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CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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October 2016

EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, October 10: Crestview Neighborhood Association Meeting, 7:00 PM at Crestview United Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow St. Transportation bond debate (see articles), fire station work day, Grover Avenue restriping

Sunday, October 16: Oktoberfest! 3:00–6:00 PM at the Crestview Shopping Center. See the article for more information

Tuesday, October 18: Crestview Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (CNPCT) Meeting, 6:30 PM at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Fellowship Hall, 2008 Justin Ln. Listing correction for priorities per city request. City mandated bylaws changes. Consider cancellation of December meeting. See www.cnpct.org for details

Saturday, October 22: Brentwood Elementary School PTA Halloween Carnival, 3:00–7:00 PM on the back side of the school. Games, prizes, and entertainment for the whole family! See www.brentwoodpta.com/annual-events/halloween-carnival for details

Thursday, October 27: Brentwood Elementary School Welcome Walk, 9:00 AM. Are you interested in learning about our wonderful campus? Attend one of our welcome walks. Call 512-414-2039 for more information

Saturday, November 5: Friends of Brentwood Park Work Day. See the article for more information

Saturday, November 5: Fire Station 16 Community Work Day and Mural Painting, 10:00 AM. See the article for more information

Saturday, November 12: Hazardous Household Materials Drop Off, 9:00–11:00 am at Crestview United Methodist Church. See the article for more information

Debate on November Transportation Bond Election

The city is asking voters to approve \$720,000,000.00 for roadway changes. The big question is whether or not traffic congestion will be reduced. Come to the debate held by CNA, listen to both sides, and decide for yourself. Two guest speakers, one in favor of and one opposed to the bonds, will be answering questions asked by a moderator and the audience at the October CNA meeting. See preliminary statements from both sides below along with neighborhood concerns raised by ANC on page 5.

The Smart Corridor Bond

By Mayor Steve Adler

If you think that the Austin City Council is doing the mobility bond completely differently than we've ever done it before, you're right. The \$720 million Smart Corridor bond will do more for traffic and transit than our city has ever done in one fell swoop while protecting the character of our neighborhoods and improving our quality of life. But what makes the Smart Corridor bond unique in Austin is the way in which the mobility solutions it offers unite us toward a common purpose instead of dividing us along special interests.

We've finally figured out how to fix traffic the Austin Way—a smarter way that works for everyone. The Smart Corridor bond approaches old problems—too much traffic, not enough public transportation, sidewalks, and bike infrastructure – in a smart, holistic way that helps us all work together.

See Adler, continued on page 3.

Go Big? Big Deception!

By Roger Falk, Travis County Taxpayers Union

The city is exploiting our frustration with traffic congestion to sell Prop 1. They promise congestion relief, but do little to resolve it. Frustration is useful; it motivates us to vote for any promised relief. The north/south commute corridors are where most congestion exists but the bond largely ignores them. Prop 1 converts continuous left turn lanes into raised medians, imposes “lane diets” (smaller widths), reduces speed limits, eliminates lanes and converts others to bus only. “Queue jumps” let that bus you finally got around get out front again.

Prop 1's high-density development scheme increases human activity in your area—intensification. That generates more traffic, pollution, crime, health risks, and environmental degradation, the “paradox of intensification”. It adds up to one thing: More traffic congestion - not less.

See Falk, continued on page 4.

First-Ever Oktoberfest!

Eat, drink and celebrate the fall season with your neighbors at Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 16 at the Crestview Shopping Center. There will be free beer, lemonade, and brats along with polka music, kids' activities, and samplings from Arlan's generous vendors. Parking will be limited and alcohol will be served (please bring your IDs), so we strongly encourage people to walk or bike to Oktoberfest. This family-friendly event is being organized and sponsored by Arlan's Market, the Crestview and Brentwood Neighborhood Associations, and Violet Crown Community Works. Many thanks to these groups and organizers for making our neighborhood the best in Austin!

Are you interested in volunteering at Oktoberfest? We would love your help. For more information, contact Nancy Mohn Barnard at okra@austin.rr.com.

Oktoberfest
Sunday, October 16
3:00–6:00 PM
Crestview Shopping
Center parking lot

CRESTVIEW

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

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Neighborhood Email Groups

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Announcements

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Roger Beck, a longtime barber at the Crestview Barber Shop. A barber for over 60 years, he will be greatly missed by his friends and customers who enjoyed his many wonderful stories.

Calling All Park Lovers!

It's My Park Day (IMPD), Fall 2016 is scheduled for Saturday, November 5th and is a great opportunity to get outside, give Brentwood Park some love, and meet your neighbors. IMPD is a citywide service day organized by Austin Parks Foundation and Austin Parks and Recreation and sponsored by many local businesses.

Friends of Brentwood Park (FOBP) has organized projects and neighbors for IMPD at Brentwood Park each year since 2010. Although FOBP has organized past workdays in the fall, 2016 is the first year an official Fall IMPD is being held by Austin Parks Foundation and the City, and we are very grateful for their support. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse and Tacodeli have also supported Brentwood Park projects every year; thank them if you get the chance!

Over the next month, FOBP will be sending out emails with information about projects for this year's IMPD and about how to register and what to bring. Information will also be available through our Facebook page and website at www.friendsofbrentwoodpark.org. If you would like to get involved with FOBP's leadership team, please let us know! We can be reached through our group email address at friendsofbrentwoodpark@gmail.com.

Looking Forward: Budget Update for the Coming Year

By City Council Member Leslie Pool



After months of public input, hard work by our professional staff, and discussion and debate, my colleagues and I have passed the city budget for the coming fiscal year. Last year, as you may recall, Council made strategic investments in our city's parks and pools, restored library hours to pre-recession levels, piloted a program to expand access to healthy foods, and raised the homestead exemption, among other things.

