



# Allandale Neighbor

August 2024  
Vol 39, Issue 4

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### First Day of School for Austin ISD

» Tuesday, August 20

### ANA General Meeting

» Wednesday, October 2  
» Northwest Recreation Center

### Voter Registration Deadline

» Monday, October 7

### Early Voting

» Begins: Monday, October 21  
» Ends: Friday, November 1

### Ballot By Mail Application Deadline

» Friday, October 25

### Election Day

» Tuesday, November 5

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## Think Twice About Spraying for Mosquitoes

Nicole Netherton

**P**erhaps the only thing I dread more than the summer heat are the mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are (statistically) the world's deadliest animal, causing illness and death for hundreds of thousands of people across the world every year. (Not all mosquitoes bite humans, and many species are pollinators themselves, as well as food for many other creatures in the food chain, but I digress.)

Taking steps to control them in your yard is a reasonable idea, but hiring a mosquito control company to spray your yard causes more harm than good. Not only is it not the most effective way to control these insects, but it can have harmful environmental effects.

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### Wildlife Migrations Close to Home

Elaine Robbins

This month is a great time to join people at the Congress Avenue bridge to watch Austin's colony of 1.5 million free-tailed bats fly out from their roost each evening at dusk. It's an attraction that draws people worldwide and contributes \$10 million to the local economy. But here in Allandale, we can see spectacular migrations closer to home. Some 2 billion birds boot-scoot through Texas in late summer and fall—more than in any other state. We're also on the fall migration route of monarch butterflies. So grab your family and friends and check out some of these great migrations.

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### Get Ready for the November 5 Election

Ranleigh Hirsh

**Tuesday, November 5, 2024**, is our next election; it is a big one. You will vote for the 47th President of the United States. In Texas, you must be registered to vote before the election. You can vote in person during early voting or on election day or apply to vote by mail, called Ballot by Mail. Check out [VoteTravis.com](http://VoteTravis.com) for more details.

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ALLAN  
DALE

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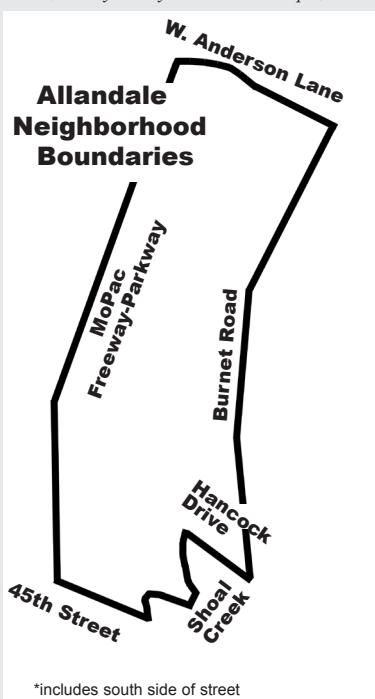
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center. General Membership meetings are held in April and October. (Meetings are currently held via Zoom)

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# Open Letter to Allandale

Allandale Neighborhood Association

The Allandale Neighborhood Association is excited to host mayoral and District 7 Council member candidate forums to help you familiarize yourself with the candidates and their positions. The dates and locations are still being finalized, but they will take place in early to mid-October and be held in or near Allandale.

We want to ensure the candidates address the questions and issues most pressing to you. Please email us your concerns, needs, and/or worries about Allandale and the Austin community in general to **allandaleneighborhood@gmail.com**. We will make every effort to ensure the forum addresses the topics that truly matter to our community.

We will keep you informed of the final dates and times for the forums via email, our neighborhood listserv, signs, website (**allandaleneighbor.com**), and our social media channels. We encourage you to share this information with neighbors and make plans to attend the forums. Your attendance will demonstrate to the candidates that our neighborhood is engaged in the democratic process and that we expect them to address our needs with sincerity and dedication.

Lastly, we cannot stress enough the importance of voting in the November 5 elections. Each vote counts, and your participation matters in shaping the future of our community. Please make sure you are registered to vote and that your voter registration is current. You can check your registration status at the Texas Secretary of State's My Voter Portal: [bit.ly/3Sx43Fg](http://bit.ly/3Sx43Fg)

If you're not registered, the voter registration deadline is October 7 for the November 5 election. You can register to vote online and in person (Allandale has several Volunteer Deputy Registrars who can help you register). You can also register to vote by mail, but it must be postmarked no later than October 7.

We look forward to your input for the candidate forums and to seeing you there. Together, we can ensure that our neighborhood's voice is strong and that our city leaders are responsive to the needs of all residents.



The *Allandale Neighbor* is published and distributed bimonthly by the ANA. Contact our ad coordinator at [allandaleneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:allandaleneighbor@gmail.com) for more information.

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## Independence Day in Allandale

Mary Fero

The annual tradition of the Allandale parade continued this Fourth of July as it has for many years. It was bigger than last year with more participants. Our neighbors found their places along Bullard Drive well in advance and by the time the parade began at 9:00 am, there was hardly a spare piece of curb to be found.

This year's parade featured Girl and Boy Scouts, classic cars, Allandale's beloved revolutionary reenactors, and even some political muscle in the form of our District 7 city council candidates. The fierce competition between Yellowpine Terrace with their Yellowpine Submarine float and Silverleaf Drive with their Sailboat float drove the judge to despair in finding a winner. The judge declared a draw this year, too.

