



# Allandale Neighbor

October 2022  
Vol 37, Issue 5

Distributed to more than 4,900 homes by the Allandale Neighborhood Association

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### It's My Park Day! Clean-up at Northwest on November 5

learn more on page 14



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Allandale Neighborhood  
Association  
and Allandale Neighbors

## Allandale Block Captain Program Needs You!

Carlene Wegmann Todd, ANA Safety Committee  
[ana\\_safety@googlegroups.com](mailto:ana_safety@googlegroups.com)

Allandale has a long history of active and friendly neighborhood involvement. From our beloved Fourth of July Parade, Gullett Elementary School and Lamar Middle School events, Beverley S. Sheffield Northwest Park events and Shoal Creek clean-ups, to our Neighborhood Block Captain program, Allandale residents love to support our schools, parks and neighbors. prevention and safety awareness.

The Allandale Block Captain program is one of the best ways to get to know the neighbors on your block, while staying up to date on events, safety and crime issues. The key idea is to watch out for each other and keep communication open, which makes for a stronger community all around.

The key responsibilities include communicating important information regarding block gatherings, neighborhood events and crime alerts to the neighbors on their block. The time commitment is very small, and the outcome can be extremely

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## Lights Out for Birds!

Nicole Netherton, Executive Director,  
Travis Audubon

Have you seen yard signs in Allandale proclaiming, "Lights Out for Birds"? Turning non-essential lights off between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. not only saves money on your electric bill, but it also helps the billions of birds migrating through Texas avoid building collisions. By participating, you are helping to decrease light pollution in our area. Darker skies will help you sleep better, too.

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## Lettuce Recycle

Dena Houston

THE CIRCLE OF SOIL: A STEAK BONE'S JOURNEY TO THE GARDEN

Organics by Gosh is the company that processes all of the food and yard waste collected by the City of Austin for composting. They are an organic compost company; they add no chemicals to the composting process. All composting at Organics by Gosh is accomplished using only heat, water and time. It takes about

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## The Allandale Neighbor

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### www.allandaleneighbor.com

EDITOR TBD  
ADVERTISING 512-348-8ADS  
allandaleneighbor@gmail.com  
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CONTACT INFORMATION  
Allandale Neighbor,  
PO Box 10886, Austin, TX 78766-1886  
allandaleneighbor@gmail.com

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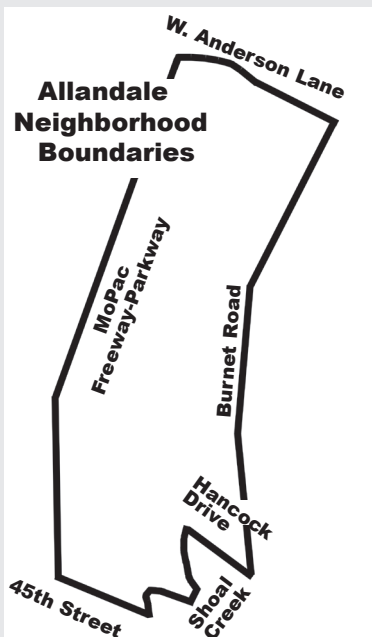
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center. General Membership meetings are held in April and October. (Meetings are currently held via Zoom)

### Committees

BYLAWS Carlos Salinas  
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### Allandale Police District Rep.

Officer James Hyatt, 512-974-6894  
james.hyatt@austintexas.gov



## President's Letter

Hans Magnusson, ANA President

(512) 522-8773, ana@hmviking.com

Dear Allandale Neighbors:

The weather just turned downright pleasant the past several days after the heat dome and some rain. We are under an unwelcome attack of aphids drizzling sticky goo all over the ground. It's like glue that attaches any loose rocks to your shoes, and it makes the ground look wet. I haven't seen this amount of aphid goo for a decade or more. I couldn't resist ordering lady bugs that were delivered the other day to combat the invasion. Now it is a race between the lady bugs hopefully gorging themselves on aphids and the leaves dropping to the ground as we enter fall season before the sticky drizzle is gone.

