



# Walnut Creek Neighborhood News

Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association

A pdf version in color is available at [www.WCNAnews.com](http://www.WCNAnews.com)

Jan  
Feb  
2024

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## Here's hoping the New Year is looking good/better for you!

That last one was pretty tough, what with nearly 40% (138) of its days reaching 90°F or more (and 71 days exceeding 100°F), making it the hottest year in recorded history in Austin (and the world!). It also didn't help that we were in "Extreme Drought" for most of the year. And yet folks kept moving here from cooler places!

To try to keep things cool for our **WCNA Annual General meeting** we have decided to hold it as early as we could get organized. Thus please note:

## WCNA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

St. Mark United Methodist Church's Lawshae Community Center

## Find out what we've been up to; i.e., what your association has been doing for you and yours.

The meeting is arriving **earlier** this year, and the format will be different as well. We'll be "in person only" at the wonderfully-upgraded Lawshae Community Center at St. Mark UMC, where most past meetings have been held. We'll also be starting earlier, at 4:00 p.m., but going to the usual time, 8:00 p.m. This is to accommodate a planned seated dinner including lasagna (with a gluten-free version available) and salad.

The order of business will be similar to previous years, with a presentation of the status of our organization. This will include results of neighborhood polls inviting opinions about what the association has been doing and what residents would like to see in the future, from the very practical to expectations and wishes for improvements and / or changes. The accomplishments will be summarized in light of this neighborhood input.

This will be followed by the formal business: Electing / re-electing members of the Board of Directors for WCNA. The two-year terms of eight of the current board members' (should they decide to remain on the board) are up, requiring a majority vote in favor of their retention. Any additional names can be nominated from the floor at the meeting or in advance by contacting the president or any current board member.

The activities of the association, generally following input from all residents, have been organized according to five categories: Trees and Trails (environment including the park and the entire neighborhood); Crime and Safety (the most-mentioned concern of residents); City-related issues (laws, code, zoning, etc.); Parents (i.e., kids); and Community Connection (building of community among residents). Attendees can choose a dinner table where a discussion leader will help to facilitate exchange of views and opinions on one of the chosen topics while enjoying a hearty meal (which implies avoidance of acrimony so as to promote proper digestion).

Thus the longer available time for the meeting. We're looking for a relaxed, enjoyable time with our neighbors. Of course anyone can change tables at any time to optimize their exchange of knowledge and information.

## Come join your neighbors for an edifying and enjoyable (and filling) night out!

## An Informative Walnut Creek Neighborhood Night Out! by Sharon Porter

Neighborhood Night Out offers neighbors the opportunity to gather together to create cohesive relationships, to update safety information from Police, Fire, and EMS staff, and to learn and share how to apply that information. On Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> this year – as last year – the event was organized by the **Walnut Creek Safety Team**, with support from WCNA, and included a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared by Safety Team members.

Our neighborhood puts its unique twist on the National Neighborhood Night Out by scheduling it on a weekend night, and making attendance flexible so that neighbors can come and go as they need to accommodate busy schedules. The convenient and familiar location of St. Mark Methodist Church was an added attraction. Attendees were able to enjoy the refurbishment recently made by the We're All Neighbors organization volunteers to the Lawshae building.

The information-sharing started at the sign-in desk. Cody Hyde, Epidemiologist from Austin Public Health, assisted with a carefully-curated selection of printed materials about disaster preparedness. There were tips for how to prepare for common Texas emergencies: flood, fire, tornado, heat wave, wildfire, extreme winter weather, and power outage. Lest that read like a list of the tribulations of Job, pause to remember that Austin and surrounding communities have experienced all of these in recent years. (continued on next page)



**Did you know** that you can sign up for official emergency alerts in our neighborhood, sent by text, email, or phone? Just visit [WarnCentralTexas.org](http://WarnCentralTexas.org) or call (866) 939-0911 to sign up.

Catherine Haggerty, Austin Police Department Office of Community Liaison, presented information on calling 911 vs. 311. While we know some of these, the review was helpful. Call 911 for any emergency requiring a response from the police, fire, or EMS. These are serious or life-threatening situations, like a crime in progress, active shooter, car accident, or house fire. If you are not sure whether a situation is a true emergency, just call 911 and the call taker will assist you with the call. (Note a persistent shortage of 911 operators is still causing delays in response times.)



Firemen at Neighborhood Night Out

The first and most important piece of information to provide the call taker is your location. Then, if anything else happens to the call, help can be sent to determine the problem.

