



Allandale Neighbor

October 2023
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come Join the Picnic for ANA's 50th Anniversary!

Sunday, November 5, 1-4 pm

Beverly S. Sheffield

Northwest District Park

Allandale Neighborhood Association is celebrating our 50th Anniversary and Allandale neighbors are invited! Join us at the picnic tables for food, fun, music and good company. ANA has been proud to support neighborhood interests since October 1973. We're so thankful for the support of our great neighbors who make Allandale one of the very best places to live in Austin! If you can help with the event, please reach out to board members, block captains or by email:

allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com.

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BSA Troop 2019: What We've Been Up To

Ruby Manning

Troop 2019 has been on many great campouts and outings this year so far. Here are a few of our more recent ones. Back in April, we went up to Russell Park in Georgetown with Troop 49. The older scouts got to work on leadership skills by teaching rank advancement skills to the younger scouts. We worked on skills like fire building, knots, first aid, and knife skills.

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Every Neighborhood Has Its Faults

R. C. Smyth & W. G. Fergeson

In this sixth article in this Geology series, I'm still figuring out how best to present background concepts needed for non-geologist readers to understand the geology of Allandale. So please bear with me (now us); geology is a complex, varied, and dynamic science. We'll most likely continue to present some materials and concepts you have seen here before – assuming you are reading every article. Previous articles in this series have been in the April 2022, June 2022, August 2022, December 2022, and February 2023 newsletters.

As promised for "next time" back in the February 2023 article, Geologic Time: The Sedimentary Record, Part 1, we begin discussing how changes in geologic time, as expressed in the sedi-

Allandale's Real Estate Market 2023: Still A Thriving Urban Oasis

Ruth E. Powers

Nestled in the heart of Central Austin, the Allandale neighborhood has become a shining star in the city's real estate landscape. Truly, this is one of our favorite neighborhoods in Austin. One of the standout features of Allandale's real estate market in 2023 is the consistent and robust demand. As more people seek to make Austin their home, Allandale's proximity to downtown, excellent schools, and community-oriented atmosphere make it a top choice.

Austin's real estate market remains hotter than a lot of other areas. This year has been slower than the past couple of years, but Central Austin remains a real estate gem in the heart of Texas. It continues to attract newcomers,

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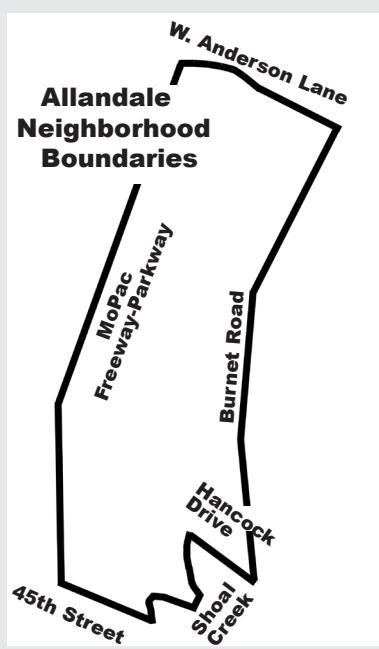
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President's Letter

Hans Magnusson, ANA President (512) 522-8773, ana@hmvikings.com

Dear Allandale Neighbors:

Affordable housing initiatives by our city council excite people. Developers are fired up about the prospect of building taller buildings up to the backyards of single-family homes along the west side of Burnet Road. There are two business properties with requests for zoning changes to redevelop. Neighbors have gotten together to reach a compromise with the developers, trying to lessen the impact of getting ninety feet of glass and concrete next to our backyards.

Our city officials are encouraging a massive buildup of apartments. Migration to Austin is slowing down. Increased construction and lower migration will quite likely lead to a glut of apartments that nobody wants in the near-to-mid-term. Perhaps our leaders and dear urbanists should ask the migrants to Central Texas if they prefer a tiny \$3,000/month apartment in Austin or a house in Kyle for less money, and if there will be reasonable housing options for families.

At the same time, city officials lament the lack of affordable housing. They seem to be less concerned with the occupation of public lands by those without housing. One nearby example is the three inhabitants in the Beverley Sheffield Northwest Park. Another example is the recently abandoned encampment near the US Post Office on Northcross Drive. There are many other camps all around town.

Unhoused people occupying public spaces is a problem that should be fixed. Some people may have a temporary setback who could get back on track with a cash handout to prevent them from losing a job or a home. In the long run, it would be cheaper and more productive. Mobile Loaves and Fishes Community First Village is an admirable effort to address homelessness. However, they require inhabitants to be drug-free and to have been homeless for an extended time before they are admitted. Many people don't qualify for Community First Village because they have a drug addiction, mental illness, or a history of criminal behavior. Well-built, secure facilities should be available to help these folks out of the camps on public lands.

A proposal up for city council vote in December is to abolish the single-family zoning SF-1 through SF-4 and replace it with a single zoning category of three dwelling units (tri-plex, if you will) on a minimum lot size of 2,500 sqft. To put that in perspective, it is equivalent to MF-4 density of 36 - 56 units/acre. This proposed zoning category is fifty-two units an acre. An example of MF-4 is the Kensington apartment complex between Lawmont and North Loop. Write your city council to protest this extreme overreach and attack on neighborhoods.