After Randy White's spectacular work of organizing the Fourth of July parade and other events over the past year, we need volunteers to our Social Committee to help organize events for people in the neighborhood to meet each other.

It is election season again. The ANA General Meeting is on October 12 at the Northwest Recreation Center. We will elect a new board of directors to serve the neighborhood. It has been entertaining for me to have served as the president of ANA over the past year.

Early voting for county, state and federal general elections starts on October 24. People who don't vote have scant rationale to complain about the state of affairs in our country. Be civilized to our friendly poll workers and respect their integrity and competency in carrying out the election.

干杯

Hans ☘

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1/2 Page	7½ x 5	\$225
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We prefer digital files, at least 300 pixels (TIFF or PDF best). We can create or alter your ad for a nominal charge. For an additional \$60 we will create an online ad to place on the Allandale web site: [www.allandaleneighbor.com](http://www.allandaleneighbor.com).

\* a 10% discount is offered on three or more ads.

# Halloween Safety Tips

ANA Safety Committee

Halloween was my favorite evening out as a child. It was so much fun to dress up and I loved candy, especially the “good kind” like Snickers and Peanut M&Ms. To keep Halloween fun and accident free, here are some tips:

- Make sure the costume is fire resistant
- The costume should be light in color or have reflective tape on it or have your child hold a flashlight, glow stick, or glow bracelet.
- Check your child's costume for tripping hazards (too long in the legs, shoes that are difficult to walk in)
- Use face makeup instead of a mask so your child can see better.
- Walk on sidewalks or on the side of the road and look for vehicles when crossing the street.
- Adults should accompany small children.
- Older children should agree on a route and return time home.
- Emphasize with kids on their own to stay in a group and to not enter homes of those they do not know. They should stay in familiar territory.

For those wanting Trick or Treaters at your home leave your porch light on so they know you are participating. Have fun!

ANA Safety Committee ☼



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# Allandale Block Captain Program Needs You!

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

beneficial. We will hold quarterly meetings with the Block Captains either by ZOOM or in person.

If you are interested, or were a Block Captain in the past and would like to re-engage, please contact me or Julie Peckham by sending an email to [ana\\_safety@googlegroups.com](mailto:ana_safety@googlegroups.com).

We are currently looking for Block Captains for the following streets:

- 49 1/2 ST
- NORTHLAND DR
- 50th ST
- OAKMONT BLVD
- 5400 SHOAL CREEK BLVD
- PARK VIEW DR
- 6300 SHOAL CREEK WEST
- 6500-6600 SHOAL CREEK BLVD
- PEMBROKE TRAIL & RUE ST
- 6700 - 6800 SHOAL CREEK BLVD
- PERRY LN
- ARGENTIA RD & BORDEN RD
- PINELEAF PL
- BULL CREEK - north of Allandale Rd
- PINWOOD TERRACE
- CARLEEN DR
- RAMSEY AVE
- CARLISLE DR & JAMAICA CT
- RICHCREEK DR
- CARY DR
- RICKEY DR & GENA CT
- CASCADE DR
- ROSEDALE AVE
- CHIAPPERO TRAIL
- SHADY OAK CT
- CRESTMONT DR
- SHOAL CREEK BLVD - 49TH - HANCOCK
- DAUGHERTY ST
- SHOALMONT DR
- FINLEY DR - 45th - 49th
- SHOALWOOD AVE- north
- FISET DR
- SILVERLEAF DR
- FOSTER LN
- SINCLAIR AVE
- FRANCES PL
- STARDUST DR
- GREENHAVEN DR
- STONEWAY DR & PIONEER PL
- HANCOCK DR - (Bull Creek - Shoal Creek)
- STRASS DR
- HIGHLAND TERRACE
- TERRAIN LN
- JANEY DR
- TREADWELL BLVD & SAVOY CT
- LAWNMONT AVE
- VILLAGE DR
- LEXINGTON RD & MOHAWK DR
- VINE ST
- LOUISE LN & SUSIE CT
- WEST MARKET DR
- LYNNWOOD ST
- WEST PARK DR
- MONTVIEW ST
- WESTFIELD DR
- NEW HAVEN CT & SONORA CT ☼

