025!

THE RIGHT TEAM CHANGES EVERYTHING





# Your family's health, our priority.



THE AUSTIN DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

APPOINTMENTS 512-901-1111

ADCLINIC.COM

## 2025 NWACA Neighborhood Interest Survey Results

In February NWACA conducted its annual survey to identify issues that are most pressing for the neighborhood. Survey Monkey was used, and anyone in the neighborhood could participate. Paper surveys were sent to NWACA members without internet access. There were 211 responses, five of those on paper. Results are summarized below.

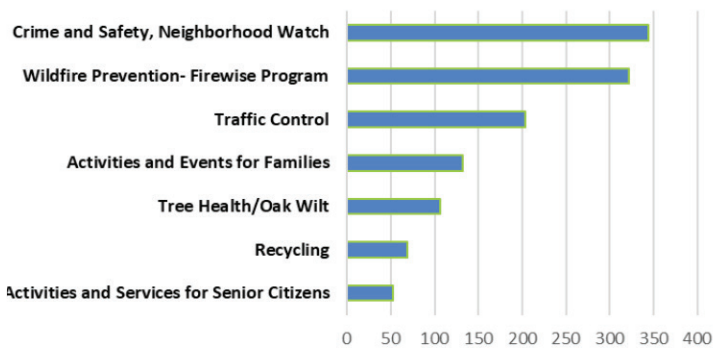
### Q1: What areas do you think are most important for NWACA to work on in the coming year? [choose only 3, rating them first choice, second choice, third choice] (211 responses)

A weighted rating was computed to be able to see the overall responses to each of the items. The response regarding Wildfire Prevention increased significantly from last year. The "other" responses included:

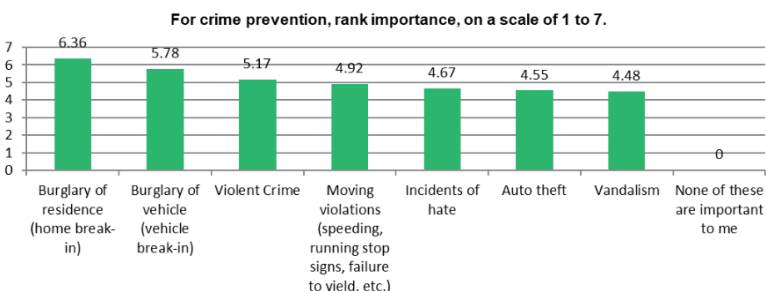
- 4 - remove or improve traffic "enhancements" including speed bumps on Mesa, parking lane on Far West, and bike lanes around Doss & Murchison
- 3 - too many deer
- 2 - zoning / land development

Others mentioned: parks, constable program, community events, wider sidewalks for new construction, and installing underground power lines.

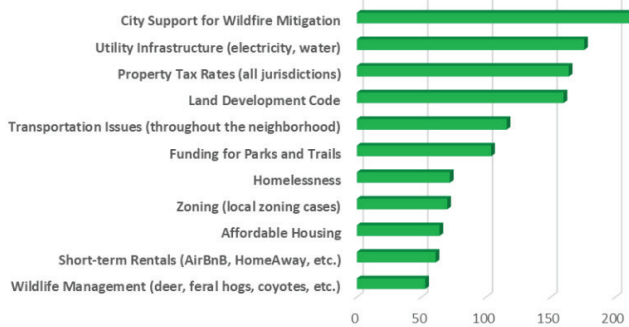
### Most Important Areas to Address Weighted (#1=3 pts, #2= 2 pts, #3=1 pt)



### Q2: With respect to Crime Prevention, rank these in order of importance to you. (210 responses charted below)



### Civic Issues to Inform and Advocate - Weighted (#1=3 pts, #2=2 pts, #3=1 pt)

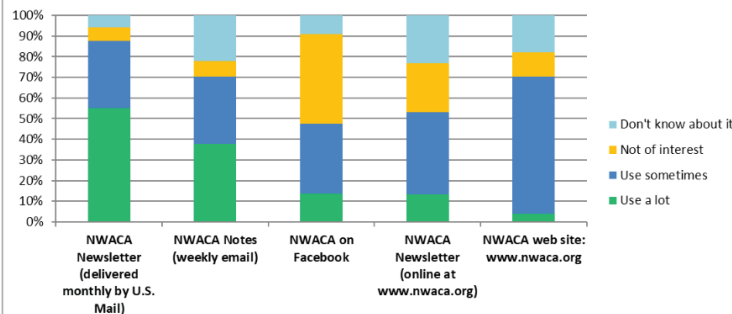


### Q3: Which civic issues would you like NWACA to provide information on and to advocate for your concerns? [Choose no more than 3, rating them first choice, second choice, third choice.] (211 responses charted above)

A weighted rating was again computed, showing how interest varied among the items. City Support for Wildfire Mitigation increased from #7 last year to #1 this year.

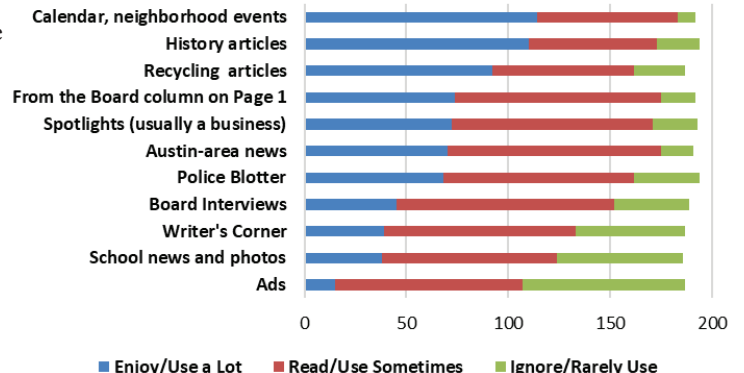
The "other" responses mentioned street safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and cars (3) and one each regarding loud motorcycles, fiber internet, water conservation, and emergency medical care.

### Please rate your awareness and use of these communications media.



### Q4: Please rate your awareness and use of these NWACA communications media (211 responses charted above)

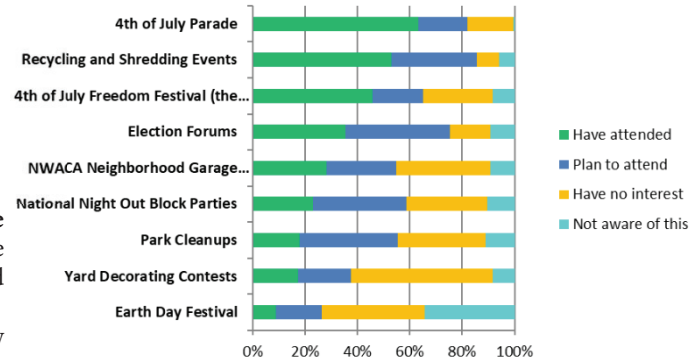
### Q5: Please rate the following elements of the monthly newsletter. (200 responses charted to the right)



### Q6: Which of these NWACA events are of interest to you? (211 responses charted below)

Given that NWACA has hosted a 4th of July Parade for more than 50 years, it's no surprise that it's in first place. Our newest event, the Earth Day Festival, needs some publicity.

### Which of these NWACA events are of interest to you?



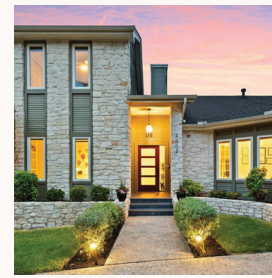
### Q7: Are you a current member of NWACA? (211 responses)

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	83.41%	176
No	6.16%	13
Don't know/Don't remember	10.43%	22

### Q8: If you're not currently a NWACA member, what might entice you to join? (12 responses)

Responses included:  
 3 - plan to join  
 3 - need a reminder  
 Others mentioned (one each): crime prevention / constable funding, make all events open to everyone, and recruit HOAs / condo owners.

### Monthly Newsletter Elements



**DOCHEN**  
**REALTY GROUP**  
 BRAMLETT PARTNERS

## Dochan Realty Group: Your Northwest Hills Experts

40+ years of serving Northwest Hills  
 with integrity, knowledge & professionalism

**512.345.2227**

As Northwest Hills residents since the 1980s, we know this neighborhood inside and out. We've sold homes on every street—some more than once!

Our expertise & service-driven approach ensure you feel confident and supported at every step. Whether selling or buying, we'd love to help you strategize for success. Thinking about making a move this spring? Let's make it happen! We'd love to hear from you.



**Melanie Waters**  
 REALTOR®

**Arlene Maze**  
 Broker Associate  
 REALTOR®

**Carol Dochon**  
 Broker  
 REALTOR®

**Katie Dochon**  
 REALTOR®

**Leah Gay Rouston**  
 REALTOR®

**Patti Tauber**  
 REALTOR®

[dochenrealtors.com](http://dochenrealtors.com)

**Q9: What is your zip code? (211 responses)**

The "other" response was 78750.

Answer Choices	Responses
78731	80.57% 170
78759	18.96% 40
Other (please specify)	0.47% 1

**Q10: What type of household is yours? (211 responses)**

The "other" responses were own condo and business in the

Answer Choices	Responses
Own my/our home	97.16% 205
Rent a single-family home	0.95% 2
Rent an apartment	0.95% 2
Other (please specify)	0.95% 2

neighborhood.

**NWACA BOARD, FROM 1** presentation and discussion on Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. in Huffman Hall at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 4121 Steck Avenue. A representative from Platinum Property Tax will provide the program.

**Tired of the news and politics?** Join the teams working on our parks and trails! On the second Saturday of each month, teams work on the Steck Valley Greenbelt Trail, starting at the Steck Avenue entrance, which is at the west end of Steck Avenue at Adirondack Drive. On the third Saturday of each month, they do invasives treatment, trash cleanup, and maintenance of the garden beds at Bull Creek District Park. Come and commune with nature – good for the soul!

**Out of date prescriptions to toss out?** On National Drug

**Q11: What is your age? (optional) (207 responses)**

Answer Choices	Responses
under 30	0.00% 0
30-49	13.53% 28
50-69	37.68% 78
70+	48.79% 101

**Q12: Please provide other suggestions and comments you have on NWACA activities or services. (46 responses)**

The most common categories of responses were these. All comments were provided to the NWACA Board for their review and response.

12 – traffic/changes including speeding, speed bumps, bike lanes (for and against barrier sticks), too much traffic. Three specifically mentioned 2222 – noise, speeding, and bike navigation.

9 – thank you for the work being done

5 – requested content for communications and feedback on the

Take Back Day, Saturday, April 26, the local Travis County Precinct 2 Constable's office will be accepting unneeded medications of all types at their site at 10409 Burnet Road, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Parking in the bike lane?** In case you haven't heard, parking tickets will now be written for cars that park in bike lanes within the limits of the City of Austin. You can identify bike lanes by looking for bicycle symbols, bicycle arrows, and chevron icons painted on the roadway. From now until June 1, 2025, warnings and educational flyers will be issued for bike lane violations. After that fines will be issued - an early payment fine of \$50 or a \$75 standard fine. Commercial vehicle loading or unloading in a bike lane would result in a \$150 early payment fine and a \$300 standard fine.