A major thank you to our local fire stations for an admirable early morning dispatch to save the neighborhood from burning down after a derelict individual started a fire in a nearly completed house on White Rock. This was a major fire in the neighborhood that could have spread rapidly due to the drought we have suffered. Big chunks of embers were raining down across the community. The fast response by the firefighters from the nearby fire stations prevented this fire from spreading throughout our neighborhood.

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Real Estate Market Update

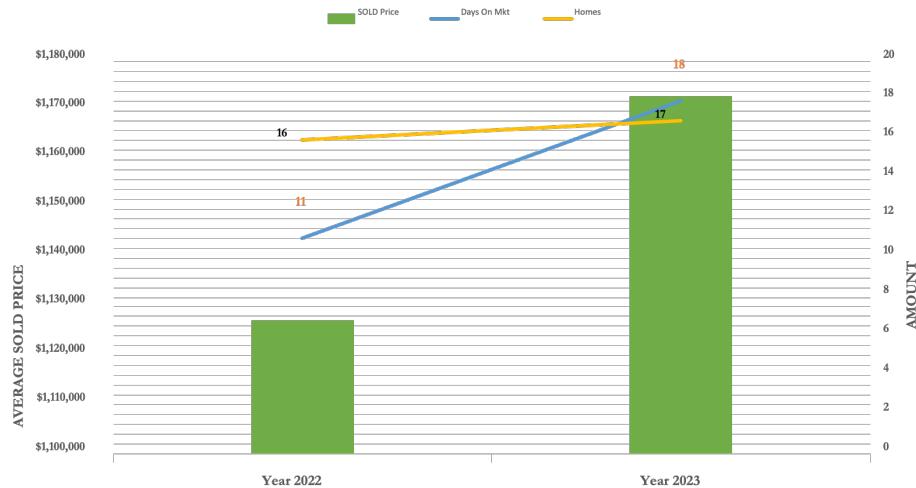
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investors, and long-time residents alike. Reviewing the data from this past summer, we tend to think most people are buying the newer, bigger homes. In Allandale, we noticed that a small number of homes sold this year during this time frame had been new construction. When we looked at the sales from last summer, during the same time frame (late May through September 19, 2022), we saw the homes that sold were built before 1966, compared to the homes currently on the market. Six new builds are actively for sale. When looking at new builds compared to last year, only one of the fourteen sold this time was a current new build. Allandale has not dropped much in value from 2022 to 2023 during the summer months. The days on the market are higher, but it is not significant compared to other neighborhoods.

Looking at recent sales history from May 30 to September 19 of this year, current real estate activity looks like:

Allandale Home Sales

May 30, 2022 vs September 19, 2023



To view a color version of this graph, visit AllandaleNeighbor.com and click on NEWS.

Using the sole data on MLS, if you go back ten years for the Allandale neighborhood and look at the number of listings compared to the closed sales price, the inventory is much less than in the past. However, the prices are trending up.

The data does not include any off-market properties. Most of the new builds by builders will be posted on MLS this year. Looking ahead to the remainder of 2023, experts predict that the general real estate market will continue to be active, albeit with some adjustments. There might be moderation in price growth. While home prices are not expected to drop significantly, the appreciation rate may slow down. This could provide relief to buyers who have faced steep competition in the past. Inventory challenges may persist with the limited housing inventory, leading to ongoing buyer competition. Sellers will enjoy favorable conditions (perhaps not as lucrative as the insane COVID times). Both buyers and sellers may need to be more patient and flexible. We highly recommend working closely with an experienced local real estate professional.

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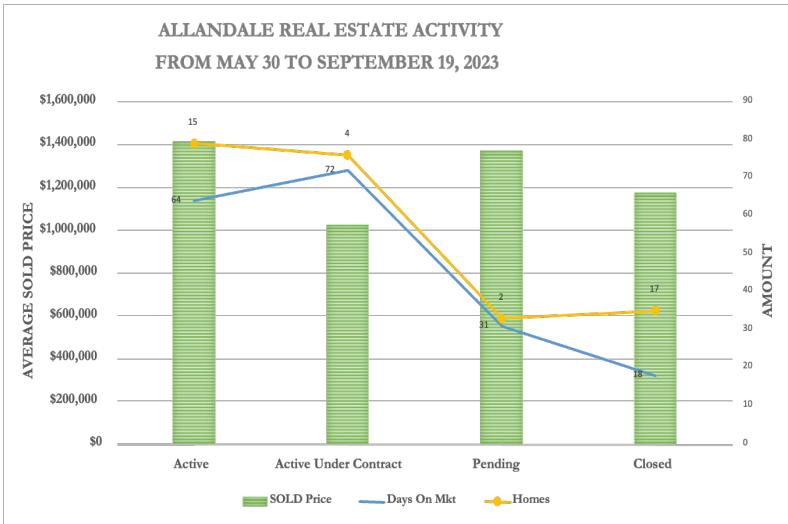
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President's Letter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

We are planning to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary the first weekend of November. More details to follow. Anyone interested in helping, please contact board members or block captains via the listserv or through email: allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com.