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Tuesday	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Thursday	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Friday	10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am - 7:00 pm

2140 Allandale Road  
Austin, TX 78756

# Lights Out for Birds!

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

You may have questions about this initiative; see if these answers help:

## Why are birds flying through our area?

Austin sits in the Central Flyway, one of four migration “superhighways” in North America. Birds sense the changing seasons and many head south for the winter. Many migratory birds fly overnight and travel at different altitudes depending on species. Fall migration lasts from late August until Thanksgiving, with the peak occurring in late September and early October.

## Why are lights at night dangerous for birds?

For reasons that we don’t completely understand, migrating birds are attracted to and often disoriented by artificial lights. We have seen this with the 9/11 Tribute Lights in New York over the past 20 years; the bright lights cause them to become disoriented and sometimes exhausted. In urban areas, this means they are more likely to come into contact with glass and collide into buildings. It’s not just tall glass buildings that cause collisions; many birds fly into home and apartment windows, confused by the reflections of trees. [See <https://www.nycaudubon.org/blog/2666> for more information on the 9/11 Tribute Lights.]

## I don’t feel safe turning off my lights at night. What else can I do?

The best solution is to turn lights off, but there are other ways you can make your home and yard friendlier for birds (and for your human neighbors). These involve shielding, color, intensity, among other factors. Consider these ideas:

- Turn off landscape lighting in trees or gardens where birds may be resting during migration periods
- Aim security lights down
- Install motion detectors or timers for flood lights instead of keeping them on all night
- Replace your outdoor fixtures with dark-skies friendly models that are fully shielded. These are certified by the International Dark Sky Association and are relatively affordable
- Replace your outdoor bulbs with friendlier color temperatures: best is off, but better are warmer (more yellow) tones under 3500 Kelvin. Blue light LEDs have increasingly been shown to disrupt circadian rhythms for humans as well as wildlife.

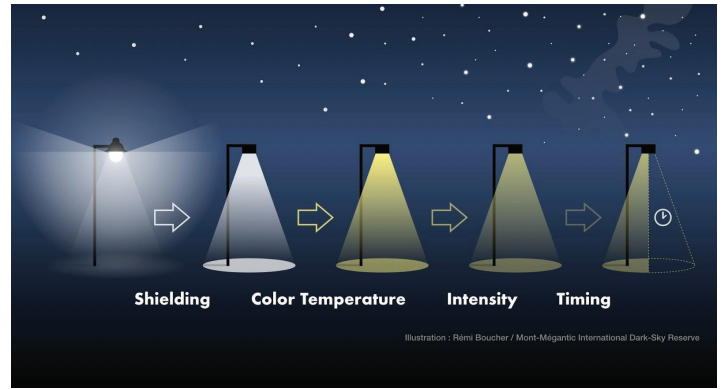


Photo 2. Ways you can help improve lighting for darker skies



Lights Out sign-- contact Travis Audubon to get one for your yard.

## How can I get a yard sign?

Go to the Travis Audubon website and click on the Painted Bunting yard sign to sign up for one.

## Where can I learn more about this initiative and the science behind it?

There is lots of information at these websites: [travisaudubon.org/lights-out-texas](http://travisaudubon.org/lights-out-texas), [mcdonaldobservatory.org](http://mcdonaldobservatory.org), click on “Dark skies” [darksky.org](http://darksky.org), [birdcast.info/science-to-action/lights-out/](http://birdcast.info/science-to-action/lights-out/) (the Cornell Lab of Ornithology) ☼



Photo 1. Before and after results for porch lights replaced with fully shielded fixtures.

## Join ANA Today!

Annual membership dues are just \$10–\$20 per household.

visit [www.allandaleneighbor.com](http://www.allandaleneighbor.com) to join or check your membership status

# Lettuce Recycle

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

120 days for the compostable matter that comes into the facility to become compost.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Craig Crawford, General Manager of Organics by Gosh. This edition of Lettuce Recycle shares with you what I learned.