To the joy of all, the worst of the summer heat stayed at bay through the morning, so neighbors could enjoy their ice cream, coffee, and breakfast tacos at the Gullet Elementary field afterwards.

We look forward to seeing you at the same time and place next year! A big thank you to our sponsors: **Ruth Powers Real Estate** for bringing back **Kona Ice**, **Amy's Ice Creams**, **Burnet Go-To**, **Voodoo Doughnut**, **Taco Shack**, and **Texas Children's Urgent Care**.



Some of our youngest neighbors carrying the banner



The Yellowpine Submarine float



The Silverleaf Sailboat float



Parade participants bear the flags

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## Election Day

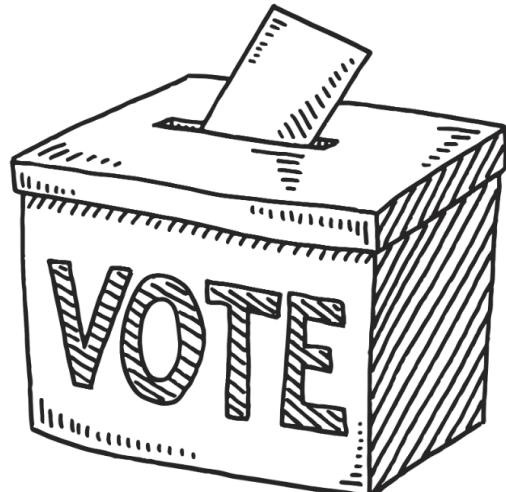
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### Key 2024 Dates

Oct. 7: Last day to register to vote  
Oct 25: Last day to apply for a ballot by mail  
Oct 21 to Nov 1: Early voting  
Nov 5: Election Day

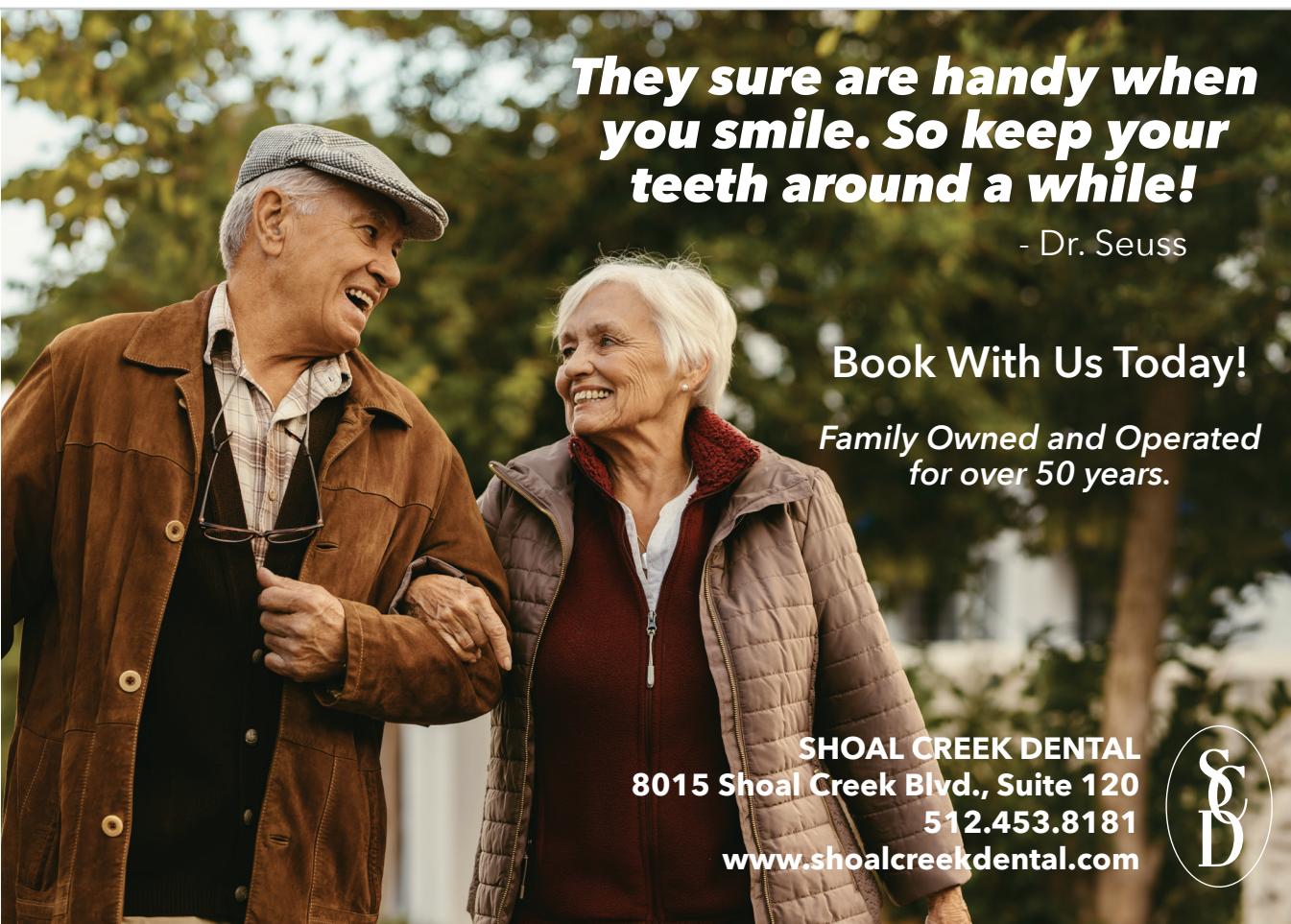
**Voter Registration.** You must update your Voter Registration information every time you move or change your name. Visit [VoteTravis.com](http://VoteTravis.com) and locate the Voter Lookup option to verify your registration information or to register to vote.