**See something, say something.** If you experience or know of someone who experienced a crime, please report it to the police

newsletter, NWACA Notes email, and Facebook group

4 – July 4th – 3 in favor of moving back to Far West/Doss and 1 liked location near Hill

4 – residents are older/physically unable to participate in events

3 – appreciate the recycling events, request for education on what can be recycled

3 – sidewalks, specifically adding, widening, and indicating pedestrian right of way; one against changes on Mesa

2 – deer overpopulation and education not to feed them

2 – suggestions for Bull Creek and Allen parks

14 miscellaneous comments, including suggestion for additional National Night Out in the spring, bicycle safety education, removal of homeless encampments, cleaning up litter, incentives for NWACA membership and Neighborhood Watch, underground power lines, more diversity in restaurants, advocacy re: STRs, making a Northwest Hills Turkey Trot a NWACA event, and wildfire prevention.

by calling, visiting a station, or using [ireportaustin.com](http://ireportaustin.com). APD crime analysts will use that data to help ensure issues are responded to and resources deployed appropriately in our area.

**Planning ahead for spring recycling?** The spring recycling event for NWACA members is set for Saturday, May 10 from noon to 2 p.m. This event gathers batteries, oil, paint, and antifreeze (BOPA). As usual, members can also drop off Styrofoam®, used toothpaste containers, toothbrushes, and razors. More details will be provided in the May newsletter.

**Getting two copies of this newsletter?** If so, please let us know at [info@nwaca.org](mailto:info@nwaca.org). Because we had issues with postal routes getting the newsletter to some addresses, we started sending them directly, and that's a significant cost.

**20 YEARS ADAM LOEWY**

**LOEWY LAW FIRM**  
 HELPING INJURED TEXANS

LoewyFirm.com  
 (512) 280-0800



CAR ACCIDENTS



TRUCK ACCIDENTS



SLIP AND FALLS



DOG BITES



MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS

# SpotCrimes Northwest Austin include seven DWIs, Assaults, Theft

02/24/2025 9:36 AM BURGLARY/VCL 72XX WOOD HOLLOW DR	02/26/2025 9:21 PM CRIM MISCHIEF 39XX BERRYHILL	03/02/2025 2:56 AM DWI 83XX MOPAC EXPY	03/06/2025 8:08 AM BURGLARY/VCL 44XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS	3/08/2025 6:14 AM ASSAULT W/INJURY 72XX WOOD HOLLOW	03/10/2025 8:32 PM HARASSMENT 68XXTHORNCLIFFE	03/15/2025 5:35 AM DWI 66XX MOPAC EXPY	03/19/2025 4:33 PM ASSAULT-SEXUAL 64XX MESA DR
02/24/2025 2:29 PM SUS PERSON 53XX BALCONES DR	02/27/2025 5:43 PM ASSAULT/INJURY 85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS	03/02/2025 4:14 PM CRIM MISCHIEF 77XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS	03/06/2025 8:42 AM BURGLARY/VCL 64XX WESTSIDE DR	03/08/2025 4:19 PM BURGLARY/VCL 68XX WOOD HOLLOW	03/11/2025 2:52 AM FAMILY DISTURB 71XX HART LN	03/15/2025 8:59 AM CRED CARD ABUSE 85XX EMERALD HILL DR	03/20/2025 10:47 AM FORGERY/PASSING 55XX BALCONES DR
02/24/2025 3:25 PM BURGLARY/VCL 39XX FAR WEST	02/27/2025 9:54 PM FAMILY DISTURBANCE 68XX GREAT NORTHERN	03/02/2025 7:21 PM FAMILY DISTURB 72XX HART LN	03/06/2025 12:01 PM THEFT 81XX MESA DR	03/08/2025 8:57 PM FAMILY DISTURB 38XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS RD	03/11/2025 6:43 AM DISTURBANCE XX NORTHLAND	03/15/2025 10:15 AM AUTO THEFT 51XX RIDGE OAK	03/20/2025 4:48 PM ASSAULT W/INJURY 85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS
02/24/2025 3:49 PM ASSAULT/CONTACT 78XX MOPAC EXPY	02/28/2025 2:17 AM HARASSMENT 85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS	03/03/2025 8:26 AM BURGLARY/VCL 44XX SPICEWOOD SPRINGS	03/06/2025 12:15 PM BURGLARY OF VCL 52XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS	03/09/2025 10:24 AM ASSAULT/THREAT 52XX OLD SPICE- WOOD SPRINGS	03/11/2025 11:58 AM AUTO THEFT 75XX VALLEY DALE	03/17/2025 4:50 AM CRIM MISCHIEF 36XX FAR WEST	03/21/2025 1:47 AM CONTR SUB/NAR 83XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS
02/25/2025 12:59 AM PUBLIC INTOX 80XX MOPAC EXPY	02/28/2025 3:17 AM HARASSMENT 85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS	03/04/2025 12:04 PM BURGLARY/VCL 72XX WOOD HOLLOW	03/07/2025 8:26 AM BURGLARY 81XX MESA DR	03/09/2025 7:18 PM DWI 74XX MOPAC EXPY	03/11/2025 12:40 PM BURGLARY/VCL 71XX WOOD HOLLOW	03/17/2025 5:43 PM TRESPASS 193XX FM 969 RD	03/21/2025 9:15 AM AUTO THEFT 42XX BAMFORD DR
02/25/2025 6:08 PM RECKLESS CONDUCT 36XX FAR WEST	02/28/2025 8:34 AM HARASSMENT 82XX BENT TREE	03/04/2025 12:16 PM DATING DISTURB 83XX BRADFORD EDWARD	03/07/2025 12:41 AM CONT SUB/NAR 67XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS	03/09/2025 7:37 PM AUTO THEFT 63XX BON TERRA	03/11/2025 3:43 PM AUTO THEFT 75XX VALLEY DALE	03/17/2025 8:41 PM BURGLARY OF VEH 67XX LAKEWOOD	03/22/2025 12:04 AM DWI .15 BAC or + 49XX FM 2222 RD
02/25/2025 6:14 PM DATING DISTURB 68XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS	03/01/2025 9:28 AM ASSAULT/INJURY 85XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS	03/04/2025 3:20 PM FRAUD 72XX HART LN	03/07/2025 3:22 PM FRAUD 34XX GREYSTONE	03/09/2025 9:01 PM DISTURBANCE 55XX BALCONES DR	03/12/2025 1:19 PM CRIM MISCHIEF 35XX NORTH HILLS	03/17/2025 11:48 PM BURGLARY/VCL 80XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS	03/22/2025 1:51 AM BURGLARY 80XX MESA DR
02/25/2025 7:49 PM AGG ASSAULT/ MOTOR VCL 85XX MESA DR	03/01/2025 9:13 AM AUTO THEFT 93XX RESEARCH	03/04/2025 4:47 PM THEFT 68XX WOOD HOLLOW	03/07/2025 8:54 PM BURGLARY/VCL 80XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS	03/10/2025 9:01 AM BURGLARY/VCL 80XX HILLRISE DR	03/12/2025 1:55 PM AUTO THEFT 34XX NORTH HILLS	03/18/2025 9:49 AM FRAUD 37XX FAR WEST	03/23/2025 8:29 PM FRAUD 66XX HART LN
02/25/2025 10:01 PM ASSAULT W/INJURY 72XX WOOD HOLLOW DR	03/02/2025 3:56 AM DWI 83XX MOPAC EXPY	03/04/2025 7:39 PM FRAUD 74XX WATERLINE	03/07/2025 8:54 PM BURGLARY/VCL 67XX LAKEWOOD	03/10/2025 12:15 PM THEFT/LICENSE PLATE 35XX GREYSTONE	03/14/2025 11:04 AM FAMILY DISTURB 72XX WOOD HOLLOW	03/18/2025 1:43 PM BURGLARY/VCL 33XX PERRY LN	03/23/2025 9:45 PM DWI 83XX CAPITAL OF TEXAS
02/26/2025 1:35 PM AUTO THEFT 36XX STECK AVE	03/02/2025 12:28 AM FAMILY DISTURB 36XX STECK AVE	03/05/2025 10:36 AM BURGLARY 71XX HART LN	03/07/2025 10:10 PM BURGLARY/VCL 67XX LAKEWOOD				

[SpotCrime.com](http://SpotCrime.com)



**We LOVE Northwest Austin news!  
We want to feature news from  
all ages and stages!**

**Need to reach 8,000+ homes  
in print? Ask us about our  
advertising oppotunities.**

**Lynette@FourPointsNews.com 512-483-1708**

## Pristine House Cleaning



First Deep Cleaning\*

Let us take care of the cleaning and get  
your free time back!

- ✔ Trusted, Experienced Cleaners
- ✔ Flexible Scheduling
- ✔ Your Satisfaction. Guaranteed
- ✔ Serving North Austin for over 20 Years.

**Get Your Free Quote!**

📞 512-980-9005

🌐 [PristineCleaningTX.com](http://PristineCleaningTX.com)



# Council Decides Against Historic Zoning for Northwest's Running Rope Ranch

By JO CLIFTON  
Austin Monitor

Despite strong statements of support for historic zoning from two of the newest members of City Council at the early March meeting, fewer than half of the Council members voted in favor of designating a portion of the property known as Running Rope Ranch at 7304 Knox Lane in Northwest Austin as historic.

As the Austin Monitor previously reported, the 5.77-acre property was the home of former Army Capt. Warren P. Knox and his family. For decades, they opened their home to neighborhood youth, who enjoyed horseback riding, learning outdoors skills and swimming in the ranch's spring-fed pool.

Mayor Kirk Watson, Mayor Pro Tem Vanesa Fuentes and Council Member José Velásquez joined Council members Mike Siegel and Marc Duchen in voting to designate the property as historic in the face of opposition from the owner, Jimmy Nassour of Chase Equities Inc. Council members Ryan Alter, Krista Laine and Paige Ellis voted no. Council members Natasha Harper-Madison, Chito Vela and Zo Qadri abstained.

Carter Design Associates performed a review of the structures on the property to see if they met requirements of historical designation. Their report says that although the main residence had been modified so much it did not meet those requirements, there were two smaller, older structures that did. The reviewer recommended that those structures be moved to the environmentally sensitive area that can't be developed anyway. Leah Bojo of the Drenner Group said her client would agree to that if Council would refrain from designating the property as historic.

Historic Preservation Officer Kalan Contreras told Council the city's Historic Landmark Commission had voted unanimously to grant the historic designation for a site that contains evidence of Native American habitation as well as two small buildings.

However, the Zoning and Platting Commission declined to recommend the historic designation.

Although numerous neighbors wrote to Council about their fears of additional traffic, among other things, if the property is developed with the planned 20 units, none of them spoke at Council. However, Noé Elias told Council that Running Rope Ranch should be designated as historic because the property has springs that may have been used by the original indigenous inhabitants of the area.

As noted by neighbor Meghan Ellington in a letter to Council, "The Knox site is a known archaeological and historically significant site. The Texas Archeological commission has recorded the presence of burnt stone middens evidencing previous native American use of the springs. It is likely that there are other sites of significance on the rest of the Knox tract, but no investigation has been made and no preservation efforts have occurred. Allowing important common cultural sites to be disturbed and destroyed so outside financiers

can squeeze maximum profit out of a site cannot be what the City of Austin is about."

A staff member told Council that private property owners may do whatever they wish with historic artifacts on their own land.

In response to a question from Duchen, Contreras said the term "midden" refers to a collection of discarded or accumulated items that show evidence of past human habitation. That can be bones, shells, broken pots – basically "what's left behind from people who have lived there for a while," she said. Noting that she is not an archaeologist, she told Council those artifacts "are basically all that remains in some cases to show us what happened on a site and that there were even people there to begin with. And in this case it is Native American middens, specifically around the area of the springs, that the Texas Historical Commission let us know they are on the site somewhere."

