



# CASTLEWOOD-OAK VALLEY

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Quarter 2 2025 | [covna.org](http://covna.org)

### Letter from the president

By Denise Sample



It's hard to believe that it's already June! Flowers are blooming, thunderstorms are rolling through, and the kids are out for the summer. I am loving seeing so many of our littlest neighbors out for walks. This time of year is hard

to beat.

Have you joined COVNA or renewed yet? Unlike an HOA, we are a voluntary neighborhood association that relies on all of you to renew your membership each year.

Are you wondering what COVNA does? We seek to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood by staying active in area growth issues, traffic problems and environmental concerns. Become a member household and participate in our association meetings.

Did you know we have a meeting at the start of each of our neighborhood gatherings? They are quick and an important way to hear from the members.

Stay informed and sign up for the neighborhood email list serv. Click on the blue "Sign Up" button at the bottom of the page at [COVNA.org](http://COVNA.org). Enter your email address and follow the steps to confirm your registration.

Join COVNA!



If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. ■

### COVNA event recap

By Julie Chang

We kicked off our first COVNA event of the year with our ever-popular garage sale in April which garnered at least 36 participants. Huge thanks to Tina for mapping out participating households and to Tom for helping to erect several signs that alerted buyers to the sale. This year was the first year the garage sale wasn't followed by the city's bulk pick-up, but the change didn't deter neighbors from



Neighbors attended COVNA's annual Spring Fling where they enjoyed grilled burgers and hotdogs outside of Ron's house. (Credit: Denise Sample)

setting up shop. Let's try to make next year an even more robust turnout.

About 40 neighbors also attended our Spring Fling in May. Board members helped organize the event, providing hotdogs and hamburgers and a fun baking contest. Anna on Queenswood won with her delightful lemon

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#### Castlewood-Oak Valley Neighborhood Association Board

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bundt cake that featured a pistachio topping. Anna was awarded a \$25 cash prize and we can't wait to see what other delicious dishes Anna whips up with it!

We hope to see you all for our next COVNA events, Summer Parade and Picnic on June 28 and National Night out on Oct. 7. ■

## ANC update: Legislature and wildfires

*By Rita Thompson*

This spring, the Austin Neighborhood Council has been addressing various concerns for our neighborhoods including some of the bills coming before the 89th Texas Legislature.

By the time of this newsletter's publication, some of the bills may have passed. Senate Bill 15 relates to lot size and impervious cover. SB 673 relates to accessory dwellings/short term rentals and their parking and lot size requirements. SB 840 allows mixed-use development or multifamily residential use to be built or transformed to the highest allowed density and allows for development without a zoning change if the zoning classification allows for office, commercial, retail, warehouse, or mixed-use development. SB 1567 changes occupancy limits related to bedroom sizes. Visit [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov) for more information on these bills.



*A firefighter lights a patch of grass during a prescribed burn at Pace Bend Park in Spicewood in February. (Credit: KUT)*

The city of Austin is actively addressing our fire risk. According to a CoreLogic Wildfire Risk Report, Austin is ranked fifth in the nation

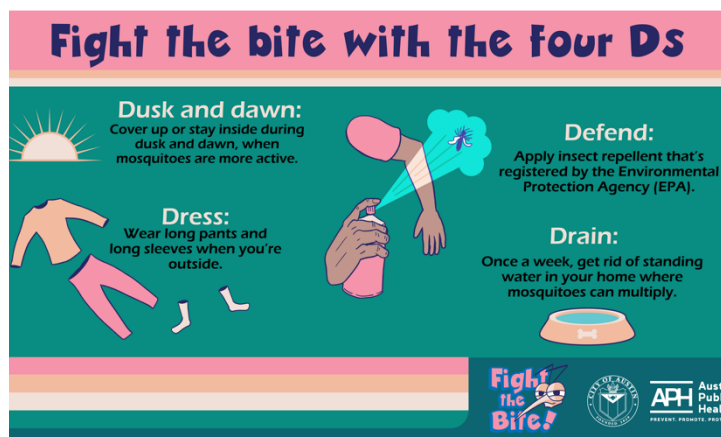
for wildfire vulnerability. A total of 91,961 Austin homes are at risk, and as our population increases so will the risks. The city has developed a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map and a plan to mitigate risks. To learn more, search for Wildland-Urban Interface Code on [austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov), as well as [wildfire-austin.hub.arcgis.com](http://wildfire-austin.hub.arcgis.com).

In addition, Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division conducts community awareness and preparedness outreach to educate residents on how to prevent and respond to fires. ■

## Active mosquito season expected

*By Julie Chang*

Austin officials are warning residents that warmer and wetter conditions is extending mosquito season, which runs from May through November.



In addition to itchy bites, mosquitoes can carry disease that include Zika, West Nile, dengue fever, encephalitis and canine worm. Last year, officials confirmed that more than 100 mosquito pools tested positive for West Nile, which infected 33 people and killed two in Travis County.

“Wearing long sleeves and pants, putting on repellent and clearing out standing water will protect yourself and others from mosquitoes and the diseases they carry,” said Austin-Travis County Health Authority Dr. Desmar Walkes.

Removing standing water on your property can help the neighborhood lower its mosquito population. Check that old tires, flowerpots, clogged rain gutters, bird baths, wade pools and rain barrels don't become breeding sites. ■