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# CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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July 2015

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**Sunday, July 19:** CNA Ice Cream Social, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM, in front of the Little Deli.

**Saturday, July 25:** Neighborhood New/Expectant Moms Meetup, 10:00 AM at Brentwood Park near the swings. See article for more information.

**Saturday, August 8:** Brentwood Elementary PTA Kindergarten Play Date, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Brentwood Elementary School, 6700 Arroyo Seco. Open to all incoming Brentwood Kindergarten families, no RSVP required.

**Monday, August 10:** Crestview Neighborhood Association Meeting. 7:00 PM at the Journey Imperfect Faith Community, 7500 Woodrow Ave.

**Saturdays:** Johnson's Backyard Garden and Bikkurim Farms farmers' market, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM, at 7113 Burnet Rd., in front of Dallas Nightclub.

## CNA Gets New Treasurer

In June, within weeks of being Elected CNA Treasurer and before her first CNA meeting as a member of the executive committee, sudden changes in Sheila Roan's life forced her to resign her position.

Acting according to the association's bylaws, the executive committee immediately elected Ali Thompson as Roan's replacement.

Thompson has lived in Crestview since 2009 in the house her husband's grandparents built in 1954. She has two daughters, ages 10 and 5, who will attend Brentwood Elementary in the fall. She works as an Escrow Officer for Houdyshell + Partners, a Fee Attorney Office for Chicago Title.

## Come on out for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social

By Nancy Mohn Barnard, CNA Secretary

The Crestview Neighborhood Association is hosting the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 19 from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM in front of the Little Deli.

Bring your family and enjoy free ice cream, music, and other activities while getting to know new neighbors and catching up with old friends.

Musical entertainment will be provided by local bands The Native Transplants and Pasadena. A raffle will be held with prizes from local businesses. The CNA is also hoping to have face painting and are looking for neighbors willing to donate their talents.

Additionally, we will have our first-ever ice cream eating contest at noon.

There will be an event for adults and one for children 17 and under. For the adults, the winner will be the person who consumes a half gallon of ice cream the fastest; for the children, a pint. Prizes will be awarded for both.

This event is made possible by the generosity of Crestview IGA, who donates free ice cream every year. Stop by and give them some love!

This 25-year tradition is a great way for neighbors to meet and to learn about the Crestview Neighborhood Association, its members and officers, and how to become more involved with the neighborhood. In fact, the ice cream social will be held in lieu of the formal neighborhood association meeting for July.

For more information, or if you are interested in providing face painting or participating in the ice cream eating contest, contact Nancy Mohn Barnard at [okra@austin.rr.com](mailto:okra@austin.rr.com).



## Art at the Entrances

Henry Levine, who is leading the Art at the Entrances project, told attendees that at the June CNA meeting that funding and ideas need to be in place before further action can be taken. The project is aimed at placing artwork at several points marking the entrance to the Crestview neighborhood.

It is now up to the CNA board, Levine said, to decide what kind of project the neighborhood wants, and suggested that the community vote on what they'd like to see. Potential locations for the art include Justin Ln. at Reese Ln. and St. Joseph Blvd. where it becomes Morrow St.

To make the project a reality, the CNA will work with Austin's Neighborhood Partnering Program and also with the Violet Crown Community Works. Levine estimates that a Crestview sign will cost between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per site and that an art installation will be \$20,000 to \$40,000 per site.

**Crestview Neighborhood  
Association Ice Cream Social**

**Sunday, July 19  
11:00 AM–1:00 PM**

**Crestview Shopping Center  
7101 Woodrow Ave.**

# CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

is published monthly on 100% recycled paper by the Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA).

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## CNA Contact Information

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www.crestviewna.org

CNA General Meetings are held the second  
Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at the  
Crestview United Methodist Church  
1300 Morrow St.

## CNA Committees

### ADOPT-A-MEDIAN

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crestview-adopt-a-median-program@googlegroups.com

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

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crestview\_forsale@yahoo.com  
crestview-gardeners@google.com  
crestview-parents@google.com



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## City Addresses Concerns about Arroyo Seco Project

Austin's Neighborhood Partnering Program coordinators, Aleksina Chapman and Justin Golbabai, attended June's CNA meeting in part to explain to members how the Brentwood Neighborhood Association went door-to-door to help raise more than \$5,000 for the Arroyo Seco pedestrian and bicycle project.

The Brentwood NA, Golbabai said, also helped design the project, which was originally slated to stop at Justin Ln., but was extended at the request of the Crestview Neighborhood Association.

The path has had a mixed reaction from the neighborhoods and Chapman is collecting feedback. Chapman also explained that the two-way path for cyclists and pedestrians with cars restricted to one way is a configuration that has been done in other parts of Austin, and its design reflects how the path is expected to be used. The first phase of the project—painted lines and markings—is in place and will be followed by placement of physical barriers as part of phase two.

Other concerns expressed by neighbors included a feeling that the path is designed for bicycles rather than pedestrians, and that the chicane poles are unattractive, although Chapman explained that the group is still considering what type of permanent barrier to erect. Attendees also said that the lanes ending behind the Crestview IGA are dangerous and not clearly marked.



