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CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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September 2015

EVENTS CALENDAR

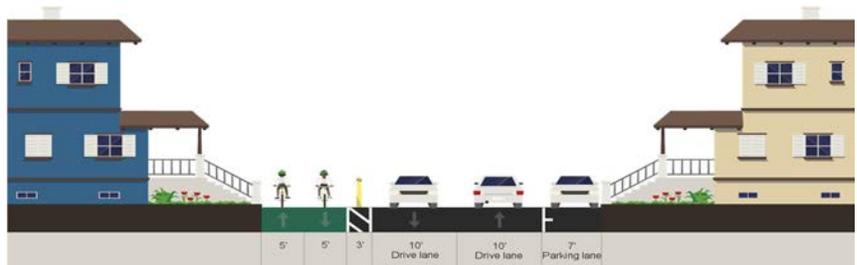
Monday, September 14: Crestview Neighborhood Association Meeting. 7:00 PM at the Journey Imperfect Faith Community, 7500 Woodrow Ave.

Tuesday, September 15: Watershed Protection Department meeting to discuss floodplains, red zones, and flood insurance. 6:00–8:00 PM in the McCallum High School cafeteria.

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.

Sundays: Sunday morning yoga, 10:00–11:00 AM, Brentwood Park covered slab. For more information, see www.yogadenada.com.

Saturday, October 17: Travis County Master Gardeners Association private garden tour, including a Crestview garden. For more information, see www.insideaustingardens.org.



Grover Bike and Safety Improvements Initiative

By Steven Knapp, CNA Vice President

Volunteers have made significant progress toward implementing bike and pedestrian safety improvements on Grover Ave. CNA leadership is working with the City on the project to make Grover safer for walkers, runners, and cyclists. The project was first discussed at the January 2015 CNA meeting; during this spring and summer, 18 people worked to put the project in place and have informed Councilwoman Pool that the project is a priority.

The City's Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) informed us that bicycle and pedestrian safety project funding may be awarded to a community through a grant program that covers 60% of project cost if the local community covers 30% of the cost. Brentwood used the NPP to fund the Arroyo Seco bike and pedestrian safety improvements. The Friends of Brentwood Park used the NPP for shade structures and other park projects.

Because the Crestview portion of Grover lacks sidewalks, our vision is to reallocate the 40 feet of paved surface to make safer paths for walkers, runners, and cyclists—much like the upcoming project on Justin Lane, which is also 40 feet wide. Looking northward, this would allow for two five-foot bike and walk lanes, separated from two ten-foot vehicle lanes by a three-foot buffer. The east side of the road would have a seven-foot parking lane.

Residents along Grover Ave. have told us that maintaining on-street parking on the east side of the road is important to them. Also, many runners zig-zag the east and west streets and use Grover to go north and south. Bike and pedestrian lanes on the west side would allow runners to avoid crossing vehicle lanes to reach the other side of Grover.

Currently we are working with city staff on cost estimates. The City has informed us that the major cost will be in the buffer between the vehicle and pedestrian lanes. Justin Lane will soon be reconfigured with short, raised concrete barriers along its entire length to serve as lane separation, and we are working with the City to find the price of doing the same on Grover Ave.

Another option would be to use the plastic bollards like those on Arroyo Seco or simple striping like that on Woodrow. The city also proposed raised planter beds (a mile-long herb garden, anyone?). Because the NPP is designed to bring community-originated ideas and projects to reality, we have an opportunity to make Grover safer for all, and to transform the roadway into something of which we are proud.

The next step is to seek support from a community organization and start the application process. We will determine the exact dollar amount needed for our 30% local match and learn of alternative ways to fund that match. For some projects, the City allows volunteer hours, professional services, and other non-cash contributions to count towards the 30% local match. If you would like to share your ideas and feedback, contact grover@maildrop.cc.

Crestview Neighborhood Association on Twitter

By Anne-Charlotte Patterson



The Crestview Neighborhood Association has a brand-spankin' new twitter account: @CNAneighbors

Follow us, won't you!

The latest neighborhood association meeting got the live-tweet treatment.

Just like the Oscars! Well, maybe not quite like that. Fewer ballgowns, more bike lanes.

See the article on the next page for a sample of what was tweeted.