Siegel asked Contreras how unusual it is to find two middens on a site. She said, "This is the first case that I have had with any middens at all and I do not remember any during the last 10 years that I've worked with the Historic Preservation Office that had this level of archaeological findings that were known."

In arguing for the historic designation, Siegel told his colleagues he had reached out to the archaeologists at the University of Texas to see if they could come to the meeting. He said they might be able to attend a later meeting for second and third reading, which will not happen. In urging his fellow Council members to vote for the historic designation, reading from a report on the site, Siegel also gave a more extensive definition of middens.

"Long thought to be 'Indian dumps' by local residents and early archaeologists, recent work shows that these sites – middens – are a rich archive of past lifeways and environment and a cultural touchstone for the region's indigenous inhabitants. The staff report also notes that the area's springs have served local inhabitants for hundreds, if not thousands, of years," Siegel said.

Without the historic designation, the developer intends to build 20 living units with a single cul-de-sac entrance, according to staff. The east end of the property has significant environmental features and many heritage trees. According to the staff report and Bojo, the developer's representative, two smaller buildings on the site that are historic will be moved to the environmentally sensitive area. That area requires environmental remediation but will not be subject to development.

"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. She stressed that a historic designation would make it significantly more difficult to do the environmental remediation necessary to bring back the springs on the property

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

## WILDFIRE RISKS, FROM 1

really dry conditions and really strong winds, any fires that start can get out of control quickly."

This was the case when a fire broke out near Fredericksburg on Saturday. Initial estimates of its size started at 400 acres, but the strong winds and dry air helped fuel the fire that grew to more than 9,800 acres. As of Wednesday, the fire was about 90 percent contained, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

Fogarty said springtime is traditionally when these warnings happen, because it's before the vegetation starts to green and before any significant rain falls.

"We've been in a drought and haven't had much rain, so the fuels, like grasses, are really dry," he said.

Nielsen-Gammon said red flag warnings could become more common as higher temperatures and very dry conditions develop earlier in the year, extending both the spring and summer wildfire seasons.

"Climate change enhances the rate at which fuels dry out faster, because higher temperatures allow for a greater rate at which water evaporates, making them prime for burning," Nielsen-Gammon said. "There is not a clear climate change connection with the high winds, but having fuels ready to burn can happen more frequently because of climate change."

There are also parts of the state that have seen increased risk of wildfires because of changes in landscape, he said. Nielsen-Gammon said many rural areas went from open pastures to more brushy landscapes, as people move farther out from big cities.

"When you have a wildland-urban interface where people live in more rural areas, these areas then include more trees and houses being built, which is fuel for wildfires," he said.

But many wildfires are caused by humans, Nielsen-Gammon said, and there are ways to prevent them.

When conditions are dry and windy, Fogarty said people should be careful about causing a fire, and avoid dragging tow chains, leaving a hot car on dry grass or using open flame on fire or barbecue pits.

Travis County issued a burn ban at the beginning of March that will remain in effect until at least April 8. Travis County Judge Andy Brown also signed a disaster declaration that allows the county to prepare for neighborhood evacuations and tap into state resources.

**ST. MATTHEW'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Christ the Lord is risen today!**

**Saturday, April 19th**  
8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

**Sunday, April 20th**  
9:00 am Easter Service  
10:15 am Easter Egg Hunt  
11:00 am Easter Service with Baptisms  
12:15 am Easter Egg Hunt

 8134 Mesa Drive  
Austin, TX 78759  
512-345-8314  
StMattsAustin.org

 Directions

Learn More

# As Wildfire Anxiety Grows, Austin to Designate Half the City as at Risk of Fire Damage

By Audrey McGlinchy, KUT

Austin plans to greatly expand the amount of land, and therefore homes, considered at risk of wildfire damage.

City Council members are scheduled to discuss updating rules surrounding Austin's WUI, or Wildland-Urban Interface, later this month. This is the area where wilderness and development meet, and where there is a higher risk that a fire burning in a wooded area could jump to homes and businesses.

The move would put 71 percent of the city's land parcels in a zone vulnerable to burning should a wildfire break out, according to a presentation in January by the Austin Fire Department. That amounts to about half of all city land, up from 38 percent a decade ago.

The discussion comes as experts have grown increasingly convinced conditions are ripe for Austin to have a devastating wildfire. Summers have grown hotter and droughts more extreme. Austin ranks fifth in the nation on a list of cities with the highest number of homes at risk of being damaged by wildfires.

The four cities that rank above Austin are all in California.

"We're sitting on the edge of a major catastrophic fire," said Randy Denzer, a former battalion chief with the Austin Fire Department. "This isn't too far-fetched."

## ONE ZONE GETS BIGGER

Austin's current wildfire risk map was drawn in 2015.

The risk area forms a ring around the city, acting as a buffer between wildland and human habitation.

This map is sectioned into three zones. Buildings within Zone A have a higher chance of being destroyed during a wildfire, while Zones B and C have a smaller chance.

Historically, homes in West Austin have had the greatest risk of wildfire damage. New risk areas appear to include much of South Austin and neighborhoods just west of downtown.

In this latest map, Austin's Fire Department has proposed to significantly widen Zone C, expanding it to cover nearly half of the land in the city. This amounts to five times the land acreage considered at risk in the 2015 map.

The department says this better reflects the potential danger caused by embers, which can travel miles during wildfires, potentially igniting homes previously considered insulated from fire damage.

"The proposed expansion reflects national best practices and wildfire studies which show that structure fires are most often started by embers penetrating the house or landing on combustible material adjacent the structure," André de la Reza, AFD's assistant chief over the prevention division, said by email.

The department would not agree to an interview for this story, and said speaking publicly about the changes before Council discusses them would be "premature." Instead, the department answered some written questions, but not all.

In his response, de la Reza said fires that broke out in the last two decades demonstrate how dangerous embers can be and that the department might need to widen its wildfire risk area.

Nicks said he wants to see more of a focus on fuel mitigation, or trimming brush and trees on private property, which would choke future fires of potential fuel.

The department said fuel mitigation is handled separately.

"Fuel mitigation is a separate matter. The WUI Code is critical because 90% of homes that catch fire in a wildfire event are from embers, as opposed to direct flame or radiant

heat," de la Reza said by email. "Embers, which are spread by high winds, are a byproduct of all fires."

## IMPACTS WHAT GETS BUILT

Adam Mosier builds almost exclusively in neighborhoods at risk of wildfire damage. In Austin, these tend to be wealthier areas, where homes affront wooded hills and sell for millions of dollars.

On a recent afternoon, Mosier stood outside a new

home in a neighborhood less than a mile from Austin's west side highway and inside the city's wildfire risk area.

He pointed to the stucco siding, tempered windows and metal roof – just a few of the features, he said, that make this home more likely to withstand a fire compared to others nearby.

In 2020, Austin adopted its first set of building rules designed to protect homes from wildfires. The regulations, which change depending on the zone a homeowner lives in, require builders of new and remodeled homes to "harden" them against burning.

They accomplish that by building with fire-resistant materials, installing windows less likely to crack in extreme heat and following strict

rules on how to install vents so embers can't fly inside and ignite a house from within.

These requirements will now cover a much larger part of the city. Anyone building a new home or renovating a current one, including replacing at least half of a roof, will have to build according to the city's fireproofing rules.

Builders say this could add cost to construction, which could then be passed on to potential buyers.

"It is going to make homes in 60 percent of the city more expensive and not by just a couple hundred bucks," said Scott Turner, a local homebuilder.

The city is trying to ease that concern by loosening some regulations, especially in Zone C. The Fire Department has proposed reducing some rules around roof and vents, among others.

But a 2018 study from a nonprofit research group, Headwaters Economics, found that it is possible to build fire-resistant homes for the same price as typical homes.

Researchers looked at parts of homes that are generally vulnerable to fires, including roofs, exterior walls and decks, and found it cost roughly \$81,000 to build these parts of a typical home, and \$79,000 to use fire-resistant materials. The part of the home that was most expensive to make fire-resistant was the roof. A roof built to withstand fires costs about \$6,000 more than a roof on a typical home.

## IMPACTS TO INSURANCE COSTS

The risk of damage to someone's home because of a wildfire can raise the cost of insurance, experts say.

"Between the growing wildfire risk plus hail ... this has generated those increasing rates," said Ian Giammanco, a managing director at the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety.

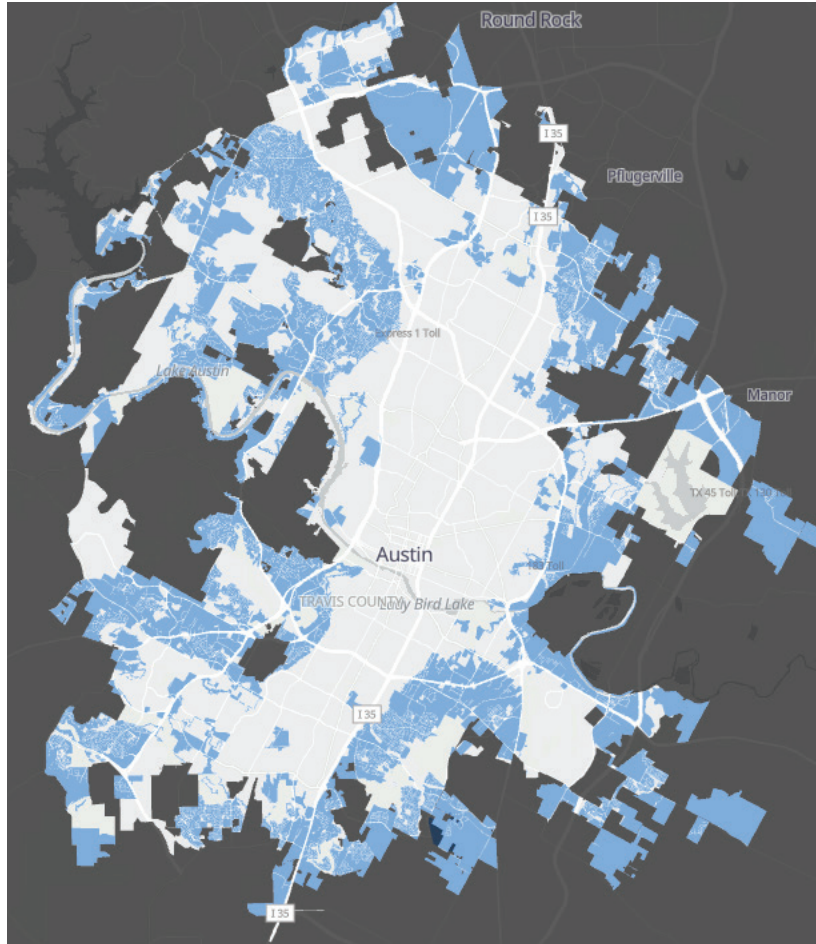
Giammanco said insurance companies consider wildfire maps like the one the city is set to adopt when adjusting rates.

Even before this proposed change to the city's map, homeowners in areas at risk of wildfire damage have had to stomach rising insurance costs.

According to census data, the average annual cost of an insurance policy in Southwest Austin rose by 23 percent between 2022 and 2023. The average cost of an insurance policy went from \$2,033 a year to \$2,646 a year.

"I wouldn't go as far to say as soon as these maps come out it's going to change people's rates," said Rich Johnson, communications director for the Insurance Council of Texas. "(Insurance companies) may have been ahead of it or aware of it already."

Johnson said it's possible insurance companies have already adjusted policies based on this new wildfire risk information



City of Austin Wildland Urban Interface code areas are shaded (blue) areas in this map and cover 40% of Austin.

