



Allandale Neighbor

April 2024
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed!

- » The Allandale Neighborhood Association has openings for a variety positions, including on the Social, Communications, Parks, and Zoning Committees

Beverly S. Sheffield NW District Park Volunteer Events

- » April 20: Keep Austin Beautiful Day – Earth Day
- » September 28: National Public Lands Day

Total Solar Eclipse

- » April 8, 1:37 pm
- » Not to be missed!



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Allandale Quickbites Golden Eyes, An Nyeong, y Mas

Robert Mace

A couple of openings, a couple of new buns in the oven, and a long list of are-we-there-yets. Local heroes Golden Eye Chocolates opened at 3010 West Anderson next to Jack Allen's, offering gorgeous, high-end, modern bonbons. Each chocolate looks like an alien crystal that could defeat Superman.

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Lettuce Recycle! Plastics Edition

Dena Houston

A Day Without Plastics—

I recently read an article written by A.J. Jacobs, a New York journalist who tried to live 24 hours without using or touching plastics. His day began when he stepped out of bed onto his synthetic carpet. BUSTED! That was his first violation. His second violation was sitting on the toilet (plastic).

He had planned ahead by ordering plastic-free items such as a bamboo toothbrush with bristles made of wild boar's hair, charcoal mint toothpaste pellets, a bar of shampoo, and a razor made of zinc and steel.

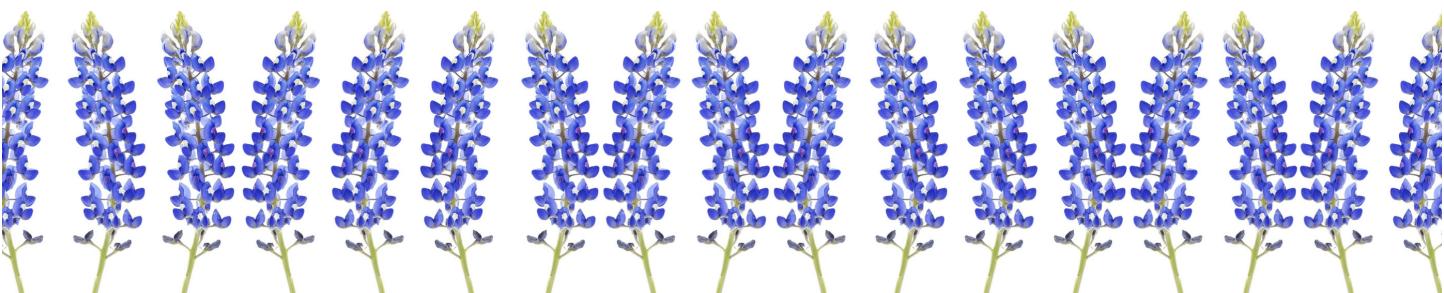
Creek Cleanups: Join the Fun!

Ranleigh Hirsh

The thirteen square miles of Shoal Creek Watershed runs through many Austin neighborhoods, including Allandale. The watershed encompasses 8300 acres and extends sixteen miles with more than thirty miles of streams. Shoal Creek is a highly urbanized watershed draining into the Colorado River at Lady Bird Lake. It lies partially within the environmentally sensitive recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer. With each rain event, trash gathers along the creek and streams from various sources within the watershed. This debris flows south down the creek and eventually lands in Lady Bird Lake.

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EDITOR Tara Lane Bowman

newsallandale@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

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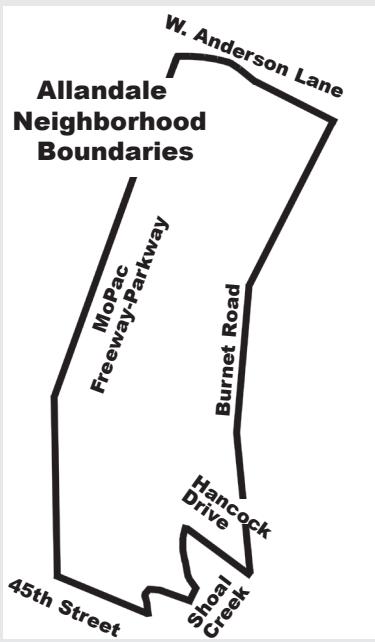
AUSTIN NEIGHBOR- Caroline Reynolds

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Allandale Police District Rep.