If you have dialed 911 by mistake, do not hang up until you have explained what happened. Imagine a scenario where the call is from domestic violence and the attacker slammed the phone down. Valuable resources from attempting to track the call can be saved just by letting staff know this.

After you give your address or location, it is important to stay calm and speak clearly, state the type of help needed, give all of the information that the call taker asks, and stay on the line until help arrives unless the call taker advises that it is OK to disconnect.

Catherine also discussed the **advantages of help that is more immediately available: from our neighbors!** The time-honored trope is **Know Your Five**; i.e., the neighbors closest to you (two nextdoor and three across the street), both to render and receive help. Use available communication tools: telephone, email, and focus groups. Know how to contact Safety Team members. Consider joining WCN-Safety Chat, a communication group on Facebook Messenger that has worked very well in a large number of situations. If you are technology-challenged, reach out to a neighbor who can help you get set up and show you how to use a communication tool.

Even if you attended the program, I hope you take time to read this article. If you learned half as much reading it as I did writing it, your time was well spent.

***We are all in this together - let's work together to be safe.***

### **APD is developing a dashboard to display crime statistics and trends**

This AI-assisted reporting tool will operate in near real-time, incorporating crime reports and statistics, including 911 response times and neighborhood-specific data, (mostly) reported now but scattered on their regular website.

Ostensibly, the dashboard will make it easier (i.e., more intuitive) to find the data you're most interested in.

Target time for the dashboard to become available is mid-January.

### **Cool Community Crowd: The Lawshae Holiday Party!**

You know about **We're All Neighbors** (WAN), right? (Go to <https://www.facebook.com/wereallneighbors> to see some of their many activities and accomplishments in the neighborhood.) It's a nonprofit created by our neighbors **Eric Shaughnessy, Emily Shaughnessy, and Stacy Claye** with the intention of building community in WCN and surrounding neighborhoods. With great volunteers from these 'hoods they have organized many events toward that end, including the wonderful Good Neighbor Fest (Fall, 2022); the **Safety Summit**; painting and decorating parties at St. Mark and Walnut Creek Elementary; and board and physical game/competitive events. They also set up and maintain the small information kiosks at many intersections in the neighborhood as well as the bulletin board at the park entrance.



The delightfully-decorated Lawshae main room beginning to fill up!

WAN also organized the ***Lawshae Holiday Party*** on **December 9th** of last year. This party (partially funded by WCNA) drew a large number of participants from several neighborhoods to the Lawshae Community Center at St. Mark UMC, recently upgraded, beautified and highly-decorated by volunteers with WAN. Over the duration of the event, at least 80 folks attended, with many volunteering in many ways: decorating; setting up / taking down tables, chairs, etc.; bringing decorations and food, songbooks, and a jigsaw puzzle; providing entertainment; and (especially) making and teaching how to make tamales! Ages of attendees ranged from toddlers to octogenarians, all blending easily. Activities included cookie-decorating, games, and a singalong with piano and guitar accompaniment. The evening ended with a candlelight version of "Silent Night," sung first with the piano and then *a cappella*. The ambience was marvelous, reminiscent of the best Christmas party you've ever been to. Besides some of the best food you've ever experienced, the setup made mingling, eating, and joining with others to converse, play games and sing together as natural as could be. Besides the large meeting / banquet room, St. Mark / Lawshae provides two smaller rooms where you could play ping pong, engage in quiet conversation or watch Christmas movies. There was an all around feeling of camaraderie, ideal for meeting old friends or making new ones with a minimum of stress.

### Is Austin Getting Sicker or Just Bigger (or maybe both)?

#### Look at all the NEW medical centers recently opened, under construction or planned in Austin!

**Dell Children's Medical Center North**, opened in April: It was a \$191 million project.

**Texas Children's Hospital in North Austin**: a \$485 million project to open about 1 February.

**St. David's Leander Medical Center**: the Emergency Center opened in 2018 will be expanded and will have a \$142.5 million medical office building (design and permitting will begin in 2024).

**St. David's Kyle Medical Center**: a \$185 million project will start with a free-standing emergency department in 2024 and grow to a medical office building and hospital (similar to Leander's) on RM 1626.

St. David's has approval for a behavioral health hospital adjacent to its N. Austin Medical Center site (~\$35M).

**MD Anderson** will be building an Austin location at the site of the current Erwin Center to open in 2030 in a \$2.5 billion partnership.

