



Walnut Creek Neighborhood News

Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association

Mar
Apr
2017

Join Us!

Dues and P.O. Box are shown in this newsletter on the back page below your address label, along with the PayPal address for credit card payment.

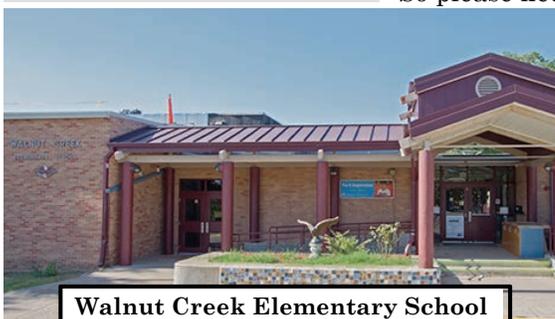
Social Media/Listservs:

Yahoo: <http://goo.gl/vU5wjL>
NextDoor: <http://goo.gl/UbLiAu>
Facebook: <http://goo.gl/4G41rS>

It's Spring Again, and so

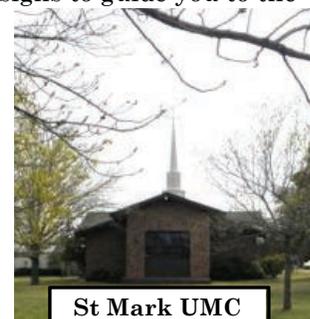
Time For Our WCNA Annual General Meeting!

While preparing recently for the upcoming meeting it was discovered that the usual dates for same didn't match available times at our usual meeting place, St. Mark United Methodist Church. In order to maintain the usual day of Tuesday a different location is being sought. At the time of writing, the leading candidate is Walnut Creek Elementary School cafeteria, but this has not yet been firmly established. The date will be between 11 and 21 April, and will be heavily reported via social media and posted on sandwich boards at the entrances and some interior intersections a day before the meeting. The time will be 6:30-8:00pm. So please keep your eye out on the media and for posted signs to guide you to the



Walnut Creek Elementary School

meeting, then go left to Walnut Creek Elementary or right to St. Mark UME depending on what you see there. This is our Association General Meeting, at which the first order of business is to hear nominations and elect or re-elect members of the board of directors as appropriate. At this time there are no nominations for new board members, but we're hoping this will change by meeting



St Mark UMC

time, as we can have one or two more as allowed under the bylaws. All current board members are planning to stand for re-election. These members are shown on the sixth page of this newsletter.

Following Association business the president, Robert Meadows, will lead presentation and discussion of the most important activities and actions by the association over the last year. We have received a plethora of requests for zoning upgrades and experienced illegal/questionable activities in and around the neighborhood, all of which we or concerned neighbors have dealt with or are continuing to follow to take appropriate corrective action.

We also are following progress on the Larry Peel apartment construction - Walnut Park - across Walnut Creek and between Lamar and Park 35 Circle. Cut-through traffic counts are planned with results presented at the meeting. With Walnut Park's road, Walnut Crossing, nearing completion, subsequent counts should quantify the effect of the road on Covington traffic, and at least the pre-road statistics will be presented.

Following business there will be presentations and/or question and answer periods with several invitees. Larry Peel or a representative from his company will be present to provide a description of status and projected progress on the Walnut Park complex, along with plans for future development - by Peel or others - on the remaining property between Walnut Park and Yager Lane. Representative of Austin Police Department also will be present for presentations and discussions.

Time permitting, a brief presentation on Dual Language Programs will be made, with ideas about applicability to Walnut Creek Elementary discussed. As described elsewhere in this issue, the Board has decided to approach WCE about the possibility of enhancing its appeal to neighborhood kids by such a program.

Bad news, baby boomers: You're to blame for everything bad!

If you're a Boomer, you've just been called "sociopathic" (again) in a new book: *A Generation of Sociopaths*, by Bruce Cannon Gibney. Apparently you/we, or at least a large percentage of you/us, display the classic clinical indicators of antisocial personality disorder, or sociopathy. Indicators? Decreasing levels of saving, growing national debt, lack of interest in preparing for future generations, etc. You/we are primarily interested in making sure our old age is taken care of, regardless of the implications for "the kids". You/we can, in turn, blame Dr. Spock and the advent of mass-produced television in your/our youth.

Dammit! (And get off my grass you delinquent hooligans!)

