



# Allandale Neighbor

February 2023  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**It's My Park Day on March 4**  
**Learn more on page 11!**



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Allandale Neighborhood  
Association  
and Allandale Neighbors

## Geologic time: The Sedimentary Record, Part 1

R.C. Smyth

**R**ecall from our December 2022 Newsletter that I wrote about a method for quantitative measure of geologic time, radiometric age dating, with some emphasis on the mineral zircon. A co-worker later pointed me to a National Public Radio episode on zircon, which you might enjoy checking out: <https://www.npr.org/2022/12/29/1139782011/to-peer-into-earths-deep-time-meet-a-hardy-mineral-known-as-the-time-lord>.

While zircon minerals can be found in sedimentary rocks, they originally crystallize from molten magma to become incorporated into igneous rocks. In review, radiometric age dating using radioactive isotopes with long half-lives is mostly performed on minerals formed in igneous rocks. A method of absolute age

dating using radioactive isotopes with shorter half-lives, such as Carbon-14, can be used to calculate ages of organic material, which can also be found in rocks. There are many other geological, laboratory-based methods used to decipher, for example, age or climatic conditions represented in all types of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## It Would be a Crime to Fall Off a Ladder

Submitted by McGruff's friend

**N**ot literally a crime, of course, but we don't want this to happen to you.

During a recent visit to Austin Regional Clinic for a follow-up on a broken toe, the radiographer and I were chatting when I mentioned afternoon plans to clean the gutters.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Lettuce Recycle

Dena Houston

### Recycling Journeys

My readers often ask, "What happens to some of the items we recycle?" This issue of Lettuce Recycle will explore the journey of metal, Styrofoam, electronics, and tires after they leave the City of Austin's Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center (RRDOC).



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## The Allandale Neighbor

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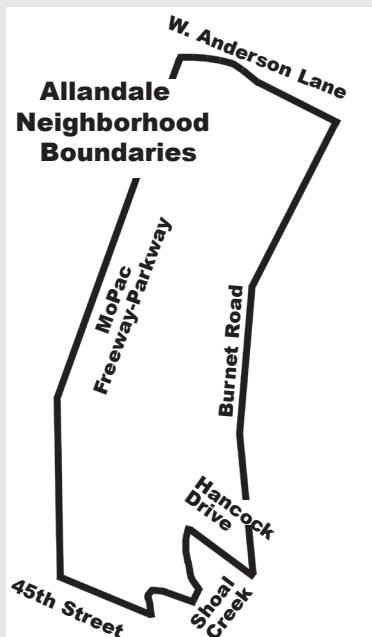
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center. General Membership meetings are held in April and October. (Meetings are currently held via Zoom)

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## President's Letter

Hans Magnusson, ANA President

(512) 522-8773, [ana@hmviking.com](mailto:ana@hmviking.com)

Dear Allandale Neighbors:

The Allandale Neighborhood Association has reached middle age, but we are not ready for retirement yet. In 2023, the association will mark its fifty-year anniversary. We were founded in 1973 when Austin had a population of about 300,000. I'm calling out to all socially-inclined Allandalers who would like to help organize a celebration of our anniversary to get in touch with anyone on the ANA board or via our email.

A warm welcome to our new editor, Tara Lane Bowman, who will curate the newsletter. She is taking on the role with this issue of the newsletter. If you have something to share to be printed in the newsletter, please send it to [news@allandaleneighbor.com](mailto:news@allandaleneighbor.com).

Busybodies in a neighborhood can be annoying. Most of the time they tend to be harmless.

Covetous, rabid, petty grifting state legislators, on the other hand, can cause deleterious impact on your quality of life. State Senator Bryan Hughes, who hails from the metropolis of Mineola, population not even 5,000, is one specimen of the vilest vermin in the legislature. He is a peddler of election fraud snake oil, proponent of state control of women's bodies, and most recently a sponsor of Senate Bill 491. The bill would supersede local building codes and allow a forty-story or taller building fifty feet from your bungalow in any neighborhood in the city.

Why does a state senator from S-Town meddle with real cities? Does it only take a contribution of \$4,500 to the senator's campaign to sponsor a bill you wrote? The Real Estate Council of Austin spent that amount on Bryan's campaign to get a bill that abolishes compatibility standards. Is he that cheap?