@CNAneighbors

CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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August CNA Membership Meeting Recap

By Anne-Charlotte Patterson, CNA Executive Committee Member

The August 10th meeting at Journey Imperfect Faith Church was an eventful one. From a delayed start that kept attendees waiting in a hot parking lot, to a robust discussion and dramatic vote at the end, the people of Crestview showed how passionate they are about their neighborhood and its future. Those unable to attend could follow the live-tweeting by @CNAneighbors.

Once everyone was settled inside the air-conditioned room, Secretary Nancy Barnhard kicked off the meeting with an Ice Cream Social wrap-up, characterizing the event as a well-attended success that included information tables by Voices of Violet Crown and the Girl Scouts, live music, and an ice cream eating contest won by Nancy's daughter. Several members suggested that a later start time on Sunday or moving the event to Saturday could make it easier for church-goers to attend future socials.

EC Member Anne-Charlotte shared information about a grant application the City has submitted to Travis County to obtain funding for pedestrian improvements near Lamar Middle School. Meeting attendees voted to provide a CNA letter of support for the project, which included a request for opportunities for community review and feedback.

Executive Committee member Melissa Zone gave an update on the early planning phases of Art @ Entrances. Violet Crown Community Works has stepped up to support this project to install locally-created artwork at neighborhood entry points. Volunteers are needed to help plan, write grants, and more.

Vice President, Steven Knapp, then presented information on the Grover bike lane project neighborhood initiative to work with the City on a plan to make Crestview's section of Grover more bike and pedestrian friendly. Meeting attendees requested more detailed information before voting to have the CNA sign on as a supporting organization and provide any funding (see article).

As a last order of business, past CNA president, Matt Armstrong, presented a resolution for a bylaw change regarding online voting. Mr. Armstrong, who had spent the previous weeks testing online voting platforms and garnering support via a petition that included more than 50 names, requested that the membership discuss the use of online voting and vote at a fall meeting to amend the bylaws and adopt online voting.

Neighbor Chip Harris countered with a resolution to delay a vote on online voting by 12 months to allow time for discussion and planning. Following a heated debate, Mr. Armstrong withdrew his resolution. Membership then voted in favor of Mr. Harris's resolution 43-10. The Executive Committee will discuss next steps for the online voting project prior to the September meeting.

Volunteers and feedback are needed to for all of these projects; if interested, please contact and follow the CNA through Facebook, Nextdoor, Twitter, email, and standard mail.



August CNCPT Meeting Highlights

By Kitt Dickey, CNPCT Secretary

At the August 18 meeting of the Crestview Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (CNPCT), much of the discussion centered on the proposed re-zoning of the Austin Korean Presbyterian Church property at 2000 Justin Ln. Developer David Kahn has a contract to purchase the property and an application to change the zoning was filed in 2014 to allow office zoning.

However, in May, the City Council did not approve that application. Mr. Kahn's second and current zoning change application applies to 0.95 acres of the 2.3-acre site, specifically the parking lot area now zoned single family (SF-3). The request is to increase the zoning from SF-3, or about 12 units per acre, to MF-3 that includes a maximum of 36 units per acre and permits buildings of three stories.

A motion was made and seconded to support the developer's request of MF-3. A substitute motion was made and seconded to recommend MF-1 or more restrictive residential zoning with the appropriate corresponding future land use map (FLUM) designation, including a conditional overlay limiting height to two stories and providing for 100% of the required parking instead of 80%. The substitute motion passed 56-7.

The motion that passed supporting MF-1 or more restrictive zoning will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and the City Council. The Planning Commission were slated to discuss the case at their Tuesday, August 25 meeting. Following that, the City Council will hold a hearing September 10.

The next meeting of the CNPCT will be held in October. For more information, see www.cnpct.org.

Zip-ties Save Lives!