**Ballot by Mail.** If you are 65 years or older; sick or disabled; going out of the county on election day and during early voting; expecting to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day; or confined in jail but otherwise eligible, you can apply for a Ballot by Mail by downloading the application at [VoteTravis.com](http://VoteTravis.com). Look for the "Ballot by Mail" or "Ballot by Mail Lookup" option. The completed application must be mailed to Travis County Clerk – Elections Division P.O. Box 149325 Austin, TX 78714-9325 on or before Oct 25. Voters at least 65 years old or disabled may submit an annual ballot by mail application starting on the first day of each calendar year. You can check the status of your Ballot by Mail on [VoteTravis.com](http://VoteTravis.com) under the Ballot by Mail or Ballot by Mail Lookup option.



**Election Information.** A good source for nonpartisan election information is available at the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) and the League of Women Voters Austin Area (LWV-AA). They invite every candidate in each race to provide information for their voters' guide. The printed guide can be used at the voting booth. Mobile electronic devices are prohibited in the voting booth, but state law allows you to take a printed Voters Guide into the voting booth.

**Get Involved.** Become an election worker. Participate in the



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**Voter Registration Certificate/Card.** It provides the district number and details of the political subdivisions for each elected position you vote for. Receiving your Vote Registration Card in the mail indicates that you are a registered Texas voter with a unique voter ID number (VUID). The Voter Registration Certificate/Card is not a valid ID for voting.

You need to bring one of the seven approved photo IDs to vote: a Texas driver's license; a Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC); a Texas identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS); a Texas handgun license issued by DPS; US military identification card with visible photograph; US citizenship certificate with visible photograph; or a US passport (book or card).

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Allandale Resident



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The precinct number of where you live						
VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (Certificado de Registro Electoral)						
TRAVIS COUNTY (Condado de Travis)						
VUID (VUID)	Gender (Sexo)	Valid from (Válido desde)				
[REDACTED]		1/1/2024				
Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento)	Prec. No. (Núm. Pcto.)	thru (hasta)				
[REDACTED]	413	12/31/2025				
Name and Permanent Residence Address (Nombre y dirección residencial permanente)						
[REDACTED]						
X						
VOTER MUST PERSONALLY SIGN HIS/HER NAME IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT, IF ABLE (El votante debe firmar esta tarjeta personalmente al recibirla si puede.)						

Party Affiliation (Afiliación del Partido)

U.S. REP. 37	ST. SEN. 14	ST. REP. 51	COMM. 4	J.P./CN. 4
ISD AISD	ISD SMD 5	SBOE 5	CITY AUSFP	CITY SMD CA9

State Senate district

Congressional district

County Commissioner precinct

State House district

Justice of the Peace precinct/ Constable precinct

School district

School board member district

State Board of Education district

City Council district

Which city you may vote in

An example voter registration card

## Mosquitoes

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Airborne spray targeting adult mosquitoes is much less effective than targeting the larvae before they can bite us! The most widely used mosquito control sprays are highly toxic to other insects, including many pollinators and beneficial insects like bees, butterflies, moths, caterpillars, ladybugs, lightning bugs, and dragonflies. Many of these companies use a class of pesticides called *pyrethrins*, a natural compound derived from chrysanthemums, and *pyrethroids*, synthetic versions of these chemicals. Yes, these pesticides are approved by the EPA, but they have negative consequences for local ecosystems. Despite marketing efforts to the contrary, they don't only kill mosquitoes. With insect populations plummeting worldwide, we can't afford to cause harm to pollinators and other beneficial bugs.

Some companies use organic solutions made from plant essential oils. Still, according to the Xerces Society ([xerces.org](http://xerces.org)), more study needs to be done on whether these chemicals are effective, much less if they affect the larvae of other insects.

There is a better way! A cheap and effective method is to make a "Mosquito Bucket of Doom"-- providing an irresistible place for mosquitoes to breed and then treating it with a chemical that will keep the larvae from reaching bitey adulthood. If you remove all standing water on your property and provide the bucket, your breeding population will decrease.

You need:

- » A bucket painted black or brown
- » Water
- » Straw or old leaves
- » Mosquito "dunks" or "bits" containing *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (BTi)
- » Chicken wire, a piece of screen, or a stick

Fill the bucket halfway with water and add a handful of straw or old leaves. After a few days, this ferments into the perfect mosquito breeding liquid. Then, add ¼ of a mosquito dunk and cover it with the screen to keep other critters from getting trapped. (An escape stick can work as well; some people use a bucket lid with holes drilled in, big enough for insects but not

for other creatures). Then, replace the dunk once a month and top off the water as needed. The best location for it is dappled sun/shade protected from the wind.

This treatment does not have to be broadcast in the air, does not run off into our watershed, and kills (only!) mosquitoes before they are old enough to bite. It is more effective at stopping the breeding cycle than targeting adult mosquitoes.