The grifters and hacks in the state legislature must be thrown out and be replaced with representatives who will focus on improving the electric grid and other important issues for the entire state instead of petty meddling with people they do not represent.

Mettez les fainéants dehors,

Hans ☚

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## It Would be a Crime to Fall Off a Ladder

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His advice? "Please don't," explaining that in the weeks preceding Christmas, ARC experienced a high number of people needing X-rays following their light-stringing activities.

Did I listen? On such a beautiful day to be outdoors?

No, but at least all my ladder movements were slow and deliberate - learned from a ladder spill a year ago. Fortunately, that was from a height of only six feet, and as a SWAT aficionado, I 'managed' the drop just like a pro, with no bodily injury. Yes, a bit moronic on all counts.

Cleaning gutters, stringing lights, trimming trees (as a U.S. congressman recently was doing when he fell off a ladder and spent a night in an intensive care unit) - these activities all present safety risks. But the risks can be mitigated by following professional guidance in ladder safety. A condensed version

follows, beginning with this introduction:

### **Factors contributing to falls from ladders include:**

- haste
- sudden movement
- lack of attention
- the condition of the ladder (worn or damaged)
- the user's age or physical condition, or both
- the user's footwear

### **What should you do when climbing up or down a ladder?**

Always make sure the ladder is secured correctly before using. This includes placing it on a stable, non-slip, and level surface.

#### **When climbing up or down, always:**

- Face the stepladder.
- Keep your body centered between side rails.
- At all times during ascent and descent, maintain three-point contact by keeping two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder.
- Maintain a firm grip and firm foot placement.

- Make sure that footwear is clean, in good condition, and slip-resistant.

### **What should you not do when climbing up or down a ladder?**

- Do not hurry up or down a ladder.
- Do not jump from a ladder. Check footing before descending.
- Do not carry tools or materials in your hand while climbing.
- Do not stand on or above the top two rungs or steps of the ladder.
- Do not overreach or lean while working to avoid falling off the ladder sideways.

#### **As a reminder:**

- Before using a ladder, inspect it to confirm it is in good working condition and the right size for the job.
- If you feel tired or dizzy, or are prone to losing your balance, stay off the ladder.
- Do not use ladders in high winds or storms.

Friends, please take this advice seriously and keep yourself safe. Your loved ones, and your body, will be most appreciative.

⌘

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# Lettuce Recycle

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## Styrofoam

Styrofoam cups, meat trays, egg cartons, etc. are collected at the RDOC. They are then shredded and melted to condense the material for shipping. It is then sent to various manufacturing facilities to be made into products such as baseboards, crown molding, and attic insulation.

## Electronics

Electronic devices contain valuable precious metals such as gold, silver, platinum, palladium, copper, tin, and zinc. When they are disassembled, these precious metals are recovered and used in products such as jewelry, plating, new electronics, and automotive parts. Plastic components are used in new electronic devices or other plastic products. All electronic devices are sent to a company in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This company meets very strict standards for wiping hard drives to protect the security of the donors.

## Metal

Various metals and steel are baled and shipped to a steel mill or foundry, where

they are mixed with other metals like automobile parts. Everything is melted in a furnace at nearly 3,000 degrees. It is then cast into ingots (bricks) to be used in manufacturing.

## Tires

Tires are sent to a vendor to be shredded. This material is then used for making road beds and playground surfaces.

## Leaves: the gifts that keep on giving!

Leaf collection in Austin is an ongoing process during the fall, winter and spring. Here are some guidelines to help with leaf disposal.

Leaves are collected curbside in the green compost bin. They can also be placed in paper leaf bags and personal collection cans. There is currently a limit of fifteen extra bags or cans per household per pickup. These leaves go to Organics by Gosh where they are turned into compost. Organics by Gosh is the City's contracted compost company, located in Elgin, Texas.

Please do not put leaves in plastic bags curbside. They are collected as trash and

the customer is charged \$10.20 (plus tax) per bag. These leaves go to the landfill.