By Rhonda Marple, CNA Newsletter Proofreader

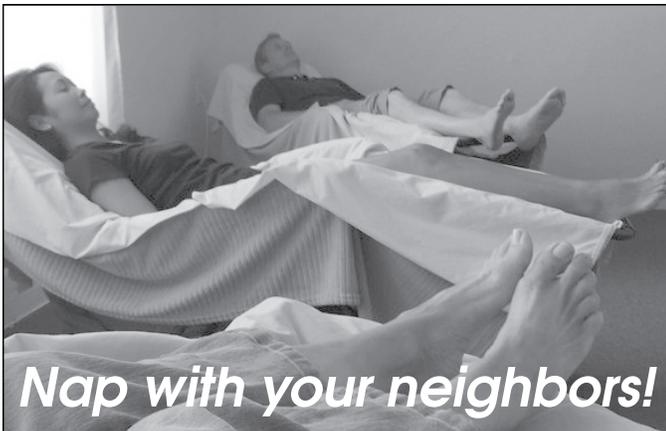
You have no doubt seen the flyers in the neighborhood for a lost black & fluffy cat; his human companions, Bindu Viswanathan and her husband, have been searching for him since he was lost on June 3rd. Shadow was en route to his vet appointment—he was in the parking lot, almost inside the vet office door—when his plastic cat carrier broke open. Shadow tumbled to the ground, and then ran off in a panic. Except for a brief sighting, he hasn't been seen since.



This seems like a freak, random, unlucky accident, but it turns out that it is not that uncommon; when telling their story, Bindu discovered that this has happened to other pet owners, though not with as terrible an outcome. So it seems like a good message to share with pet owners: to reinforce the carriers that we take apart, put back together, and basically take for granted.

You can use zip-ties for portions of the carrier you want to reinforce permanently; for temporary reinforcement, bungee cords are easy to remove and replace. At the very least, make sure when you take the carrier apart and put it back together that you don't miss a single lock, knob, or latch!

Bindu and her husband are still searching for Shadow, and would like anyone who sees their senior, sweet, and fearful boy to call 512-736-9523. Every lead will be followed!



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Art @ Entrances Project Seeking Funds

By Nancy Barnard and Melissa Zone, CNA Executive Council Members

Many in the neighborhood would agree that Crestview is a pretty special place. Though we may share differing opinions on neighborhood issues, we all share a commitment to making this community a place that we are proud to call home. The Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA) Executive Council (EC) would like to celebrate everything that makes this neighborhood unique by installing a small artistic structure at one of the neighborhood entrances. Ideally, the structure would be art that denotes our neighborhood name. After considering several neighborhood entrances, the EC would like to install the first gateway marker on a City of Austin right of way, specifically the median at the intersection of St. Joseph Blvd. and Burnet Rd. at 2397 St. Joseph Blvd.

Now the big question: how to fund this endeavor that we lovingly call Art @ Entrances? The EC is considering the Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP)—the same organization that helped fund the Arroyo Seco bike/pedestrian lane project. The NPP allows citizens to partner with the City to propose small- to medium-scale projects on city-owned property to improve the area in which they live. It is a cost-sharing program, and some of the funds would need to be raised through donations and other fundraising ventures.

Crestview has always enjoyed and supported the arts. One only needs to admire the Wall of Welcome, a structure designed and created by neighborhood artist Jean Graham and funded by Violet Crown Community Works. Our children are also lucky enough to attend Brentwood Elementary School, which is fine-arts enriched and feeds into the fine arts academies at Lamar Middle School and McCallum High School. It makes sense to have an entrance marker that celebrates these traditions.

Artist traditions aside, the Art @ Entrances project is the perfect opportunity for some community-building in Crestview. The EC hopes that everyone, not just active CNA members, will participate. We are looking for volunteers of all talents—grant writers, fundraisers, artists, and those who want to provide feedback. As the project gets closer to actualization, we hope to have community meetings in which we can collaborate and brainstorm to create an entrance marker that is truly representative of the diversity in our neighborhood. We are currently working on a presentation for the next CNA meeting. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts, feedback, or questions, or would simply like to participate, contact cnaartproject@gmail.com.

Volunteers Sought for Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is September 26. It is the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort in support of public lands, which includes parks, trails, and green spaces. Austin's annual NPLD event is hosted by Austin Parks Foundation and Texas Conservation Corps. Project leader registration is open until August 28 and volunteer registration opens August 31 at www.austinparks.org/npld.

The most recent event drew nearly 1000 volunteers to 38 sites across Austin and Travis County, making it the largest and most successful event to date.

Among the many NPLD projects available for volunteers are mulching, habitat restoration, building and maintaining trails, park maintenance, and clean-ups. Volunteers can register as a group or individually, can earn service hours for their time, and may choose a project that is conveniently located or by project type.

Those under 15 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and sign a minority liability waiver before working.



