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# CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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March 2016

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**Tuesday, March 1:** Treefolks Free Tree Mapping Workshop, 6:00 PM at Little Helping Hands, 8711 Burnet Rd., Ste B-33. How to map your trees and how to share your favorite trees with your friends and community. Info: [www.treefolks.org/freemap](http://www.treefolks.org/freemap)

**Saturday, March 5:** Sunshine Gardens Plant Sale, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM at 4814 Sunshine Dr. Organic and Heirloom Plants: Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplants, Herbs, Ornamentals and More! Local artists and live music. Info: [sunshinecommunitygardens.org](http://sunshinecommunitygardens.org)

**Saturday, March 5:** Friends of Brentwood Park Work Day. Info: [www.friendsofbrentwoodpark.org](http://www.friendsofbrentwoodpark.org)

**Sunday, March 6:** Minimax IGA Farewell Party, 4:30 PM at the Crestview Shopping Center—see the box at the right for details.

**Thursday, March 10** (7:30 AM–3:15 PM) and **Friday, March 11** (7:30 AM–1:30 PM) Brentwood Elementary School Used Book Sale, 6700 Arroyo Seco. Friday is half-price day!

**Monday, March 14:** Crestview Neighborhood Association Meeting, 7:00 PM at Journey IFC, 7500 Woodrow Ave. Arlan's Market: Chris Peters, Arlan's Market store director, will discuss their plans to remodel the Minimax that they recently bought.

**Sunday, March 20:** Spring Egg Hunt, 2:00 PM at Brentwood Park—see the article for details.

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

**Sundays:** Sunday yoga, 10:00–11:00 AM, Brentwood Elementary covered slab. For more information, see [www.yogadenada.com](http://www.yogadenada.com).



The Crestview Minimax in 1956

Photo: Austin History Center

## A Fond Farewell

By Nancy Harris, Neighborhood Contributor

For nearly 63 years the iconic Crestview Minimax has resided in the Crestview Shopping Center in the heart of Crestview, so it was with great sadness that Crestview residents learned a few weeks ago that the Prellop family had decided to sell the business to Arlan's Grocery.

The Minimax has always been a family business, whether one is speaking about the immediate family of founder Herb Prellop and his wife Marion and their children, Debra, Michael, Nancy and Ronnie, or about the extended family of many long-time employees and customers, or the several generations of sons and daughters of numerous Crestviewites who received their first business education working

*Continued on page 4*

### Minimax IGA Farewell Party

We'll celebrate 63 years of the Minimax with a few words followed by live music, a neighborly potluck, lemonade, and cake! Please bring your family and a dish to share. To keep things green, please bring your own plates and utensils. Looking forward to a warm send off for the Minimax family.

**Sunday, March 6 at 4:30 PM**  
at the Crestview Shopping Center

## Spring Egg Hunt

By Nancy Mohn Barnard, CNA Secretary

Crestview Neighborhood Association invites you to a spring egg hunt at Brentwood Park on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. Please bring a dozen filled eggs per participating child along with a basket. There will be cookies and lemonade to be enjoyed until 2:45 when the egg hunt begins. Please contact Nancy Mohn Barnard with any questions: 512-914-2917 or [okra@austin.rr.com](mailto:okra@austin.rr.com)

## Brentwood Elementary Welcome Walk

Brentwood Elementary School will be hosting Welcome Walks for all future Brentwood families on Friday, March 4 at 10:00 AM and Tuesday, April 5 at 8:30 AM during Kindergarten Orientation/Registration.

Incoming families will have the opportunity to meet the principal, receive a guided tour of the school, visit a Kinder classroom, meet the Kinder team, and ask any questions they may have. Don't miss this chance to see what makes Brentwood Elementary such an amazing school! Parents and children are welcome.

Learn more here: <http://brentwoodpta.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/BW-WelcomeWalk-MarchApril2016Fullpage-EnglishSpanish.pdf>

# 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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## Neighborhood Email Groups

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# Traffic Safety Issues for Lamar Middle School Students

By Anne-Charlotte Patterson, CNA Executive Committee Member, Place 2

The first days at Lamar Middle School can be a little daunting for Crestview and Brentwood 6<sup>th</sup> graders. There's much to become accustomed to: class schedules, a larger campus, additional responsibilities and expectations, and the daily crossing to and from school across busy Burnet Road.