I am lucky enough to see lightning bugs in my yard each summer— let's help them thrive in the neighborhood by giving up the yard spray and forming a Mosquito Bucket of Doom brigade. Imagine what a difference our neighbors could make for biodiversity!

Source information here:

[blog.nwf.org/2020/09/what-you-need-to-know-before-spraying-for-mosquitoes](http://blog.nwf.org/2020/09/what-you-need-to-know-before-spraying-for-mosquitoes)



## Let Us Hear From You!

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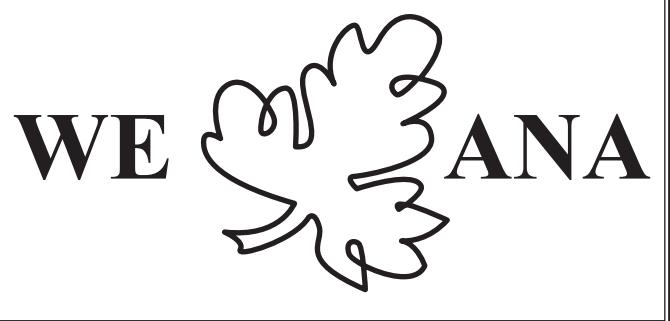
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## Allandale Quick Bites: Snarfing, Zombie Foxes, and the Whataburger Art

Robert Mace

Lots of new eating opened since last issue: Snarf's Sandwiches at 7301 Burnet began serving meats in late June, and our first nibbles have been rewarding. Toastique at 2620 Perseverance Drive began toasting at the end of June, and the Grove Wine Bar & Kitchen at 7719 Woodhollow Drive began pulling corks at the end of June as well (a note for the anti-Grovers: the Grove is not at The Grove). Yet another late June opening was buzzy Pedrosó's Pizza inside LaLa's at 2207 Justin Lane (trailerchompers need not worry: their trailer is still open at 8315 Burnet). The location with Cheri Coffee & Flowers and My Sweetish Friend at 6722 Burnet officially became a trailer park with the addition of Asado's Taqueria.

FoxTrot is back from the dead and will reopen some of its Austin locations, but no word about ours at 4818 Burnet Rd. I peeked in the window, and there were a lot of numbers on everything in there, so who knows? According to a post at that cesspool known as NextDoor.com, Fonda San Miguel is opening a breakfast bakery next door in the Frida building. And Kesos Tacos is taking over the location vacated by Taco Shack at 3901 Spicewood Springs. Black Gold Craft Meats & Cocktails at 1521 West Anderson Lane is getting closer to completion. Finally, there are signs of work beginning at H-Mart at 5222 Burnet. ChefSuite is still not officially open. Dog Day Coffee at 8440



Burnet is confirmed and is in the works. Ling Wu is really close to opening.

CultureMap tagged Eli Rodriguez of Bufalina Due as Rising Star Chef of the Year and named Sarah McIntosh of épicerie the Pastry Chef of the Year. Our stomachhood had three pizza slingers in a Yelp listicle as among the top 100 pizza joints in the US (Home Slice at #11, Little Deli & Pizzeria at #71, and Pint-house at #88). Eater Austin posted an article on where to eat and drink in Allandale and inexplicably omitted épicerie, as well as overlooking the overlooked Dos Batos and Austin's Very Own Saltt. In other news, the Whataburger Museum of Art opened on Instagram. And finally, Matt Odam, Austin's second-best food writer, appropriately nabbed second place for his culinary cuniforming from the Society for Features Journalism.

A hot-linked article is available at [austinwanderlist.com](http://austinwanderlist.com)

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## Camp Out

Robert E. Mace

After Fat City went skinny up, the food-slinging space at Yard Bar sat empty until the owners pitched the tent poles in October 2023 for Camp Out, a glamping food concept. Painted Coleman Green with picnic tables, fire pits, lanterns, and cast-iron griddles, Camp Out delivers the outback experience but with a full bar and a menu conjured by Candace Landberg, formerly of Cenote.

For a space no bigger than a doghouse, the Camp Out kitchen produces a howlingly good array of dishes more fitting for a doily-draped downtown dinner than a picnic table. The All Nighter Burger (espresso rubbed 44 Farms beef patty, smoked gouda, sauteed onion, BBQ sauce, garlic aioli, with fries or side salad; \$15) was a darn decent burger kaleidoscoped with flavor I've never experienced out in the sticks. The Cluck Norris (panko-breaded fried chicken, brioche bun, dill pickles, cabbage slaw, cilantro aioli, and habanero jam; \$15) warrants a permanent place on the menu instead of special status. The Ruidoso Caesar (grilled romaine heart, cherry tomato pico, Parmesan cheese, garlic toasted sourdough, grilled chicken, and Caesar dressing; \$15), another special, prompted oohs and aahs from The Bride at the presentation and leaf quality (The Bride is anti-nub). The Truffle Fries (parmesan, parsley, garlic aioli; \$8) were thinly sliced, perfectly fried, and deliciously tossed.