De la Reza pointed to the Pinnacle Fire in Southwest Travis County in 2011. While the fire burned only 100 acres, it destroyed 10 homes. Firefighters attributed the destruction to winds that carried embers for several blocks, "igniting homes far in advance of the fire," according to a report from the Texas A&M Forest Service.

But some fire experts have taken issue with what they say is the city's overemphasis on protection instead of prevention.

"Embers only occur ... when you have a large fire," said Bob Nicks, a battalion chief with the Austin Fire Department and head of the firefighters' union. "So, the goal shouldn't be just to build houses stronger so the embers don't harm them. The goal should be to keep the fire small."

# Travis County Sets Aggressive Goal to Eliminate Traffic Fatalities by 2050

By Lina Fisher, Austin Monitor

One of the policy areas that the county has most influence over is roadway safety. Past city limits, the Travis County Commissioners Court is responsible – along with the Texas Department of Transportation, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and other regional authorities – for managing the increased traffic that comes along with booming growth. And as traffic increases, so do injuries and fatalities. In order to tackle that issue, the Commissioners Court voted unanimously earlier in March to set a goal of reducing traffic fatalities by 50 percent by 2035 and completely eliminating them by 2050. After incorporating safety recommendations from the community, the court will adopt its final safety action plan in May.

In order to receive grant funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's SS4A program, municipalities must commit to aggressive goals like these. Travis County's action plan rolls into the bigger CAMPO six-county action plan, which includes Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties. Commissioners were originally presented with two options: either establishing a target date for achieving zero fatalities and serious injuries, or establishing a significant percent reduction by a target date, with an eventual, dateless goal of zero. Instead, the county committed to a goal of zero by 2050, mirroring CAMPO's ambitious plan.

Now that the goal has been set, county staff will come back to the court in May with project recommendations based on community feedback from a survey that ended this month and a comprehensive analysis of crash data across the county from 2019 through 2023. Staff will collaborate with nine municipalities across the county, Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority,

TxDOT, the county sheriff's office, emergency management office and Del Valle ISD on where safety improvements would be most effective.

More than 1,200 respondents to the survey from all across the county dropped pins on a map where they'd seen a safety issue, coalescing around certain roads that had multiple comments: FM 1431, RM 620, Line Creek Road in Volente, plus Brodie Lane, Springdale Road, Cameron Road and RM 2222 closer to Austin. Survey respondents suggested widening roadways and installing medians to slow down traffic. Redesigning dangerous curves with added turn lanes, improving road maintenance and drainage, and enhancing signage and lighting were next on the list. Enhancing emergency response and traffic enforcement and adding protected bike lanes were also mentioned.

However, engineering and construction improvements may not solve what the survey indicated is the biggest contributor to dangerous roads: "What we heard in terms of top safety concerns were speeding, road rage or reckless driving, and distracted driving and other behavior challenges," explained Dan Malson, consultant project manager for the Safe Streets action plan. "So that is really informing the discussion that we have, (that) a lot of the challenges are not so much dangerous portions of roads, but driver behavior. (We're) trying to build roadway safety culture within Travis County."

When commissioners were presented with a possible goal of 100 percent elimination of traffic fatalities by 2050, Cindy McDonald, county executive for transportation and natural resources, warned, "I think 100 percent is admirable. I think it's going to be very difficult if you cannot change driver behavior."

However, Commissioner Ann Howard pushed for the

aggressive goal, saying, "This is an area that the county has to continue to lead the community on and keep up with the growth and the use of our road system. It's aspirational, but it can help lead us and guide us in our budgeting and our partnerships and our grant searches. We also saw an appetite for larger investment in roads in the 2023 bond passage, with a bigger margin than ever before. That gives me some confidence that the public would support not only our aspirational goal, but investments towards achieving that goal."

Commissioner Jeff Travillion expressed concern about setting such an ambitious goal without a process in place to reach it yet – or the funding to do it, which is already on shaky ground because of the Trump administration's threat of a federal funding freeze. However, Malson explained that the goal will kick-start a pilot that can include checkpoints along the way to assess how well the project is working.

"The idea is that you're able to take a look at the crashes before for several years, and then once the project's implemented, take a look at the crashes for several years after and quantify that reduction," he said.

Malson mentioned the city of Austin's pilot left turn program, in which it changes some left turns from flashing yellow to green only, in order to measure how many crashes resulted from poor driver decision-making.

"That's a type of approach that you might take with some of these projects, to start tracking once they move towards implementation," Malson said. "The results from those studies can inform where we are on track to meet that goal; which types of projects should we be investing in in the future; which types don't seem to be working right now?"

## Neighbor Tip: Avoid Break-ins at the Park

By JOYCE STATZ  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

For months, social media has been warning people about the break-ins at popular parks in Austin. Bull Creek District Park and Mount Bonnell have been especially hard hit. In conversation with several park rangers recently, they reported that 12 people had recently been arrested for these crimes, but there were still criminals preying on park visitors.

Suggestions to avoid being victimized include:  
Park in areas near where people are present and can monitor any activity.

Hide valuables in a trunk or take them with you; leave nothing of value visible.

Leave windows open an inch or so; this gives a message that there's nothing to take, no reason to break the window.

If, however, you experience a break-in, park rangers strongly recommend reporting the incident to 311. Knowing where these are happening helps them know where to patrol the parks.

## Closure of East/West Access at Westlake Drive/Loop 360 Intersection

The Texas Department of Transportation closed the Westlake Drive crossover at Loop 360 on March 21 to begin construction of the new Westlake Drive bridge. The closure is anticipated to last approximately six months, weather permitting.

During this closure, east/west access across the Loop 360 mainlanes will close. Westlake Drive will become a right in/right

out only.

Drivers traveling westbound on Westlake Drive will U-turn at Cedar Street to access southbound Loop 360. Drivers traveling eastbound on Westlake Drive will U-turn at new signals installed across from the Shell Refuel Gas station to access northbound Loop 360. The Loop 360 mainlanes will remain open.

## Pay for Parking Instantly

By Austin Transportation  
and Public Works

Are you still digging for coins for the parking meter? Try downloading the Park ATX mobile app instead. Why make the switch?

It's more convenient: No cash is needed; just create your account and connect it to the payment method of your choice.

Easily select the amount of time you wish to stay.

Need more time? You can receive an alert when your parking session is about to end and pay for more time remotely through your mobile device.

It saves you money:



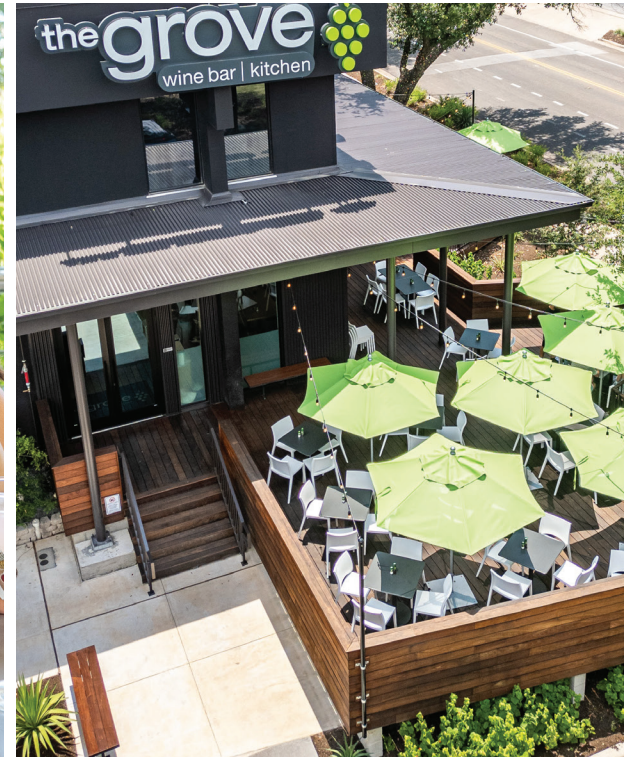
Enter the validation codes FREE15ATX1 and FREE-15ATX2 for 30 total minutes of free parking. Both validation codes can be used on the same parking session for a total of 30 minutes free or individually on separate parking sessions. It's perfect for a quick errand or getting the first part of a longer parking session free.

You can also get some of your parking fees back if you finish your parking session early, just press the "stop parking" button in the active parking session on the app (some restrictions apply).

Ready to get started? Head over to [parkatxapp.com](http://parkatxapp.com) to download the app today.



# ENJOY OUR PATIOS



**SPRING IN  
NORTHWEST HILLS**

[grovewinebar.com](http://grovewinebar.com)

**the grove**  
wine bar | kitchen



Westlake • Lakeway • Downtown • Cedar Park

# LIGHTS OUT, TEXAS!

#LightsOutTexas



1 in 3 birds migrating in the U.S. will pass through Texas this spring

Spring migration  
March 1 - June 15

Indigo Bunting / Lorraine Minns/Audubon Photography Awards

## Nurturing Songbirds and Butterflies in NWACA

By MAURA POWERS  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

Would you enjoy birdsong at your home or seeing butterflies among the flowers? Then you, like many residents of our neighborhood, can follow these easy tips to live that way. You don't even need a yard.

You may have seen Lights Out Texas yard signs. These signs are meant to help our declining bird population by encouraging everyone to turn off lights from 11 pm to 6 am during migratory seasons so that birds are not confused by ground lighting. Most migratory birds fly at night and rely on the stars to guide them. We are currently in spring migration (Mar 1 to Jun 15) when birds are returning to North America to begin the nesting season. Lights not only result in poor navigational choices resulting in exhaustion, but contribute to birds' inability to detect windows, resulting in increased fatal strikes. The darker our skies, the better for everyone's circadian rhythm. [bit.ly/LightsOutTexas](http://bit.ly/LightsOutTexas).

Leave out water in shallow pans, platters or saucers. Terracotta works well because birds, butterflies and bees can easily grip that material. For

pollinators, a few stones or small rocks in the pan will help them access the water without drowning.

Plant or pot native plants, especially host plants for butterflies. Our native wildlife does not recognize Australian or Asian plant species as a food source because they did not evolve with those plants. The City of Austin provides an easy guide to plants. <https://shorturl.at/xvvr4>

Don't kill caterpillars! They are where our beautiful butterflies and moths come from. Frustrating as it may be to see holes in the leaves of our cultivated plants, it is usually not fatal to the plant and totally necessary for the survival of butterflies, which are in steep decline.

Don't use pesticides or rodenticides. The targeted victims remain in the ecosystem and while they are dead, they look like an easy meal to living animals who then are sickened and die as the level of poison rises in their bodies. Humane ways to reduce a rat presence without resorting to rodenticides exist.

Start with any of the above tips while you become familiar with all that our neighborhood has to offer. If you are curious about the birdsong you hear, try out the Merlin app for free. It will identify birds for you. <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

## Watch Out for Wildlife with Their Young

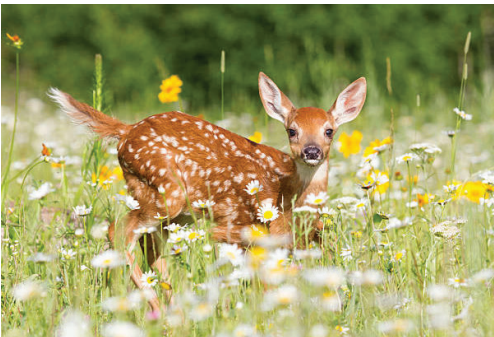
It's springtime in Northwest Austin, so we'll soon be seeing young fawns and their mothers in the neighborhood. Please be careful as you drive, because the young ones move a bit unpredictably. In addition, be wary of getting near the mother deer while out walking or running, since they may become aggressive to protect their babies. Also, if a deer leaves a fawn in your yard, please don't touch or move it. Its mother will be back to retrieve it.