“The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.”

Albert Einstein

hans

⌘

Lettuce Recycle!

Dena Houston

Every week, I receive questions about recycling and composting. I always answer them personally and include the question and answer in Lettuce Recycle. If any reader has any recycling or composting concerns or comments, please send them to denahouston3309@gmail.com.

I welcome all questions and often learn something new from each one. Below is Part One.

Can I put recyclables in a paper bag before putting them into the blue recycling bin?

No, do not bag recyclables. Bagged recyclables are sent to the landfill. There is not the workforce at the recycling center to empty these bags.

Are the materials taken to the Balcones Resources recycling facility really recycled, or are they just thrown into the landfill?

Balcones Resources is a for-profit company. It would not collect all this material just to throw it into the landfill. There are reliable markets for everything they collect.

Do I need to separate the lids from glass and plastic bottles?

All glass jars must have their lids removed. Keep all plastic caps on plastic bottles and containers. All tops smaller than a credit card must go into the trash cart. All lids larger than a credit card should go into the blue cart.

Do I need to remove packing tape and staples from cardboard boxes before I put them into the blue cart?

No, you do not. Tape and staples are fine to leave on the cardboard. Everything will be processed and baled at the recycling facility. At the secondary recycling paper mill, cardboard and paper go through a pulping process to remove impurities.

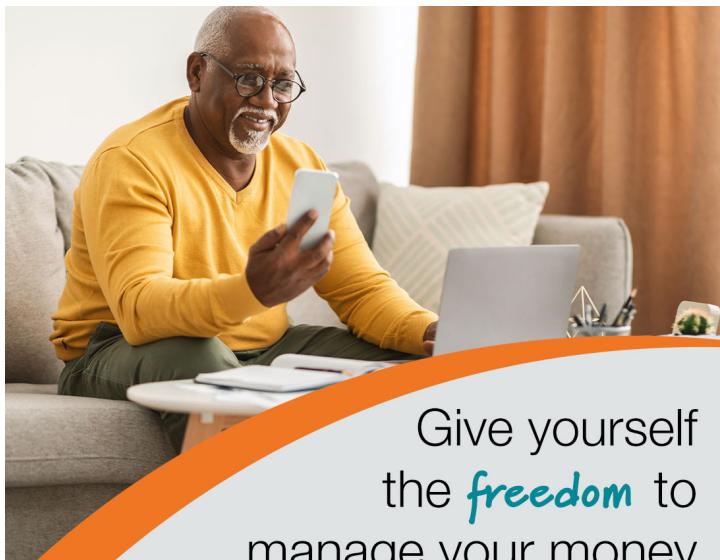
Can the cardboard waxed containers from juice and milk go into the green compost cart?

No. These containers are made of mixed materials (wax, cardboard, and aluminum foil) and cannot be composted or recycled. They must go into your trash cart.

Do I have to remove the cellophane window in envelopes before I put them into the blue cart?

No, you do not. Even the plastic on top of Kleenex boxes can be left on. However, cellophane alone is not recyclable.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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Lettuce Recycle!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Do I need to take the metal cutting strip off my aluminum foil and similar-type boxes?

No, you do not. The paper mill recyclers have the equipment to remove this metal from the cardboard.

Is glass really recycled?

Glass is more difficult and expensive to recycle, but our recycling facilities have reliable markets for glass.

Can greeting cards with batteries be recycled?

The batteries need to be removed from the musical greeting cards and recycled with batteries. Once the battery is out, the rest of the card can go into the recycling cart, providing it has no glitter, flocking, or other adornments on the card.

My Keurig cup says it is recyclable. Is it?

No, the single-use coffee and tea pods are not recyclable in our market. The containers are too small to be collected for processing.

Do I need to remove the paper labels on the plastic bags that go into the plastic bag collection bins?

Yes, these labels must be removed.



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How do I recycle the brown paper mailing envelopes with a bubble wrap lining?

These are not recyclable because two layers of materials cannot be separated. They can be reused or go into the trash cart. Bubble wrap can be recycled in the plastic collection bins found at most grocery stores.

Please remember: When in doubt, throw it out. Recycling and composting contamination is a huge problem. If you have exhausted all reuse possibilities and are still unsure, please put the item in the trash cart.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: austintexas.gov/whatdo

Stay tuned for future tips, including creative ways to recycle or reuse. Please send questions or recycling ideas to denahouston3309@gmail.com

Fall into Fall at Northwest Park

Mary Fero

For park lovers or soon-to-be park lovers, opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and mingle with neighbors are just around the corner. It's My Park Day Fall 2023 and Allandale Neighborhood Association's 50th Anniversary offer back-to-back opportunities to get together and celebrate.

It's My Park Day November 4

It's My Park Day is the terrific biannual, community-led day of service sponsored by the Austin Parks Foundation every Spring and Fall. IMPD projects help build community and connections with other park lovers while improving our parks and greenspaces.