Ofcr. Phillip Sparkman, 512-974-8123

phillip.sparkman@austintexas.gov



President's Letter

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

Dear Allandale Neighbors:

It feels like summer is here already. We only had a brief freeze during the winter and some rain. Fairly mild compared to last year. Bluebonnets are supposed to bloom in late March. I think that they started blooming in late February this year.

We just had a primary election with dismal participation. I suppose only the most devoted and hardheaded voters showed up. Yet, there is another election coming up on May 4, with early voting from April 22 to April 30. This is an election for three positions on the Travis Central Appraisal Board.

The Travis Central Appraisal Board is perhaps less consequential than other elected offices. Still, it is important to keep the enemies of the republic, grifters, and outright stupid people from having elected positions where they can do damage. We have seen damage happen from the smallest school district and local government to the national stage. It is imperative to keep the barbarians out of every office lest we end up like Belarus. **Get out and vote to stop the barbarians!**

On the related topic of governance, ANA received an email from Sam, a person with the title Policy Advisor in the office of Council District 7, asking to publish "information" on the HOME initiative and small lot sizes. Conveniently, Sam is also a founder of StayTinyTX, a builder of tiny homes. A casual observer will notice how beneficial it is for a policy advisor to promote city policies that directly benefit your own wallet. When the crookedness makes a corkscrew look straight in comparison, it does raise eyebrows and should be a clarion call for action.

We offered Sam advertising space at our regular rates for the newsletter to publish his "information." We have not heard back from him. Sam is getting married in April, and of course, we wish him and his mate happy nuptials.

There are four announced candidates to Council District 7, and ANA is hosting our general meeting in April for all four candidates to meet the neighborhood. Transparency and governance will be topics to discuss with the candidates.

"Don't despair. Despair is what the barbarians want. Never give it to them." -- David Almon, Island

hans

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Creek Cleanups

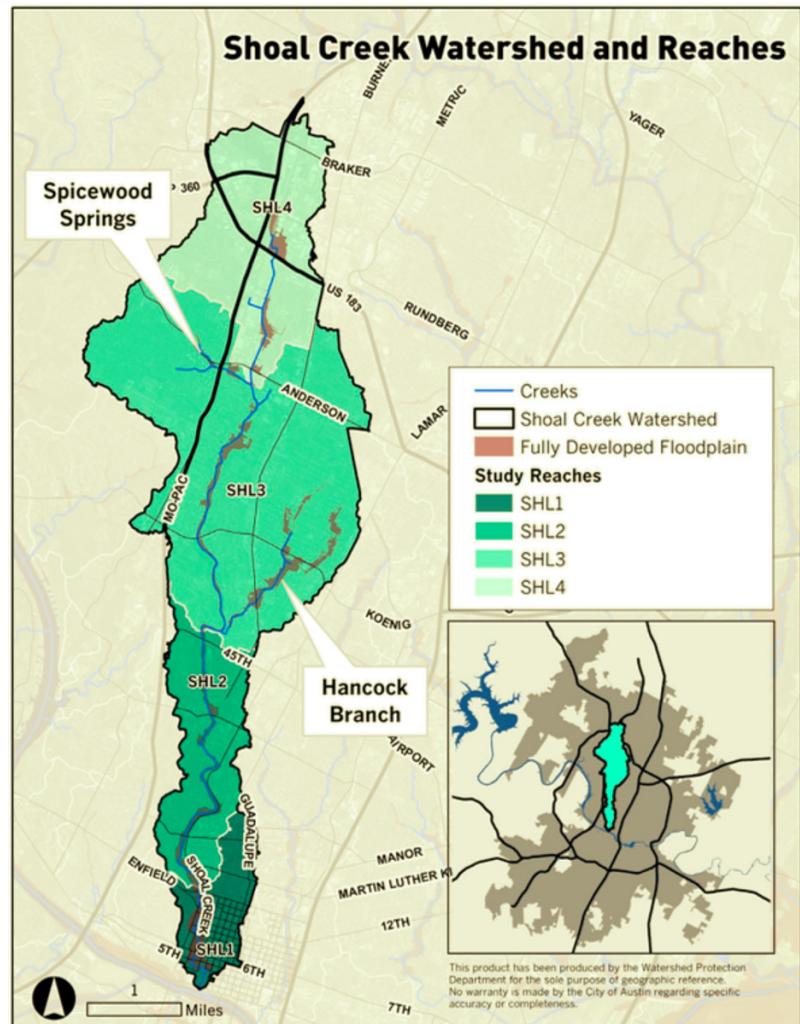
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When Allandale volunteers gather to clean a portion of the Shoal Creek watershed, the creek becomes a healthier place for all creatures and our neighbors. Many hands make light work during our cleanup events. A clean watershed is a source of beauty for our residents and a source of pride. Thus, working as a team to keep the creek clean makes Lady Bird Lake a clean, healthy, and much more attractive and inviting destination. Without your help, as a committed creek cleaner, Austin's creek system would suffer greatly.

