

# NEIGHBOR

Neighbor to Neighbor- Waste Management is Committed to Keeping You Informed

Austin Community Landfill  
Summer 2022

## SUMMER SAFETY: PROPER DISPOSAL OF THE "FIERY FOUR"

As most people are cooling off in the pool or flipping burgers on the grill this summer, it's important to recognize how to properly dispose of summer pastime residuals. There are four items, in particular, of which to be aware as people are taking advantage of the hot, summer season. The "fiery four" include pool chemicals, hot coals and ash, propane tanks, and batteries.

The Fiery Four should never be disposed of in waste or recycle bins, as they are notoriously known for causing fires, and even explosions, in a landfill, at a recycling center or MRF, in the back of a garbage disposal truck, and even in trash bins at your home. These items also pose additional health risks when not properly disposed of.

Propane tanks may have residual propane left inside that can be harmful if breathed in. Direct exposure to pool or battery chemicals can result in skin burns and irritations for you, your local garbage collector, or anyone handling it. In addition, chemicals are also highly combustible. As chemicals mix, they can produce poisonous gases that can pose a serious health hazard or may even create a dangerous chemical reaction. Eventually, if not properly disposed of, those chemicals seep into the ground, contaminating the soil and groundwater of your home or a landfill.

This summer, as an increase in truck fires has been experienced by many companies within the waste industry, we encourage you to practice safe disposal of the "fiery four."

### Propane Tanks

Whether a small tank for camping or a large tank for a gas grill, propane tanks can cause explosions. They are a fire hazard, a health hazard, and harmful to the environment.

**Proper Disposal:** Contact your local propane provider, contact your city or county to find your local Household Hazardous Waste drop-off location, or schedule home collection online at [WMAYourDoor.com](http://WMAYourDoor.com) or call 800-449-7587.

### Pool Chemicals

Empty pool chemical containers often have residual chemicals inside which can start a fire, cause chemical burns, and damage the environment.

**Proper Disposal:** Check with your pool supply store, contact your city or county for Household Hazardous Waste drop-off locations, or schedule home collection online at [WMAYourDoor.com](http://WMAYourDoor.com) or call 800-449-7587.

### Hot Coal & Ash

Hot coal and ash can start a fire when not properly cooled down before disposing.

**For Proper Disposal:** Cool for 48 hours in a metal bucket before disposing as waste or composting.

### Batteries

Batteries are a fire hazard and can be harmful to the environment when not properly disposed.

**For Proper Disposal:** Contact your city or county for Household Hazardous Waste drop-off locations, or schedule home collection online at [WMAYourDoor.com](http://WMAYourDoor.com) or call 800-449-7587.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

I hope you are doing your best to stay cool during this hot summer heat! Things have been moving along here as usual at Austin Community Landfill.

Our pollinator garden, which recently received wildlife habitat certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council, is blooming beautifully this summer and attracting bees, butterflies,



caterpillars, and hummingbirds. We've also continued our support of Keep Austin Clean, partnering with them to offer landfill services for their events in the area.

As you may remember from our last newsletter, this year's projects include adding 14 new vertical wells, three new horizontal wells, and running approximately 1600 ft. of new header pipe. The first phase in this two-phase

construction process was completed last quarter. The second phase of construction will begin in the fourth quarter of this year and will include installing six more vertical wells and three horizontal wells.

If you have any questions about the facility, don't hesitate to give me a call.



**JESSE ANDRADE**  
Sr. District Mgr

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**Landfill Hours**  
Monday- Friday: 7 AM to 5 PM  
Saturday: 7 AM to Noon  
Sunday: Closed



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## Austin Community Landfill Donates \$2,500 To Bluebonnet Trail Elementary

Austin Community Landfill (ACL) recently donated \$2,500 to support neighboring school Bluebonnet Trail Elementary. WM has enjoyed partnering with Bluebonnet Trail Elementary over the years, providing support to teachers and students at the school.

According to Angel Deluna, PYP Head of School at Bluebonnet Trail Elementary, the \$2,500 donation will be used to purchase needed materials of instruction in the areas of math and literacy, and to aid with the campus's focus on developing academic vocabulary.

"WM's partnership over the years has positively benefited countless students and staff members," said Angel Deluna, PYP Head of School at Bluebonnet Trail Elementary. "The financial support as well as the time commitment to serve on the Campus Advisory Team are treasured and appreciated."



Austin Community Landfill  
9900 Giles Road  
Austin, TX 78754



THIS SUMMER, REMEMBER:  
**NO PROPANE TANKS**  
IN YOUR RECYCLING DROP-OFF

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Propane tanks must be recycled properly to prevent safety hazards.  
For more information on how to safely dispose of a propane tank, visit a licensed propane dealer.