You're invited to join dozens of volunteers at the "Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park Spreading the

Love" event on Saturday, November 4, from 9:00 a.m. – noon. This fall's project will spread love - and mulch - in two locations.

The first area, on the park's east side, will help to replenish and protect the thin soil on the steep hill in this natural grow zone. This effort is part of a long-range plan proposed by park stewards Ranleigh Hirsh and Paul Clements to restore the natural area across from the playground.

On the west side of the park, the second area follows the high trail that extends from the baseball field over toward the pedestrian bridge. Folks who walk or ride along this path know how muddy it can get when it rains, and this mulch will make the trail more pleasantly passable in the coming months.

The volunteer sign-up link for IMPD at Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park will be active after October 9:

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Fall Back Gain A Happy Hour!

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BSA Troop 2019

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In May, we went to Matagorda Bay with our brother troop, Troop 410. We worked on the Kayaking and Oceanography merit badges with the LCRA. In June, we spent a week at the beautiful Kia Kima Scout Reservation in Arkansas for summer camp, where we worked on merit badges, hung out, and just had fun. The whole week was great, but some highlights were the water slide and the homemade boat race.

In July, we participated in the Allandale Annual 4th of July Parade, and later in the month, as a conservation project, we went kayaking on Town Lake to pick up trash. We went out for three or four hours and then we went and had lunch together at Sazón on South Lamar. If you have a daughter aged 11-17 who is or would be interested in joining our troop, check out our website, troop2019atx.org, or our Facebook page @Troop 2019. We have an Invitational campout in September, so check the calendar on our website for details.

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

Take Pride In our Neighbor- hood



Kaleigh M. works on a welding project at Kia Kima. Photo Credit: Kim Mitchell



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BSA Troop 2019 Photos



Left: Gianna N. sits in the boat built for the homemade boat race at Kia Kima. Photo Credit: Charity Rehder



Right: Kaleigh M. works on a welding project at Kia Kima. Photo Credit: Kim Mitchell



Below: Gianna N. and Harriet Z. enjoy slushies at the Kia Kima Trading Post. Photo Credit: Sara Zettner

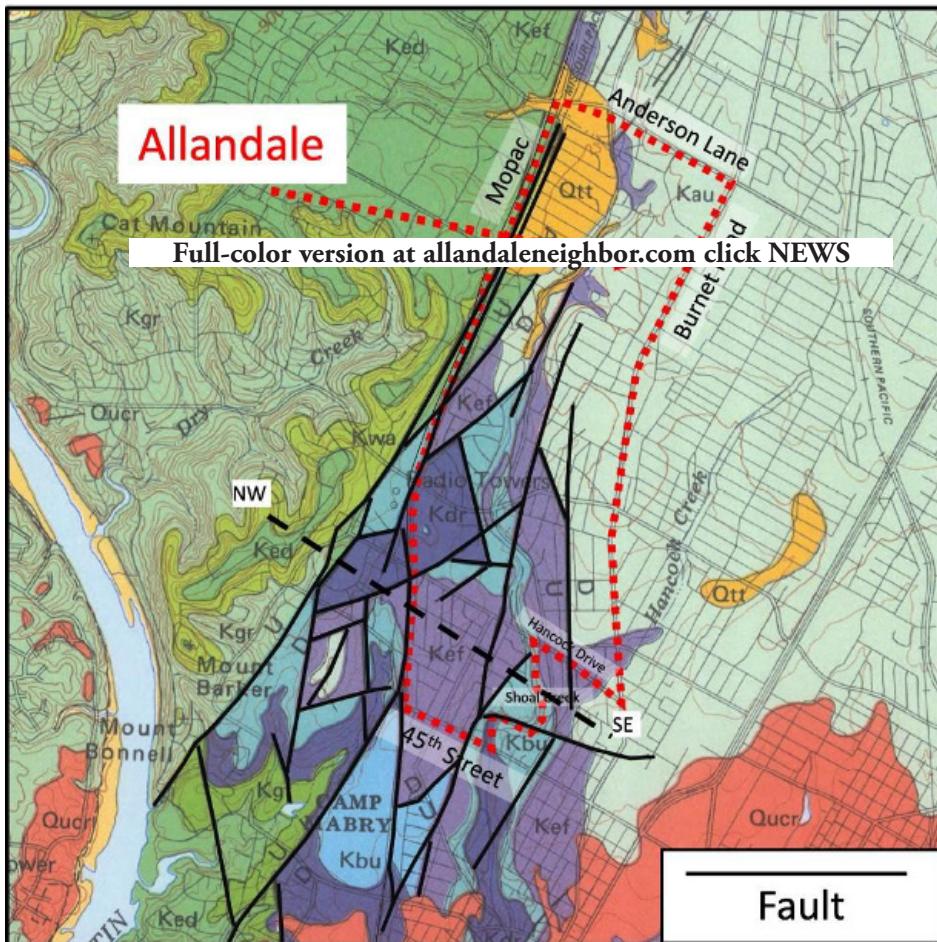
Every Neighborhood Has Its Faults

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mentary rock record, relate to the Allandale neighborhood. I didn't think it would take this long to get back to you. But time passes quickly, especially in the context of geology!