Students who bike and walk to Lamar MS face heavy rush hour traffic in the mornings as well as a fairly high volume of traffic in the late afternoon after school. "Baja" Brentwood kids have the additional necessity of crossing Koenig Lane to reach Lamar MS.

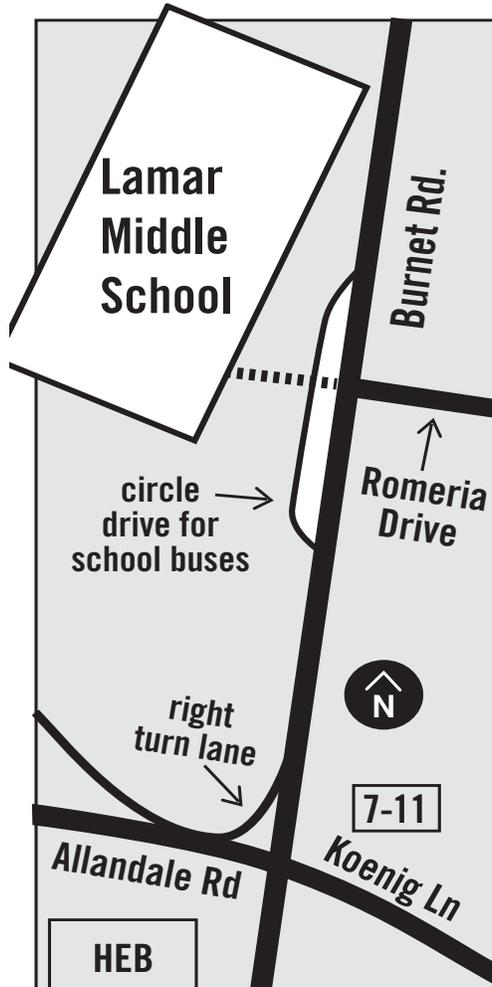
As our population has grown dramatically, so has the volume of car travel on the two major roads bordering the school: Burnet Road and Allandale Road. The increased traffic suggests it's time to evaluate the need for transportation safety improvements around the campus.

One troublesome spot near the school is the intersection of Burnet Road and Koenig (Allandale Road). Heavy traffic means the area isn't particularly bike- or pedestrian-friendly and there is no school crossing guard. The dedicated right turn lane from Burnet to Koenig complicates the crossing further because traffic flow isn't restricted by the signal lights. It's been noted that the students find traffic at the intersection so difficult to navigate at the right turn lane that they sometimes opt to jaywalk further west across Allandale Road. There has been at least one auto-pedestrian accident near that intersection in the last two years (the child was not seriously injured.) A new pedestrian beacon planned for Allandale/Shoalwood may offer pedestrians another option.

Last May, the city developed preliminary plans for a comprehensive safety improvement project at the Burnet/Koenig intersection. Planners applied for county grants to fund the project but unfortunately the funding was not received.

The majority of Crestview children who walk or bike to Lamar MS cross Burnet Road at Romeria Drive. Most families feel that the signal light and a crossing guard make this the safest option. However, the intersection still has troubling aspects. In addition to the heavy Burnet Road traffic, students must contend with morning commuters turning right onto Burnet. Because drivers have a green light at the same time that pedestrians have a walk signal, drivers begin turning right just as kids are stepping into the intersection. And because the crossing guard is a Lamar MS staff member with school duties rather than a dedicated city-employed crossing guard, he's only at the crossing for short periods each morning and afternoon. Students arriving just before classes begin or those who stay after school cross alone. Some options for safety improvements here would include a city crossing guard and some changes to signal lights and signage that restrict the flow of traffic turning right when pedestrians are crossing.

Members of the CNA executive board are working with District 7 staff on improvements to the area around Lamar MS. If you have concerns or feedback, contact the D7 office and Council Member Pool at [www.austintexas.gov/email/district7](http://www.austintexas.gov/email/district7).



