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CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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June 2016

EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 7: CNA Volunteer Appreciation Party, 7:00 PM at Lala's Little Nugget, 2207 Justin Ln. See the article for more information.

Saturday, June 11: Shred Day, 10:00 AM–noon at University Federal Credit Union, 4611 Guadalupe St. See the article for more information.

Monday, June 13: Crestview Neighborhood Association Meeting, 7:00 PM at Journey IFC, 7500 Woodrow Ave.

- Crestview Safety Coalition—overview of the city's recommendation to open Morrow Street at Lamar Blvd., with possible vote.
- Neighbors on Mullen—overview of proposed residential construction conflicting with deed restrictions, with possible vote.
- Discussion of July Ice Cream Social date and location.

Tuesday, June 21: Crestview Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (CNPCT) Meeting, 6:30 PM at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Fellowship Hall, 2008 Justin Ln. See www.cnpct.org for more information.

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Crestview Neighborhood Association wants to thank all of the people who have volunteered on behalf of the neighborhood in the past year.

To show our appreciation, we would like to invite you to pizza and beer at Lala's Little Nugget, 2207 Justin Lane, on Tuesday, June 7 at 7:00 PM. The first beer is free, so please bring cash if you'd like to purchase additional libations, which will be offered at a discount.

Please RSVP to Nancy Mohn Barnard at okra@austin.rr.com. Thank you so much for your contributions!

Traffic in Crestview Could Triple over the Next 6 Months

By Crestview Safety Coalition

The intersection of Morrow and Lamar has been an ongoing safety issue since the 1980s. One improvement made by the city was the installation of a traffic barrier known as the “porkchop” which prevented westbound traffic on Morrow from crossing Lamar and entering Crestview. The porkchop was meant to alleviate an excessive number of cars using Morrow instead of Anderson to access Burnet and other points west.

According to traffic studies at the time, not just adjacent neighbors were using Morrow as a thoroughfare; the majority of vehicles came from all over Austin. The porkchop has made our neighborhood safer and helped protect the houses and pedestrians on Morrow.

Citing the inconvenience of using Lamar and Anderson, Greg Casar and a handful of his constituents have begun applying pressure at City Hall to restore Morrow as a cut through to Burnet Rd. and Anderson Ln.

Although convenience is nice, Morrow is home to FOUR schools (Crestview United Methodist Preschool, Paragon Primary, St. Louis Preschool, and St. Louis Primary), FOUR churches (Crestview United Methodist, Crestview Baptist, Korean Presbyterian, and St. Louis Catholic), and FOUR baseball fields (NAO) all of which serve hundreds of children on a daily basis. This doesn't count the children who live along Morrow and its side streets (counts are still being taken but we are already at 60), or the many children who walk and cycle along this established City of Austin bike route. This beautiful and narrow street cannot accommodate more cars and keep cyclists and pedestrians safe. Morrow and its side streets are not designed for increased traffic loads, and the abundance of residences, schools, churches, and parkland illustrate that.

We do not believe that CONVENIENCE is more important than SAFETY. In response, neighbors have formed the Crestview Safety Coalition to insist that safety be the paramount concern. Removing the porkchop affects the safety of residents, pedestrians and cyclists. No amount of sidewalks or speed bumps would be enough to abate the risk to families on Morrow and the side streets. Its removal will allow Morrow to become an east-west thoroughfare that will pose a safety risk to all.

The removal of the porkchop is not just a danger to families on Morrow or in Crestview. It will also affect families in Highland. The removal will dramatically increase traffic along all of our streets, including the side streets that intersect Morrow (Watson, Yates, and Gault) and Guadalupe in Highland.

Current traffic analyses indicate that Morrow Street is at the upper level of the city's recommended capacity of 1800 cars a day; with the removal of the porkchop, traffic may increase exponentially. Considering that there have been multiple wrecks and even fatalities on Morrow and on Gault streets in the not-so-distant past, this increase is an unacceptable safety risk.

We have asked our District 7 Council Member Leslie Pool for her support to stop this assault of unsafe traffic, and she is actively working with us. But that is not enough—we need the neighborhood's involvement. The removal of the porkchop is a neighborhood wide issue, and to stop it we must work together and make our voices heard. Please attend the next CNA meeting on June 13 to learn more about this pressing issue and how you can get involved.

For more information, contact crestviewsafety@gmail.com or see www.atxporkchop.org.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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CNA Contact Information

P. O. Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766
www.crestviewna.com

CNA General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM.
Location to be announced.

Twitter: @CNAneighbors

Facebook: CrestviewNeighborhoodAssociation

Neighborhood Email Groups

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Moving Forward with Ride-Hailing

By Council Member Ann Kitchen, District 5



The Monday morning after Prop 1 failed, with less than 48 hours notice, both Uber and Lyft, the two established on-demand ride-hailing service providers in Austin, also known as Transportation Network

Companies (TNCs), cut off their apps, leaving in the lurch thousands of Austin drivers and riders who depend on them, as well as many others in the community. What Uber and Lyft didn't say, with all their public statements, was that the ordinance passed last December phased in sensible fingerprint-based background checks and will not be fully enacted until February of 2017, well into next year. Nothing changed for Uber and Lyft Monday morning.