## NEED MORE FOOD WASTE

Organics by Gosh is getting lots of leaves and yard waste but not enough food waste from its Austin customers. It takes a careful balance of food and yard waste to make good compost. There are challenges to collecting food to put into the green bin. There is the YUCK factor, and many Austinites are not willing to deal with this. Here are some ways to make it easier to collect food for composting and some important reasons to compost more food waste.

- Leave a container lined with a compostable bag on the kitchen counter to collect the food. Take the bag out often to prevent odor and bugs.
- Food can also be put into paper bags, small cardboard boxes, or wrapped in newspaper.

- You can downsize your trash cart when you put more food waste into the green can. Going from a 96-gallon trash cart to a 24-gallon trash cart can save over \$300 per year.
- More food in the green bin reduces the amount that goes to the landfill.

## THE SORTING PROCESS

When compost is brought into the facility, it is sorted by hand. Workers open the bags to check for contaminants. It is a very dangerous and dirty job, but totally necessary to make sure the material is not contaminated. All non-compostable materials are removed and sent to the landfill.

## KEEP GLASS, PLASTIC, CLAM AND OYSTER SHELLS OUT OF COMPOST

- If glass isn't pulled out by the sorters, it gets ground up by the machinery and contaminates the compost pile. When this happens, the entire pile of compost has to go to the landfill.
- Plastic containers with food still in them are being thrown into the green bin. Examples are restaurant take-out containers and tubs for butter, sour

cream, and cream cheese.

- Clam and oyster shells should not go into the green bins. They break the grinding equipment.
- ## UNUSUAL ITEMS FOUND IN GREEN COMPOST BINS

- Small barbecue grill hidden under leaves
- Part of a mattress stuffed into the bin
- A variety of balls (especially tennis balls)

## QUESTION FROM A READER:

Can tennis ball canisters (even with a metal ring at the top) go into the blue recycling bin?

ANSWER: Yes, they can.

## STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: [www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do](http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do)

If you have any recycling questions, please send them to: [recycling@hpbwban.org](mailto:recycling@hpbwban.org) z ☼



Yard signs available HERE

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# The Red Tail or The Snake

Steve Oleson

A friend contacted me, saying that his daughter saw an injured hawk in the middle of a busy street in Austin. He asked me if I would help. It wasn't far away, so it only took about fifteen minutes to gather the equipment I might need and drive to the location. When I got there, there was no one in sight. Thank goodness for cell phones! I called her and she said the hawk had gotten off the road and was at the bottom of Shoal Creek, that flows by and under the road at that spot.



Figure 1: Hawk wearing falconry hood holding snake. Photo by Isabel Keddy Hector

The red-tailed hawk was down amongst the mud and tree roots. It was sitting upright but not moving. Its left wing was at an awkward angle. I crept slowly and quietly up behind the hawk. It still did not move. It was then that I noticed that it had a fairly large snake firmly in its talons. The snake was wrapped around the hawk. Nobody was moving, not even me.


I was not sure what kind of snake it was: a moccasin or a water snake. I felt I had to do something, regardless. I had brought my double thickness goat hide gauntlet, so felt certain that I could disentangle the snake and hawk without getting

too seriously injured. I grabbed the hawk's feet and the snake, and my friend grabbed the hawk's wings. We lifted them out of the quagmire and started to work, after hooding the hawk. It was easy to unwrap the snake from around the hawk, but the hawk was not letting go of his intended meal: a water snake. Eventually, I pried the hawk's feet off the snake and was able to release the snake.

My friend took the hawk to Wildlife Rescue who examined the hawk and said it was a simple break to the left wing, which should heal well enough for the hawk to be released back into the wild. I have to say: only a red-tailed hawk could survive a broken wing and Austin traffic and still catch a meal! ☘


# Yard Life

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# Chiggers

Wizzie Brown

Chiggers are the first stage out of the egg of a particular type of mite. They climb onto people and other animals walking through infested areas, crawl upwards, and wander around the body seeking a good site to settle down and feed. Feeding preference for these mites on humans is in areas where skin is thinnest (behind knees, armpits) or where clothing fits tightly, such as the ankles, waist, and the groin area.