Please join us on our short hour-and-a-half creek cleanups throughout Allandale. Mostly, we clean the creek area within Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park. Other times, we focus efforts at the Great Northern Storm Water Retention Ponds. Our quick cleanups are held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. approximately once a month, mainly on weekends. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/ANACreekCleanup to participate.

Have you seen these birds?

Birds of prey have been active in our neighborhood lately. Keep an eye to the sky!





Results of the March 2 cleanup in Northwest Park

Neighborhood Schools Report

Tara Lane Bowman

Gullett Elementary Viva Gullett, Gullett's adults-only yearly fundraiser, returns on April 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the event space at First Texas Honda. Tickets are \$1, but all donations in addition to the ticket price are appreciated. Come hungry! Eldorado Cafe will provide catering. Proceeds directly benefit Gullett PTA. Buy your tickets, learn how to sponsor, or donate to the silent auction at bit.ly/VIVA2024

Highland Park Elementary's Incoming Kindergarten families, please check highlandpark.austinschools.org for June and July playdates for your students, which will be held at Perry Park. Scotties old and new can find all the Scottie merch they desire at hppta.org

McCallum High School Congratulations to Senior Shield co-editor-in-chief Alice Scott, who was named the Texas High School Journalist of the Year by the Texas Association of Journalism Educators (TAJE). Business owners, are you looking for a way to promote your business while supporting MAC students? McCallum 2024 Project Graduation Corporate Sponsors receive recognition for generous tax-deductible contributions. Find out more about project graduation business sponsorship levels and how to donate at bit.ly/McCallum2024



Lamar Middle School & Fine Arts Academy The Lamar Band Booster Club will host the Lamar Talent Show on Friday, April 12, in the cafeteria. Yearbooks are still available to purchase! Go to jostens.com and search for Lamar Middle School. Congratulations are in order for Lamar's Symphonic Wind and Wind Ensemble, which both made Sweepstakes in March's UIL state evaluation events.

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Lettuce Recycle!

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

He took a wooden chair onto the subway so he wouldn't have to sit on a plastic seat.

He could not use his cell phone or his credit card, and he couldn't even use paper money because it contains a plastic security thread. He had previously withdrawn about \$60 in coins from his bank and taken money out of his kids' piggy banks. As he stacked the coins on the counter to pay for his groceries, the cashier told him that he meditates every morning to deal with such turmoil.

By the end of the day, he had 164 violations.

His conclusion was that his experiment helped him become more aware of plastic items that we can't do without and those we might be able to give up. He decided that the most important thing was trying to give up single-use plastics, which were the real enemy.