Since we are currently on an Old Fashioned kick, I tried Camp Out's version (Still Austin Bourbon, Vanilla demerara, Angostura bitters; \$10) and found it way too bourbon forward, the harshness of the alcohol dominating the palate. Most of Camp Out's cocktails, at least on the camping side of the box, are on tap, except for the New Yorkie Sour and the Hooked On Tonics. The Bride tried the canned Rose by Bev and found it lacking. We both agreed that it is probably best to drink beers while camping instead of partaking in that "fancy stuff" the yuppies on Green Lawn drink.

Given that this is a private dog park, dogs are, of course, welcome, with table-side water bowls and a few menu items "for the pups," including Chicken & Cakes, Waffle Cone, and Howlin Hash Brown, all of which sound good enough for a human to eat. There's also a menu (and playscape) for the rugrats if you have a few of those. Sadly, there is nothing on the menu for cats, which is perhaps why we didn't see any.

Dining is al fresco with many tables under a large awning, fans stalactited from the ceiling. We were a little cold during our last visit, but with summer rasping at the tent flaps, those misty fans will be deeply appreciated. Despite two misses on the adult bevs, we left happy campers, looking forward to our next Camp Out.

Camp Out, 6700 Burnet Road, (512) 900-3773. For a full-color review, please visit [austinwanderlist.com](http://austinwanderlist.com)

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## Lettuce Recycle!

Dena Houston



Summer is a wonderful time of year, but it also presents some recycling challenges. Here are some ideas to make your summertime recycling easier.

With the kids home from school, there is so much more of everything—more trash, more plastic water bottles, more snack bags, and more soft drink cans and bottles. Below is a list of areas with recycling challenges.

### Swimming Pools

If your family has a swimming pool, you have many pool-related items to deal with. Below is a list of those that can go to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center.

- » Plastic kiddie pools and hard plastic pool toys that are no longer used
- » Plastic chairs and furniture
- » Pool chemicals

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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# Fireflies (or is it Lightning Bugs?)

Wizzie Brown

What do you call those flashing beetles that light up in the summertime? Is it a firefly or a lightning bug? Different areas of the U.S. call these beetles one or the other or, sometimes, use the terms interchangeably. Fireflies and lightning bugs refer to beetles in the family Lampyridae.

I recently visited my family in Ohio and returned somewhat to my childhood, giddy over the number of fireflies I discovered emerging with their gentle flashing patterns at dusk. Yes, I ran around like an idiot catching them, but after photos were released.

Larvae are nocturnal and feed on small animals, including snails. Larvae prefer moist environments, with some being subterranean or semi-aquatic. Some larvae can emit short glows, which warn predators that they are distasteful. Adult beetles are around half an inch long, slender, and soft-bodied. They have a shield-like structure, the pronotum, which covers their head from above. The last few abdominal segments may be modified to emit light, but not all Lampyridae are bioluminescent.

Some fireflies are bioluminescent, which means they have a chemical reaction within their body, causing them to light up. Light is produced when fireflies combine oxygen with calcium, adenosine triphosphate (ATP), and the chemical luciferin in the presence of luciferase, a bioluminescent enzyme. Light from a firefly does not give off heat, which is important to ensure the beetle's survival. Fireflies control light flashing by controlling the oxygen that reacts with other chemicals needed to produce light.

Adults use flash patterns to identify those of the same species and determine the location of the opposite sex. Female fireflies choose their mates based upon flash pattern characters; males with higher flash rates and increased flash intensity are preferred. Adults feed on nectar, pollen, and other fireflies, or many do not feed. One group of females in the genus Photuris lure in males from the genus Photinus by mimicking the flash pattern of female Photinus. When the male comes in to mate, instead of mating, he is eaten. It is thought that disappearing habitats, along with light pollution, are playing a part in the decline of fireflies.

How can you help fireflies? Turn off lights at night to help reduce light pollution (you'll get the added benefit of fewer insects being drawn to areas where they