If you find a fawn that is sick, injured, or in an unsafe area, call Austin Wildlife Rescue at 512-472-WILD (512-472-9453)

Now is also the time to be aware of coyote pup rearing season.

vacant lots, parks, golf courses, or any other dark, dry place.

- Coyote pups are cared for, fed, and protected by both parents. The pups mature quickly and can eat meat and move about easily by the time they are a month old.
- Nursing females and the grouping young need lots of food until late summer. As people and their pets spend more time



outdoors during this time, the possibility of a coyote encounter increases.

- It is not unusual to observe a family of coyotes traveling through urbanized areas.
- If food is deliberately or inadvertently provided by people, the

pups quickly learn not to fear humans and develop a dependency on easy food sources.

As a reminder, evaluate what food attractants you may be inadvertently providing. Pick ripe fruit from trees and off the ground, secure garbage and compost bins, don't feed pets outdoors, don't throw food scraps for wildlife, keep bird feeders from overflowing, and eliminate artificial water sources. Additionally, close off crawl spaces under porches, decks, and sheds!

# Join us for Holy Week



**Palm Sunday**  
April 13, 11:00 AM  
*featuring special music*

**Good Friday**  
April 18, 6:00 PM

**Easter Sunday**  
April 20, 11:00 AM  
*featuring special music*

9:30 am SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 am FELLOWSHIP

11:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE

→ SUNDAYS

CHILD CARE PROVIDED

11400 CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY DR  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

737-287-4716  
INFO@AUSTINGLOBALMETHODIST.ORG  
AUSTINGLOBALMETHODIST.ORG



**REVIVING PEOPLE**  
WITH THE LIVING WORD

# Austin Area Won't Be Seeing a Lot of Bluebonnets This Year and Here's Why

By MAYA FAWAZ, KUT

It's a quintessential Texas experience to get your photo taken in a field of bluebonnets - which bloom in March and April.

"I have lots of pictures," said Matthew Gaston, who used to work as director of education for the Zilker Botanical Garden. "It's this bluish hue and it has these gorgeous little leaves you can see even before it starts blooming."

Growing up in San Antonio, Gaston remembers pulling off the side of the highway and taking photos in a field full of

wildflowers.

"The Central Texan wildflowers are so iconic that people will go on trips from all over the country just to see them," he said.

The wildflower forecast from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center says the blue flowers may be harder to find in Central Texas this season. Much of the area is in severe or extreme drought, and without enough rain in the fall, the flowers end up blooming later than usual or not at all.

Hannah Armstrong, lead horticulturist with the Wildflower Center, said early

bloomers, like bluebonnets and paintbrushes, took a bigger hit. She said they might crop up later, but there will be less of them. Flowers that bloom later might fare better, she said, if the spring brings wetter weather.

"Black-eyed Susans, firewheel, horsemint - things like that - could have a little more room to grow and have more plants," Armstrong said.

West and Central Texas didn't get much rain this past fall, Armstrong said, so she recommends hitting the road and driving east.

"Remote highways can sometimes be really nice places to see wildflowers, like country roads," she said. "It's a little slower so you can get a better view. It's a little safer to pull off on the side of the road because you always got to be careful about that."

Armstrong said Austin folks should try driving through Brenham or College Station for better wildflower viewing this year.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is a closer option. Flowers are tended year-round, she said, so they're all ready to bloom in the spring.

## NWACA Mick Koffend Earth Day Festival April 27

By DANA WINER

Northwest Austin Civic Association

Please join us for the NWACA Mick Koffend Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 27 from 2 to 4pm. Please note the new location this year - we're excited to be at Hill Elementary School and Park!

This is NWACA's third annual Earth Day Festival for kids and adults. This year it has been named in memory of our dear neighbor Mick Koffend, who founded the NWACA Earth Day Festival and passed away this January. It will be meaningful to honor him in this way as we continue to promote sustainability and community.

There will be fun for the whole family, including:

- Paint a tin planter and plant some rye grass!
- Make a bird feeder from recycled goods
- Face painting!
- Make your own repurposed earrings from aluminum cans - bring two matching colorful aluminum cans
- Try your skill with earth-themed word search and scavenger hunt bingo
- Visit the petting zoo!
- Snacks!

Adults will also enjoy the opportunity to:

- Identify invasive species in our yards and

green spaces

- Shred your old documents!
- Find out where to dispose of unused medication
- Donate household goods and clothing in good condition, and bring worn clothing (even with holes) for recycling
- Learn what happens with grease blobs and flushable wipes in our water pipes
- View a variety of electric cars and trucks and learn about charging networks
- Learn about rebates for energy-efficient home improvements
- Ask about solar rebates from Austin Energy

What should I bring to the festival? Your reusable water bottle, a tin to paint as a planter, paper for shredding, worn clothing (even with holes) to recycle, clothing and household goods in good condition to donate, and aluminum cans to make earrings. We will also have supplies at the festival if you forget any of these items.

Earth Day started in 1970 and it is now the largest civic event on earth, mobilizing over 1 billion people across 192 countries each year. Visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org) to learn more about the 2025 Earth Day theme "Our Power, Our Planet."



[graciamediterranean.com](http://graciamediterranean.com)  
4800 Burnet Rd, Ste 450

### BRUNCH

**Saturday & Sunday 12-4pm**  
Features + Full Menu  
**Third Sunday Sessions 1-3pm**  
Live Music

### HAPPY HOUR

**Wednesday-Friday 5-6pm**  
**Sunday ALL DAY 12-10pm**  
1/2 off Aperitivo Cocktails  
1/2 off Hummus  
25% off Oysters

### DATE NIGHT

**Wednesday**  
Paella for Two Feature +  
1/2 off Bottles of Sparkling Wine



**THIS AD IS GOOD FOR \$20 OFF** Limit one per table, expires April 30, 2025

# E A S T E R

at Grace Covenant Church



Sunday, April 20 at 9:15 and 11 a.m.

9431 JOLLYVILLE ROAD • AUSTIN, TEXAS • 78759

[GRACE360.ORG/EASTER](http://GRACE360.ORG/EASTER)

**FLAVOR**  
HOSPITALITY GROUP

**gusto**  
italian kitchen • wine bar

**gràcia**  
mediterranean

**gina's**  
on congress

**Flavor**  
co.  
CATERING • EVENTS

# ANOTHER NORTHWEST HILLS HOME SOLD PRE-MARKET

**No sign.**

**No showings.**

**No stress.**

**Just our networks.**

**Our expertise.**

**And, a delighted seller.**

Find out how we can do the  
same for you?

Text us today 512-415-7653



# Embark on Playful Adventures

*In Northwest Hills*



 KEENAN  
GROUP

COMPASS

**Now Open!**



**Convenient - Safe - Easy**

- No Deposit and No Long Term Lease Required
- Open 7 Days a Week
- Unit Sizes from 5'x5' to 10'x30'
- 24-Hour Video Surveillance
- Climate Controlled for Document Storage
- Personalized Unit Codes

**Lease Today and Get**

**1 MONTH FREE RENT!**

**Free Moving Truck Rental with Lease Signing!**



6500 Ranch Road 2222  
Austin, TX 78730

**(512) 553-8963**

Scan the QR Code or visit us at:  
[AdvantageStorage.net/austin](http://AdvantageStorage.net/austin)



\*LIMITED TIME OFFER | EXCLUSIONS APPLY

# Writer's Corner: Laurie Mann, LZM Studio

By IDEE KWAK  
Northwest Austin Civic Association



When someone picks up a pencil and draws exactly what they see, it seems like magic. But it's not. Drawing is a teachable skill and it's never too late to learn.

Laurie Mann remembers her first art class. A constantly doodling child, she was excited when her parents enrolled her in the local art college's summer program for high school students. Unfortunately, as the youngest student, she received no comments from the instructor. And even if she had, she wouldn't have learned much: he simply walked around the room offering random suggestions to the most naturally gifted students as they worked without guidance.

"I didn't know why my work was bad... I was frustrated, but like a dog with a bone, I just kept drawing on my own. Later after taking a watercolor class, my painting was featured in the newspaper. But I didn't know why it was good."

It wasn't until working on a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Michigan that Laurie began getting answers from her first true teacher, Paul Stewart. Specializing in ceramics and graphite pencil, Laurie went on to complete her Masters of Fine Arts from Arizona State and joined the faculty of a four-year college teaching ceramics and glaze chemistry as well as three-dimensional design, which is "a compositional, theoretical practice. It defines what works and doesn't work in the construction of successful compositions. Studying both three-dimensional and two-dimensional design helps set professionals apart from hobbyists."

Laurie speaks of the typical instruction, K-12. "The methodology fosters fine motor skills, experimentation with different materials, and cultural exposure, but the messaging of most art curricula is you either have it or you don't." At art conferences, Laurie finds remnants of this idea still exist in art education — the belief that being gifted is the key to being a good artist. Innate talent helps but "like juggling, art can be taught — as long as you don't expect everyone to keep five balls in the air when they start."

A resident of Austin for the past twenty years, Laurie taught at Laguna Gloria for her first fifteen and in 2006 founded LZM Studio. When COVID interrupted her schedule, she increased the classes she offered online, attracting students as diverse as a fashion CEO in Turkey and a yak farmer in Sweden! She also developed a twenty-five-hour online course, Asynchronics. Still available, it's completed


at one's own pace, usually taking a year or more to master.

A resident of Northwest Hills for the past seven years, Laurie teaches students aged eight and up, most with the simple background of enjoying drawing. In private lessons taken weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, "We engage the creative side, no previous skills required." With practice, students' muscle memory is developed and with instruction, their innate abilities are enhanced, all of which helps them find their individual personalities. Using mostly graphite pencils, students perfect the use of volume, lighting, and perspective, enjoying their progress. "Everyone can improve



when they're taught skillfully."

Granite Squad is Laurie's asynchronous online curriculum for schools, fourth grade through college level. Laurie offers private classes to all ages, both in person here in our neighborhood and online. She can be reached at [Laurie@LZMstudio.com](mailto:Laurie@LZMstudio.com). Her website is [www.lzmstudio.com](http://www.lzmstudio.com) and her Facebook page is LZM Studio.



**30 DAYS POOL SERVICE AND 2 FREE KAI LOUNGERS WITH ALL NEW POOLS!**



**CALL TODAY (512) 537-5710 • POOLS BY BLUE HAVEN.COM GET A FREE QUOTE TODAY!**

ALBERT ALLEN, REALTOR

# PROUDLY SERVING NORTHWEST HILLS & CENTRAL AUSTIN

*“Spring is in full swing!  
Let’s connect to discuss  
your real estate  
portfolio.”*



COMPASS

Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist, US Army Veteran  
Real estate with a purpose | Reach out for a Walk and Talk  
[www.NorthwestHillsAustin.com](http://www.NorthwestHillsAustin.com) | [albert.allen@compass.com](mailto:albert.allen@compass.com)

**512.589.9776**



*How can Compass Private Exclusives help you buy or sell your next home?  
Gain access to over 8,000 homes for sale nationwide ONLY on Compass.com*

# Meet NWACA Board Member Mike Harreld

By KEVIN KOTT  
Northwest Austin Civic Association

**Kevin:** Good afternoon, Mike! Your bio on the NWACA web site has a brief description of your impressive professional background. But let's start with your family and personal background.