## CNA Members to Test Online Voting

By Matt Armstrong, CNA Advisory Chairman



More than 40 members of the Crestview Neighborhood Association are testing several online voting platforms to determine the feasibility of using online voting for CNA elections.

Online voting is now widely used within the United States and around the world, including for German, Australian, and Canadian governmental elections. Online voting could potentially make it much easier for members and potential members to participate in elections and CNA decision making.

Many members face challenges getting babysitters while they attend CNA events; others have mobility and health issues that prevent them from attending meetings.

Throughout the month of July, the online voting test group will examine three free online voting platforms: PollMaker, Helios, and Survey Monkey. The group will examine each for security, ease of use, and analytic tools.

The purpose of this test is not to choose any particular platform right away but rather to become familiar with the process and mechanics of using online voting in the near future. Any change in voting method will require amending the bylaws to reflect the acceptance of online voting as an additional voting method.

Any CNA member with questions or a desire to participate in the test should contact Matthew Armstrong, CNA Advisory Chairman, at [marmstrong18@gmail.com](mailto:marmstrong18@gmail.com).

# Office Complex Proposal Fails to Get a City Council Motion

By Larry Ouellette, CNPCT Facilitator

In the end, developer David Kahn's effort to amend Crestview's Neighborhood Plan and Zoning to allow the development of a major office complex did not get a hearing. Scheduled for second and third readings at the May 14 City Council meeting, the proposals failed to draw the motion that would have allowed a vote.

Following a brief procedural discussion led by Mayor Steve Adler, during which council members apparently agreed that the easiest way to drop the amendment proposals was to simply do nothing, District 7 Council Member Leslie Pool withdrew her initial motion to defeat the proposals and the Mayor called for a motion. City Council Members did nothing.

Following several moments of silence, Mayor Adler moved on to the next agenda item and an 18-month David and Goliath battle that pitted a major real estate developer against an all-volunteer neighborhood group was over. The neighbors had won and Crestview's Neighborhood Plan prevailed.

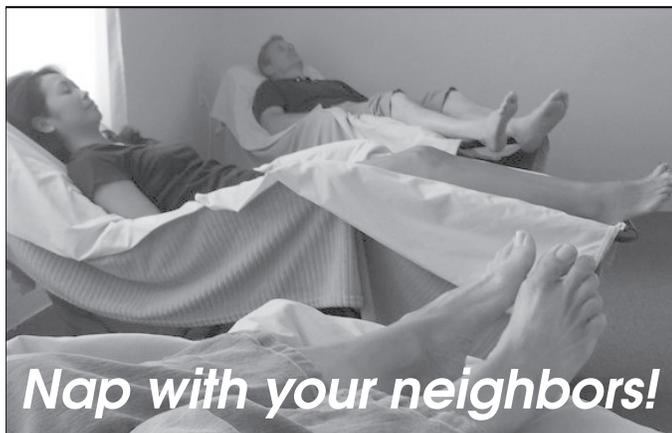
It was a quiet, and somewhat anti-climactic but welcome end, greeted by applause from residents who had endured a day of City Council proceedings in order to be there for what throughout the day was an uncertain outcome. Mr. Kahn, who also spent the day in the council chamber, left the chamber without comment.



The existence of a valid petition was credited with being a key element of the effort to oppose the project. Spearheaded by long-time resident Chip Harris, the valid petition contained the signatures representing 35 percent of the property within 200 feet of the project site and would have required that a super majority of nine council members to approve the amendments in a third reading. Without the petition, a simple majority of six would have carried the day for the developer.

In the end, however, there was no need for the third vote, as the measures didn't find even enough support to call for a vote in second reading. Items left on the table are effectively left in the dust, and that's what happened to the amendments.

Mr. Kahn has already initiated plans for a new project on a smaller parcel within the same site, known as the "Korean Church" located on Justin Ln., Hardy Dr., and Cullen Ave. Mr. Kahn's new proposal, which he introduced to the Crestview Neighborhood Plan Contact Team in April, calls for 54 apartments in a multi-story building to be located at the corner of Hardy Dr. and Cullen Ave. Although its function is completely different, the structure would appear to trigger the same concerns relating to size, neighborhood compatibility, and traffic that were triggered by the failed office complex proposal. Mr. Kahn has indicated he plans to return to the CNPCT with a full proposal at the next CNPCT meeting.



