



# WootenNews

## Serving the Wooten Community

### Join the Association!

Wooten Neighborhood Association is open to all that live or work within Wooten Neighborhood.

To join our association, scroll to the end of the newsletter.

## Rain, Sun, Rain - Welcome to Summer 2026

Hey there, Wootennites! If you've spent more time this month yelling at your TV than mowing your lawn (thanks, World Cup!), you're not alone. While we've been busy perfecting our couch-potato skills and debating the true meaning of 'offsides,' summer has officially snuck in and brought some wild weather with it! June decided to break rainfall records, soaking us with an estimated 5.94 inches (that's 161% of the usual, for any stat fans out there).

But it's not just the weather keeping us on our toes: change is in the air for the association, too! Our neighborhood elections are kicking off with the new fiscal year! At our September WNA meeting, we'll be on the hunt for nominees for President and Vice President. After two years as your fearless leader (and occasional party planner), I'm stepping aside for some fresh faces.

Fret not! I'll still be around to help with communications.

As for our Vice President, she's off to new adventures outside the neighborhood, meaning her spot is up for grabs too!

Curious what the positions entail?

The President leads all Association meetings and appoints committee chairs. This role also includes acting as the official spokesperson for the Association and signing off on financial transactions. The Vice President steps in for the President whenever needed and assumes the President's role if they are unable to serve. Additionally, the Vice President serves as an ex-officio member on all committees, takes on tasks assigned by the President, and helps oversee Association communications.

Specific role details can be found in our [By-Laws](#)

### In this newsletter you can expect:

Neighborhood Developments

Redline Parkway

Austin's Summer Readiness Event

Doggo of the Newsletter

Nature Watch

Community Support Spotlight

Book Club!

Association Dates and Activities

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# Community-Centered Developments: What's going on in Wooten

## WNPCT: Advocacy and Community Engagement

### Toyota Dealer

The Wooten Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (WNPCT) is reviewing Toyota of North Austin's request for a Conditional Use Permit to redevelop its dealership at 8400 Research Boulevard. Since the project is over 100,000 square feet, it requires special approval as large retail use. Because most customers will come from outside the neighborhood, the project will likely increase traffic and bring other nuisances. WNPCT is working to address issues like noise, lighting, and site appearance. To offset unavoidable impacts, such as more traffic, we are asking Toyota to support neighborhood improvements. The final agreed items will be included in the permit or in a separate legally binding agreement (restrictive covenant).

WNPCT has involved City staff and our councilman's office to make sure our concerns are addressed through enforceable permit conditions and restrictive covenants.

### What Toyota Has Agreed To

Toyota has committed to the following:

- **Vehicle Delivery:** Toyota will deliver and unload vehicles only on its lot.
- **Dumpster Relocation:** The dumpster will be moved to a more central location within the site.
- **Landscaping:** The landscape plan will incorporate native trees along the site's perimeter, adjacent to the neighborhood.
- **Vehicle Tracking:** The dealership will use a vehicle-tracking device to locate vehicles on the lot, rather than car alarms, reducing noise disturbances.
- **Employee Parking:** Employees will not park on public streets. Toyota will also enter an escrow agreement to fund parking restrictions if needed.
- **EV Charging Stations:** EV charging stations and spaces will be clearly marked and available to the public.
- **Sidewalks & Construction:** Additional items, including sidewalk improvements and construction process standards, have also been agreed upon.
- **Park Improvements:** A one-time donation to the Wooten Neighborhood Park of \$150,000 will be made for park improvements.
- **Bird-Safe Glass:** The dealership will use bird-safe glass.
- **Communication:** The dealership will provide monthly updates and be open to addressing concerns that may arise during construction.

Wooten Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (WNPCT) provides input on city planning priorities and recommends amendments to city staff, specifically in rezoning cases. The team seeks representation from property owners, residential renters, business owners, and any neighborhood members who rent or own property in Wooten. The contact team advocates for our neighborhood, ensuring our interests are represented, especially if neighborhood-based intervention is necessary.

There are no membership dues. The team meets on the first Monday of each month, typically at a local eating establishment.

The team has four positions: chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and attendance keeper. The website provides more information, including contact information and team activities.