**Specialty Hospital at UT** at the site of the current Erwin Center to open in 2030.

#### And then there are these expansions of existing facilities.

The expansion of **St. David's Women's Center** of Texas at **St. David's North Austin** and neonatal intensive care unit opened in July. A parking garage is being built, and renovation continues under the \$150M project.

**Ascension Seton Medical Center's Women's Center Tower** is a \$320M expansion expected to open in 2025.

**Dell Seton Medical Center** at the University of Texas is adding four stories on one side and one story on another. This \$280M expansion project began this summer anticipating opening in 2025.

**Ascension Seton Williamson Medical Center** in Round Rock will almost double in a \$230M investment expected to open in 2026.

**Baylor Scott & White Round Rock Medical Center** will also double in size under a \$220 M project in 18 months. St. David's Round Rock Medical Center's expansion's medical surgical unit has opened, and the entire \$53.1M project is almost complete.

**Heart Hospital of Austin** is expanding its capacity by 25% in a \$20.9 million project.

**St. David's Medical Center** is expanding its rehabilitation hospital by another floor, adding patient and postoperative rooms, and renovating its women's services unit under a \$46M project expected to complete in 2024.

**St. David's South Austin's** \$81M expansion, which includes a seventh floor, parking garage and women's center, is almost complete. An additional \$168M expansion to add beds, operating rooms and a rehab unit also nears completion. Then another project will begin next year because the hospital is already at capacity.

**Baylor Scott & White Pflugerville Medical Center** is tripling clinic capacity, including urgent care on site, additional emergency and trauma services, more imaging options and a heart catheterization lab (open 2025). I guess we need these billions of dollars in new medical facilities to accommodate the thousand or so new residents we're adding every year.

**CDC has developed a COVID Calculator.** Covid has accelerated during the holidays and is expected to remain elevated during cold weather. Because the disease is infectious before symptoms appear, how to minimize spread is complex. CDC has made it easier to "do the right thing" if you've been exposed or tested positive, by using a "calculator" designed for the purpose. It's at <http://tinyurl.com/StpByStp>. Starting from your current status, you're given step-by-step instructions conditioned on the response on the previous step.



## **The CapExpress North Project vs the Walnut Creek Neighborhood** *by Robert Meadows*

The **Capital Express Project** is a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) construction project intended to remake I-35 from State Highway (SH) 45 North to SH 45 Southeast, for a distance of about 27 miles from the La Frontera development in Round Rock to just north of Buda. The project has been subdivided by TxDOT into the following three projects: **Capital Express North** (broke ground in March, 2023) from SH 45 North to US 290 East (this is the project on “our” stretch of I-35); **Capital Express Central** (still in planning stage) from US 290 East to SH 71/Ben White; **and Capital Express South** (construction started in November, 2022) from SH 71/Ben White Boulevard to SH 45 Southeast.

A useful link for the overall project as well as the individual projects is <https://my35capex.com/>. This links to the top page of the I-35 Capital Express Project, from which the *Capital Express North* (CapEx North), *Capital Express Central* (CapEx Central), and *Capital Express South* (CapEx South) projects can be accessed. The reader may particularly enjoy the simulated flyovers showing the current-versus-future roadway.

The link <https://my35construction.org/contact/sign-up-alerts> may be used to sign up for construction alerts. Specifically, browse to <https://my35construction.org/>; then click on the “Sign Up” box in the “Information how you want it, when you want it.” box at the bottom of the page, which transits to the <https://my35construction.org/contact/sign-up-alerts> page; select “Only interested in I-35 projects from”; and use SH 195 in Williamson County for the starting point (this is north of Georgetown) and SH45 SE Toll in Travis County for the ending point.

CapEx North will construct a non-tolled high-occupancy vehicle managed (HOV) lane in each direction along IH35 from SH 45 North (the elevated highway that crosses IH35 just as one enters Round Rock from the south, near the Joe’s Crab Shack in Round Rock) to US 290 East (the highway that goes to Elgin and crosses I-35 near the Austin Community College/Highland Mall site) and will also construct a diverging diamond at Wells Branch and will reconstruct 6 bridges, entrance/exit ramps, and shared-use paths (formerly known as sidewalks), and is described as costing \$606 million. A particular point of pride for TxDOT is that a sidewalk will now run on both sides of I-35 from SH 45 North all the way to US 290 East.