## Reader Questions

### Why do we still have to make an appointment to go to the recycle & reuse drop-off center?

As with most industries post-COVID, the RRDOC has had difficulty obtaining and keeping employees. Scheduling appointments has become a way of assisting them in scheduling staff. Here is the quickest link to schedule an appointment: <https://www.austintexas.gov/dropoffschedule>

### Is the plastic netting that is wrapped around christmas trees, and the net-like bags that lemons and oranges come in, recyclable in the plastic bag collection bins?

No, it is not. It is difficult to handle and process at the facilities that recycle plastic.

### My Keurig cup says "recyclable" – is it?

No, the single-use coffee and tea pods are not recyclable in our market. The

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## Lettuce Recycle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

containers are too small to be collected for processing.

### Can greeting cards with batteries be recycled?

The batteries need to be removed from the musical greeting cards and be recycled with batteries. Once the battery is out, the rest of the card can go into the recycling bin, providing it doesn't have any glitter, flocking, or other adornments on the card.

The very informative City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions, please send them to [recycling@hpbwana.org](mailto:recycling@hpbwana.org).

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## Geologic time: The Sedimentary Record, Part 1

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rocks, and even water. But let's return to Allandale in Austin, TX.

If you read on the ANA website about the dinosaur fossil found in Shoal Creek near Greenlawn Parkway in the early 1990's (<https://allandaleneighbor.com/about/history>), you can click on a link describing the type of dinosaur, a plesiosaur. In the first paragraphs you find references to geologic age; however, they are not numbers, but names (e.g., Mesozoic, Triassic, etc.).

Early in the science of geology, correlation between different sedimentary rock units occurring in closely spaced or distant locales was accomplished through recognition of fossilized remains – of both plants and animals. Major distinctions in age of similar geologic strata – that is, those containing the same types of fossils – were made based on relative positions of the rocks. In general, older sedimentary rocks are overlain by younger ones. This geological tenet is called the Law of Superposition. One good explanation of this law can be found on a National Geographic Society website: <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/superposition>.

Recognition of patterns in rocks has been taking place since prehistoric times. Early hominids and humans made tools from chert (a form of cryptocrystalline quartz), which is sometimes called flint. These Stone Age people had to know where to find such material to survive. Through googling I found reports of Greeks and Romans having recognized patterns in rocks, especially those containing metals, which they relied upon for tools (subsequent Bronze and Iron Age peoples). Later, the science of geology developed through recognition of patterns of fossils in rocks.

The oldest fossils were single-celled organisms that lacked a nucleus or distinct cell walls (e.g., prokaryotic); an example is archaeobacteria. Plants and animals are multicellular (eukaryotic) organisms. The explosion of life on earth, marked by an abundance of fossilized multicellular life, defines the beginning of the Paleozoic Era of geologic time. Most of the sedimentary rocks present at earth's surface belong to, from oldest to youngest, the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, or Cenozoic eras of geologic time. These groups of rocks, which were grouped together based on the presence or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



### Common questions we get:

- How does our spending compare?
- How can we pay less in taxes?
- Is our college fund on track?
- How should we invest our 401k?
- Do we have the right insurance?
- What about wills and trusts?
- Can we afford to remodel or move?
- Should we buy a rental property?
- Should we just use index funds?

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## Geologic time: The Sedimentary Record, Part 1

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

absence of particular fossils in specific types of rocks, were not formally named until the mid-1800s.

The term Paleozoic stands for ancient life; Mesozoic, middle life; and Cenozoic, new life. During the Paleozoic earlier life forms such as insects, fish, and ferns evolved and became widespread. This era of geologic time is divided into six or seven periods depending on whether you are in Europe or North America. The Mesozoic is known as the Age of Reptiles (i.e., dinosaurs) and was also when coniferous plants (gymnosperms) became widespread. Three time periods: Triassic (oldest), Jurassic, and the overlying, youngest Cretaceous, comprise the Mesozoic. Cenozoic, the Age of Mammals and Flowering Plants (angiosperms) used to have two periods – Tertiary (oldest) and Quaternary (youngest). Periods of the Cenozoic have more recently been further

subdivided/defined as Paleogene, Quaternary, and Neogene. Oh so many names, but still no numbers to go with the names!

It was not until near the turn of the twentieth century that discovery of radioactive decay of isotopes of certain elements happened. Think of Henri Becquerel, Marie Skłodowska-Curie, and Pierre Curie. It was not until the early 1900s that laboratory methods for radiometric dating of rocks was developed; the practice was not widely applied until the mid- to late-1900s.