Recall that the science of geology is fraught with terminology. Additionally, conveying geologic information with maps and figures is more effective than just words. You have previously seen the geologic map included in the figure here. The Allandale Neighborhood is added as a red, dotted boundary. The base for the geologic map includes geographic features – streets, creeks, and topographic contours. A major segment of the Balcones Fault Zone parallels Mopac and the western edge of the neighborhood boundary. The dashed, black northwest (NW) to southeast (SE) trending line on the map is the trace (surface intersection) of the cross-section (or profile) that runs perpendicular to multiple segments of the Balcones Fault Zone. Two other components of the figure, to the right of the plan-view map, are (top) a tabular Geologic Section and (bottom) a schematic Cross Section, which depicts vertical offsets of rock units due to faulting.

Geologists map surface rock units using color coding and



Map modified from: Garner, L.E. and Young K.P., 1976, Environmental Geology of the Austin area: An aid to urban planning. The University of Texas at Austin Bureau of Economic Geology, Report of Investigation no, 86, 39 pgs., 7 plates.

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abbreviations with combined age and rock name information. For example, in the Geologic Section portion of the figure, Kgr stands for a Cretaceous-age (K) rock unit named the Glen Rose limestone. During the formation of sedimentary rocks, younger rocks are always deposited on top of older rocks; this is part of the concept of uniformitarianism presented in the December 2022 newsletter.

In the February article, RC Smythe introduced the Cretaceous Period as a subunit of the Mesozoic Era of geologic time. The Quaternary Period, abbreviated Q, is a younger subunit of the Cenozoic Era. If you need a refresher, a few

Geologic Section
Qucr-Pleistocene (river deposits)
Qtt-Pleistocene (river deposits)
Kau-Austin Chalk (Limestone)
Kef-Eagle Ford (Shale)
Kbu-Buda (Limestone)
Kdr-Del Rio (Shale)
Kgl-Glen Rose (Limestone)
Ked-Edwards (Limestone)
Kwa-Walnut Creek (Limestone)
Kgr-Glen Rose (Limestone)

Cross Section	
NW	SE
Up	Topographic Relief
Ked	Shoal Creek
Kwa	Down
Kgr	Down
	Up
	Kdr
	Kef
	Kbu
	Kdr
Kgl	Kbu
Ked	Kdr
Kgl	Ked
Kwa	Kgl
Kgr	Ked
	Kwa

links to figures showing geologic time scales are nps.gov/subjects/geology/time-scale.htm and britannica.com/science/geologic-time, plus there are others.

Looking at the map and the Geologic Section in the accompanying figure, you can see that rocks cropping out on the surface in our area range from (a) older, lower Cretaceous to the northwest of the Balcones Fault Zone to (b) younger, upper Cretaceous shales and limestones just southeast of Mopac, upwards to (c) two sets of Quaternary-age (Q) river deposits. These deposits are much older than current Colorado River deposits yet much younger than the Cretaceous limestones and shales.

The NW to SE Cross Section on the lower right of the figure demonstrates how recognizing specific characteristics of rock units and knowing their relative ages can help interpret geologic processes (i.e., identifying faults). Mapping surface topography is also critical. Note the dashed line showing topographic relief (surface topography) in the Cross Section. Following from left to right along the NW-SE cross-section, we go from older Cretaceous limestone (e.g., Ked) to younger Cretaceous shale (e.g., Kbu) across the first fault segment EVEN THOUGH we are going downhill (i.e., going from the Edwards Plateau/Texas Hill Country downslope into the Blackland Prairie/beginning of the Gulf Coastal Plain)! In the absence of faulting, traversing downhill would normally take you from younger into older rocks, not the other way around.

You can see that the Allandale neighborhood has a complex geologic history, which one may only notice if one

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knows the age and character of the surface geology. Importantly for our area is the fact that a significant portion of the Balcones fault zone separates the hilly neighborhoods to the west, with their characteristic rocky surface and relative lack of soil, from the down-to-the-east (down-thrown), geologic terrain with flat-lying, organic-rich soil that has supported human agricultural activity for long periods – however, not on a geologic time scale.

Did you know?

The Allandale Neighborhood was originally part of a land grant to George W. Davis in 1841 by the then president of the Texas Republic!



Fall into Fall at Northwest Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

It's My Parkday sign-up through GivePulse:
<https://www.givepulse.com/group/116293-Its-My-Park-Day-Fall>.

An informal project also is planned for school-age kids involving a park scavenger hunt and an exploration of pond ecology with the aid of field microscopes. More information will be posted on the ANA website and Facebook page before the event. Visit allandaleneighbor.com or facebook.com/allandaleATX.

ANA 50th Anniversary November 5

There is more in this newsletter and online, but please bring your family and friends to the park the afternoon of November 5 and celebrate Allandale Neighborhood Association's fifty years of civic representation, neighborly news, and fun events. All in all, it will be a perfect weekend to celebrate the wonderful community and natural environment we are fortunate to call home.