A Brief History of Plastics—

The first plastic was invented in 1869 by John Wesley Hyatt to replace the elephant ivory used in making billiard balls. The growing popularity of billiards had put a strain on the supply of ivory obtained through the slaughter of wild elephants. Hyatt

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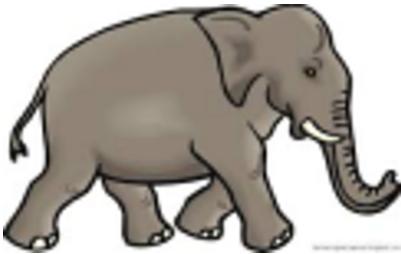
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won a \$10,000 prize for his invention.

This discovery was revolutionary. For the first time, manufacturing was not constrained by the limits of nature. Now, humans could create new materials and save some of the planet's precious resources.



During World War II, Plastic Production Skyrocketed—The plastics industry expanded greatly in the U.S. during World War II. The need to preserve scarce natural resources made the production of plastics a priority. Nylon, a synthetic silk, was used for parachutes, ropes, etc. Plexiglas provided an alternative to glass for aircraft windows. During the war, plastic production in the U.S. increased by three hundred percent.

Plastics: The Good

Plastics and Food—

Plastic packaging prevents much of our food from spoiling and overripening from exposure to other foods that emit ethylene. It is an essential barrier against microbiological contamination. Plastic allows foods to be transported over longer distances and over longer periods of time. Therefore, it helps get food to people in developing countries who are less likely to get enough fruits and vegetables. If plastic were not used for food preservation, many more people would suffer from malnutrition.

Plastics and Modern Technology—

Plastics have made the development of computers, cell phones, and many other electronic devices possible. Replacing natural materials with plastic has made many of our possessions cheaper, lighter, safer, and stronger. The use of lightweight plastics in all forms of transportation has reduced fuel consumption. In the medical industry, plastics have revolutionized health and safety by creating products for one-time use. Eliminating the need to sterilize and reuse a device helps prevent the spread of dangerous diseases. For people living in countries where there are ongoing concerns about groundwater contamination, bottled water leads to improved health.

Sources

The Conversation: bit.ly/3xabri0

Quartz: bit.ly/43tTd74

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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Quick Bites

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Quickly replacing Citizen Eatery on Burnet, An Nyeong K-Tofu & BBQ opened during spring break. A first visit was quite promising, with a bowl of goodness sizzling in a hot granite bowl. Although Kitchen United disunited from its Burnet Road location, its first and last resident, Hawaiian Bros, is still there! The space will soon be rebranded as ChefSuite, where more ghost kitchens will arise. While visiting Verdad True Modern Mexican at The Grove, I noticed a storefront promising the arrival of Toastique, a "gourmet toast and juice bar." Still waiting on H-Mart (and its coterie of restaurants), Snarf's Sandwiches (sign is up!), Ling Wu, Wunder Pig, and The Grove Wine Bar & Kitchen to open.

On the kudos front, Yelp listed the top 100 pizza joints in the country, and three of them are in our stomach-hood, including Home Slice (#11), Little Deli & Pizzeria (#71), and Pinthouse Pizza (#88). Tribeza listed the best margaritas in town, and fully half of them are within stum-



A sizzling-hot rice bowl from An Nyeong K-Tofu & BBQ

bling distance, including Tacodeli, Peached Tortilla, Enchiladas y Mas, Eldorado Cafe, Fonda San Miguel, and Trudy's. CultureMap included Barney Swine among its best neighborhood restaurants. And congrats to Star of India for thirty years of serving North Indian cuisine.



Let Us Hear From You!

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

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Cheri Coffee & Flowers + My Sweetish Friend

Robert Mace

The corner of Addison and Burnet has hosted a used car lot, a junk lot, and now a cute collective of coffees, cakes, and carnations. Cheri Coffee & Flowers slings coffee from the kiosk and arranges flowers from the storefront. On the coffee side, you can get all of your expected espresso drinks, including drip, cappuccino, americano, latte, and (hey! hey!) cortado. If coffee ain't your thing, there's also hibiscus tea or an Adrenaline Cocktail of organic coconut water, cold-pressed orange juice, and mineral salt. The Bride and I are latte-heads, and we've both found a latte to like about Cheri's frothy milk concoctions. Inside the building, Cheri's uses locally grown flowers to create amazing arrangements of bouquets and, if you're getting hitched or ditched, flowers for those events (and any other event requiring blooms).