Sometimes you need to check the (spell)checker:

"It took many rabbits many years to write the Talmud." *Holland Evening Sentinel (Michigan)*

CodeNext and "Granny Flats"

You know about **CodeNext**, right? It's the process that's been going on for several years with the intention of updating - actually more like replacing - the land development rules for the City of Austin. That the rules need updating is obvious, given the changes in the city since most were put into place many decades ago. The rules with which most of us are most familiar are those defining zoning; i.e., the rules that determine how any particular parcel of land within the city limits can be used. Our neighborhood is almost exclusively zoned SF1 (for Single Family use only) inside the outer rows of lots on our perimeter. Zoning for the outer lots, which typically have had levels at "light commercial" values (LO for "Light" or "Limited" Office was the original zoning on most of them) have been undergoing frequent changes recently as Austin has grown well beyond our boundaries, making their potential worth for more intense commercial use much higher. Since these lots are on what are now three of the major thoroughfares in the city, the pressure to "upzone" these lots is high and constant, accounting for many of the interactions the WCNA has with the city.

Then along comes CodeNext, which has as a primary purpose the "densification" of Austin; i.e., encouraging more dense growth for all currently undeveloped land within the city limits, but also for land already in use, especially residential land like ours. The rationale for this includes slowing the "sprawl" of the city outward caused by lack of residential space close in, limiting the increase in commuter traffic density which goes along with the sprawl, and increasing affordable housing. Several ways are being proposed for increasing human density in neighborhoods like ours, and the process is well underway in some of the close-in neighborhoods. These include the use of current single-family lots for some forms of multifamily use. For example, use of duplexes, triplexes, and on up. Another is allowing multiple residences on the lot with an existing home, often called "granny flats".

The current SF1 designation precludes such use, and it is anticipated that CodeNext will eliminate this exclusion eventually, if not soon. Like most rules, these new ones will be good for some and not for others, but most neighborhoods comparable to ours are strongly against this, because we treasure our relatively large lots with space between neighbors - i.e., the privacy - they provide. But in mid February a developer was allowed to start work on a project that includes a garage apartment in the Crestview neighborhood, which has a history and character much like ours. The neighborhood has been fighting the developer in court for nearly a year to prevent the project, based on deed restrictions and neighborhood rules. But the developer filed his own suit challenging these. The ruling by the Travis County District Court sided with the developer, with the judge agreeing with the developer that the deed restrictions expired in 1986 and the neighborhood rules - dating from 1954 - were void because all property owners had not "signed on" when they were established. This situation sounds very similar to our own, though there is an effort to try to determine the status of the various rules and restrictions in our subdivisions. If you would like to join in this effort please contact a board member, shown at the bottom of page 6.

Neighborhood Oak Wilt Survey Coming in March/April by Sharon Porter

Chris Dolan, City of Austin arborist for oak wilt mapping, will survey our neighborhood next month. The survey has been timed to take place after the leaf exchange, after the new leaves have replaced the ones that have fallen from the trees and a valid assessment can be made.

Findings, recommendations, and updates will be reported through neighborhood media and in our Walnut Creek Neighborhood Newsletter.

Social media seems to be the most efficient way to keep neighbors informed, and we seem to have most of the neighbors on one or more of the three: Nextdoor, Facebook group, or Yahoo group. All groups are restricted to residents of the neighborhood, and membership requires residence at an address in the neighborhood.

Neighbors not represented on one of these social media will not receive real time reports of the survey. If you have a neighbor who is not on neighborhood social media, but would like to be, the easiest way to join seems to be to invite them to Nextdoor. For assistance, have them email the President of Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association, Robert Meadows, at robertl@meadows.com.

If they prefer not to belong to neighborhood social media, but do want information about the oak wilt survey, encourage them to look for the report in the May issue of this newsletter.

The more neighbors who treat vulnerable trees as recommended, the more successful the neighborhood will be in controlling oak wilt and protecting our live oaks.

This is a screening survey, and is limited to the live oak trees that Chris can see from the street. If you have concerns about live oaks that may not be visible from the street, contact Chris to make arrangements to include them in the survey, typically in his office before 9:00 a.m. He can return calls if contact information is provided in a message. Chris can be reached at 512-974-1881, or you can email at Chris.Dolan@austintexas.gov.

Careful at Lamar and Parmer for the Next Month!