**Mike:** I was brought up in Owensboro Kentucky, about 100 miles Southwest of Louisville. My brother, sister, and I had a great small-town life. Our dad was an artillery battery commander during WWII and ran our house like a military base. He managed a furniture store where I got a taste for business controls and management. I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren: a son who lives in Montana, one daughter who lives in Atlanta with 3 sons, and another daughter who lives in Austin with 2 daughters.

**Kevin:** So, your dad gave you early lessons in business management. Was there anyone else who influenced your life so profoundly?

**Mike:** I was certainly influenced by my father in his loving but strict and frugal ways. However, outside of family, I learned a lot during the four years I worked as the student manager for the University of Kentucky Wildcats basketball team. At the time, Adolf Rupp was coach and ran the team with incredible discipline and focus on winning. Working directly under him, I learned to value focus, hard work, and continuous improvement. He was amazing at identifying what each team member could do to improve their skill and effectiveness. Every activity was focused on "how do we get



Mike Harreld and partner, Lila Kellar  
at a Safari-themed charity fundraiser

better and how do we beat the other team." I learned so much from Coach Rupp that I thought seriously about pursuing a career as a basketball coach - until I realized how poorly they were paid (at that time).

**Kevin:** You had a long career in executive roles in Southern Company, which operates a number of electric, natural gas, nuclear energy production, and transmission subsidiaries. What led you to the energy industry?

**Mike:** After attaining my MA in Accounting, I worked as an accountant for Arthur Anderson. I was assigned to accounting projects for their largest client, Southern Company. During that accounting work, I initiated and completed numerous business process consulting projects. Soon, Southern Company offered me a job which led to 28 years of employment, peaking with a promotion to EVP-CFO. The company relocated me to London for four years to transition a new acquisition. After that, there was a one-year assignment in Amsterdam. We really enjoyed our time and learned a lot living in Europe.

**Kevin:** You've been in Austin less than three years and joined the NWACA board last year. What is your impression so far?

**Mike:** After 40 years in Atlanta, the transition to Austin is going well. I'm focusing on developing a network of new friends. I love what I see and now, I'm here, I'm part of Austin. I want it to be the best community it can be!

Trust us because we are **FAMILY**, use us because **WE CARE!**



**A-PLUS AIR CONDITIONING & HOME SOLUTIONS**

Free Estimates on New A/C Systems  
Fast 7-Day A/C Repairs  
Energy Audits  
Duct Repair and Insulation

Home & Handyman Repairs  
Remodels & Additions  
Senior Accessibility Upgrades  
Painting & Staining  
Drywall & Popcorn Removal  
Decks & Fences / Install & Repairs



**\$25 OFF**  
Any A/C repair or handyman service over \$250

May not be combined with other offers. Expires December 31, 2025.

[www.AplusAC.com](http://www.AplusAC.com)



512-450-1980



TAEL B5235C

**Attention Homeowners!**  
Is Your Roof Damaged By Hail?  
Call The Hail Damage Experts Today!



**MATTHEW LORAND**  
*Roofing*

- ▲ Insurance Claim Specialists
- ▲ Free Roof Inspections
- ▲ 27 Years in Business
- ▲ Family Owned and Operated
- ▲ Owner is a Northwest Hills Resident



365+ 5 Star Google Reviews

Call or Visit us Online today!  
**737-252-8312**  
[www.matthewlorandroofing.com](http://www.matthewlorandroofing.com)



# 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

President – Joyce Statz  
 Vice President – Vicki DeWeese  
 Treasurer – Joyce Statz  
 Co-Secretaries – Julie Waidelich, Dana Winer

- Bart Arnold
- Chris Bove
- Carol Dochen
- Mike Harreld
- Megan Helm-brecht
- Kevin Kott
- Naresh Kumar
- Mae Levitan
- Ben Luckens
- Griffin Meroney
- Teri Schock
- Lori Steinberg
- Emmy Ward

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

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email (confidential): \_\_\_\_\_



#### Annual dues \$25

Optional Contributions:

Fourth of July Parade \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Constable \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 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  
 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
- History
- Neighborhood Watch
- Parks
- Business Membership
- Tree, Environment, and Wildlife
- Wildfire Prevention
- Zoning and Transportation

Members, please request to join our **Facebook Group** and sign up for **NWACA Notes**, our weekly email. For more info email us at: [info@nwaca.org](mailto:info@nwaca.org)

## Special Thanks to Members

### By NWACA MEMBERSHIP

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 February 20, 2025, and March 20, 2025.

- Linda Kisner
- (and, apologies to anyone whose donation we might have missed!)

## Are You a NWACA member?

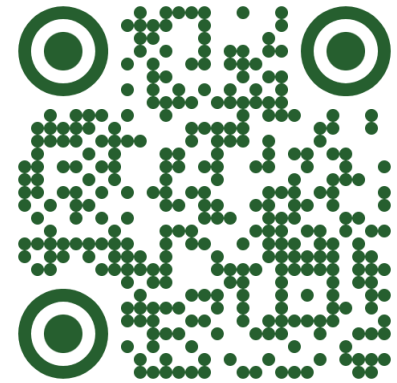
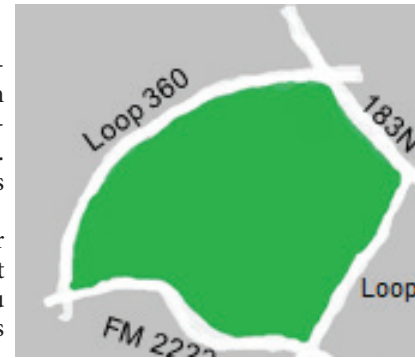
### By NWACA BOARD Northwest Austin Civic Association

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](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.

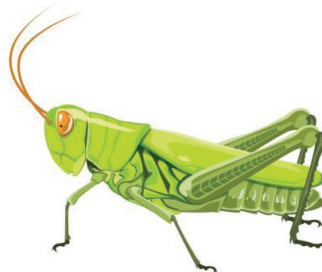


## Be on the Lookout for Early Season Grasshoppers

### By WIZZIE BROWN Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Most people don't start to think about grasshoppers until summer when they become very noticeable because of their large size. Unfortunately, that large size also means that they eat more, and usually at that stage they have wings and can fly to wherever they want to go. If you want to reduce grasshopper damage in the garden, it's best to start looking for grasshoppers now and manage them when they are small nymphs and don't have wings to fly away.

Grasshoppers have chewing mouthparts that they use to feed on plants causing damage to foliage, fruits, and vegetables. They have an incomplete life cycle with three life stages- egg, nymph, adult- with the nymphal instars looking similar to adults but without fully developed wings. Eggs hatch in spring and continue into summer, taking 1-2 months for grasshoppers to reach the adult stage.



Turning over soil in areas before planting can expose grasshopper eggs which may lead to a reduced hatch rate. Controlling weeds in and around the property can help reduce food sources as well as egg laying sites. Grasshoppers also have natural enemies, and many may die from fungus, protozoa, nematodes and predators such as beetles, robber flies, birds, and small mammals.

Early season grasshopper control can utilize low impact options such as vacuuming insects from plants, insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils during cooler temperatures, or botanicals (just remember that oils and botanicals are broad-spectrum and can kill beneficial and pest insects that come into contact with the pesticide).

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

# NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS

## More About On-Demand Curbside Services

By **MERRIESSA ANTON**

**Northwest Austin Civic Association**

Last month's issue began the information about Austin's "On Demand" Curbside Recycling; here are more details.

In January 2025, curbside bulk collections changed from twice a year, as scheduled by Austin Resource Recovery, to an on-demand service. Each residence or 4-plex can schedule a curbside collection, up to three times per year per type of service. Items are collected by different trucks and may be collected at different times throughout the day. If the scheduled recycling has not been picked up by 4:00 p.m., call Austin Resource Recovery to determine next steps.

Bulk items set out for pickup must be separated into three piles. Metal items and rigid plastics must be in one pile. These items include electronics and appliances (with their doors removed). Non-metal items in a separate pile can have carpet and nail free lumber. Tires go into a third pile, limited to eight tires per pickup, and rims must be removed. Truck or tractor tires cannot be collected. Items should not be put into bags, boxes or other containers. Bags will be treated as extra trash and may incur fees. The on-demand collection needs to be at least five feet away from your trash carts, mailbox, fences or walls, water meter, telephone collection box, fire hydrant, and parked cars. None should be under low hanging tree limbs or power lines.

The on-demand curbside collection also includes house-

hold hazardous materials, including aerosol cans, automotive fluids and oil filters, batteries (car and household), cleaning products, cooking oil and grease, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury (thermometers), paint and paint thinners, pesticides and herbicides, pool chemicals, and propane cylinders. When setting out your hazardous materials on the curb, they need to be in recyclable containers, which will be collected and not returned. Containers must be sealed and clearly labeled. Leaking containers can be bagged in sealable or zip top bags. There is a 30-gallon limit for the total amount of materials picked up on one scheduled trip; individual containers cannot be larger than 5 gallons.

Brush collection is now on demand as well. Branches and tree limbs that are too large to place in a composting cart can be part of a scheduled curbside pickup. Brush, branches, and tree limbs should be five to 15 feet in length. If longer than 15 feet, they must be cut shorter. Brush needs to be stacked in a row along the curb, no higher than four feet high, with cut ends facing the street. Tree trunks more than eight inches in diameter should be 3 feet long or less. Be sure they do not block the sidewalk or extend into the street. This information is also available on the free Austin Recycle App, Recycle ATX. At the bottom of the homepage, look for "On Demand." Information on how to schedule bulk collections is also on this app. Please download the app and enjoy your on-demand bulk collections.

## April Library Events in the Northwest Hills Area

By **MARTHA MILLER**

**Northwest Austin Civic Association**

All locations will be closed on Sunday, April 20 for Easter Friday, April 18 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, April 2 & 16 – 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, April 19 - Crafty Adult: Rainbow Bracelets and Poetry (2-4pm) 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, April 11 & 25 – Adult Morning Social (10am – noon) Join neighbors and make new friends at this casual social.

Friday, April 25 - Americana Theaters' 60th Birthday Party (2-3pm) Time travel back to the 1960s--for one night only, the Americana Theater lives again! Groove on down the red carpet with your family and friends to celebrate 60 years of the iconic Americana with live music from the Soulphonics, retro crafts for adults and kids of all ages, popcorn & movie candy, a screening of The Love Bug, photo booth and more! Join us for an evening of mod and midcentury cool--vintage getups are highly encouraged! All ages welcome!

Saturday, April 26 – Seed Gathering (1-2pm) 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, April 28 - Mending Circle at Yarbrough (6- 7:30 pm) Bring your favorite garments that need some tender loving care. Ages 18 and up

### Events at the Howson branch

Wednesday, April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 – Gentle Yoga and Sound Bath Meditation (4-5:30pm) Join us for this monthly gentle yoga and sound bath meditation class open to all fitness levels. Adults (18+) only.

Thursdays, April 3,10,17 & 24 - 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, April 7 – Yarn and Yammer (6 - 7:30 pm) Come hang out with other yarn crafters! Ages 18 and up

Thursdays, April 10 & 27 - Yoga with Tracy (9:30 - 10:30 am) 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, April 13 – Mending Circle - (noon -2 pm) Bring your favorite garments that need some tender loving care.

Wednesday, April 9 The Fragrance of Ink: Chinese Calligraphy for Beginners (2:30-4pm) - 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 will be provided. This program will be presented in both English and Chinese Mandarin.