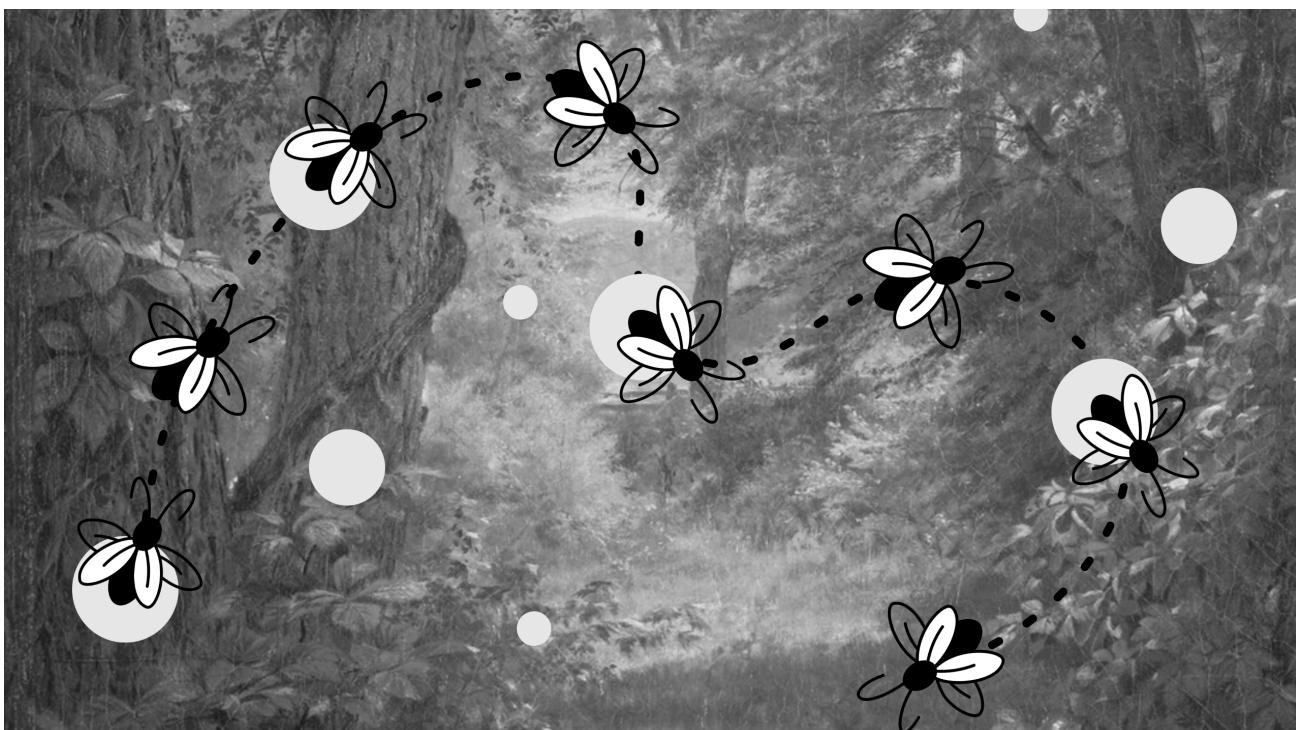
can possibly get into your house). Create water features in your landscape to provide areas of moisture required for larvae. Target pesticide usage and make wise pesticide choices to reduce the possibility of affecting non-target organisms.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist: [ebrown@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:ebrown@ag.tamu.edu).

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We are Hunter and Julia Maloy. We live in Allandale, and just like you, our home was hit with hail in the recent storm. We are the proud owners of **PROSPERITY ROOFING**, helping friends and neighbors since 2010. Contact us and we will help you through the insurance process after the storm, giving you peace of mind.

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## Lettuce Recycle!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Many other pool toys like beach balls, floatie wings, pool noodles, and floating pool toys cannot be recycled and must go into the trash can.

### Arts and Crafts

My kids loved all kinds of craft projects during the summer. AustinCreativeReuse.org is a great place to find all kinds of supplies for these projects. It is also a great place to take some craft supplies that are no longer used.

If you have dried-out markers, you can turn them into watercolor or paint. Here is the website to see how this is done: [kidcreate.com/blog?post=go-green-recycle-old-dried-out markers-into-paint](http://kidcreate.com/blog?post=go-green-recycle-old-dried-out-markers-into-paint)

### Recycling and Composting Projects

Summer is a great time to get the kids more involved in recycling by encouraging them to recycle properly. More recycling collection bins could be placed inside and outside the house (by the pool, for example). Also, the family could start a backyard compost bin. Link: [austintexas.gov/homecompostguide](http://austintexas.gov/homecompostguide)

### Travel Recycling

When traveling by car, finding a recycling receptacle is not always easy. Since roadside rest areas in Texas don't have them, put a recycling collection bag in the car and save items until you find the next recycling collection can or return home. If you stay in a cabin, go camping, or stay in some remote area, the same situation often exists – a lack of places for recyclables. The same solution applies: Collect recyclables until you can find a proper recycling bin or take them home.

### More Travel Recycling Ideas

- » Carry reusable bags for shopping. Many places (especially in Europe) either charge for bags or don't even provide them.
- » Carry a refillable water bottle. This reduces plastic waste. Also, refillable bottles often are insulated.
- » Carry non-plastic eating utensils. Take a fork, serrated knife, and spoon for each person.
- » Use plastic containers for restaurant leftovers, etc. They are easily washed and are a great way to pack delicate souvenirs for the trip home.

### New Info from the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center

The RRDOC no longer accepts Amazon plastic mailers in its plastic collection bins because its vendor no longer accepts them. However, plastic mailers can still be taken to the plastic bag collection bins at most grocery stores.

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**Shoal Creek SMILE STUDIO**

## Q&A

Should I use a compost bag for my trash to avoid using a plastic trash bag? No. Compost bags are not a good alternative. These bags will not compost in a landfill because landfills do not get hot enough to make compost. Also, compost bags are not very sturdy and can break open easily. Finally, they cost a lot more than plastic trash bags. If you are concerned about using too much plastic, put your trash into paper bags instead. Researching this question made me wonder what we did with our trash before plastic bags were invented. I grew up in the 50s and 60s; we just used the paper bags that we got our groceries in from the grocery store. Paper bags can work well if there is not a lot of food yuck. If you compost in your green compost cart, there should be little yuck in the trash can.

Please remember: Do not bag your recyclables. When in doubt, throw it out!

