

2025  
Happy New Year of the  
Chinese Snake

# Walnut Creek Neighborhood News

Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association

A pdf version in color is available at [www.WCNAnews.com](http://www.WCNAnews.com)

Jan  
Feb  
2025

## Join Us!

Dues information is shown in this newsletter on the back page beside your address label. Information is shown for paying by check or PayPal.

## Social Media/Listservs:

NextDoor: <https://is.gd/3K9VnZ>

Facebook: <http://goo.gl/4G41rS>

Website: [www.WCNAnews.com](http://www.WCNAnews.com)

## Hi Neighbor! Best Wishes for the New Year!

The newsletter is changing, at least for this issue. The most obvious change is size: half the number of pages compared to those over the last 15 years or so. This will make production (and reading?) easier, thereby reducing labor and stress. The amount of content will be much less, therefore more intensely focused on news directly affecting the neighborhood. This will reduce the length of articles and the number of supporting pictures. We invite your comments about this change, either via "Contact Us" on our website, your comments on social media, or direct contact with a board member. Your comments will also help us evaluate the usefulness of the newsletter and provide an estimate of readership.

**This is one of two "holiday issues"**, Nov-Dec and Jan-Feb, when we ask for your support for WCNA in its efforts to protect the neighborhood's "character" and safety, promote social coherence and build a sense of community among residents. If you've been reading previous newsletters you'll have noted the inclusion of an addressed envelope you can use to pay the \$25/year for Association membership, and a "coupon" to indicate which of the projects / accounts you want any extra donation to support (undesignated donations are put in the General Fund). Or join via PayPal at <https://www.wcnanews.com/wcnamembership>, with the same options.

In addition to directly-supported WCNA projects, the neighborhood enjoys opportunities to participate in group activities developed and organized by some active contributors to our community quality of life, frequently in partnership with WCNA. One of these is the WCN Safety Team, established to aid residents in all forms of safety, from direct involvement in situations – some of which may involve coordination with APD – which affect security here. These may include mediation in conflict between residents and people from inside or outside the 'hood, or providing physical and perhaps material help to improve home security. Christian Ninaud heads this group, open to all, which communicates via Facebook Messenger on Walnut Creek's group Facebook page (<http://goo.gl/4G41rS>) and direct phone contact. They organize "Safety Socials" (which has included the neighborhood's National Night Out) and other similar events, operate neighborhood patrols, organize cleanups around the 'hood, and even help neighbors with installing safety features or other minor repairs. **Join or contact the group via text at 512-971-7628 or via WCN – Safety Chat on the Facebook site.**

The "**We're All Neighbors**" organization, whose founders include our neighbors Eric and Emily Shaughnessy, is very active in organizing events with folks from WCN and nearby neighborhoods. Besides their many ongoing programs (driveway pickleball, Kid soccer, Game Nights, etc.) they are continually organizing events to improve widely-used facilities while engendering social cohesion. They also provide kids with useful and creative things to do, e.g. cleaning and painting parts of the Walnut Creek Elementary School façade. Their many events are advertised in the Walnut Creek Neighborhood group email which, if you're not already on, you can sign up for on our website shown above. This group email also lists all other Walnut Creek Neighborhood events coming soon. These events also are listed on the WCN website <https://www.wcnanews.com/>.

## Sparkle & Shine at Walnut Creek's Noon Year's Party! *by Tasha Bowser*

**Happy Noon Year, Walnut Creek!** On January 1st, families came together to ring in 2025 with a joyful **Sparkle & Shine** celebration. This year's party was all about fun, community, and a touch of glitz!

DJ Q kept the energy high with fresh beats as neighbors danced, laughed, and enjoyed delicious snacks. Children sparkled with creative fun as they decorated party crowns and got glittery tattoos, embracing the festive theme.

The highlight of the event was the **countdown to 12 noon**, when balloons rained down from the ceiling, filling the room with cheers and laughter. The celebration continued with the always-popular **bubble wrap stomp** and a sparkling cider toast to kick off the new year with joy and excitement.

Thank you to Julie Prien for adorning the kids with their sparkle tattoos and everyone who signed up to contribute time or snacks/drinks/activities. We could not make this event happen without the participation of our community! Thanks as well to all who joined in the fun and made this year's Noon Year's party a true community celebration.



**Balloons fall at Noon!**

*Tasha Bowser*

***Here's to a bright and shining 2025!***

## Holiday Spirit Soars at the Caroling Hayride! by Tasha Bowser

Thanks to organizers Tasha Bowser, Eric Shaughnessy and Jeni Wade, the neighborhood tradition of many years was revived for the 2024 Christmas season, after a three - year hiatus. This year's Christmas Caroling Hayride was a resounding success, bringing holiday joy and neighborly cheer to our community!