Sunday, April 27, World Dance Day Celebration with Tusuy Sonqo Perú (2-3pm) Celebrate World Dance Day with Tusuy Sonqo Perú! Explore the beauty of traditional Peruvian dances and get connected and inspired. This program will be presented in both English and Spanish.

Wednesdays April 2, 9,& 16 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Free ESL Classes

## Mark Your Calendars

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

**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

**May 10, 9 a.m. to noon**

Steck Valley Greenbelt Trail Cleanup  
Steck Avenue Entrance  
**May 10, noon to 2 p.m.**

Spring B.O.P.A. Recycling Event

Batteries, Oil, Paint, Antifreeze

St. Matthew's 8134 Mesa Drive Parking Lot

**May 17, 9 a.m. to noon**

Bull Creek District Park Cleanup  
Sign up at <https://givepul.se/436xjo>

**May 20, 7 p.m.**

Parks Committee – virtual

**May 21, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

NWACA Board Meeting –  
Dell Jewish Community Center Friedel Board Room  
**May 27, 5 p.m.**

NWACA Zoning & Transportation Committees virtual

## 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 10, noon-2 p.m.**

Spring Recycling Event – Batteries, Oil, Paint, Antifreeze B.O.P.A. 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

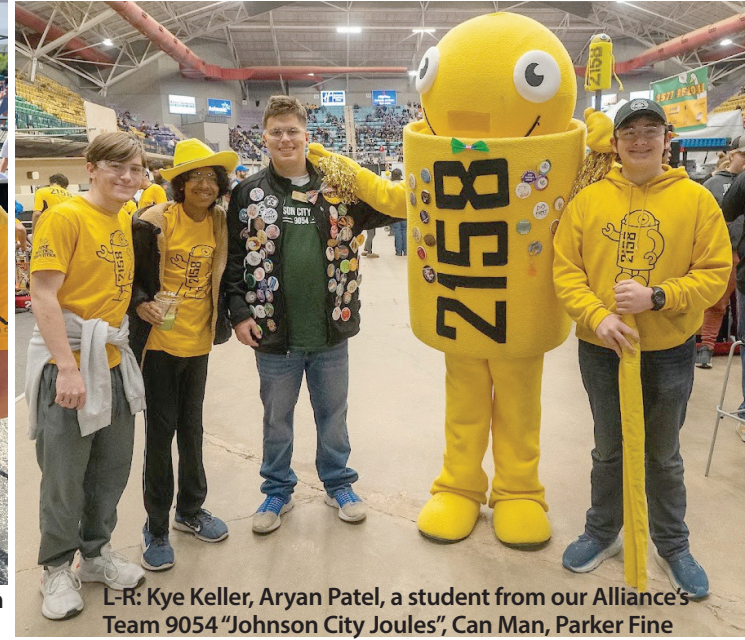
**December** – December Holiday Decorating Contest



Noah Coleman showed those interested how the robot works in the parking lot of Anderson after the Northwest Austin Civic Association 4th of July Parade 2024. Douglas Coleman, Noah's dad, volunteers.



Joe Ngo, Anderson's main FRC teacher with Noah Coleman and Parker Fine.



L-R: Kye Keller, Aryan Patel, a student from our Alliance's Team 9054 "Johnson City Joules", Can Man, Parker Fine

### Spring 2025 Competition Season Faces Victories and Challenges

The 2025 season has been a remarkable one for the team. Entering the competition with high hopes, the AusTIN CANs participated in two district events—one in Waco and another in Manor. Their performance at the Waco district event was particularly notable, as the team advanced to the finals, showcasing the effectiveness of their strategy and robot design. At the Manor event, the team placed 7th – a significant accomplishment given the level of competition.

Thanks to their impressive performance, the AusTIN CANs have secured a spot in the prestigious FIRST in Texas District Championship. With a current state ranking of 45th, they have earned their place among the top 90 teams typically invited to compete at the state level. This achievement reflects the team's dedication, perseverance, and technical expertise.

This competition season, the FRC is facing both successes and challenges.

#### Facing Financial Challenges

Despite their success on the field, the team has encountered unexpected financial challenges this season. The rising costs of materials and dwindling sources of public/grant funding have strained the teams' budget, and transitioning to a new drive system for the robot will require additional, unforeseen expenses. While the students and mentors have worked hard to optimize their resources, including chocolate bar sales and neighborhood bake sales, the team needs additional support to ensure they can compete at the highest level in the upcoming state championship.

#### Call for Community Support

As the team prepares for the Texas District Championship, they are reaching out to the community, local businesses, and corporate sponsors for financial assistance. Donations will help cover essential materials costs to build a competitive robot and some travel and lodging for students in need. Supporting the team not only enables students to compete but also fosters hands-on STEM education, empowering young engineers, programmers, manufacturers, and innovators for the future.

By contributing to their journey, supporters can play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of engineers and technology leaders. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference in helping these students achieve their dreams. To donate and support the

AusTIN CANs in their journey to the state championship, please reach out to the team through their website ([www.andersonrobotics.org](http://www.andersonrobotics.org)) and their 501(c)(3) parent booster club, the AusTIN CANs Supporters, to maximize your tax deductions. Your generosity will help these talented students continue learning, competing, and representing their team with pride.

#### Future Pipeline and Continuous Recruitment

For nearly 20 years, the AusTIN CANs has provided our local high school students with a unique opportunity to gain real-world experience in multiple disciplines, including mechanical design, software development, manufacturing, and business management. All the teams are primarily student-run with guidance from two Anderson teachers. All the teams comprise dedicated students with a passion for engineering, programming, manufacturing, and innovation, working collaboratively to demonstrate their exceptional problem-solving skills, resilience under pressure in the competitive environment, and interacting with teams from around the city, region, state, and even the world in some years.

The AHS teams are always seeking the next generation of engineers, programmers, and business leaders. The team actively recruits new students from Anderson to ensure a steady pipeline of talented students ready to learn and compete. Please reach out to the team or teacher sponsors, Mr. Joseph Ngo and Mr. Vincent Wrencher, if you have any questions about joining the team.

The ausTIN CANs VEX crew is comprised of the following teams: 2158A: Avery O., Boone A., Christopher, Kai D., Luke M; 2158C: Byrne S, Isabella., Jean B., Lana Y, Melanie A.; 2158E: James R., Maxim B.; 2158Z: Brady N., Kevin N., Kelvin W., Masaki M., Rodolfo C., Vincent M.; 2158: Ivy S.; 2158: Alexander J., Alexandra W., Noah K.

Anderson FRC is made up of Team President: Leo H. CAD/ Design: Student Lead: Emiliano M. Noah C., Darwin H., Niko H., Eli M., Emiliano M. Manufacturing: Student Lead: Hector L. Arad A., Parker F, Leo H., Hector L., Eli M., Keith S., Minie S., Lulu T., Cody V., Will V., Mason W., Ronan W. Programming: Student Lead: Zain J. Avery A., David C., Leena D., Zain J., Kennyson L., Nirmitt P., Greg S., Jack T., Sam T.



L-R: David Chau, Will Veeseer, Mason Woodward, Arad Arastegan

## Shoe Repair



- Boot Experts
- Purse Repair
- Belt Repair
- Luggage Repair
- Shoe Care Products

[AustinShoeHospital.com](http://AustinShoeHospital.com)

Central Texas locations including:

Lakeway 3932 RM 620 S. 512-263-4630

Westlake 3300 Bee Caves Rd. 512-329-8104

North Austin 8211 Burnet Rd. 512-453-1961



Jon Kniss- Austin All Stars Photo

## Q&A Emily Horvath, AHS Girls Head Soccer Coach

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

Strengths = team chemistry, defensive discipline and ability to score goals. The biggest obstacle at the start of the year was integrating many new players to the team and to the Varsity level after losing a large class of seniors last year. We have done so very well! Senior, Gracie Ruthven has surpassed 50 career goals and now holds the record for career goals and single season goals (25 so far). Senior, Claire Navarro now holds the single season assist record with 20 assists so far this season.

### 2) How did your team do in the playoffs?

We won district officially! We played our warmup playoff game vs 6A Dripping Springs and won 2-1 and then our playoff game vs Georgetown and lost, which ended our season. District 13-0-1 (W-L-T) and 19-3-1 for the year.

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

Instill defensive discipline, directive communication and confidence

### 4) What are some accolades to graduating seniors?

Senior, Gracie Ruthven scored 56 career goals and now holds the record for career goals and single season goals (29). Senior, Claire Navarro now holds the single season assist record with 24 assists this season. Ruthven and Navarro are also tied for career assists with 32 each.

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

Juniors Ava Banese and Leila Schuneman were new to the varsity roster this year and were both instrumental in the success of this season and will be vital to the continued success of the program next year. They have both started and played almost every minute of every game for us this year and we expect even bigger things from them next year in terms of game play and leadership. Ava has tallied 5 goals and 6 assists this year as a center mid and Leila has tallied 3 goals and 6 assists as a defender.

We will be returning rising seniors and 4-year lettermen, Meesha Akbar and Sydney Gaynor. Both play a vital role to our success both offensively and defensively and will set the tone next season.

### 6) What is something most don't know about the team?

The girls "pump up music" is often from musicals or Disney movies and Coach Horvath is expecting her first baby in August!

### 7) What can you share about the season ending?

It is never easy to see your season come to an end. We are competitive and determined, we want to win, and we aren't used to losing. However, once you are able to step back from the hurt of the loss, you can see the bigger picture. We are doing so much more than just soccer. Instead of having the Saturday off after losing Friday, the girls requested to still come to the school for our "recovery" so that they could just be together. You could feel all the love that is on this team, this program. Their support of each other, memories together and lessons over the years teach them so much more than soccer. At the end of the day, I am just so grateful to be part of their lives. The seniors were freshmen when I stepped into the role as head coach. We have celebrated every milestone together and

LEFT: Class of 2025 Anderson Girls Soccer

grown together of the years. They will always hold a special place in my heart. In addition, they helped varsity secure three district championship and four playoff appearances in their 4 years (two in 5A and two in 6A). They are an extremely talented group who will be greatly missed next year.

Georgetown and Anderson were ranked top 15 in the state so it is unusual we played in the first round. You may be wondering how our Bi-District game was against another District Championship, state ranked team. Here is more about the new rule:

The rule change, which took effect Aug. 1, 2024, created a Division I and Division II state champion in each class — doubling the amount of state champions in the Texas UIL system.

There now is 18 state champions in soccer (boys and girls) The top four teams in each district will advance to the playoffs. To determine divisions, the two schools with the largest enrollment will advance to the Division I playoff bracket, and the other two will advance to the Division II bracket. The change lessens the number of rounds needed to reach the state semifinals by one round, no regional quarter-final round.