Chiggers do not burrow into skin as many people believe, so “smothering” them with nail polish is useless. When chiggers feed, they inject a digestive enzyme that breaks down skin cells which are then eaten. Itching and redness is caused when our body reacts to the enzymes injected into our skin. Itching typically begins three to six hours after being bitten, peaks at twenty-four hours, and can last up to two weeks.

The best way to avoid getting chiggers is to avoid infested areas. Since this is not

always possible, here are some other things to try:

- Wear protective clothing—tightly woven items that fit loosely, including long sleeves and pants, and shoes or boots
- Tuck pant legs into socks and boots
- Use an insect repellent with DEET or picaridin before entering an infested area
- Avoid sitting on the ground
- Remove and launder clothing as soon as possible after being in infested areas
- Shower or bathe after being in an infested area; scrub vigorously with a washcloth

To treat chigger infestations around the home, try the following:

- Keep lawn trimmed
- Maintain vegetation; do not allow weeds to grow up, and keep brush cleared
- Target infested areas with residual pesticide sprays

For chigger bites:

- Do not scratch pustules; opening a pustule might lead to infection
  - Use oral antihistamines or topical anti-itch creams to relieve itching sensation
- For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at (512) 854-9600.

**TEXAS A&M**  
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**EXTENSION**

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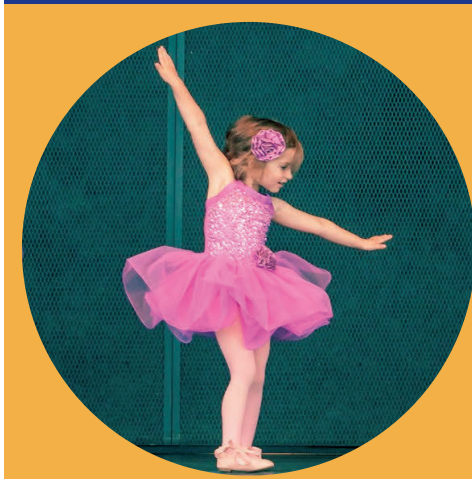
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# Last Chance for Feedback – Northwest Pool Renovation

Mary Fero

Share your feedback by October 24, 2022 at the address provided below.

After receiving more than 400 responses from the community related to proposed renovations for Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest Pool, Park and Recreation Department staff presented the final pool design concept at a second community meeting held September 28 at Northwest

Recreation Center. Key features of the new plan include:

- Kiddie pool with zero depth entry and play features
- Renovated changing rooms
- New fence, entry gates, and accessible entrance
- New pump room addition
- New service drive
- New stepped entry to pool.

The recording of the second meeting and additional information is on the project web page:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/sheffieldNWpool>

Community members have one additional chance to offer feedback to the project team through the Final Concept Survey that is open through October 24:

<https://publicinput.com/sheffieldNWpool3>

For additional questions, please contact Patrick Beyer, the Project Manager, at (512) 974-9476, or using the contact form on the project web page given above. ☼

# Real Estate Market Update

Kaylee Romantic

Is the Austin real estate market crashing?

Some say yes, but most in our industry say no. So why is that and who do you believe? At the end of the day, we simply have to wait and see, as none of us has a crystal ball. But what affects where we are headed, and why don't industry-leading experts believe it's all doom and gloom?

**The economy:** As we all know, the economy will be the biggest factor determining how the real estate market unfolds over the next twelve to twenty-four months. The Federal Reserve raising mortgage rates and inflation raising the price of most goods will dramatically affect what we see in the real estate market. As rates rise, buyers who could afford one price at an interest rate of three percent now find themselves able to afford significantly less. However, it's important to recognize that the last two years were an anomaly, with rates historically low. This is not a period we should be comparing to. Yes, we may see a "higher than normal" rate in the six-to-seven percent range compared to the average three-to-five percent rates we saw from 2010 until recently; but with the nation impacted by inflation and recession, we expect rates to fall in the next twenty-four months and beyond.