The Mayor and I publicly reached out after the election to invite Uber and Lyft to resume operations within the city, and the City has yet to hear back any interest in doing so.

As one of the fastest growing cities in the United States and a leading tech center, Austin has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. Austin is open for business and we are open to working with any responsible company that follows our laws when offering services.

We're a creative, innovative and compassionate city—and like many Austinites I'm puzzled why these cutting edge tech companies can't work with us to figure out how to comply with Austin's common sense public safety measures—as do our pedicabs, taxis, and every other transportation provider in Austin. We know Uber and Lyft comply with fingerprinting measures and more in other cities like Houston and New York.

As you may well know, Prop 1 intended to repeal and replace sections of the City Code that regulate TNCs. Both companies maintain that the regulations in place are incompatible with the on-demand business model, however, events since their departure prove otherwise.

Within the last few weeks, three new TNCs—Wingz, zTrip, and GetMe—have entered the market and are ramping up operations, as well as a fourth, Fare, which is in process of obtaining City operating authority. We've also heard from three others very interested in serving the Austin community, and I am intrigued by the response from our technology and entrepreneurial leaders who are exploring a local non-profit ride-hailing service.

Our city is committed to ensuring that Austinites, both drivers and riders, have transportation and job options including ride-hailing services. To assist the many drivers negatively impacted by Uber and Lyft's decision to leave Austin, the City partnered with the United Way of Greater Austin's Navigation Center to establish a Driver Hotline (512-687-7441). Trained specialists offer referrals to other driving opportunities as well as referrals to other support agencies for those who may experience financial difficulty. In the first full week of operation, the Driver Hotline received approximately 400 calls for driver referrals, with about 25-30% of those also seeking help with other needs.

The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) has also facilitated three driver fairs at the Austin Community College (ACC) Highland Campus that connected nearly 1000 drivers with TNCs operating in Austin and to fingerprint-based background checks. At our May 19 meeting, the Council passed a resolution asking the City Manager to identify revenue-neutral city resources and process or policy efforts to bolster the ride-hailing industry and support its success.

While this transition has been stressful for everyone affected, I am confident that TNCs will continue to be successful in Austin, and I am committed to working with all TNCs and other ground transportation services to ensure that Austinites have multiple options in transportation.

Austin is one of the best markets in the country, and ride-hailing services operating within Austin's public safety measures will remain and thrive as a valuable option for Austinites.



2016 COA Mobility Survey Results Press Release

The results of Mobility Talks, an initiative to learn about the community's priorities for improving Austin's transportation network, are now available. You can download the report at www.mobilitytalks.org.

The Austin City Council will be briefed on the results of Mobility Talks and will also receive the City Manager's recommendation for mobility projects and programs to potentially fund as well as funding options. Information gathered will inform future plans, project prioritization processes, and capital improvement programs.

Shred Day

Criminals need very little information to steal identities and garbage cans offer an abundance of information from paperwork. Bring up to two file boxes of paper per household for free, confidential shredding. Commercial high-volume shredders, courtesy of Iron Mountain, will be on-site to shred your records.

Date: Saturday, June 11, 2016

Time: 10:00 AM–noon, or until the truck is full

Location: University Federal Credit Union, 4611 Guadalupe St.

Announcements

Long time Crestview resident and CNA member Mildred Greer passed away on May 19. Our condolences to her family and friends. She will be sorely missed.

Mosquitoes—What Should I Do?

The historic strategy of scorched earth, broad-spectrum mosquito management has led to environmental disasters both on large and small scales. Attempts to treat ponds and creeks would kill a lot of other invertebrates and it would not even be effective at controlling the species that bite most frequently (the container breeding species that live around homes).

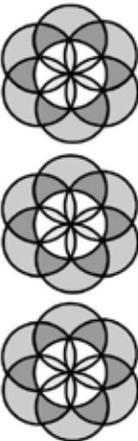


The most effective way for homeowners to control container-breeding mosquitoes is to conduct a careful inspection of areas around the home and to reduce or eliminate containers of standing water adjacent to the home. Birdbaths and pet dishes are okay, as long as the water is not allowed to stand for more than four days.

When treatment is absolutely necessary, fungal and/or bacterial treatments are better than broad-spectrum pesticides as they are better suited to targeting mosquitoes and other flies without affecting other beneficial organisms. These types of treatment are most effective when they are used in proper places like gutters, rain barrels, yard drains, and air conditioner condensate collectors.

The Xerces Society published an excellent article in 2013 by Mazzacano and Black that is a thorough and detailed review of practices, risk, benefits and recommendations called "Ecologically Sound Mosquito Management in Wetlands".

For more information, see www.xerces.org.



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Kicking off the City's Budget Process

By Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7



Springtime is here—and with it comes the Austin city budget.

For the next several months, my colleagues and I will consider, discuss, and debate various different proposals and visions for our city's budget.