### Ongoing Concerns

Despite these agreements, two main issues remain on lighting and screening. The proposed screening is not visually appealing. As this dealership will back up and be visible from many parts of the neighborhood, WNPCT believes the screening should enhance the neighborhood's appearance.

The other issue is the lighting being used. WNPCT and surrounding neighbors are asking that the lights on top of the garage be fully screened and not visible from the garage, and that the lights not impact the neighbors.

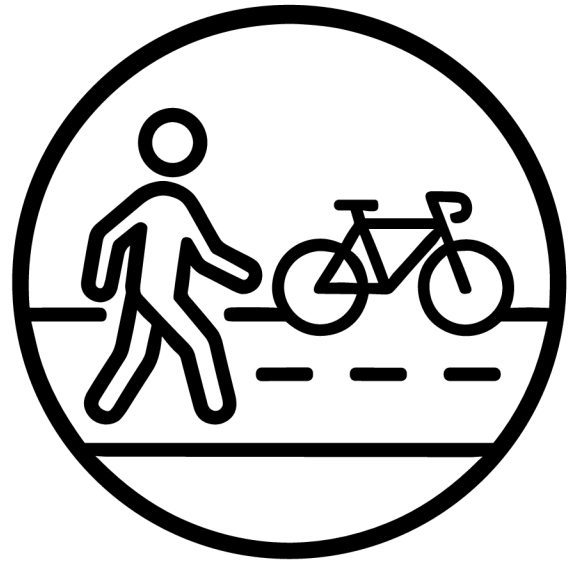
More details and renderings can be found on the [website](#) under the WNA Minutes and WNPCT sections.

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# Let's Talk About the Redline Parkway

By Melinda Taylor



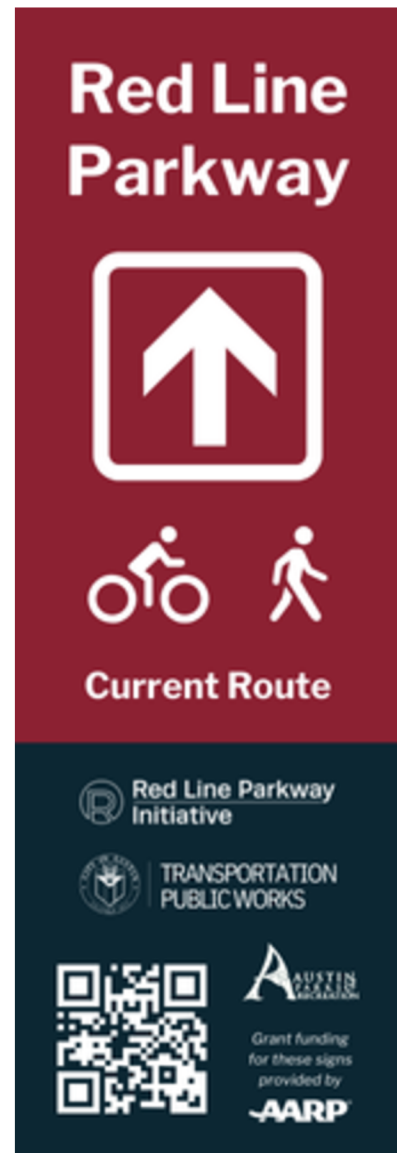
Many Wooten residents have already seen the benefits of recent trail improvements along the Red Line corridor, making it easier to walk, bike, and connect to nearby parks, businesses, and transit. These improvements are part of the larger vision for the Red Line Parkway—a continuous network of trails and green spaces that will connect communities from Downtown Austin to Leander.

As the Parkway continues to develop, Wooten has an important opportunity to help shape its future as the initiative runs through our neighborhood. The Red Line Parkway Initiative is working to expand neighborhood representation and community involvement along the corridor, ensuring that the voices of residents are reflected in planning and decision-making. Increased participation from Wooten residents can help identify local priorities, improve neighborhood connections, and ensure that future investments serve the needs of the community.

Whether you're interested in transportation, parks, trails, environmental stewardship, or simply making Wooten an even better place to live, the Red Line Parkway offers opportunities to get involved and help build a more connected Austin.