At four festive "Carol Corners" around the neighborhood (established via social media, the WCN email group, and phone), the event kicked off with an incredible turnout of about 30 neighbors gathered at the first stop to enjoy the carols. The other corners drew at least half a dozen attendees, sowing the holiday spirit throughout the neighborhood.

Meanwhile, the "sleigh" (a beautifully-decorated truck!) carried 20-30 cheerful carolers.

The night concluded with a heartfelt remembrance circle, where neighbors came together to reflect, celebrate, and connect—reminding us all of the importance of community during the holiday season.

A huge thank you to our Carol Captains, Jill Leberknight and Sullivan Brown for leading the songs, the Wade Family for hosting the remembrance circle, Christian Ninaud for driving the "sleigh", and everyone who participated, hosted, and helped organize this event. It's clear that our neighborhood knows how to make the season merry and bright! Here's to more moments of joy and togetherness in the coming year. **Happy Holidays!**



**At the front of the Sleigh!**  
Tasha Bowser

### **\*\*\*\*\* NOTE: No More City-Scheduled Bulk or Brush Pickups! \*\*\*\*\***

Every year for many years, Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) has scheduled – for all Austin residences – pickup of brush and bulky household items during designated weeks of the year, with the weeks differing from neighborhood to neighborhood. There were usually two pickup weeks each for brush and bulky items. Your stuff would be picked up at your curb at some point during your week (you needed to have stuff out at the start of the week to be safe).

**Starting this month (January 2025)**, pickup will become **personal: You will contact ARR to establish a day for your material to be picked up** (per ARR, your stuff should be on your curb by 5:30 a.m. of that day).

You can schedule a day for pickup by phone at 3-1-1 / (512-974-2000), download the smartphone app, or use the recommended method [online](#) . Apparently all methods lead to an interactive process whereby you identify what you want picked up so the appropriate truck can be scheduled, and notifications can be scheduled.

**The Good News:** You can schedule up to nine pickups: three pickups per calendar year for each of three services: Brush, Bulk Items, and Hazardous Waste(!). Yes, you may not have to drive down to that facility ever again!

The less-good news: the process is more complicated and somewhat more restrictive. A link that may help is:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/news/austin-launch-demand-collection-bulk-brush-and-household-hazardous-waste>

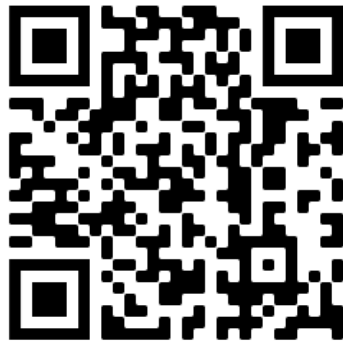
## **Automobile Registration Requirements Changed Starting January 1st**

You must have heard or read this somewhere by now: Texas has decided there's no reason to inspect automobiles any longer. This simply means there's no longer a state requirement to go through the usual safety inspection prior to applying to get your vehicle registered for another year when you hit the end of the date on your windshield sticker. In most counties this means that when you go to DPS or HEB or wherever you usually get your new sticker, there won't be a check to prove you've paid for an official inspection. **But this isn't true in Travis County!**

Travis Co. has opted to continue the test for exhaust emissions that has been part of registration for many years. None of the other tests will be done, so you can have worn-out brakes and tires and no rubber on your windshield wipers (or maybe no windshield wipers at all) and it won't matter. The logic has something to do with how good these modern cars are (know anybody who doesn't drive a good modern car?). It's not clear how many locations will continue to make emissions tests – designation OMD – but a quick check using the DPS locator (<https://www.dps.texas.gov/apps/rsd/vi/VInactiveStationLocator/>) showed all the ones I've used in the area).

So you'll have your OMD test and get a Vehicle Inspection Report, which may/should automatically be reported to DPS (may take a day to arrive), though getting a copy of it to have on hand is recommended. With this, your driver's license, your vehicle information received from DPS and proof of insurance you can get registered.

As usual, you can obtain your registration in person at a DPS site, via mail or through one of the agents authorized by DPS (e.g., like HEB within a month of expiration of current sticker). Or you can do what the Travis County Tax Office is recommending and pay online at <https://renew.txdmv.gov/Renew/RegistrationRenewalServlet> using your license plate number and the last four digits of your Vehicle Identification Number. They still collect the "standard inspection fee" (w/o inspecting) of \$7.50 and charge an "emissions inspection fee" of \$11.50, so vehicles under 6000lbs will cost \$121.75. Check the links and see if that's your understanding as well...