From the Mobility 35 Fourth Quarter E-Newsletter: “Utility relocation continues, including waterline work, at Grand Avenue Parkway, Ouida Drive, Howard Lane, south of Rundberg Lane and Little Walnut Creek. **In early 2024, crews will demolish and reconstruct the Walnut Creek bridge** (bold added for emphasis here and below). The project is expected to be complete in 2029.” Here are the project phases:

**Phase I:** Install new center median barrier, **construct new northbound I-35 frontage road bridge over Walnut Creek, reconstruct the Braker Lane bridge.**

**Phase II:** Widen northbound and southbound I-35 main lanes, construct retaining walls, reconstruct entrance/exit ramps, construct bypass lanes.

**Phase III:** Reconstruct northbound and southbound I-35 frontage roads, construct shared-use paths, reconstruct driveways.

**Phase IV:** **Reconstruct bridges** at Grand Avenue Parkway, **Howard Lane and Rundberg Lane.**

**Phase V:** Construct diverging diamond intersection at Wells Branch Parkway, reconstruct intersections and signals.

**Phase VI:** Perform final striping and paving.

Here are changes that will specifically affect our neighborhood: the exit ramp on the west side of I-35 (i.e., our side) currently just south of Yager will be closed; a new entrance will be built on our side just south of the more northerly branch of Park 35 Circle, i.e., about where TCEQ Building E is located; “our” entrance ramp will be closed; a new exit ramp on our side will be built to empty onto the service road just south of Covington and just north of the Walnut Forest Motel; the Braker Lane bridge over I-35 will be rebuilt, adding a U-turn in both directions, while retaining two through lanes and a left turn lane in each direction (a public information officer for this project has communicated that the “Braker Lane Bridge Reconstruction is currently anticipated to begin next summer (2024) and last through that winter” (subject to change)); on the east side of I-35 (i.e., the other side), the locations of the entrance and exit ramps will be changed. Also, sound barriers are NOT proposed for our side of the freeway, but are proposed for the other side. Perhaps this can be changed.

The project will take right-of-way at 706 Wren and along the empty lots from Covington to the Walnut Forest Motel, but not elsewhere (this is subject to last minute changes by TxDOT).

What are the implications for the neighborhood? There will be numerous projects that cause traffic delays, particularly all the bridge rebuilds (north and south of the neighborhood) and very particularly the rebuild of the Braker Lane bridge. The rebuild of the I-35 bridge over Walnut Creek (definitely the frontage roads, and possibly the entire bridge) will create delays. There will be many delays due to frontage road construction, both north and south of the neighborhood. These delays could occur for a period of 5 to 6 years. This is not to mention the delays caused by CapEx Central and CapEx South. (This entire IH35 work is expected to take approximately 10 years.)

On a more positive side, the Braker Lane bridge may be easier and safer to use, like the Yager Lane bridge is now (versus the old Yager Lane bridge); there may be less noise emitted into the neighborhood (continued below)

from accelerating vehicles because the entrance ramp has been moved north; and there may be less traffic on the frontage road from Walnut Creek to Covington, again because the entrance ramp has been moved north.

Questions? Contact me, via email or text, using the contact information provided at the end of this Newsletter. As necessary I can contact the public information operation for this project. They already know my name.

## **Walnut Creek Neighborhood Housing - Year in Review and 2024 Predictions**

*By Jill Leberknight Walnut Creek Real Estate Expert*

Adieu 2023 and Hello Gorgeous 2024! It's that most wonderful time of the year, the time where hindsight allows us to reflect on our past journey and gain insight on our steps for the future. I have been studying our WCN and North Lamar District housing story for 18 years now and If you have followed along with my annual year in review articles you already know we've been on quite a roller coaster ride in WCN. The numbers have now revealed their wisdom and as I step into this new year I do so with cautious optimism and a deep understanding that home investing will require a new level of mindfulness for the foreseeable future. Let's delve into the numbers and stories that shaped our community's housing landscape in 2023 so you can be prepared for any home related decisions in 2024.

### **Year in Review - 2023 Highlights**

#### ***Market Trends:***

- **Homes Sold:** The number of homes sold in WCN has decreased by a significant 53% compared to 2022.
- **Sold Prices:** Prices have seen a downturn, down 21% year over year, 50% from last December, and 25% since peak pandemic sales.
- **Days on Market:** The days on the market have increased by a staggering 188% since 2022.