As laboratory methods and equipment have been refined, so have the absolute ages that define geologic time. For example, when I was an undergraduate in Geology, the beginning of the Cambrian Period (oldest of the Paleozoic periods) was 600 million years; the number has now been refined to 541 million years. One nicely presented Geologic Time Scale can be found here on a National Park Service (NPS) website: Geologic Time Scale - Geology (U.S. National Park

Service) (nps.gov). The NPS also has a good description of geologic time for non-geologists, so if you are interested, google that.

There are other published versions of the Geologic Time Scale available, including one by the International Commission on Stratigraphy, which is the official version. The ICS calls their time scale a chronostratigraphic chart since it assigns absolute ages (numbers) to known geologic age divisions of rock strata (names).

In summary, there are two main categories of geology: field-based, which has traditionally been based on observation and mapping, and laboratory-based. In other words, we've got the outdoor-rugged-type nerds and the laboratory/number-crunching-type nerds. Some geologists specialize in either field or laboratory methods, some in both. Both types of geology can be so much fun!

Next time I'll write more about how this all relates to Allandale.☺



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# Austin Neighborhood Council Meeting Report

Caroline Reynolds

Jerry Patterson spoke about the energy crisis in Texas. His assessment is that the transmission and delivery system is in good shape, but that Governor Abbott blames wind power for the deficiencies in the Texas generation market, overseen by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the Texas Railroad Commission.

There was also a lengthy discussion about Good Governance, originated by the Allandale Neighborhood Association and strongly supported by Austin Neighborhood Council. The discussion was about the 2019 request by the ANC for the City Council voting record.

The city of Austin is the only large city in Texas that does not have an electronic voting system for the council dais. Following the ANC's request in 2019, City of Austin has suggested unrealistic solutions and, essentially, done nothing to provide any voting data whatsoever.

The nub of the discussion was that ANC was going to need to organize a phone call and letter writing campaign to get City Hall to get busy and move into the twenty-first century.

Peripheral info included the fact that City of Austin has no interest in or ability to respond to information requests in a timely manner. Only one group at City Hall can meet that standard, and that group is the folks at the Open Records Section. ☹



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# German Cockroaches

Wizzie Brown

German cockroaches are most commonly found within homes and commercial food establishments, usually in the kitchen. The adults are about half an inch long, tan, and have two dark stripes above the head. The females carry their egg case, called an ootheca, protruding from the abdomen until the day before hatching. The nymphs, or baby cockroaches, look similar to the adults, but are smaller and without fully developed wings.



A German cockroach between meals.

It is possible to bring German cockroaches into homes via infested boxes, grocery bags, furniture or dried pet food. They may also enter around loose-fitting doors and windows as well as through sewer lines, attics, or where pipes penetrate the structure. While cockroaches are often associated with filth, even well-maintained structures can become infested.

German cockroaches are active at night, and are usually only visible during the day if they are disturbed or if there is a severe infestation. They like to rest in tight, dark spaces such as under or inside cupboards, behind loose baseboards, under warm appliances, in bathrooms, or any tight, dimly-lit space. Cockroaches are omnivores and scavengers, feeding plant and animal products such as meats, starchy foods, baked goods, leather, book bindings, and wallpaper paste.

Inspection is important to any cockroach control program. Identify the type of cockroach and their location(s). Eliminate indoor hiding places such as accumulated paper materials like magazines, newspapers, or cardboard. Sticky traps can help to monitor cockroaches and can also help to reduce populations without the use of chemicals. Sticky traps should be placed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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## German Cockroaches

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

against walls near cockroach feeding and hiding areas so that cockroaches walk/run across the glue while following the edge of the wall.

Chemical control is needed to eliminate cockroach infestations. An easy-to-use and less toxic option is bait. Baits are a combination of toxicants and food attractants and should be placed in areas where cockroaches are known to feed. Residual sprays are available in ready-to-use containers or concentrates that are mixed with water. Sprays are fast and easy to apply and should be used to target areas where cockroaches rest during the day. Dust treatments should be used in cracks and crevices, wall voids, under refrigerators or around pipes. Dusts should be applied in a light, even coat that is barely visible.