QR Code to pay dues or donate

**You can use PayPal for both dues & contributions.**

**PayPal** is a popular way to become – or remain - a member, or to make a donation toward WCNA projects (shown on drop-down menus on the Donate site). You can use any credit card to make a payment via PayPal through the “join/donate” page on the WCNA website, <https://wcnanews.com/membership/>

Alternatively, with your smart phone using a QR code reader you can go to the same page using the QR code at left.

*Note: You don't have to join PayPal to use it for payments.*

**Dues and Contributions Form for Calendar Year 2025**

**Please clip and return with payment, or use PayPal (see below).**

**Dues for 2025 are \$25 Please note your desired distribution for contributions over that amount.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DUES (\$25 per year): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Walnut Bluffs Trails (park) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Safety Team \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Walnut Creek Elementary \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cat Coalition \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL INCLUDED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Our New Austin City Council Member (District 7):**

**Mike Siegel**

[Mike.Siegel@austinTexas.gov](mailto:Mike.Siegel@austinTexas.gov)

Because no candidate received more than 50% in the regular election, runoff elections were held on 14 December for City Council District 7 (Leslie Pool was no longer eligible due to term limitations) and AISD at-large District 8. Siegel won the runoff with Gary Bledsoe, and Fernando Lucas de Urioste won the AISD position.

Mike is well known here after unsuccessfully running for our US Representative District 37 twice.

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**Mark Your Calendars for It's My Park Day!**

**The next IMPD is Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Details to follow on social media, the WCNA website and Group Email.

**EMERGENCY: Police, Fire, EMS.**

**Animal Control: Call 911**

**The National Suicide/Mental Crisis Hotline: 988**

**Trans Hotline: 877-565-8860**

**City:** All services, codes & code violations, animal reports:  
**Call 311**

[Get the phone app: **Austin311 on Google Play and iTunes**]

APD District Rep: **Adam Soliz**  
512 974-8143

[Adam.soliz@austintexas.gov](mailto:Adam.soliz@austintexas.gov)

County Constable, Pct 2

**Adan Ballesteros**, 512 854-9697  
[Adan.Ballesteros@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Adan.Ballesteros@co.travis.tx.us)

**APD Animal Cruelty Unit Tip Hot Line: 512 978-0523**

**Emery Sadkin**  
CoA Animal Protection Officer, Wildlife

**Call 311 or 512-974-2000**

**Local Weather Station on Oakwood:**

<https://tinyurl.com/OakwoodWeather>

**Office of Police Oversight**  
[policeoversight@austintexas.gov](mailto:policeoversight@austintexas.gov)

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John Hersey  
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**Walnut Creek Neighborhood**

**Association membership** is open to any resident (owner or renter) or property owner within its boundaries:  
Braker to Yeager and  
Lamar to IH35

**Membership dues** are \$25 per household for a calendar year. Send a check to: WCNA ; PO Box 82746; Austin, TX 78708-2746

To check whether you've paid your dues for this or next calendar year, call or text Pat at 512 659-8132 or email [s.pitt@earthlink.net](mailto:s.pitt@earthlink.net)

**WCNA News** is sent to every household within the Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association boundaries: Braker Lane to Yager Lane and North Lamar to IH-35.

**To contribute content** to the newsletter: [wcna.contact@gmail.com](mailto:wcna.contact@gmail.com) and/or contact Pat Pitt, 512 837-6620

**Note:**  
Any opinions expressed in articles printed in this newsletter are the explicit opinions of the writer(s) and, unless explicitly stated, are not to be implied as the opinions of either the editor or the Board of Directors of Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association, Inc.

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**Calendar of Events**

Jan	15	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	19	3M Half Marathon - <a href="https://downhilltodowntown.com">https://downhilltodowntown.com</a>
	20	U.S. Presidential Inauguration Day
	20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Banks & post office closed
	29	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	29	Lunar New Year
Feb	2	Groundhog Day
	12	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	14	Valentine's Day
	15	****WCNA Annual Meeting-Watch for Details!****
	16	Ascension Austin Marathon, Half, 5K - <a href="https://youraustinmarathon.com">https://youraustinmarathon.com</a>
	17	Presidents' Day - Banks & post office closed
Mar	26	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	1	It's My Park Day
	2	Texas Independence Day
	4	Mardi Gras
	7-15	SXSW Music Festival
	9	Daylight Savings time begins - Spring forward
	12	Blue Recycle Container Picked Up: Curbside by 7:00 a.m.
	14-29	Rodeo Austin - <a href="https://rodeoaustin.com">https://rodeoaustin.com</a>
	17-21	AISD Spring Break
	17	St. Patrick's Day
20	First Day of Spring	