If the koffee kiosk is not cute enough for you (and you need something baked to enjoy your coffee with [besides your stoner friend from college]), there's the adorable camper trailer a few steps away. My Sweetish Friend sells an array of (literally) homemade pastries and seasonal items. The Mighty Morgan (formerly known as the Badass Breakfast Bundt) is an upside-down bundt cupcake with raisins, carrots, apples, pecans, oats, figs, orange zest, honey, flax, and chia seeds (\$3.50) that gives off fruitcake vibes (in a good way!). It is mighty good (and probably healthy).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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A selection of pastries from My Sweetish Friend

Cheri Coffee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

The Swedish Tosca Almond Cake (\$5) is based on mom's recipe (and mom knew what she was doing). The whirl of the bundt for the Pear Cardamom Cake (cardamom and cinnamon blended with a home-made pear, ginger, and vanilla bean compote, and powdered sugar; \$4) accurately captures the swirling flavor of this cupcake from heaven. I've listed cupcake/slice prices, but most items can be ordered at full cake sizes for pick-up.

The team plans to add more tables and, eventually, umbrellas, so look for constant improvements over time.

Cheri Coffee & Flowers, 6726 Burnet Road,
chericoffeeandflowers.com

My Sweetish Friend, 6726 Burnet Road,
www.mysweetishfriend.com

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Lettuce Recycle!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Plastics: The Bad

Plastics have a profound impact on the environment. They can kill ocean life and terrestrial wildlife, produce chemical pollution, and create microplastics that can potentially harm all living things.

It is estimated that 1.3 billion plastic water bottles are used every day around the world. Most plastic bottles for soft drinks and water are made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Although bottles are highly recyclable, PET is a significant contributor to microplastic pollution in oceans. As their use soars around the globe, efforts to collect and recycle these bottles and keep them out of our landfills and oceans are failing.

Plastics: The Ugly

The Pasig River was once a treasured waterway flowing through downtown Manila, Philippines, into Manila Bay. In

1990, it was declared biologically dead. The problem is that many of the tributaries that feed this river are overflowing with plastic waste from settlements along its banks. One of the tributaries is so choked with plastic debris that you can walk across it. This river is now listed among the top ten rivers in the world that carry plastic waste to the sea.

Manila cannot provide the recycling programs necessary to address the problem of plastic waste. Many other countries are also so overwhelmed by the amount of plastic being thrown into the rivers and streams that it seems impossible to manage the situation.

What We Can Do To Help

1. Purchase fewer single-use plastic products.
2. Be more conscientious about placing plastic bottles and containers into our blue curbside bins.
3. Take all plastic bags and film wrap to local plastic collection bins located at most grocery stores.

4. Try to reuse plastic as much as possible.

Sources

The Guardian: bit.ly/43xOkd5

Aquasana bit.ly/3IQCWQc

Twice The Ice: bit.ly/498C305

Reader Question and Answer-

How Do I Dispose of Vitamins and Dietary Supplements That Are Out of Date?

The Walgreens pharmacy at 5819 Burnet Rd. will take these and other medications. Not all Walgreens do this, so please check with your local one. Pharmacies must have a special license to take them.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website:
austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to denahouston3309@gmail.com

Verdad True Modern Mexican

Robert Mace

Verdad True Modern Mexican comes from the same folks that bring you Carve American Grille across the plaza. The restaurant format is similar: bar on the left, formal seating on the right, and tasteful outdoor seating out front. Instead of a room for red meat, there's a stylish, large dinner table for your too-big-to-read book club to get drunk in public. Whereas Carve evinces dark sophistication, Verdad sports a refined, cheery decor.

We went left and sat at a two-topper near the bar where the bar menu as well as the full menu, is available. We started off with a couple of margaritas, including the Signature Margarita on the Rocks (Teremana Blanco, fresh-pressed lime juice, and agave nectar; \$14) for her and a Fuego Afrutado (Espolón Blanco, Ancho Reyes Verde, fresh-pressed lime and orange juices, and mango; \$14) for me. The Sig Marg was quite good (perhaps too good) with just the right amount of sweet and sour and snap of the tequila.