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

Stay tuned for future tips, including creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to [denahouston3309@gmail.com](mailto:denahouston3309@gmail.com)

Help out a neighbor ■ Pick up litter ■ Spay/neuter your pets ■ Plant flowers ■ Volunteer ■ Use our trails, parks, and greenways ■ Conserve water ■ Drive carefully ■ Have a block party ■ Attend a neighborhood meeting ■ VOTE! ■ Flip over an upturned turtle ■ Observe the speed limit ■ Take walks around the neighborhood ■ Pick up after your pets ■ Keep bicycle lanes open ■ Join

ANA ■ Donate household items ■ Report potholes 3-1-1 ■ Say hello to your neighbor ■ Help out a neighbor ■ Pick up litter ■ Spay/neuter your pets ■ Plant flowers ■ Volunteer ■ Use our trails, parks, and greenways ■ Conserve

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## Take Pride In our Neighborhood

## Day of Discovery: Sat., Nov. 9

Julie Peckham

Save the date! The United Women in Faith from St. John's UMC is hosting a Day of Discovery. All proceeds from this event will support local, national, and international charitable work. The day will include opportunities to pay for excellent classes for adults, teens, or adults with children. The one and two-hour classes will include Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain, Pottery, Weaving, Exercise for seniors, Attracting pollinators, Growing mushrooms, Canning, Knitting, and Crafts and Music for young children. Watch for more information and registration opportunities to come. For now, pencil in November 9 for our Day of Discovery.

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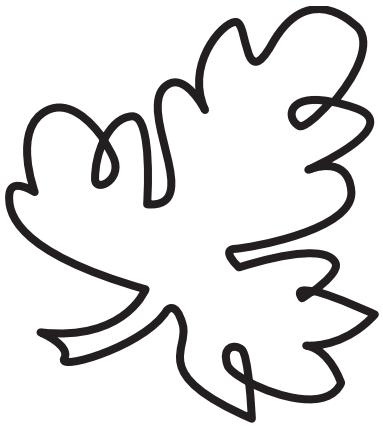
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## Did you know?

The Texas River Cooter can only be found right here in Central TX!





## Let Us Hear From You!

We'd love for readers to submit ideas and articles.

[newsallandale@gmail.com](mailto:newsallandale@gmail.com)

## Sunflowers Love This Heat!

Susan Morrison

Birds must have dropped seeds from the backyard feeders in our front yard, and a crop of 9-foot-tall sunflowers exploded this summer. We were curious how they would grow through the heat and have been pleased with the wildlife supported by this volunteer crop.

First came the abundant yellow flowers, followed by hundreds of honey bees, then Border Patch caterpillars, then dozens of butterflies. Now, small birds are devouring the seeds. We are glad we didn't treat the sunflowers as weeds. Accommodating the sunflowers saved us from mowing part of our yard and became a focus of interest, as well as shade for our grass in this heat. A very symbiotic experiment indeed!

Let's do what we can to help the bees, fauna, and flora in Allandale. The highest temperatures are predicted for August and September, and our native trees and plants seem to fare the best.



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**VOLT**  
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# Nothing Bundt Cakes!

Robert Mace

When the head beancounter for The Bride's company came to town recently, she arrived with mini bundt cakes. Well, OK. The Bride didn't partake, but she brought one home, a red velvet with a cloud of frosting on top. After dinner, we carefully sliced the tiny bundt in half (although I contend that we should split proportionally according to weight, she, surprisingly for an engineer, doesn't see it that way). After the first bite, both of our eyes lit up. Holy gugelhupf! That was a dang good mini bundt cake! After some sleuthing the next evening, we found the source: Nothing Bundt Cakes.

Hmm...Nothing Bundt Cakes. On one hand, the name sounds somewhat existential, like something Jean-Paul Sartre or Yukio Mishima would bake for yet another meaningless birthday (Mishima would be good at slicing). On the other hand, the name is probably a pun meant to read "Nothing But Cakes." Since cake is all they sell, we'll roll with the pun rather than the phenomenology, although a goth girl did visit the store while we were there ("Get the snickerdoodle," she said).

But what cake it is! The Secret Recipe is supposed to include sour cream, giving the cake a glistening moistness. No bundt cracks here! The cream cheese frosting sings in perfect harmony with the cake, creating tongue-blowing forkfuls of flavor bombs.

Started in 1997 in Las Vegas by Dena Tripp and Debbie Shwartz, their bundt cake empire (who knew?) now extends to more than 500 storefronts in the US and Canada (!!!). The cakes come in three sizes: the cupbundts we've enjoyed, medium bundts, and then the "I like big bundts, and I cannot lie." The medium and big bundts have streams of frosting that run down their sides in an almost carnal, comical, alienesque kinda way that seems straight from an SNL skit. But I assure you, dear readers, it is all too real.

Anywho, these frosted cakes are a bundt-load of fun. We often enjoy a glowing dusk and a gentle breeze weaving between trees adorned with chirping birds when one of us will turn to the other, smile lustily, and coo, "Remember that bundt cake we ate last month?" Indeed, we are bundt-heads now.

[nothingbundtcakes.com](http://nothingbundtcakes.com), various locations (ours is at 10225 Research Blvd #330). Please visit [austinwanderlist.com](http://austinwanderlist.com) for a full-color review.



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*One of Nothing Bundt Cakes' many offerings*

## Migrations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

**Purple Martins.** Early August is the best time to watch one of nature's most impressive spectacles: the nightly gathering of purple martins. Before they make their annual migration to the Brazilian Amazon, purple martins gather in jaw-dropping numbers at their pre-migratory roost. Each evening at 7:45 or 8, vast clouds of these songbirds swoop and circle in the sky. Around nightfall, they settle thickly into a row of trees to sleep with a few thousand of their closest friends. You can see this phenomenon nightly until late August, when the purple martins start to depart for their 4,000-mile journey to the Amazon rainforest. In recent years, the roosting spot has alternated between Capitol Plaza in Austin and the Frontera Shopping Center in Round Rock. Check the Travis Audubon website ([travisaudubon.org](http://travisaudubon.org)) to find out where to see the birds this year.