## Violet Crown Festival

By Nancy Mohn Barnard, CNA Secretary

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> will mark the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Violet Crown Spring Festival sponsored by Violet Crown Community Works. The festival will once again be held at Brentwood Elementary School in the west-side parking lot (enter from Yates) from 10:00 AM–5:00 PM. There will be live music, food from local vendors, children's activities and artists selling their wares. Because parking is limited, please plan on walking or riding your bike.

The festival is a great opportunity for businesses who are interested in sponsoring a local organization, and there are different sponsorship levels available. It's also a fun volunteer opportunity! Come support your neighborhood while getting to know your neighbors. If you're interested, please contact Nancy Mohn Barnard at 512-914-2917 or [okra@austin.rr.com](mailto:okra@austin.rr.com). Hope to see you there!



## From the President

By Dave Considine, CNA President

Early last year the CNA bylaws were amended to change the membership term from 12 months upon joining, to the calendar year. The new rules allow a 90-day grace period for renewals.

Please consider renewing your membership this month. If you have never been a member, we hope you will join the CNA and make the association a stronger force in protecting our way of life in this wonderful neighborhood.

Our \$10 membership fee is used to support many projects and entities that through the years have made our neighborhood what it is today. You can join by visiting the CNA website at [crestviewna.com](http://crestviewna.com) or by sending a check to the Crestview Neighborhood Association, PO Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766. Thank you!

## Art at Entrances Update

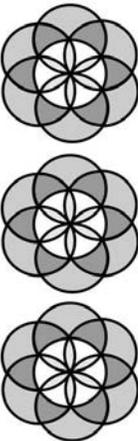
By Nancy Mohn Barnard, CNA Secretary, and Melissa Zone, CNA Executive Committee Member, Place 3

In October 2015, CNA's Art at Entrances committee submitted their proposal to the Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) asking for funding for art installations at two points in the neighborhood: One at St. Joseph and Burnet and the other at Ryan Drive and Justin Lane.

Unfortunately, funding for the application did not get approved, in part because we were unable to garner enough support for the installation at Ryan and Justin. However, with overwhelming support for the St. Joseph and Morrow installation, the committee has decided to proceed with fundraising for this specific location.

The current plan is to fundraise at a local level through private and corporate donations and funding from local organizations such as the neighborhood association and Violet Crown Community Works. As the Art at Entrances committee works on fundraising, they will begin compiling requirements for artist submissions, which will hopefully be in the newsletter and presented to the neighborhood association in the next couple of months. After procuring funding and presenting and finalizing the art installation to CNA, the committee will again submit an application to the NPP in September so the necessary permitting can be approved.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Nancy Mohn Barnard at 512-914-2917 or [okra@austin.rr.com](mailto:okra@austin.rr.com). All donations are tax deductible and will be held in a special fund through Violet Crown Community Works.



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at the grocery.

Herb Prellop was born in Giddings, Texas in 1919. After getting out of the service, he was working for the Shumaker Company, first as a truck driver and later as a salesman, when Cleo Bay offered him the opportunity to go into partnership running his own grocery store. On August 23, 1953, they bought an existing grocery store located in the southern end of the shopping center where the pharmacy is today. In 1957, Cleo sold his portion of the business to Herb.

The following years brought success and changes to the store, both structurally and in the customers it served. The grocery moved to the northern end of the shopping center and then later expanded into the sales offices for Crestview lots that had been used by A. B. Beddow before he moved his real estate office to Burnet Road in 1961. The Minimax joined the Independent Grocers' Alliance (IGA) in 1985. About 1992, the store was enlarged to include a portion of the "porch" on the northern end and scanning check stands were added.

In the early days, post World War II families with one car relied on the Minimax as a convenient place for young mothers to walk to from the nearby Crestview and Brentwood neighborhoods. Families that were having a rough time making ends meet or were going through a tough patch could rely on Herb to give them credit until the first of the month or the next paycheck if they needed it. As many of the original residents began to age, they found the Minimax to be a convenient alternative to driving on busy roadways to get to other stores. As the surrounding neighborhoods began to

gentrify and younger, more well to do residents began to arrive, the store began to offer newer items to meet their needs and desires. Always eager to provide whatever their customers were in need of, the Prellops expanded what they offered to include such things as more organic food choices, a large beer and wine cave, and home delivery for residents who needed it.