#### ***Historical Comparison:***

- We witnessed a dramatic shift in inventory reminiscent of 2007, the onset of the national mortgage crisis. Austin fared better than most US cities during that time and was among the first to climb out of that setback. Due to our strong job scene economists predict that Austin will again recover fast from recent interest rate disruptions.
- Average home sales in WCN since 2002 have been 25, with 2007 seeing a drastic drop to 10 sales. This too is in-line with the 07/08 mortgage crisis landscape.
- Personal anecdotes reveal Appraisal District Values surpassing current market values. How can TCAD stabilize this and adjust to Austin's quick shifting markets. Is our Texas tax code flexible to respond to this?

#### ***Mortgage Landscape:***

- Home mortgage interest rates averaged 7% in 2023.
- Rares at the beginning of 2024 resting at 6.5% and expected to remain there with mixed communication of movement both up and down.
- Economic experts share opinion that rates at or below 5.9% would increase buyer confidence and demand on our increased housing supply.

#### ***Snapshot of Local Housing Inventory:***

- Current active homes: 9,647
- Homes on hold or withdrawn in the past 60 days: 2,723 (likely to return in 2024)
- 471 price decreases and 788 expired listings in the past 7 days.
- Overall, decreased buyer confidence in homeownership. Homeowners of all ages are staying put due to affordability constraints (to retain low interest rates, homes paid off, job losses, etc.)

#### ***Behavioral Trends in 2023:***

- Increased contract terminations due to economic disruptors such as job loss and rising mortgage rates.
- Surge in repair requests linked to buyer financial constraints and decreased home maintenance.
- Rising requests for buyer assistance concessions ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000.
- Escalation in buyer and seller anxiety during the decision-making process.
- An uptick in lawsuits over repairs and disclosures.
- Greater need for alternative real estate consultation and therapy to approach the complex and changing landscape and decision making process.

### **Agent Jill's 2024 Housing Market Predictions**

#### ***Sales and Values:***

- Anticipation of increased offers and sales in the first 2 quarters, historically Austin's hot season.
- A flat and slower rate of value increase in the 3-5% range: re the 20-40% surges pandemic years. (continued)

**Consumer Behavior:**

- Lasting impacts on consumer behavior and consciousness due to multiple economic shifts over past 16 years.
- Creativity and resourcefulness of clients shaping new/innovative ways to fulfill nesting and lifestyle dreams.
- Buyers are searching for intentional community or extended family living options, land for multiple dwellings, and duplex/triplex options. 2024 will be all about tiny homes or Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU).
- Lending services adapting to meet evolving demands.
- Increase desire and demand for a new way to complete real estate transactions.

**Political Landscape:**

- The last 2 quarters' sales and economic outcomes heavily depend on the political landscape and our presidential election scene.
- Historically, home sales and investing slows during presidential election years. The economic shift of '22 and '23 has generated higher than usual supply with delayed buyer demand that I predict will lead to a busier first half of the year.

**Onward we go! Let's embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, fostering a resilient community in the face of evolving real estate dynamics.**

**2023 Walnut Creek Neighborhood "SOLD" STATISTICS**

SUBDIVISION	# SOLD	AVERAGE \$ per sq ft	AVERAGE SALES PRICE	AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	% Price Change
Eubank Acres	10	\$254.28	\$400,700 (\$540,000 highest)	39	33% ↓
Walnut Forest	2	\$254.41	\$402,500 (\$430,000 highest)	58	28% ↓
Oak Ridge	3	\$329.53	\$598,667 (\$740,000 highest)	63	3% ↓
Spanish Oak Ridge	1	\$406.25	\$520,000	6	
Entire Walnut Creek Totals	14	\$274.77	\$453,071 (\$740,000 highest)	49 (longest 129)	24% ↓

**Recycle Anything Resource: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>**

**Terracycle** is a global foundation set up with the goal of minimizing waste of every kind, from the daunting problem of plastics to the most mundane (e.g., cigarette butts). The site is designed to facilitate handling hard-to-recycle items, providing maps/locations of public and private recycle facilities "worldwide" which handle such items. Further, it's unique in supporting establishing your home or business address as a recycle point for specific items, and providing means to make this work. Collected materials are sent to central locations using provided containers and labels. **Visit the site to appreciate the expansiveness!**

**Kids Get a Head Start on the New Year with Happy Noon Year's Eve Party!**

**Hello 2024 and goodbye 2023!** Walnut Creek neighbors gathered at St. Mark UMC for a family-friendly, daytime Noon Year's Eve party on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The weather was perfect for playing & snacking in the St. Mark meadow. The kids delighted in decorating their very own party crowns. As we approached 12 o'clock noon, everyone headed inside the Lawshae Community Building for a poppin' good time: balloons dropped from the ceiling when the clock struck 12 noon, and the bubble-wrap stomp commenced. After all the balloons had been popped and bubble-wrap had been stomped, we headed back outside for a sparkling cider toast.