**Sprays and dusts should NOT be used in the same area where you have placed bait. It will contaminate the bait and the cockroaches won't pick it up.**

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at (512) 854-9600. ☼

## Northwest Park Notes

Mary Fero, ANA Parks Committee

**I**t's My Park Day Spring 2023 happens on Saturday, March 4, from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., and we hope to see you! This Austin Parks Foundation event involves thousands of people across the city who join together to supplement the care our parks need while strengthening community bonds.

This Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park Love Fest includes two projects: repainting cement picnic tables and our beloved playscape turtle, and ongoing efforts to clean up beautiful Shoal Creek in the park and beyond. These projects are great for civic and youth groups! Paint supplies, pickup tools, trash bags, gloves, water, and snacks will be provided. Please bring your own water bottle and helpful tools like rakes or paintbrushes. Long sleeves and pants that can get dirty, paint-splashed, and can protect against poison ivy are highly recommended! We'll meet at the tennis court/pond side of the park.

Volunteers receive an AWESOME It's My Park Day t-shirt designed by local artists, day-of treats from local businesses, and the satisfaction of giving back to our park! Registration for It's My Park Day

opens February 6. <https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/353170-Beverly-S.-Sheffield-Northwest-District-Park-Love-Fest>.  
**Be a Park Steward All Year**

Leaving the park recently, I met one of our neighbors walking up the street carrying a bag filled with trash. As we chatted, he shared that he walks in the park several times a week and always brings a bag (sometimes extra for recycling and compost). Regrettably, too many people won't walk a few steps to throw trash into the bins provided throughout the park. Picking up even a couple items of trash can make a difference.

Calling 3-1-1 is another way to help by flagging issues that require attention, and folks who visit the park regularly are likely to notice when help is needed. Recently, an unusual water leak bubbling out of the ground near the tennis courts pooled in the parking lot before trickling to the pond. After a few calls and a little patience, the leak was finally fixed.

And there are random acts of kindness. Perhaps you saw the photo of the 500-pound tire that one of our adept neighbors pulled from the pond last November? Thanks go to some fellows with the Society for Creative

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## Celebrate Allandale: Love & Protect It.

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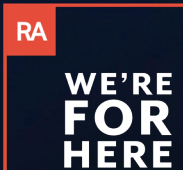


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## Northwest Park Notes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Anachronism (sca.org): Two strong men from their group helped pull a long gate made from fence pipe out of the pond in mid-January and carried it over to an area near trash containers. Folks like these make things better for us all.

### Take a closer look around

To help kick off the new year, our District 7 Council Member Leslie Pool sponsored a resolution that commits the city to adopt twenty-three targets established at the United Nations' Fifteenth Convention on Biological Diversity. Among the targets are measures to: increase biodiversity, support ecosystem restoration, reduce and prevent the introduction of invasive plant species, reduce pollution risks to ecosystems, and increase the amount of, and access to, green and blue spaces in urban areas.

We all can work to promote these goals on a small scale in our own backyards, and in projects at the thirty-one acres that we know as Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest Park that sits in the midst of

our neighborhood. Our recreation options are prized, and the unique natural setting found at Northwest Park offers respite and relaxation for the very young and those who have enjoyed its treasures for decades.

From the fish, turtles and frogs in the pond to the barred owls and red shouldered hawks among other native and migrating species regularly spotted by Travis

Audubon birders (an organizational supporter of this Council resolution), our park is an ecological sanctuary and a place to cherish. We're part of a history that reflects back to shark's teeth and plesiosaur fossils found nearby in Shoal Creek. We just need to remember to slow down and take a look around at nature's beauty. We'll be looking for you at the park! ☘



A barred owl in repose.

## Austin Board of Realtors Real Estate Market Report

Kaylee Romantic

In 2022, the median price for a home in the Austin-Round Rock MSA set a new annual record of \$503,000, according to the December 2022 and Year-End Central Texas Housing Market Report released by the Austin Board of REALTORS®.

Despite this record, the housing market continued shifting towards buyers as home sales declined 18.3% to 33,547 homes sold last year and inventory increased, with homes on the market for thirty-one days, eleven days more than in 2021.