Pool Project Back on Track

In our last newsletter, it looked as if

the pool replacement project might be delayed a year due to a new public project permitting process. The latest word, however, is that the public project review is going well, and PARD staff now feel they should be able to begin construction in spring 2024. They also think the new pool will be open by the 2025 swim season as originally planned. If that's the case, this will have been the last season for this pool. When it opened in 1956, it was the first fifty-meter regulation Olympic-sized pool in Austin, which allowed the city to qualify for national swim meets. It has certainly provided a lifetime of memories since then, and we can't wait to see the next version.

For more information on the Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest Aquatic Facility Renovation and to sign up for updates, visit: austintexas.gov/sheffieldNWpool.

A Clear View

While you're at the park, be sure to take a stroll over to the pond. It has been wonderful to see the water again after invasive plant growth covered the

surface for so long. The new look is thanks to PARD's initial pond maintenance contract with Environmental Survey Consulting, which is renewed for the coming year. We're so appreciative of the funding and exceptional work that has been done.

Let Us Hear From You!

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

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Allandale Safety Update

McGruff the Crime Dog

Yard Life POOLS



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Hello, neighbors! McGruff the Crime Dog back with you, reporting from the ANA Safety Committee to discuss local safety matters and provide current stats on crime in our 'hood.

Our good fortune of living in a safe area of the city continues, with many of the local crimes occurring along the peripheries of our community and far fewer in the neighborhood interior. The data provided in the table below are the broad crime categories based on reported incidents, captured in APD's 'Crime Viewer' system. Some of these groupings are self-explanatory while others represent a wide variety of incidents.

'Burglary, B & E' includes both non-residential and residential properties. This summer, the most common theft types were burglary of vehicle (BOV) and theft by shoplifting. 'Part II' crimes, always numerous, consist of various types of offenses such as criminal mischief, family disturbance, and harassment.

As is consistently the case, the heavier crime concentrations are along Burnet Road, West Anderson Lane, and the North Loop apartments just west of Burnet. However, please note several auto thefts occurred at or near the Northcross post office. Always be sure to secure your vehicles and bicycles to the best extent possible, wherever you park.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

APD Crime Data for Allandale - June 20, 2023 through Sept 20, 2023		
Crime Category	# of Incidents	% of Total Incidents
Aggravated Assault	3	1.9
Arson	1	0.6
Auto Theft	12	7.6
Burglary, B & E	10	6.4
Part II Crimes	82	52.2
Robbery	1	0.6
Theft	48	30.57
TOTAL	157	100.0

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Neighborhood Schools Report

Tara Lane Bowman

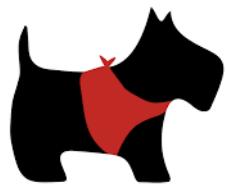
Gullett Elementary wants to add alumni posters to its permanent collection of veterans posters. If you (or someone you know) are a Gullett Elementary alum, a U.S. Armed Forces veteran, and would like to have a poster on the Gullett Wall of Veterans, please make a poster no smaller than 8x10 inches and no larger than 18x24 inches for display. On the poster, note the veteran's name, the military branch they served in, that they are a Gullett alumnus, and the years they were at Gullett. You may also include images. Gullett cannot return any images, so please do not use originals. Questions? Contact Mr. Jurgens (will.jurgens@austinisd.org). Gullett's Veterans Day performance will be on Nov. 10.".

Highland Park Elementary invites students to enter the National PTA Reflections program. The theme for the 2023-2024 program year is "I Am Hopeful Because..." Students submit their completed works in one or more arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. Deadline for submissions is November 5. Questions? Email reflections@hppta.org.

Lamar Middle School after-school clubs began in September, thanks to the Lamar PTA. Clubs include a photography club, a STEM club, a Dungeons & Dragons club,



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and more. Students can join anytime. Each club meets from 4:00-4:45 on different days. Email clubs@lamarPTA.org for more information.

McCallum High School operates a PTSA program called MACares. This program provides financial support to the entire McCallum vertical team, working with campus Licensed Mental Health Professionals (LMHP) and counselors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Two ways to help include donating individually wrapped,

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Allandale Safety Update

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Given the sustained high risk of wildfire from the searingly hot temperatures and extreme drought conditions we've experienced of late, I'd like to share a few tips from Smokey the Bear whom I met last month while vacationing with my human companions in the mountains of North Carolina. He recommends these eight steps to protect our homes:

- Keep flammable objects at least 30 feet away from the home at all times.
- Keep roofs, gutters, decks and patios clear of leaves and other flammables.
- Remove flammable mulch and vegetation within five feet of the home.
- Remove tree or shrub branches that overhang within 10 feet of your house.
- Keep lawns watered and mowed, or if water-conserving, make sure debris is removed within thirty feet of home.
- Trim tree limbs (called 'ladder fuels') to ten feet above the ground.
- Install 1/8-inch metal mesh screens over vents and under decks to prevent ember intrusion.
- Go to Firewise.org or LivingWithFire.info to learn more.