We want to take a moment to thank all of the amazing families and friends who celebrated Noon Year's Eve with us. It was another fun and successful WCN event thanks to everyone who participated and contributed! We couldn't do it without your support.

Special thanks to Julie & AJ Prien, Tasha Bowser, Erin and Neal Smith, Eric Shaughnessy, Cynthia Gesotti, Angel and James Miller, and Melissa Huber.



Waiting for the balloons to drop...

## **Dues and Contributions Form for Calendar Year 2024**

**Please clip and return with payment, or use PayPal (see below).**

**Dues for 2024 are \$25 Please note desired distribution for contributions over that amount.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DUES (\$25 per year): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Walnut Bluffs Trails (park) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Safety Team \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Walnut Creek Elementary \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cat Coalition \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL INCLUDED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



QR Code to pay dues or donate

### **You can use PayPal for both dues & contributions.**

**PayPal** is a popular way to become – or remain - a member, or to make a donation toward WCNA projects (shown on drop-down menus on the Donate site). You can use any credit card to make a payment via PayPal through the “join/donate” page on the WCNA website, <https://wcnanews.com/membership/>

Alternatively, with your smart phone using a QR code reader you can go to the same page using the QR code at left.

*Note: You don't have to join PayPal to use it for payments.*

### **Austin City Council**

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

**The National Suicide/Mental  
Crisis Hotline: 988**

**Trans Hotline: 877-565-8860**

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

[Get the phone app: **Austin311**  
on Google Play and iTunes]

APD District Rep: **Adam Soliz**  
512 974-8143

[Adam.soliz@austintexas.gov](mailto:Adam.soliz@austintexas.gov)

County Constable, Pct 2

**Adan Ballesteros**, 512 854-9697

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**APD Animal Cruelty Unit Tip  
Hot Line: 512 978-0523**

**Emery Sadkin**  
**CoA Animal Protection**  
**Officer, Wildlife**  
**Call 311 or 512-974-2000**

**Local Weather Station on  
Oakwood:**

<https://tinyurl.com/OakwoodWeather>

**Office of Police Oversight**  
[policeoversight@austintexas.gov](mailto:policeoversight@austintexas.gov)

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**Walnut Creek Neighborhood**

**Association membership** is open to any resident (owner or renter) or property owner within its boundaries:

Braker to Yeager and  
Lamar to IH35

**Membership dues** are \$25 per household for a calendar year. Send a check to: WCNA ; PO Box 82746; Austin, TX 78708-2746

Dues notices are included in the Nov-Dec and Jan-Feb issues.

Payment also may be via PayPal:  
<https://wcnanews.com/membership/>

To check whether you've paid your dues for this or next calendar year, call or text Pat at 512 659-8132 or email [s.pitt@earthlink.net](mailto:s.pitt@earthlink.net)

**To contribute content** to the newsletter: [wcnanews@gmail.com](mailto:wcnanews@gmail.com) and/or contact Pat Pitt, 512 837-6620

**Note:**

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**

Jan	15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Banks & post office closed
	17	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	21	3M Half Marathon - <a href="https://downhilltodowntown.com">https://downhilltodowntown.com</a>
	27	WCNA Annual General Meeting: Lawshae Building, 4:00-8:00 w/ meal
	31	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
Feb	10	Chinese New Year
	13	Mardi Gras
	14	Valentine's Day
	14	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	18	Ascension Austin Marathon, Half, 5K - <a href="https://youraustinmarathon.com">https://youraustinmarathon.com</a>
	19	Presidents' Day - Banks & post office closed
	28	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
Mar	2	Sherwood Forest Faire begins - <a href="https://www.sherwoodforestfaire.com">https://www.sherwoodforestfaire.com</a>
	2	Texas Independence Day
	2	It's My Park Day
	8-16	SXSW Music Festival
	8-24	Rodeo Austin - <a href="https://rodeoaustin.com">https://rodeoaustin.com</a>
	10	Daylight Savings time begins - Spring forward
	11-16	AISD Spring Break
	13	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	17	St. Patrick's Day
	19	First Day of Spring