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Mine was good, too, but the Sig was the winner. If eating raw metal is your thing, order one of the margaritas topped with gold or silver shavings (you can hold one with your pinky finger in the air while spouting, "Let them eat tres leches cake!").

For starters, we went with Crispy Fritters (zucchini, corn, and octopus fritters served with chipotle mayo, cilantro lime crema, and cabbage slaw; \$11 for three) and the Sliced Sea Scallop Agua Chile Rojo (coated with toasted chile and tomato broth; garnished with cucumbers, watermelon radish, and jicama; and

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dusted with onion ash; \$21). The fritters were decent, but the sea scallops were the winners of this appetizer death match (although truth be told, we killed both of them).

For mains, I tried the Cherry Mole Duck (half duck roasted and stuffed with red rice, mild chiles, and tomatoes topped

with cherry mole; \$45) while The Bride ordered the Chef's Chicken Enchiladas (chicken breast, cheese, and authentic enchilada sauce wrapped in heirloom blue and white masa corn tortillas; \$29). Cherry mole sounded interesting, and it was, with a classic cherry sweet-sour flavor combined with other spices, although I'm not sure it was \$45 good. The enchiladas

were good as well, although the authentic sauce tasted akin to taco powder from HEB. I don't mean that as a dig since that powder is dang good (and I'm not saying that's what they used [right?]), but it was a little strange, no matter how authentic, in a high-end restaurant for a plate of \$30 'chiladas.

Finally, to top off the evening, we had the Why-Stop-at-Three? Seis Leches Cake ([1] sweetened condensed milk, [2] sweetened condensed coconut cream, [3] almond milk, [4] goat milk, [5] evaporated milk, and [6] heavy cream; \$12). It was dang good ("Let them eat seis leches.").

There's lots of competition in the high-end Mexican market in Austin, but there are not many high-enders in North-Central Austin (Fonda San Miguel and who else?). And it ain't cheap to eat here. We walked out with a bill just north of \$200 with tip, title, and license (and some items at a happy-hour discount [message to the editor: When will the Allandale Neighbor give me an expense account?]). To complicate things further, Verdad does not list prices on their website (if you have to ask...). Whereas the owners have refined their Carve concept to perfection over many years, there may be some adjustments to Verdad before the truth is finally told.

Verdad True Modern Mexican, 2701 Perseverance Dr, Austin, TX 78731,
www.verdadtruemodernmexican.com

Full-color review at
www.austinwanderlist.com



Signature Margarita on the Rocks (rear) and Fuego Afrutado (front)

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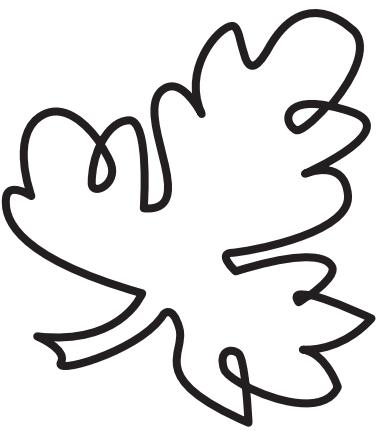
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Shenghao "Daniel" Wang



Dick Lavine



Let Us Hear From You!

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

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carefully ■ Have a block party ■ Attend a

neighborhood meeting ■ VOTE! ■ Flip over

an upturned turtle ■ Observe the speed limit

neighborhood ■ Pick up after your pets

Take Pride In our Neighborhood

■ Take walks around the neighborhood ■



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 _____
Address _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Membership rates: \$20 dues per household \$10 dues per age 55+ household

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

Or join online via www.allandaleneighbor.com

I am willing to serve on the following committees: Bylaws Communications Finance Membership
 Nominating Parks Safety Zoning and Planning Other _____

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 May 15 for our June newsletter and July 15 for our August 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.
- Google Drive submissions are preferred. Email newsallandale@gmail.com if you need guidance on document formats and we will assist you.



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