Last year, 87% of wildfires were caused by humans. So as Smokey has always advised: "Remember, only you can prevent wildfires!"

For those who wish to read the true story of Smokey the Bear, an orphan cub, it's available here: smokeybear.com/en/smokeys-history/story-of-smokey.

One additional note on the Northcross post office location: One of our neighbors, a resident at the Allandale condos, contacted the ANA with concerns about two active encampments, a smaller one on the post office east side and a larger one immediately west of the post office parking lot. She and other condo residents were distressed by evidence of illegal drug use as well as individuals periodically wandering around the condo property.

Three city departments were contacted: APD, Homeless Strategy Division, and 311. The properties were recently abandoned and, due to their locations adjacent to the Rosedale school, the principal provided resources to clean up the extensive trash at these sites at the request of the condo resident.

Unfortunately, many city departments seem to be underresourced, so we are most grateful for Austin ISD's assistance in clearing these areas.

Quick Bites Everywhere: Jimmy Buffett, Indian Grub, and a Nest of Simiiformes

Robert Mace

Restaurants are about transitions, and so is life. Jimmy Buffett, who recently transitioned to the Margaritaville in the Sky, wrote the song of the same name in Northwest Hills after partaking of frozens at Lung's Cocina del Sur in the Village Center (where, I'm told, High 5 is today). How's that for local lore?

Speaking of transitions, Tikka Shack Indian Grub at 2438 West Anderson at ye olde Project Pollo spot is now open. Verdad True Modern Mexican over in The Grove is expected to open in October with Austin's Very Own Saltt (is that supposed to be pronounced salty, like salt tee?) still in process. The Texas-based,

fast-casual American bistro bellagreen is opening an outpost in The Grove. Bartlett's has a new majority owner, Trey Wolslager, who plans to expand the upscale steakhouse to two more locations. Pho Tin at 2438 West Anderson closed after a failed health inspection and is now reopened at Fin Café, still slinging Vietnamese cuisine.

In other news, Yard Bar has a chow-slinger back with The Canteen serving a variety of dog park dishes. Asado's Taqueria, a trailer at Rosedale Market (1309 West 45th), serves up Mission-style burritos. And I just noticed Pedroso's Pizza up at 8315 Burnet in a trailer outside of the

Night Owl Bar. District Kitchen+Cocktails is now open for lunch. And mega kudos to Fonda San Miguel for capturing AC condensate to the tune of 250 gallons a day to save Austin's water supply.

The rumors (I accidentally started) of Monkey Nest's death were greatly exaggerated. I misread the development map, which is particularly embarrassing since I'm part geography professor. Apologies. I hope that Nest of Simiiformes got an uptick in the one-last-visit business. I, for one, am glad I was wrong!

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Que Divino Cocina Mexicana

Robert Mace

Birria has a fascinating history. Its roots go back to goats that Cortéz and the Conquistadors (that would be a great name for a band!) brought to Mexico and left to the locals. The locals stewed the goats with adobo spices, something the Spaniards referred to derisively as “birria!” (worthless!). The birria tacos we generally see in Austin are Tijuana-style beef birrias with a consomé dipping sauce. If there’s cheese in there, it’s a quesobirria.

Burria tacos aren’t particularly healthy but, ooma-umame, they are incredibly flavorful. Que Divino’s birrias are, appropriately enough, devilishly divine. The adobo has deep, rich flavors that would be first-rate on their own. Add the consomé, and those tacos are eyes-rolling-into-the-back-of-your-head good.

The salsa has bang, and the chips (as well as the tortillas) are housemade. The other tacos are tasty, but everything pales next to those homewrecker birrias. The enchiladas were good, but the bar was still finding the sweet (and sour) spot for its margaritas during their soft opening.

Que Divino comes to us from Hutto where the family started as a truck in 2019, elevated to brick and mortar, and is now expanding to Austin. They also offer breakfast tacos, but sadly close the breakfast kitchen too early to enjoy brunch on the weekends. Perhaps it’s a sign of old age, but the prices seemed a bit high for the chow. Regardless, those birria tacos are priceless. He didn’t know it at the time, but the gold Cortéz sought was stewing in cabrito pots right under his nose.

Que Divino Cocina Mexicana, 3435 Greystone Drive, Austin, Texas; www.quedivinocosina.com

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McCallum High School

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Two ways to help include donating individually wrapped non-perishable snacks for students and purchasing gift cards to HEB, Target, or Walmart for families in need. Both snacks and gift cards should go to McCallum, attn: MACares.
Direct questions to macares@mccallumpta.org.

Yamas: Greek Kitchen + Bar

Robert Mace

Ahhh, Greece! Skies of azul, Aegean blue seas, whitewashed walls, and the gently rocking cradle of democracy! Yamas has magically transported the spirit, aesthetic, and feel of a Grecian islet to Balcones Drive, along with the diverse flavors of land, sea, and hills covered with olive, fig, and pistachio trees. The space is gobsmackingly gorgeous, seanced straight from Mykonos. A nazar underlies the Yamas logo, an eye to ward evil from the bougainvillea'd white walls. The interior is a true treat for the eyes: bright, white, and woody with organic curves, tasteful decorations, and mythic murals.