All of Herb's children played a role in helping out at the store over the years. Ronnie, the outgoing Minimax proprietor, remembers that although it was a few more years before he was on the payroll, he got his official start in the grocery business when he was about 11. His dad put him and his brother Mike in charge of racking bottles and sacking chickens under the tutelage of Hollis Moffett who not only taught him what to do and not do, but gave him a solid work ethic and became a life-long friend. Thus began a career that lasted for the better part of 55 years. "I don't think I ever thought of doing anything else," says Ronnie. When Herb died in 1991, Ronnie took over operating the store.



Ronnie Prellop

Over time, the job of running the store became more complex as the variety of offerings of new items on the market increased. Customer's tastes in fruits and vegetables changed; beer and wine selections expanded. A constant stream of new brands in items like canned goods made stocking the shelves of the small store a challenge. Dietary changes meant the introduction of items such as low-calorie or light products. But through it all, the Minimax rose to the occasion and made every effort to give its customers what they were looking for.

Continued on page 5

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Ronnie has many fond memories of his days there. He speaks with pride of the opportunity he had to help many young men and women get a start in the work world by offering them the chance to gain experience at an early age. With an amused chuckle, he tells of the times when they used to cash checks and occasionally had to physically detain individuals until the authorities arrived—and even pulls out a pair of police-issued handcuffs from behind the counter for use if they were reluctant to stay.

He becomes sad when he thinks of all the familiar faces that no longer come in because they have passed away or simply moved on either because the expense of staying in their homes became too much, or they could no longer maintain them because of their age. While the traffic driving in to work and paperwork required to run the business have grown over the years, Ronnie smiles with gratitude for the loyalty and friendship of his customers that have made it all worthwhile.

Always an exciting event at the Minimax was when one of a myriad of commercials, TV shows, or movies, such as *Man of the House* or *Seven Chinese Brothers*, were being filmed. Ronnie recalls the excitement when an episode of the TV show *Friday Night Lights* called *There Goes the Neighborhood* in

which a tornado is approaching was filmed. All the windows in the store were replaced with special windows that blew out when the “tornado” hit. There were huge fans blowing leaves and papers everywhere and a large water machine to simulate rain—all quite dramatic. The director asked Ronnie if he had ever had a speaking part before, and when he said “no” he was given his first opportunity. He donned his familiar proprietor’s apron and took a small role as the store’s owner encouraging people to get to the back of the store away from the windows. While he won’t be retiring on it, he still gets a periodic check from the Screen Actors Guild for his performance.

Yes, the neighborhood will be sad to lose the daily presence of a friend like Ronnie and we want to thank him for all the support for the neighborhood he has provided in the form of gallons of ice cream for the summer ice cream social and for supporting the Violet Crown Festivals over the years. But we are happy that he plans to have some time to enjoy himself traveling, gardening, doing volunteer work, and fishing—something that was difficult to do with the daily responsibilities of running the Minimax. Besides, he and his mom Marion have promised to pop in from time to time to see that the new owner is treating us right and to catch up on the local news.

Good luck to you, Ronnie, in your new endeavors, and thanks again to all of the Prello family for their years of service to the community!

## City Wins Nature Grant

The City of Austin is one of seven cities recently selected by the Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN) initiative for a planning grant to reduce inequities and foster connections to nature among all children.

District 7 Council Member Leslie Pool wrote a letter of support for this grant during the application phase, and her of-

fice will be excitedly following its progress with City staff and community partners. Through the grant, the City will receive assistance from CCCN partners to complete community assessments and analyze equity issues. Find more information at <http://cityspeak.org/2016/02/05/nlc-and-children-nature-network-choose-seven-cities-for-planning-cohort>

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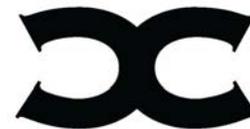
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