For more information on the Redline Parkway, visit their website at

<https://www.redlineparkway.org/>



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# Crank the Radio, Toss the Cup: Austin's Summer Readiness Event

By Patty Colligan

On June 9th, several City of Austin departments teamed up for a "summer readiness" pop-up at the Utility Customer Service Center at 183 and Ohlen Rd., bundling emergency prep, water efficiency, and waste-reduction resources into one stop with free giveaways while supplies lasted.

## What was given away:

- **Austin Energy** — emergency hand-crank radios
- **Austin Water** — low-flow showerheads
- **Austin Resource Recovery** — reusable shopping bags and compostable bags
- **Austin Emergency Management** — Neighborhood Preparedness Guides

The hand-crank radio is worth grabbing for your kit — it works without batteries or cell service, so it keeps you connected to weather alerts during a storm.

Missed it? Austin Emergency Management runs preparedness pop-ups most months at library branches, and the utilities periodically repeat these giveaways. Watch [austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov) and [coutilities.com](http://coutilities.com) for the next one.

## Recycling Update: Cartons Now Accepted

Since Austin Resource Recovery was on hand, here's a reminder: the blue cart now accepts **food and beverage cartons and coated paper products** — milk and juice cartons, coffee cups, paper plates, and takeout containers previously excluded due to their moisture-resistant coating.

**How to recycle them:** empty, rinse lightly, leave the cap on, and place loose in the cart — no flattening needed. Keep everything loose and dry; never bag recyclables.

## Download the Austin Recycles App

If you take one thing from this article: get the free **Austin Recycles app** (Apple/Google Play). It's been actively maintained by ARR, with another update just this month.

## What it does:

- Personalized pickup calendar for trash, recycling, and compost
- Night-before reminders so you never miss a pickup
- **Waste Wizard** search — look up any item to see if it's recycling, compost, or trash
- Bulk/brush pickup schedule
- Schedule Household Hazardous Waste or drop-off center appointments
- Alerts for holiday delays or service changes

With the new carton rules, the Waste Wizard is a quick way to double-check before you toss something.

*Questions? Call 512-494-9400, or Austin 3-1-1 for city services.*

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# Doggo of the Newsletter

## Meet DeeDee!

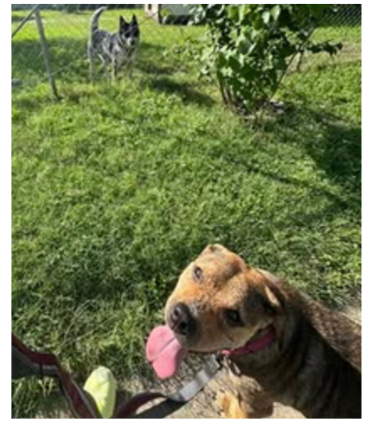
In this newsletter, we're beyond excited to introduce you to an amazing girl named DeeDee, affectionately nicknamed "Brick", who is calling Wooten her temporary home. DeeDee is currently looking for her forever home at the Austin Animal Shelter. This sweet girl deserves an incredible home!

Let's start with the basics: DeeDee is a lovely spayed female who weighs around 70 pounds. She's big, beautiful, and full of love to give! She recently recovered from a tough case of mange. Mange can be really hard for dogs, affecting not just their fur but also their confidence. With lots of tender love and care from the shelter team and foster mom, DeeDee is bouncing back beautifully, and you can see her lovely coat growing back!

Now, DeeDee is a bit shy at first, which is totally understandable! She might be a little cautious when meeting new people or in unfamiliar environments, and she also tends to be a bit jumpy at sudden noises or dropped items. But who hasn't been shy in a new environment or when a loud, unexpected noise occurs? With a little patience and kindness, she warms up and reveals her sweet, affectionate side, and she's actively working on building her confidence and trust.

While she may be shy at first, she absolutely comes to life during playtime! She loves to run and frolic outside, and watching her indulge in those joyful "zoomies" is guaranteed to bring a smile to anyone's face. The sheer happiness on her face when she's outdoors, playing with her doggie friends, is one of the most beautiful sights. And as you might have guessed, she is also good with other dogs and tends to be submissive.