Last year, I was proud to have worked with my colleagues on a number of budget initiatives that made strategic investments in maintaining quality of life for our District 7 residents, such as repairing Northwest Pool, restoring our libraries to full service, maintaining safety at our public open spaces across the city, and working with communities to address persistent code enforcement problems—while also lowering the average Austin resident's city property tax bill.

This year, Council will again be facing many tough decisions on how to craft a budget that reflects the needs and priorities of our residents. Already, there has been much discussion about topics such as affordability, transportation, public safety, quality of life issues, flood mitigation, and community engagement strategies.

Library Summer Program—Book Your Summer

Austin Public Library's Summer Reading Program for adults, Book Your Summer, isn't for the kids and it isn't just about reading. This year's theme, My Library Inspires: Body, Food & Mind, is about life-enriching experiences.

So join us, and dive into a summer of foodie fun, fitness, crafty activities and storytelling at Library locations all across

Going forward, I will be looking to our District 7 communities to communicate their priorities for the coming budget. All District 7 residents are welcome to contact my office on the budget (or any other city-related matter) at District7@austintexas.gov.

For more information on the city's budget-making processes, visit the city's budget engagement page at www.austintexas.gov/dollarsandsense. This page has information on the city's finances and ways to engage with the city on budget priorities. It also has a budget simulator tool that allows participants to choose how to fund a variety of city services, and shows in real time how these choices impact their annual tax and utility bills.

My staff and I look forward to hearing from you! My staff includes:

- Amy Smith, Chief of Staff
- Louisa Brinsmade, Land Use Policy Advisor
- Michael J. Gaudini, Policy Advisor
- Leslie Hethcox, Executive Assistant

Austin this June through August. Book Your Summer and all Library programs are free and open to the public.

For more information see www.library.austintexas.gov or call 512-974-7400. And for information on the city's Youth Summer Reading Program, see www.library.austintexas.gov/event-tags/youth-summer-reading-program.



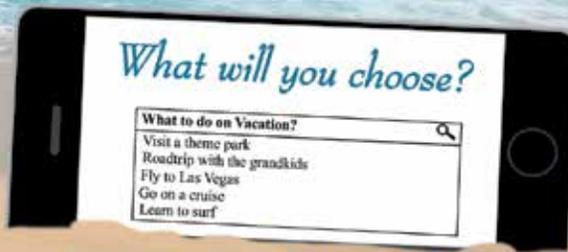
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May CNA Election Results

With around 75 members in attendance for the annual May election, the Crestview Neighborhood Association filled seven officer positions up for election. Terms for the remaining two positions, president and treasurer, don't expire until May of 2017. All of the candidates running were approved by acclamation.

Here are the current officers of the association:

Dave Considine enters the second year of his two-year term as President. Dave moved to Austin from Ireland in 1994. He and his wife Melissa were married in 2004 on the Irish Atlantic coast. They have three children and, says Dave, "feel lucky to have such great neighbors." Dave is a product manager at Dell.

Being elected Vice-President, this is **Mike Lavigne's** first foray into elected neighborhood office. He also serves as Secretary of the CNPCT. Mike's other volunteer endeavors include serving as an Executive Board Member on both the Austin Neighborhoods Council and the Austin Creative Alliance. Mike is a government and public relations consultant with experience in both houses of the state legislature and numerous political campaigns. He's been a freelance consultant for over ten years now. He and his wife have lived in their Crestview home since 2002 and they have a daughter at Brentwood Elementary. He says he volunteered for the CNA because he "wants to help his neighbors have their voices heard at city hall".

Nancy Mohn Barnard was re-elected Secretary. Barnard has been an active Crestview resident for over eight years. In addition to founding the Violet Crown Community theatre, she has helped organize neighborhood events like the Violet Crown Spring Festival, CNA ice cream social and the IGA Farewell party. Recently she has become in-

volved in the Crestview Safety Coalition.

Ali Thompson will begin the second year of her two-year term as Treasurer. She has lived in Crestview since 2009 in the house her husband's grandparents built in 1954.

Chip Harris was elected Newsletter Editor. He has a long history of involvement in libraries and neighborhood land use issues such as zoning and historic preservation.

Anne-Charlotte Patterson was re-elected this year to Place 1. She has lived in Crestview with her family since 2003 and is a design and marketing professional who works primarily with clients in the education and healthcare spaces. In addition to handling digital communications for CNA, Anne-Charlotte serves as communications director for the local non-profit CLAWstin.

Elaine Stegant was reelected this year to Place 2. She has been a Crestview resident since 1999 and says she "absolutely loves the neighborhood." Elaine has two children who both attend Brentwood Elementary and in her spare time plays golf.

Julie Reichert was elected to Place 3. With an involvement in neighborhood issues going back many years, Julie is completely committed to maintaining the quality of life in Crestview.

Roland Rodriguez was re-elected this year to Place 4. He and his wife Mary bought their first home in Crestview in 1993. Roland is Director of Strategic Sourcing at Wincor Nixdorf Inc, Co-Chair for the Rodeo Austin, chairperson for the Anderson High School Landscape Committee and has coached baseball at NAO Little League.



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