**The local market:** We all read the national news but one thing that not everyone considers is that real estate is *hyperlocal*. What's happening in Boise, Idaho, in real estate will not be the same in Austin, Texas. Furthermore, what's happening in your neighborhood might be different than what's happening in a neighborhood across town. Austin has one of the fastest growing job markets in the nation, but we should also focus on the average salary of the jobs moving into the city. The largest growing industry in Austin is technology, so what does that pay? According to an article written by Hired.com, "Austin's average tech worker salary is \$144,000." High demand coupled with low inventory will continue to drive the price of Austin's homes up by from three to over ten percent per year for the foreseeable future.

So what does it all mean? The market has paused, not stopped, and local experts absolutely do not believe prices will fall; they will stabilize, then continue to grow once again. If you are thinking of buying but are deterred by interest rates, remember these are temporary, and your mortgage can always be refinanced when they go back down; but your dream home now may cost up to twenty percent more when rates finally do go down. ☼

HECHO EN TEJAS

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## Allandale Quick Bites

Robert Mace

As I made my restaurant rounds in late September, I saw early signs of Austin's favorite holiday: Halloween. So, it's appropriate that there was a bloodbath at **Kitchen United** where **Bad-Ass Breakfast Burritos**, **Bad Mutha Clucka**, **Dog Haus**, **Grimaldi's**, **Plant B**, and **Pollo Campero** were all quietly Texas chain sawed. Apparently, at 8023 Burnet Road, no one can hear your favorite restaurant scream. Fortunately, steak-as-tough-as-Leatherface stopped the carnage there with no other casualties, although our Luby's finally served its last mac-n and **Austin Terrier** no longer howls at the moon. The **Radfish** trailer quickly swam in and out of **Pat's Games**.

**Pinthouse Pizza** and **Chi'Lantro** have reopened after quick remodels, and reports of the demise of **Sap's Fine Thai Food** were exaggerated. **Choo**, purveyor of Japanese sandwiches, sushi, and omakase, is now open at 5222 Burnet Road (but get there early because they sell out!). The juice bar **pressed** has moved into the former location of **Fluff Meringues** at 4800 Burnet Road. **MrBeast Burger** (sounds like good chow for All Hallow's Eve) is now available for pick-up or delivery from the hidden heart of 2700 West Anderson Lane. The Chinese restaurant, **Seven Spice**,

is open at 3901 Spicewood Springs Road. **Texas French Bread** is baking again with its wares available through **Farmhouse** delivery, and **Alamo Drafthouse** is celebrating 25 years of food and film. The **5000 Burnet Trailer Park** now hosts the frozen treats of **Merry Monarch Creamery**. The 100% Watermelon Slush from **Dawa** across the way from Merry Monarch totally rocked!

A mysterious place called **Austin's Very Own Saltt** (that is not a typo) is opening in Northcross Center. My sleuthing reveals that they will be cooking with gas and selling mixed drinks. Sounds promising. There has been more progress at the locations for **Carve American Grille**, **Verdad True Modern Mexican**, **Pita Fusion**, **Pokéworks**, **East Side Pies**, and **VooDoo Donuts**. **The Grove Market** appears to be close to opening as they were stocking when I peepingtommed their windows. Near, new, and notable are **ATX Grill RH**, from the folks that ran **Russian House** downtown, which will be opening at the old **Sala & Betty** location on Airport Boulevard, and **Bulevar**, from the same folks that brought us downtown's **ATX Cocina**, opening at the former Arboretumish location of **Z'Tejas**.