After a good play session, DeeDee enjoys winding down with some relaxation time and treats! She's fond of her crate, which she sees as a cozy little sanctuary, and having a good antler to chew! Speaking of crates, one of the quirkiest and cutest things about DeeDee is her playful tendency to hoard toys inside her kennel. It's like she's creating her own little treasure trove! This adorable habit not only showcases her fun-loving personality but also highlights her need for security—a little reminder that every dog has their unique way of showing love.



If you're thinking of adding a furry friend to your life, DeeDee might be the loving companion you've been searching for!

Let's help her find that special place in someone's heart! If you are interested, please visit her online profile on the [Austin Animal Center website](#) and click "Get Started" to submit an application. This will put you in touch with her foster mom, Laryssa.

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# Nature Watch

By Phil Simmons

Just imagine it: you're walking down the street. You hear a rusty gate squeaking, the sound of machinery whirring away, the piercing scream of a raptor, and the soft tweeting of a songbird. You look up and realize that you aren't in a remake of *The Birds*. Instead, it's a Grackle having a dramatic morning.

Grackles are intelligent, beautiful, and fascinating creatures, and not just a different type of pigeon. In Austin, their dramatic presence is hard to miss. Whether you're waiting at a bus stop, grabbing a bite downtown, or strolling through a park, you'll likely spot (and hear) these birds making themselves known. Their bold behavior and striking looks have made them a quirky and memorable part of Austin's daily life.

Grackles belong to the genus *Quiscalus* within the Icteridae family of New World Blackbirds. Despite their dark color, they aren't closely related to crows or ravens. Austin hosts two species: the Common Grackle and, more abundantly, the Great-Tailed Grackle.

All Grackles have intense, piercing eyes, but you can tell a female from a male by how they look. Males have an iridescent black plumage that changes in the light and are larger than their female counterparts. Females are smaller and brown.

These physical differences are why it is common to see groups separated by sex. Since they may be separated by groups, it is not unusual to see male Grackles use their features to capture the gaze of the females. I got to see this on my first visit to Austin, when I was walking on the UT campus and watched a very dramatic male Grackle puff out all its plumage during its mating dance; one of my favorite memories!

See Nature Watch, Continued on the next page

## WOOTEN NEIGHBORHOOD



### Did you know?

In 2023, a Wooten grackle made headlines when it fell head over heels for a tennis ball! Our neighborhood's feathered celebrities landed in [Texas Monthly](#), proving Wooten is home to the city's most dramatic—and lovelorn—birds.

It all started when one of our wonderful neighbors reached out on [Reddit](#) with a simple question: What do you do when a grackle falls in love with a tennis ball?

## Platinum Sponsors



## Nature Watch Continued

Grackles are highly intelligent, using tools and solving problems to complete tasks. Grackles have passed [intelligence tests](#) like “The Crow and The Pitcher”. This test requires them to drop heavy pebbles into the tube, displacing the water and floating the food to the top. In our neighborhood, I've seen Grackles use standing water to soften hard food they find. They can learn by watching other Grackles' behavior and are behaviorally flexible enough to abandon tactics that no longer work and try new ways to get what they want.

Grackles are very opportunistic feeders. They'll eat lizards, insects, grains, and fruits. They can dive at the water's surface to catch small fish and tadpoles. They'll eat other birds as well as bats. I've seen a female Grackle watch and wait for a diner to be distracted, steal a taco from them, and abscond into a car's open sunroof to eat their meal in peace.

We're very lucky to live in a city that has so many Grackles, and next time you see one, I highly recommend taking an extra moment to pause and watch these amazing birds in action.

## FIND US ONLINE!



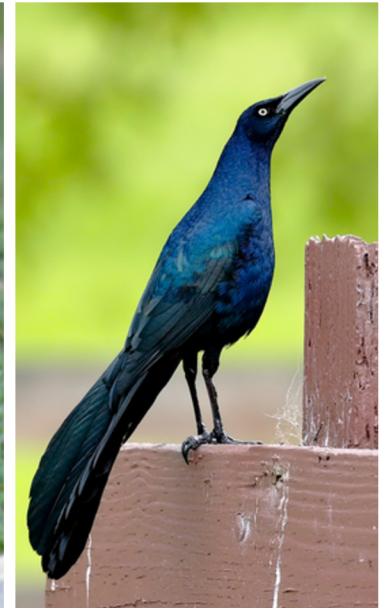
[WOOTENNA.COM](http://WOOTENNA.COM)



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## We Need Your Help!