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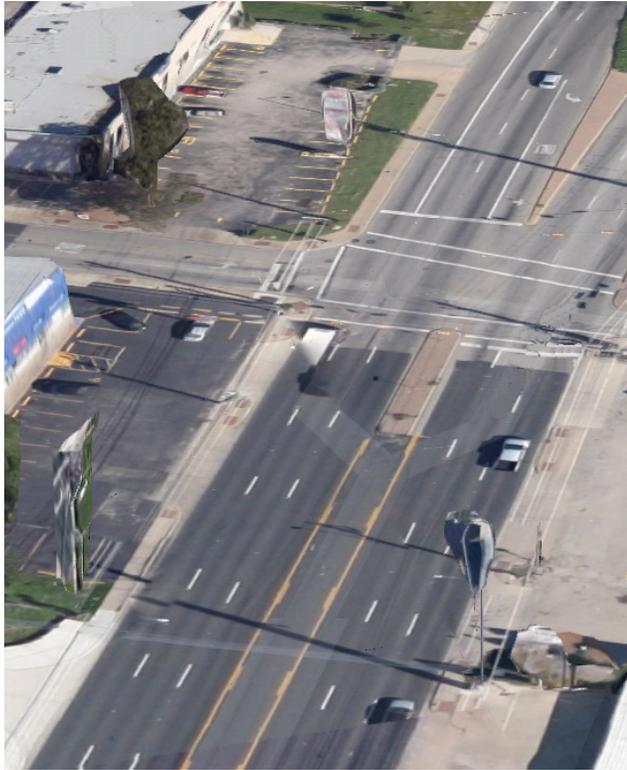
## Pool Discusses Morrow and Lamar Median

District 7 City Council member, Leslie Pool, told Crestview Neighborhood Association members in June that District 4 is asking the City for the barrier at North Lamar Blvd. and Morrow St. to be removed. Although it is an issue of convenience for the Highland neighborhood, she says, it is a safety issue for the Crestview neighborhood.

Pool asked the CNA to work with Highland residents before going before City Council.

A discussion followed Pool's announcement about a past agreement between the Highland and Crestview neighborhoods in which Crestview agreed to remove the median if sidewalks were created on the north side of Morrow St. from Lamar Blvd. to Burnet Rd., and if traffic-calming procedures were put in place.

Residents of the Morrow and North Lamar area also raised concerns about the increase of traffic on Morrow St.



## New and Expectant Moms Monthly Meetup



The Brentwood and Crestview New and Expectant Moms' Group meets every month to swap resources and information about the pre- and post-natal

experience. Originally founded in February 2013 by neighborhood mom Donna Chen, the meetings typically attract five to 15 new or expectant moms, as well as kids ranging from newborns to toddlers.

Meetings are typically held at Brentwood Park near the swings on the last Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM. Events and location changes are announced on NextDoor, the neighborhood listserv, and the Crestview Parents listserv (<http://groups.google.com/group/crestview-parents>). Please join us for the next meeting, scheduled for Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. In case of rain, we will meet at Genuine Joe Coffeehouse.

For more information, contact Alison Koleszar at [akoleszar@gmail.com](mailto:akoleszar@gmail.com) or Carolyn Stalzer Mehlomakulu at [carolynmehlo@gmail.com](mailto:carolynmehlo@gmail.com).

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# PRIMED—Interviews of Artists living in Crestview and Brentwood

By Henry Levine, Neighborhood Contributor

Jamie Berlant, a Crestview resident, studied art at Idyllwild Arts Academy during her high school years and received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Jamie has studied many mediums, including ceramics, painting, photography, and performance art, but sculpture has been the medium she uses to communicate ideas clearly and in-depth. She also has over 20 years experience working in museums and galleries as an art preparator.

*What mediums do you use to make your art, and how does craftsmanship play an important role in your work?*

Wood, metal, and leather have been a constant throughout my work, but I'm always inspired when I can learn a new technique. When I began making sculpture, everything I made for the first year fell apart. Everything. Really! It motivated me to learn the proper methods for welding, woodworking, light metals, and carving. The more skills I learned, the better my work became, and the more bold and clear my artistic voice became. I came to feel that craftsmanship is not below higher artistic intent, but it became a badge of pride as a woman to be able to make my own work - to weld my own steel, to build my own boxes, to carve my own sculptures.



*Your work often walks a line between the absurd (Osteoporosis Chair) and the sublime (a wood-carved cat skull, Felis Domesticus). Though these are dissimilar works, they carry a familiar psychological weight of control, fear, and decay. Can you explain this?*

I approach making artwork with a feeling or an idea. The objects I make could be considered slag. They are only remnants of an idea. I try to make them as alluring and beautiful as can be, but thoughts about family, loss, love, and the power struggles that are intrinsic to each of these emotions are riddled with a heaviness that can be dark and ugly. The beauty is what comes out from the darkness, loss, and fear.

*What artists have inspired you over the years?*

Eva Hesse's work inspired me to start making sculpture. She was a woman who, during a time when it was popular for men to make prefab sculptures out of heavy steel, she was successful at creating hand-made sculptures that referred to the body, nature, and human emotions. Currently, I love the work of Martin Puryear and the sculptures of Susan Collis.

*How has working in museums affected or inspired your artwork?*

When I worked as a mountmaker for the Field Museum in Chicago, I handled amazing objects that are on one hand simply an object, and at the same time symbols of an entire culture, time period, or era. It's amazing how one object can inform us of so much history and such heavy meaning. I strive to have this kind of weight to my work.

You can see more of Jamie's work at [www.jamieberlant.blogspot.com](http://www.jamieberlant.blogspot.com)

Henry Levine has taken over for Jamie for this month's Primed. Henry is a furniture designer and builder who received his BA at the University of Texas at Austin, and his MFA from Parsons School of Design in New York. Henry was featured in the December issue of Primed.

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