The drinks menu is varied with cocktails, mocktails, and Grecian wines. I tried the namesake, The Yamas (Skinos Mastiha, lime, mint, and sage; \$17), while The Bride ordered the drier of the Greek rosés. The Yamas was ambrosial, one of those drinks you must consciously tell yourself to sip sparingly, not gulp. Our appetizer (mezze) was the Pikilia Traditional (tzatziki, spicy feta, hummus, olive spread, and grilled pita; \$23). Enough for four, we demolished those ramekins like Rammstein slamming through Du Hast at Madison Square Garden. The olive tapenade delivered a salty tang while the tzatziki (salted yogurt and cucumber) was hefty and plush. We shared the Yamas Salad (red cabbage, arugula, tomato, red onion, avocado, oregano, olive oil, Moderna vinegar, and pomegranate seeds; \$22) and adored its uniqueness and myriad flavors. And there was a LOT of it! If the prices seem high, note that (1) this place is fancypants and (2) the dishes can easily feed more than one.

For mains, I went with Moussaka (eggplant, potato, Greek-style ground beef, and bechamel sauce; \$28), while The

Bride chose the Mediterranean Linguine (peppers, olives, tomato sauce, feta, and oregano; \$22). The Bride enjoyed her dish, noting that it seemed more Italian than Greek, but that's what you have when you order linguine with tomato sauce and don't eat olives. My moussaka was thoroughly Greek with a gorgeous tower of layered mashed taters, beef, sliced taters, and eggplant girdled with cool tomato sauce. Again, an impressively sized dish, although perhaps too big since the 'sakka was a bit on the cool side, especially toward the bottom.

We boxed up our ample leftovers and ordered the Baklava (\$14) before we hit the exit. Wise decision. The 'klava was large and drizzled in the freshest tasting honey and avalanches with roasted pistachio bits. The dish was paradoxically light and heavy simultaneously.

All in all, Yamas, which means cheers ("to our health!") in Greek ("στην υγεια μας!"), is a hit, already making a Best of Austin list and requiring a reservation. The parking lot is small, but it appears

you can park next door at the church. We sat indoors, but they have lovely east-facing outdoor seating as well. Like Darius, we'll definitely invade again to try the fish, soutzoukakia, and more mezze. We expect to be conquered.

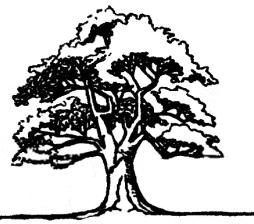
Yamas Greek Kitchen + Bar, 5308 Balcones Drive, www.yamasatx.com. Full-color review at www.austinwanderlist.com.

Paul Kevin Smith, M.Ed.

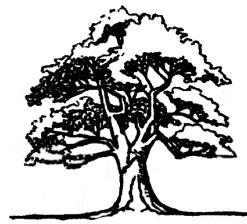
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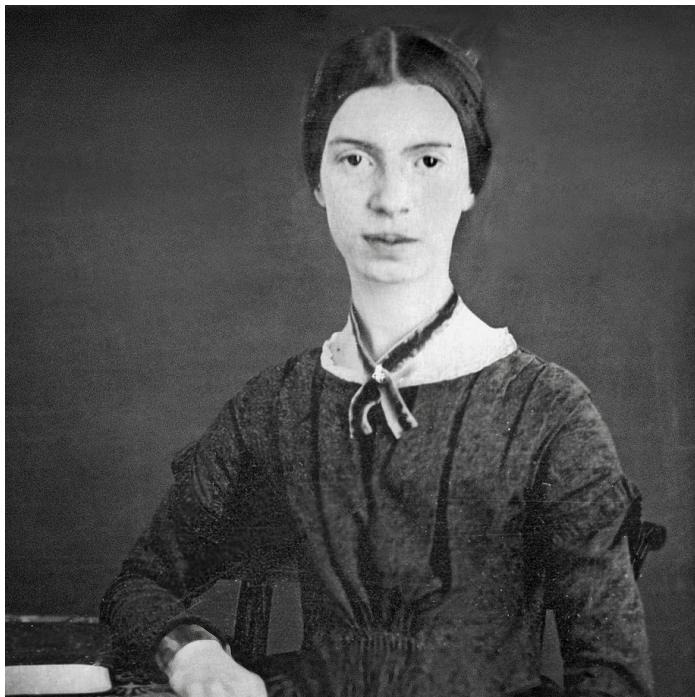
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- All submissions require the approval of the Allandale Neighborhood Association president.
- Submissions are due November 24 for our December newsletter and January 26 for our February newsletter.
- Articles may be lightly edited for grammar, spelling, length, or clarity. Do not add any special formatting or bold text. Headings, subheadings, and paragraphs are fine.
- Please submit all articles via Google Drive to newsallandale@gmail.com. Submissions in other document formats (Microsoft Word, etc.) cannot be accepted. Email newsallandale@gmail.com if you need guidance with this step.

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