**Love our neighborhood newsletter?** We're looking for volunteers to help us find new sponsors, figure out the logistics of printing, and get each issue delivered to doorsteps across Wooten. If you're passionate about keeping our community connected—or just want an excuse to meet more neighbors—join our team!

Interested? Email us at [newsletter@wootenna.com](mailto:newsletter@wootenna.com) or at [president@wootenna.com](mailto:president@wootenna.com) to get started.

# Community Support Spotlight

By Joanne Garrett

As part of our ongoing effort to spotlight local organizations and inspire community involvement, we're sharing stories from neighbors who have made a difference by volunteering. This quarter, Joanne graciously volunteered to share her personal experience with the Drive A Senior program, which connects volunteers with seniors who need rides and support.

In January 2022, I experienced a sudden bout of vertigo. When I arrived at the doctor's office, I was turned away by the receptionist because he couldn't verify my insurance coverage. Although I was able to clear up the issue once I got home, I missed my second appointment because I was too dizzy to drive. That afternoon, a friend called me while I was in tears. She told me she would take me to my appointment the next day and encouraged me to call the receptionist to let him know I'd be there first thing in the morning. Her support made all the difference.

The following year, after being laid off from my job, I remembered that Drive A Senior, an organization dedicated to helping seniors get to appointments and run errands, had visited one of our neighborhood association meetings several years earlier. Now that I had more time, I felt inspired to pay my friend's kindness forward by volunteering. I'm so glad I did!

Over the past three years of volunteering, I've met some wonderful people from all walks of life and backgrounds. Several of them have become regulars, and I always look forward to seeing their names on the request lists.

I continue to be beyond grateful to my own support network, and I'm glad that seniors in our community have the Drive A Senior "tribe" so they don't have to miss doctor appointments or feel alone during challenging times.

If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back, consider volunteering here. Even a few hours a month can make a big difference for our neighbors. Learn more at [www.drivesenioratx.org](http://www.drivesenioratx.org)



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# Books, Bites, and New Buddies!



Looking for a way to meet new faces, discover great books, and have some fun?

Join the Wooten Book Club! The next gathering is on July 30th at 6 pm at Nosh and Bevy, where we'll dive into "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans.

Whether you're a seasoned reader or just want to connect with neighbors, everyone is welcome.

Don't forget to join our [Facebook Group](#) to stay up to date on all our events and discussions. Come for the conversation, stay for the community!

*Thank you for reading!*



## Upcoming Neighborhood Meetings

All neighbors and businesses are welcome to participate! All events impacting the neighborhood are posted on our [website](#).

### Wooten Park Committee Planning Meeting

- July 10, 2026
- Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm
- Location: Virtual

### Wooten Planning Neighborhood Contact Team Meeting

- TBD on second week of July
- Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Location: Nosh and Bevy, 8440 Burnet Rd #100, Austin, TX 78757

### Quarterly Wootenannie

- August 10, 2026
- Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Location: Nosh and Bevy

## BECOME A MEMBER

Be a part of our inspiring mission to inform, connect, and beautify our community. Memberships are just **\$5** per person per year.

Submit the form to the right or Pay online via Zeffy: [WNA Membership Sign Up](#)

## BECOME A SPONSOR

Sponsors support the community and help sustain the association and create events that connect our neighborhood.

Participants will receive complimentary advertising in our quarterly newsletter, on our sponsorship page, and on our social media channels. Learn more on our website: [Sponsorship Program](#).

Submit the form to the right or Pay online via Zeffy: [WNA Sponsorship](#)

## SUPPORT OUR PARKS

Supporting our Park through donations is a wonderful way to contribute to the well-being of our community and the environment.

Submit the form to the right or Pay online via Zeffy: [Park Fund](#)

## MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WNA AND MAIL TO:

P.O. Box 10171  
Austin, TX 78766



## WOOTEN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

- Annual Membership – \$5
- Extra Donation – \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Park Fund - \$\_\_\_\_\_
- WNA Sponsorship:
  - Bronze – \$250       Silver – \$450
  - Gold – \$600       Platinum – \$1000

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