The sustenance cyclones at **Eater Austin** recognized **Cover 3** and **Billy's on Burnet** as fun sports bars; **EurAsia 3**, **Pokéworks**, and **Poke Poke** as good places to get poked; **Dan's** and **Top Notch** as iconic

burger slingers; **Bufulina Due** and **The Peached Tortilla** for cheap eats and drinks for happy hour; **dipdipdip** and **Barley Swine** on where to splurge for dinner; **Tumble 22** for affordable eats; **Nissi Vegan Mexican VegMex** and **Citizen Eatery** for meat-free dishes; and **China Family**, **Tso**, **Chinatown**, and **Old Thousand** for great Chinese. **Thrillest** gave shout-outs to **Picnik** and **Tso** for best vegan and vegetarian; **dipdipdip** and **Fonda San Miguel** for most romantic; and **Picnik**, **Poke Poke**, **Jack Allen's**, **Le Bleu**, and **Shu Shu's** as best places to lunch. **Yelp** recognized **Barley Swine** as one of the most photographed restaurants in Austin, and **Open Table** included **Chez Zee** among its best brunches.

The **Austin Chronicle** recently published its annual Best of Austin issue. **Upper Crust** got the nod for Best Bakery, **Hat Creek Burger Co.** for Best Kid's Menu and Best Playscape, **Fonda San Miguel** for best interior Mexican, **Chi'Lantro** for best Korean, **JewBoy Burgers** for Best Burgers, **Jack Allen's Kitchen** for Best Chicken Fried Steak and Best Weekend Brunch, **Amy's Ice Creams** for Best Frozen Treats, **Thundercloud Subs** for Best Sandwich, and **JuiceLand** for Best Juice/Smoothies. No tricks here: just treats!

For hotlinks (digital, not sausages from Elgin) and color photos, please visit [www.austinwanderlist.com](http://www.austinwanderlist.com). ☘

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## Burnet Go To Robert Mace

It always felt a little illicit to visit The Growler Room in Suite 2 at 6800 Burnet Road. You entered a darkish, windowless, small room from the rear and ponied up to a short bar tended to by a suspicious dude who looked like Al Jourgensen's uncle. So, it was a quite a surprise to walk into Burnet Go To at the same location and be greeted with a bright, spacious, and cheery business. The owners have completely reworked the space from the rooter to the tooter to create a pleasant spot with oodles of natural light that is part coffee shop, part soccer bar, and part snack bar but all the neighborhood hang out.

For the morning shift, the Go To offers up a full range of espresso drinks, cold brews, and teas (including a chai latte). Our guilty fave is the Horchata and Espresso (\$4.50 for 16 oz) conjured with the gritty-goodness of house made horchata. Mornings will greet you with breakfast tacos from Cheko's, pastries

from Quackenbush, and, when the little oven is working, warm breakfast sandwiches. The seats are comfortable and the Wi-Fi strong for those that have work to do or need to access their socials.

For the evening shift, a rotation of beers flow from the wall, frosé from a machine, and canned specialties from the fridges. The Go To also serves a couple reds, a couple whites, and an Italian bubbly. On the food side, they offer boats of different snacks (bugles, muchos, peanut butter pretzels, parmesan goldfish, or smoked almonds), flavored popcorn, and a couple cheese plates. On a recent visit, we tried the Pimento Cheese Plate (Tillamook cheddar, candied jalapenos, and 512 pecans served with redneck crackers and jalapeño chardonnay jelly; \$8) and were impressed with the quality and quantity. The Bride, half a pint in, exclaimed upon the dish's arrival, "It doesn't matter if it's good or not because they give you enough f\$#!\*g crackers!" And those Redneck Crackers—saltines painted with cayenne—were absolute firecrackers.

The Go To is big on English and local soccer and hosts the Fighting Leslies Drinking Club to watch Austin FC away games. We happenstanced into one of those viewings, and it was a hoot with Spanglish singing and all the associated hooting and hollering. Speaking of sound, each of the three owners has a line of vinyl they spin from when tending bar. And if you need to take the party with you, you can leave with a growler of your fave brew.