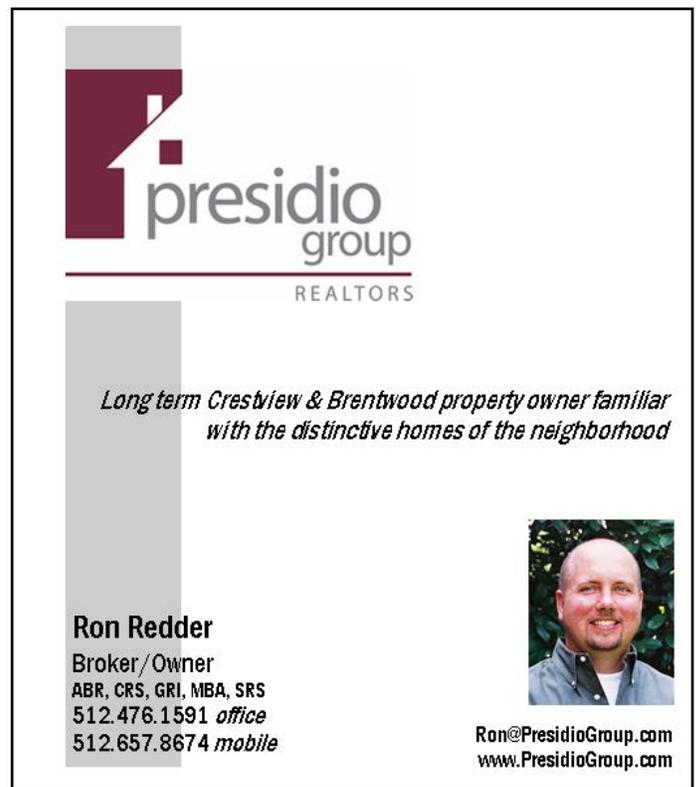
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City Seeking Local Artist for Exhibition

The City of Austin's Cultural Arts Division of the Economic Development Department is inviting Austin-area artists, galleries, museums, and arts organizations to apply for The People's Gallery 2016 exhibition.

The annual art exhibition showcases local artists throughout the first three floors of Austin City Hall. Applications for the exhibition are currently being accepted for artworks in any medium. Each applicant may submit up to five works for consideration and all applications must be submitted online. You can find more information and the online application at www.austintexas.gov/department/peoples-gallery.

A selection panel made up of local arts professionals will review the submissions and recommend artworks for the 2016 exhibition, which will be displayed at City Hall from February 26, 2016 through January 5, 2017.

This year's selection panelists are exhibiting artist and Chair of Visual Studies at St. Edward's University, Hollis Hammonds; exhibiting artist and curator Hector Hernandez; and graphic designer and cu-



rator of the Georgetown Arts Center, Nick Ramos.

The deadline for submitting applications is midnight, Friday, October 16, 2015. The 2016 exhibition opening reception will be held from 6:00–9:00 PM on Friday, February 26, 2016 at Austin City Hall.

The 2015 exhibition, now on display, can be visited through January 7, 2016. The public is invited to visit the gallery Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM.

The 2016 People's Gallery exhibition will be the 12th annual installation at Austin City Hall. The Cultural Arts Division provides leadership and management for the City's cultural arts programs and for the development of arts and cultural industries. The Cultural Arts Division is responsible for the Cultural Arts Funding Programs, Art in Public Places Program, community-based arts development, and programs to assist the development of film and creative industries in Austin.

For more information, visit www.austincreates.com or contact exhibition coordinator Suzanne Burton at 512-974-6456.

City Home Repair Money Available

By Pam Skoglund

The City of Austin offers home repair loans for eligible low-to-moderate income homeowners whose homes lie within the Austin full purpose city limits. The loan is 0% APR with no monthly payments required, and eligibility is based on gross annual household income.

A lien is placed against the home being repaired but if the homeowner remains in the home, the first \$40,000 of the debt is forgiven after 10 years and the remainder is forgiven after 15 years. The total repair loan cannot be more than \$75,000.

Repairs can include foundation, plumbing, electrical, heating-air systems, roofing, lead paint removal, and accommodations and modifications to make the home more accessible.

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For an online application, go to www.austintexas.gov.

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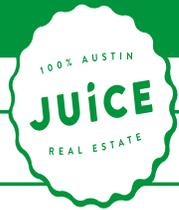


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