**Chimney Swifts.** During peak migration from mid-August to late October, chimney swifts sleep each night in communal roosts before they migrate to Peru. Show up at 7:45 or 8 pm to see them gather in the sky, swoop and swirl, then pitch headlong into a chimney to spend the night. Watch carefully, though: Some swifts, like reluctant children at bedtime, appear



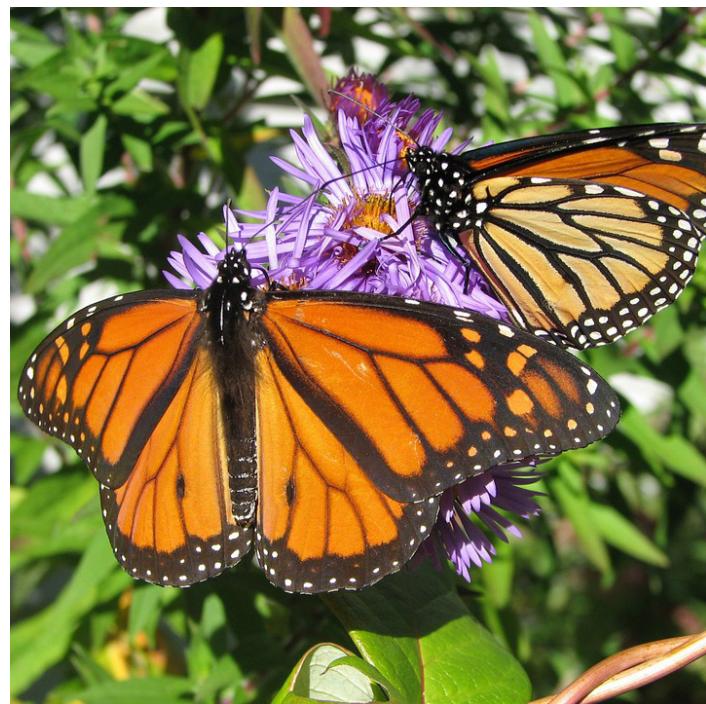
Purple martins in Round Rock earlier this year

to dive in but veer off at the last second to fly some more. One great place to see the show is O. Henry Middle School on Exposition Boulevard. Sometimes, Travis Audubon hosts a chimney swift viewing even closer to Allandale at a secret location on the J.J. Pickle campus off Burnet Road. Check the Travis Audubon website to see if it's being offered this year.

**Monarch Butterflies.** Each October, millions of monarchs fly through Texas along the Central Flyway, a 300-mile-wide corridor straddling I-35, on their way to their overwintering site in Michoacán, Mexico. Austin's peak migration period this year is October 7–20. Where can you go to see the monarchs come through? Head to the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center—or enjoy them in your garden if you've planted their favorite nectar plants, such as mistflower, autumn sage (*Salvia greggii*), sunflowers, or lantana.

**Hawks and Hummers.** Austin isn't on the direct migration route of hawks and ruby-throated hummingbirds. To see that show, you'd need to head to the Hummingbird Festival in Rockport (September 19–22) or the famous hawk migrations at Smith Point on Galveston Bay or Hazel Bazemore County Park in Corpus Christi. That's where hundreds of thousands of hawks from across the country funnel down the Texas coast—broad-winged hawks, Swainson's hawks, Mississippi kites, and more. But here in Austin, late summer and early fall is a good time to see a glimpse of that show. A few ruby-throated hummingbirds visit our feeder, and I like to watch hawks floating lazily on the thermals while I'm doing an equally lazy backstroke in my favorite pool.

Sure, you can book a safari to the Serengeti to see the famous wildebeest migration. Or you can just enjoy some of the world's greatest migrations right here in the 'hood.



Seeing an enormous Monarch never gets old



# Take Pride in Our Neighborhood



## Allandale Neighborhood Association New or Renewal Membership.

All residents within Allandale's boundaries are welcome to join the Allandale Neighborhood Association. Annual dues are \$20 per household or \$10 (over age 55 household). Dues may be paid in advance for multiple years.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Please make checks payable to:** ANA ■ PO Box 10886 ■ Austin, TX 78766-1886 ■

Or join online via [www.allandaleneighbor.com](http://www.allandaleneighbor.com)

I am willing to serve on the following committees:  Bylaws  Communications  Finance  Membership  
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## Get Involved with your Allandale Neighbor Newsletter

Allandale Neighborhood Association



**Newsletter Submissions:** Do you want to submit an article to our newsletter on a subject of community interest? Here's what you need to know!

- All submissions require the approval of the Allandale Neighborhood Association president.
- Submissions are due September 15 for our October edition, November 15 for our December edition and January 15 for our February 2025 edition.
- Articles may be lightly edited for grammar, spelling, length, or clarity. Do not add any special formatting or bold text. Headings, subheadings, and paragraphs are fine.
- Google Drive submissions are preferred. Email [newsallandale@gmail.com](mailto:newsallandale@gmail.com) if you need guidance on document formats and we will assist you.

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