If you travel north on Lamar from the neighborhood you already know that the intersection at Parmer Lane is under construction during the hours from 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. This work is a result of the transportation bond election in 2012 (yeah, it does typically take that long). The primary focus of remaining funds is public safety; i.e., improving streets and (especially) intersections to make them safer, especially for pedestrians. This will be the fourth intersection the department has addressed as part of its Safety Improvement Program, which helps reach a goal of the Vision Zero Action Plan of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries for all road users. At this intersection the right turn from northbound Lamar to eastbound Parmer will be changed by adding a raised and expanded curb to cut off vehicles turning from Lamar onto the current right lane of Parmer, which starts at this intersection and becomes the IH35 service road entrance lane. A yield sign will be added to (try to) insure that Lamar traffic stops for traffic on Parmer in the "new" merge lane (current third lane).

Construction at this corner is expected to end about the 20th of March, and then the same process will start up for two weeks on the turn from southbound Lamar onto westbound Parmer. Here, too, cars will no longer be able to move into the right-hand lane that currently starts at the intersection, and a yield sign will be installed to try to make drivers more aware of both traffic and pedestrians or cyclists. In addition, the pedestrian crosswalks will be "marked up" to make them more visible.

The concept can be seen in the figure at right and at

<https://www.facebook.com/austinmayoradler/posts/1283934291686598:0>



Words that should be added to the language (English, that is)

Chairodobe (n.): piling clothes on a chair in place of a closet or dresser.

Epiphant (n.): an idea that seems like an amazing insight to the conceiver but is in fact pointless, mundane, stupid, or incorrect.

Internest (n.): the cocoon of blankets and pillows you gather around yourself while spending long periods of time on the Internet.

Textpectation (n.): the anticipation felt when waiting for a response to a text.

Unkeyboardinated (adj.): when you're unable to type without repeatedly making mistakes.

Intrepid Volunteers Once Again Beautify Our Park

Intermittent rain fell during the night and morning of It's My Park Day on Saturday, March 4th. It rained before and after the scheduled work time of 9:00 - noon, but luckily real precipitation held off for most of this period. Despite those damp skies we had almost twenty volunteers participating in the event promoted by WCNA and organized by Board Members Tasha Bowser and Dorsey & Bunnie Twidwell: Susan Milam, Christian, Emile and Isabella Ninaud. Michael De Los Santos, Rosemary Trevino, Ernie Perez, Vikki and Axl Hutto, Tim Entress, Chris Rasmussen, Gary Brewer, Joan Hatcher, and Brian and Daniel Vick.

After breakfast tacos, muffins, snacks, fruit juice and coffee the workers got a little muddy and a lot accomplished: clearing brush and brambles, pulling invasive plants and weeds, fortifying the berm near the entrance, and picking up trash. Big shout-outs to our littlest helpers, Emile and Isabella Ninaud, Axl Hutto, and (veteran helper) Daniel Vick. Special thanks also to Bunnie and Dorsey Twidwell for the "fuel", Brian Vick for the canopy that I'm sure is the reason the rain stayed away, and, of course, Gary Brewer for his tireless efforts in keeping Walnut Bluffs in good shape (Gary spent hours the day before on his Kubota tractor getting the site prepared for the effort). *Tasha B.*



**Isabella & Emile Ninaud
Ready to Help in the Park**

Dual Language Programs in AISD

At the February 1st WCNA Board Meeting, Austin teacher Michelle Janes described the concept and various implementations of "Dual Language Education" to board members and visitors present at Santorini Cafe. Most of those present had no - or the wrong - concept of the method, which currently is being conducted in only a few schools in AISD, despite encouragement by the district. The goal of this process is to turn out bilingual graduates from schools which employ it; I.e., students who participate become fluent in two languages. They work in all their subjects using both languages (one at a time, thus "immersed") and so become equally proficient applying their education in either language. Because English has become the *de facto* common language in the world, we - especially in the U.S. - are largely single-language speakers. Studies have shown many advantages to bi- and multi-lingual fluency, regardless of the languages. The family of one board member, Christian Ninaud, whose kids are enrolled in a participating school, brought Michele to the meeting and is interested in the possibility of getting the program introduced to Walnut Creek Elementary. After hearing about it, most of the board members were enthusiastic about pursuing this possibility. Christian's comments summarizing the discussion follow below:

Dual Language at Walnut Creek Elementary (WCE)?

The WCNA Board would like to find neighborhood families interested in sending their kids to WCE for a two-way dual language program. What is two-way dual language? This is a bilingual program that is different from the traditional one-way program where native speakers (often Spanish speaking in our area) learn in Spanish until about 3rd grade, then change over to English for the remainder. However, two-way dual language instead has both Spanish and English taught side-by-side in the classroom from Kindergarten to high school. This model requires a near 50/50 balance of native Spanish (or whatever the second language is) speakers and English speakers. In comparison, one-way typically has 75-100% all native speakers. The advantages of dual language are that students fully learn in BOTH languages and are fully bi-lingual when graduating. In addition, students share equally in cultural learning throughout schooling. Two-way dual language also ensures the PARENTS are engaged in learning using both languages.

So what does this have to do with you? Walnut Creek Neighborhood (WCN) (along with others nearby) is experiencing a turnover in our demographics, as younger couples with children are moving in. However, apparently few if any WCN kids go to WCE, whose demographic is currently about 80% Hispanic. The Board is interested in trying to change that, and seeing if WCE can implement a two-way dual language program to help encourage such change. I (WCNA Board Member Christian Ninaud) send my kids to Ridgetop Elementary because of the dual language program there. It is working very well, and we are happy with that. However, the program is facing problems because native Spanish-speaking families / English Language Learners (ELLs) - have been priced out of neighborhood housing there just as is happening here in the WCE and in many - if not most - Austin neighborhoods. As a result, Ridgetop is struggling to keep the 50/50 balance required for a dual language program, including its bi-lingual status with AISD.

The WCNA Board would like to find some WCN families to visit with the WCE Principal and discuss the prospects of starting a two-way dual language program. This program could provide exciting prospects for making WCE a school that our neighborhood could truly enjoy sending more of our children to. The reality is that WCN families can make a difference in what is offered in our local schools, so this may represent a great opportunity to make a difference. If you are interested please contact me or any WCNA board member using the contact information on the sixth page of the newsletter.

"Our" Road Nears Completion...(?)

With great anticipation we await the completion of Walnut Crossing, the road being built between Park35 Circle and Lamar behind the upscale apartment complex - Walnut Park - under construction on the north side of Walnut Creek. This connector has been "in the plan" for "way more" than 30 years, and we've always assumed that it will reduce the noon and afternoon cut-through traffic to more reasonable levels. I.e., folks who live on Covington will actually be able to get out of their driveways during those hours. As reported in the Nov-Dec newsletter, the project anticipates having it open about April Fool's Day, but watching the lack of progress over the intervening time hasn't been very confidence-building. Heavy work recently now has the anticipated date sometime in April. In the time between now and then, the Board plans to conduct traffic counts on Covington to establish a number from which the effect of the road can be determined / estimated.



Alright, what happened to Winter? Seems like there were some cold days back in November or something. You've probably heard the first two months of 2017 were the hottest January and February ever in Austin, which explains all these bugs and redbuds out in January. But if you listen to W.F. Strong, Fulbright Scholar and Professor of Communication at the University of Texas-Brownsville, you'll know that Texas weather is never normal. Here are some of the Texas facts and sayin's from his Texas Standard (KUT FM) story on March 8th:

Amarillo is the country's windiest city, and there's nothing between the North Pole and Amarillo but a barbed-wire fence (make that a "bobwire" fence). (The next three windiest cities in the lower 48 are Lubbock, Abilene and Corpus Christi.) About Texas weather: If you don't like it, just wait a minute. A Texas story from the web: Mother Nature says to Texas, "You can't squeeze all the weather together in one week!", to which Texas replies "Hold my beer and watch this!" In the summer: "Satan called; He wants his weather back". A west Texas rancher about west Texas: God ain't much of a rainer out here, but he was mighty generous with the stars. With the rapidly changing weather and high winds, west Texans can be shoveling snow in the morning and shoveling sand in the afternoon. South Texas is sometimes so hot and dry that the trees are whistling for the dogs. Texas is a land of eternal drought, interrupted occasionally by floods of biblical proportions. At that point "It's rainin' so hard the animals are startin' to pair up!", i.e., we're having a 'gullywasher' or 'toad strangler'. Hear the audio at <http://www.texasstandard.org/stories/categories/stories-from-texas/>, where other Strong stories also can be heard.

A Must-See: 2017 NXNA Garden & Artist Tour!

The NXNA (North-by-North Austin) garden and art tour is scheduled for Saturday May 13, 2017. Hours of the tour are from 10 am to 4 pm. This is a self-guided tour of 16 school, community and private gardens. There also will be local artist exhibits at most of the gardens with many of their works for sale. Much of this art is garden-related. Also, several sites will have plants for sale. This is a perfect opportunity, since Mother's Day is the next day!

Proceeds from the tour will benefit the Labyrinth Community Garden at 11201 Parkfield Dr., Austin TX 78758.

We are currently seeking sponsors, who will have their names, company logos in the brochures that will give information on each of the gardens and artists.

Ticket purchase and donations can be made online at [NxNA Garden Tour](#). After purchasing your ticket bring it to one of the three indicated starting points for the tour to get a tour wrist band and souvenir tour map. Details will be printed on your ticket. Please also visit and like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NxnaGardenTour/>

Volunteers are still being recruited for the event. If interested please contact Carole Goltze at cgoltze@yahoo.com

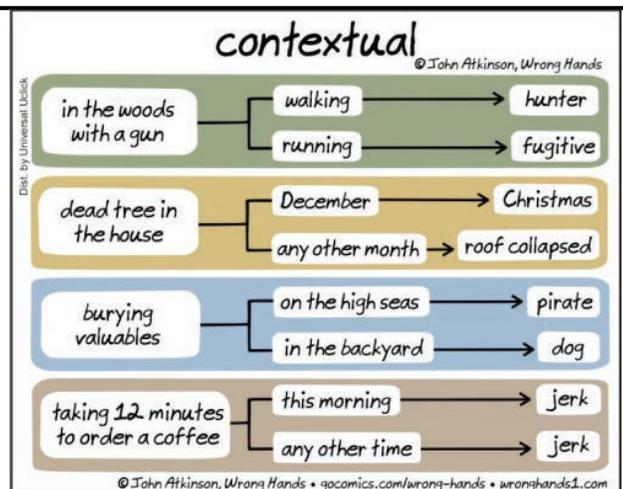


Humor from Reader's Digest (<http://www.rd.com/jokes/>)

Matthew Wohlfarth: I work out religiously — Christmas and Easter.

My doctor took one look at my gut and refused to believe that I work out. So I listed the exercises I do every day: jump to conclusions, climb the walls, drag my heels, push my luck, make mountains out of molehills, bend over backward, run around in circles, put my foot in my mouth, go over the edge, and beat around the bush. *Source: gcfl.net*

"What's wrong, Bubba?" asked the pastor. "I need you to pray for my hearing," said Bubba. The pastor put his hands on Bubba's ears and prayed. When he was done, he asked, "So how's your hearing?" "I don't know," said Bubba. "It isn't until next Tuesday." *Submitted To Readers Digest by Kenneth Roberts, Mauston, Wisconsin*



**Check phone calls for these area codes;
Fraudsters frequently use these:**

242, 441, 784, 473, 876, 284, and 345

We got our own Barbecue Joint!

In January the formerly Feed Store / Tile Shop at **307 East Braker** was rejuvenated as Oakwood BBQ.

This has been greeted with more enthusiasm than about any recent event in the neighborhood! And, according to General Manager Landon Kash, business has reflected that enthusiasm.

Oakwood operates **from 11:00 a.m. until sold out** (and in early days this has actually happened before the end of the lunch rush) from Tuesday through Sunday. The menu is simple and straightforward, with orders taken at the counter and brought to you. No alcohol yet, but the license for beer and wine is expected in April or soon thereafter. Outdoor seating in a landscaped backyard is also in planning.



Oakwood BBQ
512 520 5165

Email: oakwoodbbq@yahoo.com

For "ahem" a healthier option, check this out:

Starting on Sunday, April 2nd and planned for every Sunday thereafter, we are going to get one of the first five fresh fruit and vegetable "Mobile Markets" here in our greater neighborhood! The City of Austin is partnering with the Sustainable Food Center, Farmshare Austin, and GAVA (Go Austin!/Vamos Austin!) to offer fresh produce to folks in selected areas. Mobile Markets are "markets on wheels" run by local non-profit Farmshare Austin, and so can be set up and moved easily, but prioritize areas that have few to no options

for buying fresh produce. In addition to produce from local Austin farms, staple goods like pasta, spices, and beans are sold. Prices are affordable and all markets accept SNAP benefits and offer the Double Dollars program. For more information see <http://austintexas.gov/freshforless>



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EMERGENCY: Police, Fire, EMS, Animal Control: **Call 911**

City of Austin: All services, codes & code violations, animal reports: **Call 311**

Get the smart phone 311 App:
Austin311 on Google Play and iTunes

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adam.soliz@austintexas.gov

Adan Ballesteros, County Constable, Pct 2 (512) 854-9697
Adan.Ballesteros@co.travis.tx.us

Austin Police Department Animal Cruelty Unit Tip Hot Line:
(512) 978-0523

North Austin Coalition of Neighborhoods Newsletter is now a blog site, following a wide range of general city as well as neighborhood issues and events.
Read and Comment:
<http://www.lovenorthaustin.com/>

WCNA Board and Officers

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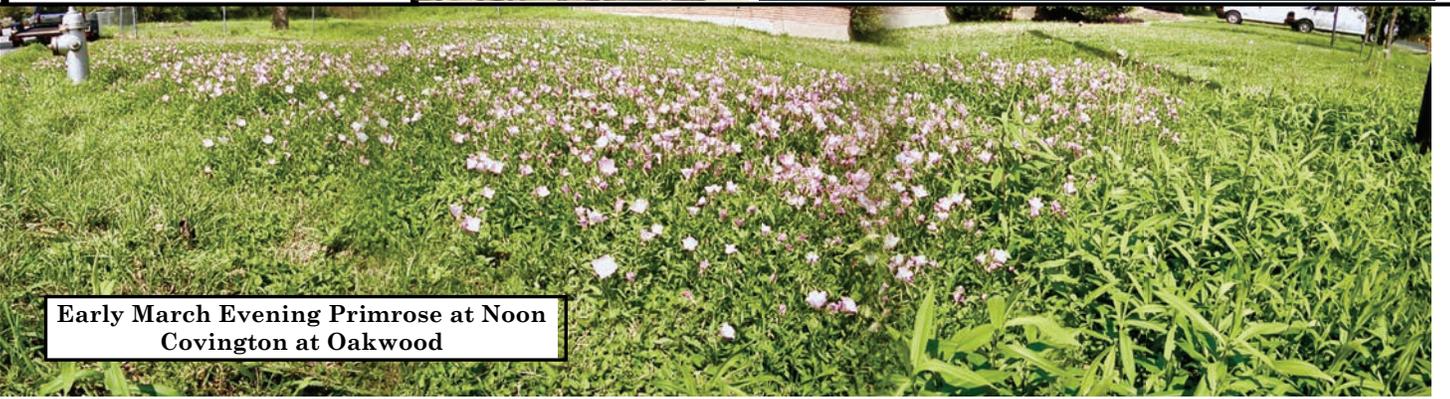
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Call us to make reservations for Private parties and Meetings

Lunch Specials
Monday to Friday
11:00am - 2:00pm

Happy Hour
Daily
5-8pm

Early March Evening Primrose at Noon
Covington at Oakwood

Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association

membership is open to any resident (owner or renter) or property owner within the boundaries, including perimeters, of the association described below.

Membership dues are \$15 per household for a calendar year. Send a check to: WCNA ; PO Box 82746; Austin, TX 78708-2746

Dues notices and payment envelopes are included in the Nov-Dec and Jan-Feb newsletters each year.

Payment also may be made using PayPal:
<http://goo.gl/5iQIk>

WCNA News is sent to every household within the Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association boundaries: Braker Lane, North Lamar, I-35, and Yager Lane.

To contribute content to the newsletter, send contributions via email to wcna.contact@gmail.com or contact Pat Pitt, 512 837-6620.

The opinions expressed in articles printed in this newsletter are the explicit opinions of the writer(s) and, unless explicitly stated, are not to be implied as the opinions of either the editor or the Board of Directors of Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Calendar of Events

Mar	10 - 19	SXSW - https://www.sxsw.com/schedule/
	10 - 25	Rodeo Austin - http://www.rodeoaustin.com
	12	Daylight savings times begins (set clocks one hour forward)
	13	UT/AISD Spring break
	13 - 17(?)	Big Brush Pickup; Starts on Monday and ends Friday or when all is picked up
	14	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	20	First Day of Spring
	29	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	29	Texas Relays -- http://www.texasports.com/index.aspx?path=relays
April	2	Farm Stand opens at St. Johns; See sixth page of this newsletter
	9	East Austin Urban Farm Tour - https://eastaustinurbanfarmtour.com
	??	WCNA Annual General Meeting; Date and Location TBD: Watch Social Media
	12	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	16	Easter Sunday
	18	TAX DAY!
	22	Austin Earth Day Festival - goo.gl/UIHUvo
	23	Capitol 10K Race - http://www.cap10k.com
	26	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
29-30	Buda Weiner Dog Races - goo.gl/xj1nNo	
May	5	Cinco de Mayo
	6-7	Pecan Street Festival - http://pecanstreetfestival.org
	10	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	13	NXNA: North by North Austin Neighborhood Garden/Arts Tour