"After two years of unprecedented demand, activity and price increases, our housing market began to stabilize in 2022," Ashley Jackson, 2023 ABoR president, said. "Signs point to that trend continuing in 2023 even as interest rates fluctuate, so buyers need to date the rate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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# Austin Board of Realtors Real Estate Market Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

and marry the house. Bidding wars subdued as homes on average sold for only less than the original listing price in 2022, but as we head into what is normally a seasonal peak for sales, today will still be the most cost-effective time to buy a house.”

Jackson continued, “It is important to remember that we still have a desirable and sought-after market. (I)t is just that now we are seeing our market return to a more normal level of high demand and activity than what we experienced in the years leading up to the COVID pandemic and subsequent boom in our market.”

*From the ABOR Central Texas Housing Market Report AUSTIN, TX ☞*



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# Neighborhood Schools Update

Tara Lane Bowman

## Gullett Elementary

- The 2022-23 Gullett Teacher of the Year is Ms. April Innocente.
- Mark your calendars: VIVA Gullett, the annual spring fundraiser, is April 22 at 6:00 p.m. at Q2 Stadium. All past, present, and future Geckos are invited to join in the fun. Monies raised go toward the Gullett staff appreciation budget. Want to join in? Want to sponsor? Go to [https://gullett.schoolauction.net/viva2023/register/ticket\\_sales](https://gullett.schoolauction.net/viva2023/register/ticket_sales) or use the QR code above.



## Highland Park Elementary

- The 2022-23 Highland Park Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Kati Guimbarda.
- Highland Park Scottie Camp is coming! Interested Scottie families may go to [highlandpark.austinschools.org](http://highlandpark.austinschools.org) and click on Campus >> Scottie Camp >> Registration.
  - Session 1 will be May 30 - June 2 (4-day camp)
  - Session 2 will be June 5 - June 9
  - \*camp hours are 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

## Lamar Middle School and Fine Arts Academy

- The 2022-23 Lamar Teacher of the Year is Ms. Le Easter (theater).
- The currently-under-construction dance studio is on track to open by the start of school for fall 2023.

## McCallum High School

- The 2022-23 McCallum Teacher of the Year is Mr. Gabe Adame (Advanced and AP Biology).
  - Prom will be April 22. Graduation will be May 31. Juniors will take their SATs on March 22.
  - Follow more updates on McCallum on their stellar student journalism site at [macshieldonline.com](http://macshieldonline.com).
- Did you know?** Gullett, Lamar, and McCallum are the only three campuses in Austin ISD that are closed to transfers for the 2023-24 school year. They're that popular! ☘

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## About Me

GARBO A SALON & SPA/  
2023.FEBRUARY

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- ♦ Garbo A Salon & Spa is turning 38!
- ♦ Locally owned since 1985 and winner of various awards.
- ♦ Let's look back on their journey thus far:
- ♦ Top 200 U.S. Salon from 2009-2016
- ♦ Best of Austin Hair Salon 2014

"Garbo is the 30-year veteran of the cosmo scene, offering the north and south side a relaxed atmosphere and reasonably priced hair, makeup, and nail services. Whichever chair our readers choose, they be stepping out looking good - and knowing it!" - *The Austin Chronicle*

Pictured:  
Mother-Daughter  
Day at  
Northcross

Left: Alexa  
Neal,  
Stylist

Right:  
Gretchen  
De Los  
Santos,  
Stylist



Pictured:  
Marsha Power- CEO of Garbo A Salon & Spa

## Happy 38th Anniversary Garbo

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## Deep Purpl

Robert Mace

Açaí berries source from the açai palm tree, hanging like gothic chandeliers beneath quivering fronds. The tree thrives in the Amazon, particularly in Brazil, and the berries carry a deep purple hue. Due to clever marketing, açai berries are perceived by many to be a superfood, although their health benefits are middling compared to other fruits. Regardless of the nutrient shaming, açai is a fruit and therefore a good source of antioxidants, fiber, heart-healthy fats, and calcium. Deep Purpl (why am I suddenly hearing the opening strums of "Smoke on the Water"?) layers açai sorbet with a plethora of customer-chosen ingredients into sedimentary masterpieces of fruit, fresh, and flavor.