Jersey Number	Name	Grade
OO	Charlie McCreery	11
0	Minie Sapp	11
1	Violet Greenall Nettleton	12
2	Scout Rafferty	11
3	Simone Fodo	10
4	Dani Santana	11
5	Sydney Jordan	11
6	Gracie Ruthven	12
7	Kate Despina	11
8	Meesha Akbar	11
9	Elle Ehler	11
10	Ava Banese	11
11	Leila Schuneman	11
12	Sydney Gaynor	11
13	Maia Kinzy	11
14	Lindsay Huynh	12
15	Evelyn Grossman	12
17	Layna Canipe	10
19	Sophie Love	12
20	Taylor Linden	10
21	Claire Navarro	12
22	Ella Brown	9

Head Coach	Emily Horvath	
Assistant Coaches	Tyler Carpenter	
	Josh Stark	
	Emma Everts	
Managers	Sarah Barta	12
	Maddie Beasley	12



# YEAR TO DATE MARKET UPDATE

## NORTHWEST HILLS AND WESTOVER HILLS

 **\$1,375,000**  
MEDIAN SALES PRICE

 **\$23,123,195**  
SALES VOLUME

 **\$472**  
MEDIAN LIST PRICE/SF

 **\$501**  
MEDIAN SALE PRICE/SF

 **\$1,290,000**  
MEDIAN LIST PRICE

 **39**  
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET

 **15**  
CLOSED SALES



SOURCE: ABOR MLS INCLUDING DATA FROM JANUARY 1-MARCH 21, 2025 FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES. BASED ON NWACA BOUNDARIES: MOPAC/HWY360/2222/HWY 183

# JULIE WAIDELICH

## NORTHWEST HILLS RECENT \$1M+ SALES

YEAR TO DATE

**4602 GREYSTONE**  
4 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2,001 SF  
Listed at \$999,000

**5908 LONESOME VALLEY**  
3 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2,535 SF  
Listed at \$1,274,000

**7512 DOWNRIDGE DR**  
4 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2,606 SF  
Listed at \$1,295,000

**8715 TALLWOOD DR**  
5 BED | 4 BATH | 3,315 SF  
Listed at \$1,325,000

**6701 MESA DR.**  
4 BED | 3.5 BATH | 3,145 SF  
Listed at \$1,345,000

**7711 SHADYROCK DR**  
4 BED | 2 BATH | 2,495 SF  
Listed at \$1,300,000

**6108 HIGHLANDALE DR**  
4 BED | 3.5 BATH | 2,632 SF  
Listed at \$1,499,000

**5003 CEDRO TRL**  
3 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2,708 SF  
Listed at \$1,290,000

**6004 HIGHLAND HILLS DR**  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 3,068 SF  
Listed at \$1,375,000

**5137 VALBURN CT**  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 3,152 SF  
Listed at \$1,599,000

**6002 MOUNTAINCLIMB DR**  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,729 SF  
Listed at \$1,549,000

**6201 LEDGE MOUNTAIN DR**  
4 BED | 3.5 BATH | 3,004 SF  
Listed at \$1,795,000

**6108 MOUNTAINCLIMB DR**  
4 BED | 4 BATH | 3,830 SF  
Listed at \$2,899,900

**5814 TRAILRIDGE DR**  
5 BED | 5.5 BATH | 5,074 SF  
Listed at \$3,600,000

## CALL FOR INFORMATION ON FINAL SOLD PRICING

*SOURCE: ABOR MLS*



**nest**  
PROPERTIES AUSTIN

**JULIE WAIDELICH**  
BROKER, GRI, CRS, ABR, SRES  
512.784.1990

5-Star Client Rating | Seller Representative Specialist | Certified Negotiation Expert | Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist

NESTPROPERTIESAUSTIN.COM



Phil Swann

## Q&A Alexandra Ross, AHS Girls Head Lacrosse Coach

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

We are returning a very veteran defense and goalie from last year's state semi-final team. This allows the team to rely and trust the defense to make important stops and increase the number of possessions for offense. Our concern this season is reloading our offense after the graduation of the majority of the team's scoring from the past several years. The girls taking

### AHS Girls Lacrosse Varsity Roster

NAME	GRADE
Cameron Meyer	11
Laney Owens	12
Eliza Wilson	12
Saira Patel	11
Risa Diaz	9
Emerson Iles	11
Kate Jenkins	11
Lucy Etheredge	12
Jillian Murphy	11
Olivia Jestice	11
Lucy Goldmann	9
Gabby Bien	12
Harper White	12
Olivia Andrus	12
Maison Van den Bossche	10
Jane Ann Skaggs	11
Becca McKallip	12
Addi Akin	11
Sarah McKallip	12

on these new positions and getting more playing time are ready and have been preparing for their chance to lead. So far, our offense is showing that it's a team effort- with most goals coming off of assists. Our offense doesn't rely on just one player, but everyone being involved in every play.

### 2) How does your team stack up in district play?

The Austin Division 1 district is always a toss-up between the top teams. We are always in the mix to win the district, but Westlake, St. Michael's, Austin High, St. Andrew's and Lake Travis are always tough teams to play. Early this season, scores across the district are closer than previous years. This is going to be an exciting second half of the season as we really dive into district competition.

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

I always rely on quick ball movement and quickly attacking the goal before the other team has a chance to get set and organized. Defensively, the team likes to take risks and go for big plays and frustrate the opponent

with pressure. We are going to rely on our veteran defense to include some new defensive sets that will make it harder for teams to prepare for us. Our offense is also different to capitalize on individual strengths that best support the team.

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

Offensively, Olivia Andrus (senior attacker committed to UNC-Charlotte) and Jillian Murphy (junior midfielder committed to CU Boulder) will be key contributors, but sophomore attacker Maison Van den Bossche will take on a larger role and be relied on more this year. Defensively, junior Emerson Iles will be taking on a bigger role in key match ups but also on the draw control.

### 5) What is something many don't know about the team?

In six seasons, the Anderson Girls Lacrosse team has managed to not only grow upwards of 50 high school players but also excel in performance. We've been ranked 2nd in the state for the past 3 years and top 10 in the South Region by USA lacrosse (out of 600+ schools). In a sport that is dominated by private schools, it's exciting to have a public school performing at the top.

Team Record: Overall 6-0, District 2-0 and 1st in District as of March 25

2025 VARSITY SCHEDULE		ANDERSON GIRLS LACROSSE
@ AGGIELAND	JAN 25-26	
★ VANDEGRIFT	FEB 5	7:30 PM
★ LAKE TRAVIS	FEB 12	8:00 PM
@ KELLER	FEB 22	1:00 PM
@ PROSPER	FEB 23	1:00 PM
@ DRIPPING SPRINGS	FEB 27	7:30 PM
@ ST. ANDREW'S	MAR 10	6:30 PM
★ ST. STEPHEN'S (YOUTH NIGHT)	MAR 26	7:30 PM
★ ST. MICHAEL'S	APR 3	7:30 PM
★ AUSTIN (SENIOR NIGHT)	APR 8	8:00 PM
@ CY-FAIR	APR 12	12:00 PM
@ LAMAR	APR 13	12:00 PM
@ WESTLAKE	APR 16	8:00 PM



Peggy Little  
REALTOR®



www.atxagent.com  
512.970.7349  
peggy@atxagent.com



- 32 + Years of Experience
- Proven Track Record
- One-to-One Consulting
- Social Media Marketing
- Expert Photography

**Bearing Financial Advisors, LLC**  
9390 Research Blvd • Kaleido Bldg I Suite 330 • Austin, TX 78759

FINANCIAL ADVISORY • PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

"Tactically-managed investing, to fit  
your Financial Plan."

Scott Bussy  
Managing Director



512.241.1035 • www.bearingfinancial.com

Investment Advisory Services are offered through Bearing Financial Advisors, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor



Photo Texas Photography

## AHS Baseball Varsity Roster

Atkins, Hayes	Senior
Begert, Gus	Senior
Bellavia, Dominic	Senior
Cazin, Cade	Junior
Cole, James	Sophomore
Comeau, Connor	Junior
Coulson, Judaya	Senior
Fleming, Brady	Senior
Franco, Vinny	Sophomore
Gitcho, Bryant	Senior
Haines, Colin	Senior
Hatcher, Ben	Junior
Livingston, Will	Junior
Lones, Trey	Senior
McCormick, Max	Junior
Paiz, Darek	Junior
Penders, Jack	Sophomore
Schocket, Jack	Senior
Thomas, Owen	Senior
Trevino, Leo	Sophomore
Velasquez, JJ	Junior
Waisman, Ben	Senior
Bradley, Beau	Director of Operations
DeRouen, Dax	Video Coordinator
Santos, Keane	Student Assistant Coach

# ANDERSON BASEBALL

## 2025 SCHEDULE

### SCRIMMAGES

Feb 4 @ McNeil 5:00 PM  
Feb 8 Stony Point 10:00 AM  
Feb 11 @ Round Rock 4:30 PM  
Feb 15 Leander 11:00 AM

### REGULAR SEASON

Feb 17 Bowie 2:00 PM

### FLUGERVILLE ISD TOURNAMENT

Feb 20 Weiss 10:00 AM  
Temple 12:15 PM  
Feb 21 Pflugerville 10:00 AM  
EP Eastwood 12:15 PM  
Feb 22 Hays 10:00 AM

### BSN CCCA

Feb 27 S.A. Stevens 1:00 PM  
Lockhart 5:00 PM  
Feb 28 Moody 11:30 AM  
Harlingen 4:30 PM  
March 1 TBA

### LEANDER ISD TOURNAMENT

Mar 6 Cedar Park 2:00 PM  
Vandegrift 5:00 PM  
Mar 7 Boerne Champion 2:00 PM  
Leander 5:00 PM  
Mar 8 Vista Ridge 10:00 AM

Mar 11 LASA 5:00 PM \*  
Mar 14 @LASA 5:00 PM \*  
Mar 17 @ Crockett 5:00 PM \*  
Mar 18 Crockett 7:30 PM \*  
Mar 25 Cedar Creek 5:00 PM \*  
Mar 28 @ Cedar Creek 7:00 PM \*  
Mar 29 @ Dripping Springs 1:00 PM  
Apr 1 McCallum 7:30 PM \*  
Apr 4 @McCallum 7:30 PM \*  
Apr 5 @ Westlake 12:00 PM  
Apr 12 @ Liberty Hill 1:00 PM  
Apr 15 Bastrop 5:00 PM \*  
Apr 17 @ Bastrop 7:30 PM \*  
Apr 22 Navarro 5:00 PM \*  
Apr 25 @ Navarro 5:00 PM \*  
Apr 26 @ Buda Johnson 12:00 PM

\* District Game

## Q&A Kenny Matthews, AHS Head Baseball Coach

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

Our team's flexibility has been a strength. We have guys who can play all over the field. Health is always a concern, but luckily, we can cover up many issues with our ability to play all over the field.

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

We prepare to compete for a district championship every year. Our goal for this year is to add to our history of success and create some lifelong memories for these young men.

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

Discipline and toughness. We have found that discipline and toughness can help us sustain success as a high school baseball team.

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

Connor Comeau is a junior committed to Texas A&M, Gus Begert is a senior who has signed with Dartmouth, and Ben Waisman is a senior committed to St. Edwards University.

### 5) What is something many don't know about your team?

We pride ourselves on our academic abilities. We are well-represented annually on Academic All-State teams with our seniors.

Team Record: Overall 8-5, District 1-0 as of March 25

**Photo Texas**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

- ◆ SCHOOL PORTRAITS
- ◆ SENIORS
- ◆ SPORTS/LEAGUES
- ◆ YEARBOOKS

www.phototexasphotography.com

512-617-7780



**First  
Presbyterian**  
AUSTIN | FREE TO WONDER

8001 MESA DRIVE  
fpcAustin.org

**EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

6:30 AM, 8:45 AM & 11:15 AM

**EGG HUNT & FELLOWSHIP: 10 AM**



**Coldwell Banker Realty Rankings are in:**

***#1 Agent in the Austin Area  
#3 Agent in the State of Texas***



**PRESIDENT'S CLUB 2025**  
*Honoring the Top 1% of Agents*

---

**DAWN LANIER**



**COLDWELL BANKER | REALTY**

LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL