



Walnut Creek Neighborhood News

Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association

May
June
2017

Join Us!

Dues information is shown in this newsletter on the back page below your address label. Mail address and PayPal URL are shown for paying by check or card.

Social Media/Listservs:

Yahoo: <http://goo.gl/vU5wjL>

NextDoor: <http://goo.gl/UbLiAu>

Facebook: <http://goo.gl/4G41rS>

election of all was agreed to with no objections. The list of board members and current officers is given on the sixth page, along with contact information for each.

Two topics of special interest were established for this year's meeting: The development of a new apartment complex across Walnut Creek from our original boundary, and Austin's city program called CodeNext, which is slated to replace all current land-use rules in effect today.

The developer of Walnut Park, Larry Peel, along with David Bynum from his office, talked and answered questions about the new apartment complex, making it clear it was being built in the environmentally friendly way Peel is known for and meeting city requirements significantly greater than in the past. The apartments are described at <http://walnut-park.com/>, with architectural pictures showing most types of units and amenities.

The primary interest of the neighborhood, however, was in the road under construction along the north edge connecting Park35 Circle and Lamar. We hope that this will become the new "cut-through" for TCEQ and other business employees and apartment occupants wanting to go north on Lamar, thereby reducing the traffic through our neighborhood on Covington. Mr. Peel said a series of holdups - "caused mostly by the city" - have been settled, and **the road would be completed in less than three months**; i.e., before the end of July. We'll be waiting to evaluate the change in rush-hour traffic through the 'hood!

Louisa Brinsmade and Michael Guadini from Leslie Pool's (District7) office gave an overview of CodeNext, the first draft of which had been made public earlier in the week, and answered questions from the audience. CodeNext has a stated intent of increasing the city's human density, with the intended effect of reducing sprawl - and the rate of increase of sprawl - around Austin. The new rules will allow such things as secondary - and perhaps multiple - residential buildings on a single lot, depending on the lot size. Though the current plan doesn't have us in an area where this will be allowed without being protested by a neighborhood, given the sizes of most lots in our area it seems likely that such allowances could become the rule in the near future. Intended to simplify, rationalize and make the land code easier to understand, a current CodeNext recommendation would shorten the time for a resident or association to respond to a request for a zoning change to a property to 7 days, down from the current 11, a significant change which WCNA will be opposing in public and private hearings.

Sorry You Missed the Meeting (if you did)!

And So Happy You Made It (if you did)!

The annual General Meeting of the Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association was held on Friday the 21st of April at St. Mark United Methodist Church's Lawshae Fellowship Hall. This was a break from the usual meeting day - Tuesday - due to unavailability of the hall on possible dates. The turnout was a little smaller than usual for this meeting, possibly because of the Friday date; This possibility will be explored as possible.

This time the Association business was shortened to re-election of board members, each of whom agreed to remain for an additional two-year term. After nomination,



South-looking aerial view of Walnut Park Apartments site. Walnut Crossing runs along the lower edge of the complex, coming off Park35 Circle behind TCEQ on the left and connecting with Lamar just below the bottom of the picture (compare on Google Maps).

It's Coming: The **Sixth Annual Fourth of July Parade and Potluck** will be here before you know it! This is our fun-for-all-ages outdoor event for Summer, where everybody "marches" around "The Peninsula" defined by Indianhead, Caddo and the north end of Oakwood. This year it returns to the front yard of the originators' - Kay and Joel Klumpp - at 11813 Indianhead, after being at Christian and Luzdary Ninaud's on Oakwood last year. As in previous years we'll start to assemble at about 10:00 a.m. to set up tables for the Klumpp's hot dogs and potluck dishes from anyone who wants to contribute (the outlay is always phenomenal!). Lawn chairs and blankets magically appear on the yard, sometimes holding infants and toddlers with their caretakers, and bikes, trikes, and wagons with patriotic themes gather in the driveway waiting for the parade to start. At about 11:00 a signal will be sounded to start, and most of the ambulatory adults and kids will start up the hill on Indianhead, turn left down the hill on Caddo and left again on Oakwood, and on to the end of Indianhead where the last, long climb back up to the Klumpps begins. The whole thing is usually over in about half an hour, but the heat can make the uphill parts arduous for some.



**C'mon! Is this thing ever going to start?
From 2016**

Then the socializing and eating makes for an enjoyable party and a patriotic ending to a great traditional Walnut

Flea Season is Upon Us!



Vets around the area are reporting heavy flea infestations displayed by pets coming in their clinics, indicating that the warm, moist winter has provided good breeding conditions for them. Fleas are the bane of folks with pets that get outside, if even just for a walk in the morning and/or evening.

The treatment adopted by a great many of us who can afford it is monthly or topical medications which control fleas on the animal through physiological effects. Many more use externally applied insecticides and/or frequent bathing with suitable soaps. Each of these has its own advantages and disadvantages and dangers. It boils down to particular situations and personal preferences, but the point is to kill any fleas which manage to get on the pet.

Holistic and other conscientious vets suggest that the first line of defense is to attack them in the pet's environment using minimally toxic methods, then treat them on the animal only to the extent needed afterward, thereby minimizing their exposure to the various kinds of toxic substances. Of course this means more work - and possibly more cost - to the caretaker, but can reduce the health risks posed for the pet by the "poison" approaches.

There are now at least three non-poisonous methods used in this area for local flea control. Nematodes are very small worms which are very effective at killing fleas on the ground and in the grass. A "clump" of these worms generally is spread with a hose-end sprayer which establishes the rate at which they are dispersed, and thus the coverage rate. These worms can be bought in Austin at The Natural Gardener and other places, including online. The treated ground needs to be slightly moist and watered periodically to keep the worms viable.

A relatively new product for treating outdoors - produced here in Austin - is Wondercide Ecotreat, which is made from cedar oil (handy sources for this around Austin, eh?). This also is sprayed using a hose-end sprayer, and has been tested to be very effective in killing fleas on contact. The length of time it's effective depends on weather: Rain tends to wash it away (nematodes also can be affected by heavy rain). Wondercide also makes a less concentrated formula for use indoors. One concentration is made to spray infected areas or areas to protect. Another concentration can be applied directly to animals - including yourself - to repel fleas and mosquitoes.

There are powders which also can kill fleas without toxic effects on animals. One of these is Diatomaceous Earth, which is mostly the skeletons of tiny prehistoric algae. It can be sprinkled safely anywhere, indoors or outdoors, but needs dry conditions. (Note concentration of DE needs to be 99% to avoid some harmful additives, and needs to be "food grade".) It's thus complementary with nematodes which need some moisture and shouldn't be used on the same areas. Wondercide can be used anytime, but moderate and heavier rain can render it ineffective. All these products need to be reapplied periodically during "flea season", which is becoming year-round in Austin.

Some references for reading about these products:

<http://vitalanimal.com/non-toxic-flea-control/>

<http://www.wondercide.com/>

<http://www.thebugsqquad.com/fleas/diatomaceous-earth-fleas/>

The ***Agent Jill Team's*** Continuing Education Series is holding their **annual TCAD property appraisal protest workshop** on two dates in time to file protests by the end of May:

Tuesday May 16th & Wednesday May 24th

6:30-8pm

Walnut Creek Elementary School, 401 W. Braker Ln.

You will learn about the Texas Property Code and your rights as a Texas homeowner. Emphasis will be on how and when to protest along with how to determine a fair market appraisal value for your home. 2017 appraisal updates and neighborhood specific strategies will be included in the evening discussions. The *Agent Jill Team* has been serving the North Austin area since 2005, and this annual event provides community specific real estate advice combined with community-sharing tips, tricks, and stories that have produced a veritable tradition of success over the last few years. So come and learn how to keep your property taxes fair for your home this year and always.



Neighborhood Oak Wilt Survey About to Start by Sharon Porter

Chris Dolan, City of Austin arborist for oak wilt mapping, will survey our neighborhood this month, May, now that the new leaves have replaced those that have fallen so that a valid assessment can be made. Findings, recommendations, and updates will be reported through neighborhood media as well as in this newsletter, almost certainly in the July-August issue.

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.

Neighborhood Social Media Gains a Pet Directory

The social media site Nextdoor (https://wcna.nextdoor.com/neighborhood_feed/?is=sidebar) has become the neighborhood server with the largest number of members, and has the distinct advantage of requiring WCNA members to live within the defined boundaries for the neighborhood association. Note that we also have "connected" with several surrounding neighborhoods which allows us in WCNA to choose to see postings from - or post to - any or all of 31 other neighborhoods if you desire (e.g. Gracywoods). Nextdoor also allows city departments to post to all Nextdoor neighborhoods in Austin, including notices of emergencies and events of general interest. It's the first listserv operation in the country that is organized in this neighborhood-based form. It also facilitates sharing files and pictures. This and previous issues of the newsletter are stored on our WCNA site (in full color).

Thus Nextdoor has become the primary social media site for WCNA communication, but we also have our oldest site on Yahoo, which provides most of the same functionality. We also have a Facebook group site, Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association, which has fewer members but frequently more daily activity. Announcements and messages from WCNA and members are posted on all three sites, but Nextdoor has more from inside the 'hood.

A feature recently added to Nextdoor which is very relevant to our neighborhood is a pet directory. We had made two tries at establishing a Nextdoor group for members to put pictures and descriptions of pets, and another for missing pets, in the original Nextdoor structure. A location for this information was introduced in April, and a beta version is available to try. There are still some bugs in the code, but you should be able to put the information about your pet into the gallery. Start with the "ADD PET" label at upper right and fill in the fields as indicated. Clicking on the "Add photo" icon will open your browser to allow selection of a picture, then fill in the text boxes in the order presented. Your Nextdoor name will be shown below the picture in the gallery when you get back there: It's still a bit clunky at the ending, where you're offered a free coupon for "Rover services" at the end and escaping without going there may be tricky until the code is cleaned up.

Nextdoor can be joined in several ways, with the most efficient being immediately from an invitation from an existing member, who will know that you live in the prescribed area. Other methods include???? To join the Yahoo group go to the site, <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wcnanews/info> and click on the "join this group" button and follow instructions. A monitor will make you a member based on ????. The same basic procedure is used by Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wcnanews/>), but you must be a Facebook member to join the closed group.

It's a little late this year for information on what to do with/for baby birds and other wildlife getting separated from their parents, but it will keep happening right into Fall. In Austin we have at least two competent organizations which work with wildlife, both funded largely by donations. Austin Area Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. is a local nonprofit run by volunteers for purposes of rehabilitating injured animals and educating the public about such animals. Their website is at <http://www.austinareawildliferesearch.org/index.html>, a page of which is shown below. Their index is a rich source of help on this subject: The page below shows the information displayed by clicking on the "Rescuing Wildlife / Bird" tab on the upper left of their home page. This seems particularly appropriate given the number of encounters with baby birds described recently on neighborhood social media. Their recommendations for birds of different ages is shown, with contact information in case time may be critical. The other organization is Austin Wildlife Rescue. They take in injured and abandoned wildlife of almost any type between the hours of 9:a.m. and 4 p.m. their facility at 5401 E. MLK Jr. Blvd, just west of the intersection of 183 and MLK. Note their entrance is not clearly marked; It's a single-lane dirt road just west of the Ulit Baptist church on the south side of 183 about 1/4 mile from the intersection. After turning onto the road you drive back into the woods about 300 ft before turning right into a parking area. They were established 40 years ago, and have been doing great work with wildlife ever since: <http://www.austinwildliferescue.org/>.

Below is the bird rescue information page from the Austin Area Wildlife Rehabilitation site



Rescue - Bird

DO NOT rescue wildlife and then keep (kidnap) the bird or animal for a possible pet. State and federal laws protect nearly all wild mammals and birds. It is against the law to possess a wild animal or bird or the nests, feathers, or eggs of a bird without special permits. In addition, dietary needs of each species of bird and animal are different and it is almost impossible to duplicate their needs in captivity without special training. AAWR receives many irreparably damaged birds and animals because the rescuers tried to keep them as pets and did not know how to provide for them properly.

Tiny Naked Baby Bird



If you can find the nest, put the baby back in. If you cannot reach the nest, or if the nest has been destroyed, you can place the baby in a hanging basket near the nest site and watch to see if the parents tend to the baby. Birds have a poorly developed sense of smell. They won't notice that you have handled it. If this is not possible, or if the parents don't return, keep the baby warm and contained, and call us at 512-709-6335. Do not try to feed the baby without speaking to a rehabber first.

Fledgling Bird

These young, feathered birds spend 7-10 days on the ground learning how to fly while their parents bring them food. If the parents are nearby, and there is no immediate danger, leave the bird alone. Keep cats and dogs inside if possible. If the bird is injured, or if the parents aren't tending to it, keep it warm and contained, and call us at 512-709-6335.



Excerpted from Austin American Statesman, by Marty Toohey mtoohey@statesman.com

This April followed the hottest March on record, which capped off the hottest three-month start to the year ever. But for those worried that summer could melt the soles of their Chuck Taylors, worry not. This summer should see about average temperatures and rainfall, according to LCRA meteorologist Bob Rose's forecast.

Well, worry a little: This is Texas, after all, and average here means a summer in which the pavement should do just fine for frying up some eggs.

Officials with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas generally agree with Rose's assessment, saying in a Tuesday conference call with reporters that the state should have plenty of electricity to handle summer demand. Expect about the normal number of 100-degree days, or perhaps a handful more.

Calvin Opheim, the reliability council's manager of load forecasting and analysis, said the organization expects "near-normal or slightly above normal temperatures" this summer. Rose said he expects 15 to 20 days of 100-plus degree heat.



Austin WATER CONSERVATION STAGE

RESIDENTIAL

AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION
Even Address: **Thursday**
Odd Address: **Wednesday**

HOSE-END SPRINKLERS
Even Address: **Thurs, Sun**
Odd Address: **Wed, Sat**

HOURS
Midnight - 10 AM
7 PM - Midnight

Home Car Wash Allowed with Bucket or Auto Shut-Off Hose

Tree Bubblers, Hand-Held Hose, Drip Irrigation: Any Day/Time

Watering Restrictions Remain The Same

With reservoirs near their defined "full" levels and continuing periodic rains, restrictions on residential watering will stay the same as since they were relaxed from the three-year drought conditions starting in 2013. Prognosis is for a "normal" year, which means we'll almost certainly set another average temperature record as the hottest in history because of record hot start.

You may water only on your assigned day(s) and times.

Using Hose-end Sprinklers: two days per week - midnight to 10 a.m. and/or 7 p.m. to midnight (see left: even addresses Thurs/Sun; odd Wed/Sat)

Automatic Irrigation: one day per week - midnight to 10 a.m. and/or 7 p.m. to midnight (even addresses Thursday; odd Wed) (*Residential customers may also water a second day with a hose-end sprinkler*)

Wasting water is prohibited

Washing vehicles at home is permitted with an auto shut-off hose or bucket

Fountains must recirculate water

The following are allowed at any time on any day of the week:

Watering with drip irrigation, a hand-held hose or a refillable container

Watering trees with a Treegator®, soaker hose or automatic tree bubbler

Watering vegetable gardens with a soaker hose

Have you had the feeling, or at least suspected, that **almost all processed foods** (brand names) come from a **small number of giant conglomerates**? We keep hearing how one company that we (probably) know by name has just bought another that makes something we eat or drink, or at least know about. This process has been going on for a long time, and is at least as common in other areas (think startups and smaller tech companies being bought by the big boys: Microsoft, Apple, Google, Facebook, etc.). An article here at gizmodo shows this graphically by connecting the largest 10 processed food conglomerates to the products we buy:

<http://sploid.gizmodo.com/fascinating-graphic-shows-who-owns-all-the-major-brands-1599537576>. Here you'll also see a graphic showing how most of the large financial institutions of the past have "merged" into just four megabanks, and that the 50 companies that owned 93% of American media in the '80s have been swallowed by just six. It just keeps going, with TV channels, airlines (four from 10 just a few years ago), cars, and (most importantly to many) beers. Is bigger really better? Is this progress? Let's hope they don't all wind up owned by the Chinese government...

It's no longer mythical! Your editor has seen one filling up at Costco: A Yoshi pickup, readily identified by the name in giant letters, was filling up, and up, and up... For a \$20 per month subscription this company will bring gasoline to you (some restrictions apply), so you don't need to stress over filling your gas tank again. They also check tire tread and pressure, and may be able to wash and change oil on your vehicle with additional charges. If you're interested get details at <https://www.startyoshi.com/city/tx/austin>



Most of us likely believe that there probably are enough cats already. So it makes perfect sense that Texas A&M would proceed to clone another one. In fact, they were the first to clone a cat successfully in the U.S., and almost surely the world. The girl - they wanted to see if it would reproduce normally - was "born" 15 years ago in December of 2001, thanks to the work of Duane Kraemer, a research vet at TAMU. Cloning fuses the nucleus from a cell (almost any cell can be used) of an animal with the unfertilized egg with its nucleus removed from another animal, then planting the egg in the uterus of a surrogate mother, all of which are of the same species. Scientists had been trying for many years before producing the first cloned mammal, Dolly the sheep in 1996.

Professor Kraemer and his team at A&M had made 86 attempts to clone this "first" cat, named Copycat (CC) for obvious reasons, before CC was born naturally. In a few years CC was mated with Smokey to test whether she was truly fully viable, and she produced three kittens as a result. CC celebrated her 15th birthday last December and seems set to enjoy many more. Guess the only test left is to see how many lives she has, but we'll probably just have to assume the usual nine.

Copycat (left) and her three kittens are shown in this picture taken in 2006 with Prof. Kraemer and wife Shirley.



Posted on Nextdoor by Jane Morgan (Gracywoods); **Note the announcement below the advertisements**

Hi neighbors: I am a volunteer in the dog program at Austin Pets Alive, and I'm excited to share the news that APA! is opening a thrift store located at 5801 Burnet Road (Burnet and Koenig, directly across from HEB). All proceeds will be benefiting Austin's most vulnerable pets. We are currently in need of donations of the following items: Gently used clothing jewelry purses shoes other accessories gaming systems laptops/tablets small collectibles guitars Donations are accepted at the store from 10-6 daily. We currently do not have space for furniture or any other large items. The grand opening is set for the weekend of May 13, so come on down, grab some bargains, and help some cats and dogs!

Austin City Council

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Sheri Gallo, 512-978-2121

Sheri.Gallo@austintexas.gov

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

Adam Soliz, APD District Rep
(512) 974 8143
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/>

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Parade & Potluck



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Happy Hour
Daily 5-8pm




Pets Welcome

5801 Burnet Rd.

Accepting Donations

GRAND OPENING!

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND, MAY 13 & 14

Whether you're a pet parent, human parent or an avid thrifter,
help welcome Austin's newest thrift store this weekend!

**austin
pets
alive
thrift**

May :: June 2017

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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 wca.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

May	14	Mother's Day
	17	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	20	UT Commencement: http://commencement.utexas.edu/convocations/schedule
	25	Kerrville Folk Festival begins: http://www.kerrville-music.com
	27	Texas tax-free Appliances weekend: http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/96-1331.php
	29	Memorial Day (observed) post office and banks closed
	31	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
June	1	Last day of classes for AISD
	2	Ballet Under the Stars: http://metamorphosisdance.org/ballet-under-the-stars.php
	8-11	Republic of Texas Biker Rally: http://www.rotrally.com
	9-10	Zilker Pops Concert: http://www.austincivicorchestra.org/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=88131
	11	Kerrville Folk Festival ends
	14	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	18	Father's Day
	21	First Day of Summer
	24	International Mud Day
28	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.	
July	4	Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association's 4th of July Parade & Picnic
	7	Zilker Summer Musical begins : http://zilker.org/the-wizard-of-oz/
	12	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.