The Austin Chronicle gave Burnet Go To early accolades as the Best New Beer Bar of 2022, noting that they are a rare beast these days: a new bar not associated with a brewery. Given that the Go To is walking distance to (and stumbling distance back to) our house and it's such a fun and friendly place, we hope to become regulars. And that suspicious dude who looks like Al Jourgensen's uncle? He now tends bar at the Go To (and is quite the sweetheart).

*Burnet Go To, 6800 Burnet Road, Suite 2; (512) 394-5556; burnetgoto.com, full color review at [www.austinwanderlist.com](http://www.austinwanderlist.com) ☞*

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# Monkey Nest Coffee

Robert Mace

With one pandemic (hopefully) on the fade and another ascending, it seemed like the right time to write about Monkey Nest Coffee over yonder on Burnet Road. The monkey nesters are local and strive to use local, organic, and natural ingredients for their coffees, pastries, tacos, and lunch items. A neighborhood fixture since 2009, this monkey business has plenty of seating, strong Wi-Fi, and a friendly, old-school vibe.

On a recent visit to meet with the wrong Johanna to talk about climate change, I went full monkey with the Spicy Monkey Mocha (with chocolate, cinnamon, and cayenne; \$5), a Hungry Monkey breakfast taco (\$5.50), and a Monkey Muffin (\$4.50). I'm generally boring with my beans, preferring my java straight-up with none of the fancy or sweet. Still, the Spicy Monkey was pleasurablely tasty, much heavier on the cinnamon than the cayenne. And I just noticed the Monkeys Uncle on the menu, a latte with peanut butter, banana, and chocolate!

The Hungry Monkey is a solid breakfast taco with a bit of everything in it; sadly, the Monkey doesn't post its menu, so I couldn't discern exactly what was in it (hopefully not rhesus pieces!). The Monkey Muffin was a bit of dietary overkill after inhaling the Hungry Monkey, but I put my health on the line every day for you, our dedicated readers, so I dove in. And it was a sticky, nutty, and delicious mess that brought back pleasant memories of making monkey bread with Mom in the early 80s. Culinary side notes: (1) monkey bread has its origins in the Hungarian treat, arany galuska, and (2) Nancy Reagan served monkey bread every Christmas. Monkey Nest's muffin-sized version is appropriately scaled down and even better than a full loaf with crispy edges everywhere.

Monkey Nest also serves up a wide selection of teas and sandwiches. I've enjoyed several of their decadent quiches and imbibed many a competent latte there. They do not serve alcohol (alas, no Monkey Bar), do not call their cappuccinos capuchin-os, and do not refer to their chocolate chip cookies as chocolate

chimp cookies, but no place can be perfect. All in all, it's good to have Nest of Monkeys in the 'hood. If you ever want to go and need company, remember: I'm a chimp date.

*Monkey Nest Coffee, 5353 Burnet Road, (512) 505-8033, monkeynestcoffee.com, full color review at [www.austinwanderlist.com](http://www.austinwanderlist.com) ☼*



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## IT'S MY PARK DAY

**Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park Creek Clean-up Saturday, November 5 – Northwest Park – 8:30 am – noon**

Join fellow park and creek lovers at Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park for our bi-annual creek clean-up! Volunteers will clean up our beautiful Shoal Creek in the park and beyond. Trash bags, gloves, water, snacks, and rakes are provided, but **PLEASE BRING YOUR WATER BOTTLE** and wear work-appropriate clothing.

Meet at the tennis court/pond side of the park. We will start right at 9 am. Part of our team will work in the creek bed pulling out trash/debris heading south and north. While other team members will help haul filled trash bags out of the creek and into the park dumpsters.

Thank you so much for joining us on It's My Park Day! Of course, you will receive an AWESOME It's My Park Day t-shirt designed by local artists and day-of treats from local businesses!

More information about It's My Park Day can be found at Austin Parks Foundation: <https://austinparks.org/impd/>

Registration through APF / GivePulse opens Monday, October 10. Search for our event: Beverly Sheffield Northwest District Park Creek Clean Up.

Look for updates and possible additional projects on the ANA email listserv and on the ANA website: [www.allandaleneighbor.com](http://www.allandaleneighbor.com)

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