The staff at Deep Purpl are helpful if you are a newbie to the açai bowl scene. You first choose your bowl size and then your layers/toppings. If you start with the small size, you are limited to four additions (this is more about room than stinginess), but you can have it all with the larger sizes. I say "bowls," but the containers are really clear-plastic beverage cups, so don't be offended ("I came here to do a bowl, dammit!"). The cups are ideal, allowing you to enjoy the art of the layering.

The purpistas will help you design a bowl that balances flavor, texture, and, depending on your culinary goals, heartiness. For example, if you are relying on your bowl for a meal, you probably want one of the protein butters in there in addition to the fruit and sorbet. If it's busy, you'll be asked to mark up a menu of items for the purpster to accurately conjure your creation. If it's not busy, they may take it as you give it.

Since I usually eat the descendants of dinosaurs for lunch, I was a little concerned that my 16-ounce order including blueberries, bananas, granola, peanut butter, and cocoa nibs wouldn't satiate, but I was surprised at how filling it was. And flavorwise? Quite delicious. The sweeter parts of the tongue fire the most, but the layering adds a random variety of flavor and texture to each spoonful that is quite enjoyable.

Deep Purpl started in Chicago and appears to be expanding across the country, including ours and one in San Francisco (at least). For national-chain wannabees, their web site is oddly uninformative and outdated with no backstory, no menus, no mention of our outpost, and no nutritional information. Smoothies in general can be quite high in sugar, exceeding daily recommended amounts in one order, so I was curious to see how sugary their sorbet is. I'm still curious. And how the heck do you pronounce açai? According to Good Housekeeping (a magazine I should subscribe to given the state of my house): ah-sigh-EE.

All in all, Deep Purpl is a worthy stop. The only sighs at this açai shop are ones of pleasure.

Deep Purpl, [deppurplechicago.com](http://deppurplechicago.com), 2525 West Anderson Lane, (312) 436-0162. Full color review at [austinwanderlist.com](http://austinwanderlist.com) ☼

## About Me Continued

GARBO A SALON & SPA/  
2023.FEBRUARY

- ♦ **Philanthropy** is at the heart of what they do and that's why they have teamed up with **Wigs for Kids**- a non-profit hair donation organization that has been serving children suffering from hair loss since 1981.



Family Affair  
Pictured: Client  
Brea is a  
granddaughter  
of an original  
Garbo client 37  
years ago! She's  
a school teacher  
who donates her  
locks to Wigs for  
Kids every  
couple of years!!

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Austin, TX. It feels good! I  
can't wait to see what  
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the future" -Powers

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# Pita Fusion

Robert Mace

One of my hobbies is picking up trash in the neighborhood. One time, a neighbor came out of his house and approached me. "What'd you do?" he said. "I'm sorry," I replied, confused. He pointed to the picker and my trash bags. "You've been picking up trash around here for more than five years. That's a lot of community service. Did you kill someone?" So when a lady approached me on the street a few weeks back while picking trash, I flinched, looking for her can of pepper spray. "Aren't you the food writer for the newsletter?" she asked. I nodded. "Have you been to Pita Fusion yet?"

Pita Fusion, next to Dos Batos, opened in early January to sling pita pockets and salads. Our pita outpost is the third with the original up yonder in Round Rock and the second near Lakeline Mall. Conceived by the Calandro brothers, they developed their own pita recipe, which is softer and more pliable than the neolithic

pitass you've eaten before and even have a whole wheat version. Baked fresh every day, their pitass are by far the best I've ever had—soft, strong, and good cocoons for the innards.

Pita Fusion is a Mediterranean version of Chipotle with fast-casual service and interactive ingredient selection. And my neighbor was right: These dang things are dang good! The proteins are deeply savory and the veggies pop with color, flavor, and crispness.

You can fill your pita from the ground up or start with one of their "Cult Favorites," including the Touchdown Tim (chicken and gyro with grilled black olives and banana peppers), The Chingo Bling (chicken, steak, bacon, avocado, grilled onions and green pepper), and the Danimal (chicken, pepperoni, salami, and bacon with grilled jalapenos and avocado), among others. There is a vegetarian option centered with portobello mushrooms.

Once you place your order, the main items get a good griddling while you choose your veggies and one or more of the fifteen (!) sauces, the latter of which range from pedestrian (mayo) to raised eyebrows (jalapeno ranch, ancho chipotle) to WTH (pita punch).

Depending on what you order, you're looking at a reasonable \$11.00 to \$14.00 bill, with an extra \$3.00 for a bag of chips and fountain drink. So far, I've had the Chingo Bling twice and the Danimal, and have walked away with a smile, a full stomach, and plans to return. The staff are friendly and happy to make recommendations if you are overwhelmed. All in all, Pita Fusion is a simple concept exceedingly well done. Based on the busyness, word is getting out!

*Pita Fusion, [www.pitafusion.com](http://www.pitafusion.com), 2525 West Anderson Lane, (512) 284-9807. Full color review at [austinwanderlist.com](http://austinwanderlist.com) ☘*

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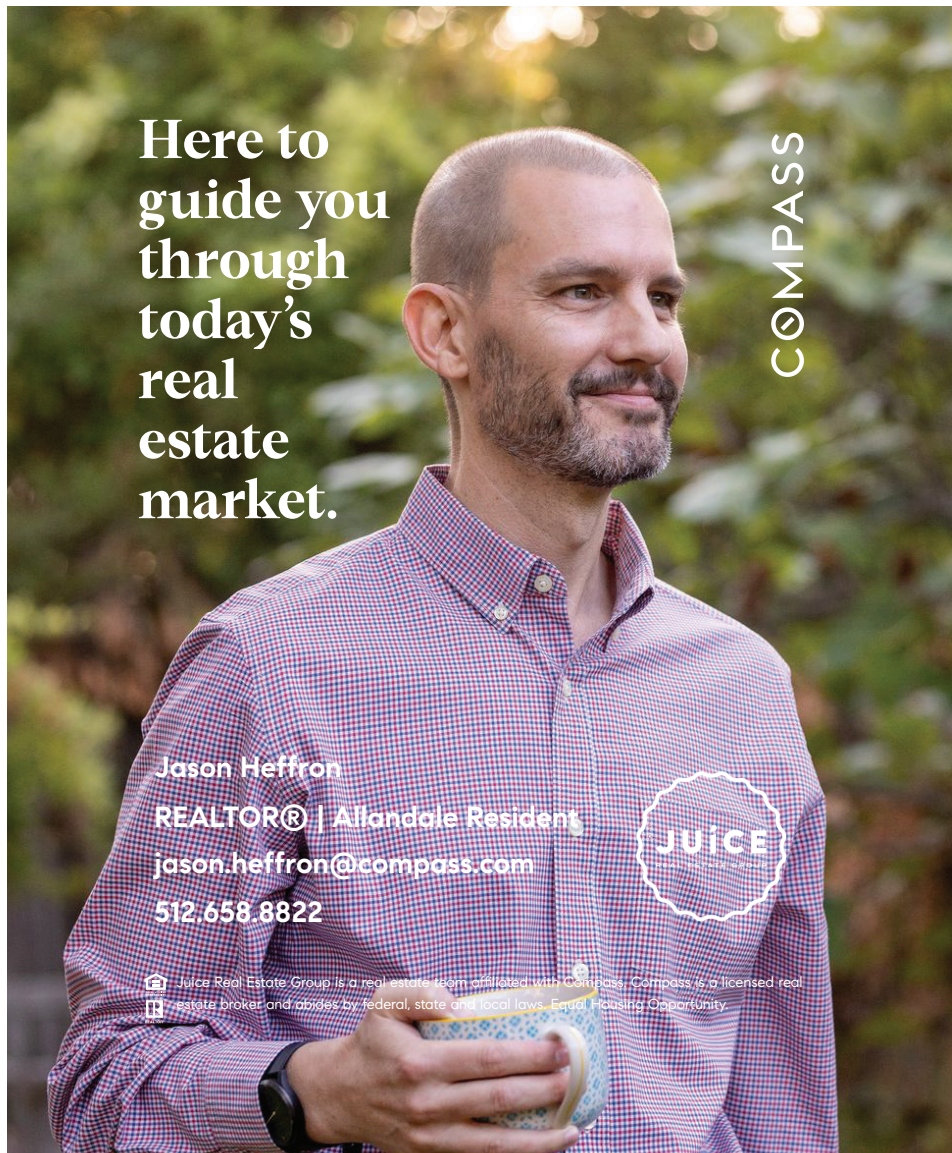
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