This year, the budget was much tighter—which forced my colleagues and me to make difficult decisions about our priorities as a community. Despite these difficulties, we still found a way to make a number of very important investments including (but not limited to):

- **Improving mobility for neighbors of all ages and abilities** by maintaining and building out our sidewalks, bike lanes, corridors, neighborhood streets, bridges, and urban trails
- **Investing in our community assets** by initiating a Parks Master Plan and increasing lighting at parks
- **Addressing flooding issues** that threaten our communities by expanding our efforts to clear out clogged waterways, maintain our storm water management facilities, and invest in capital projects
- **Keeping our communities safe** by improving our ability to process cases related to sexual assault, and by adding new civilian personnel so our officers can spend less time on administrative work and more time on their law enforcement duties
- **Expanding food access in our underserved communities** by building on the success of last year's healthy foods pilot program
- **Educating our youth** by continuing our support for the Austin Independent School District's parent support specialists and after-school programs and through internship opportunities for high school students at the convention center and airport

As always, do not hesitate to visit our constituent services website at www.D7ATX.com, email my staff at District7@AustinTexas.gov, or call us at 512-978-2107 if you have any questions or comments about any city-related issue.

The problems we're facing are clear to everyone: Picture North Lamar Boulevard, which the state built way back when as the Dallas Highway. Now we use it as a local road, and it can't hold all the cars. Buses get stuck in traffic, and they make traffic worse when they stop to pick up passengers. The original designers never built sidewalks in many cases, and forget riding bikes in traffic. Too dangerous.

When we began looking at doing something to relieve traffic congestion, we were mindful of needing also to do something to increase access and safety for pedestrians and bikes as well as find a way to create a critical mass of riders along transit corridors.

These corridor plans figured it out. To relieve traffic congestion, boost rapid transit, make it easier and safer to walk and bike, and help us manage growth, we need to reject an old way of looking at these problems that sees only cross purposes and instead focuses on our common purpose: making the roads work.

Turning the old state highways into Smart Corridors re-

quires four basic, simple changes: installing smart traffic lights that can be timed remotely and automatically, putting in turn lanes and medians so you're not stuck behind someone trying to turn, adding pullouts so buses can stop without you having to (and queue jumps so they can get a head start on traffic), and building sidewalks and protected bike lanes so people can get where they are going safely.

These changes would undoubtedly decrease delays at intersections (which is how they measure traffic flow on busy city roads, I've learned). The North Lamar/Burnet Corridor Development Plan, to cite our example, says delays will decrease by nearly half, 48% during morning rush hour and 49% in the evening.

There are other elements of the Smart Corridor bond—relieving pain points in West Austin, making our most dangerous intersections safer, making progress on the Bike Master Plan, sidewalks, and urban trails—but the crux of it attacks an old problem in a new way. By doing things the Austin Way—smart, creative, and bold—we can work together so we all benefit.

Household Hazardous Products Drop Off



A recycling collection of household hazardous products will be held by the Crestview Neighborhood Association and Crestview United Methodist Church in the church parking lot at 1300 Morrow St. on Saturday, November 12. Items will be accepted from 9:00–11:00 AM (unless the trailer fills up before 11:00 AM). Simply drive up and volunteers

will help unload your items. The city requests that you give your zip code for their records so a volunteer will ask for that.

They can accept ONLY:

- Batteries of all kinds
- Oil of all kinds (in a closed container)
- Paint of all kinds, wet or dry (in a closed container)
- Antifreeze (in a closed container)

No other items will be accepted; no electronic items this time. Volunteers from the neighborhood will be needed! If interested, please contact Elaine Stegant at atxes1945@gmail.com.

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Two thirds of Prop 1, \$482 million, pays for "smart corridors" that are detailed in the city's plans. Does it? In June, the city manager's office gave council a \$1.5 billion cost for the corridor plans - YIKES! They keep that quiet so you won't realize: 1) Prop 1's a down payment; they will need lots more borrowing to finish the job; 2) all the work they promise won't get done and 3) more tax increases will be coming. Frankly, the city just wants the money, and avoids specificity on its use. Proponents stated: "Pass it to know what's in it"! A last-minute side resolution develops affordable mixed income housing along the corridors, with funding that includes localized, area taxes. Corridor re-development will increase property values along the corridors, which spill into the neighborhoods driving higher appraisals, taxes, and rents.

Prop 1 will transform the character of your neighborhood and wreak havoc on the small businesses along Burnet Rd. Those who survive the chaos of the initial construction phase will be subjected to a second round of right of way seizure, driveway removal/consolidation, jack-hammering, and pav-

ing. Iconic businesses, like Top Notch, will struggle to survive. Prop 1 is promoted and funded by big real estate developers hungry to re-develop Burnet Road into Portlandia.

Lower cost, less invasive alternatives exist that can deliver similar multimodal benefits. For \$6 million, smart signals and a couple of "bubble" bus pullouts could improve Burnet Road mobility. A 10' wide bicycle/pedestrian trail from Mo-Pac to 38th St. could be done for about \$24 million. These things would benefit Crestview residents at a reasonable cost without the disruption, intensification or tax increases that will come with Prop 1. That's a smart corridor!

Re-development assures your area will become a more urban landscape with the associated problems. I hung out at Top Notch in my red Mustang as a teenager. Austin was a slower place then. Our neighborhoods and their business corridors do more than just provide homes, commerce and jobs; they form the heart and soul of our community, define the character of our city and are a link to our history. What's the hurry? Save Your Austin - please vote NO.

Fire Station 16 Community Work Day



Visit the fire station, see the fire truck, meet some of your neighbors and work alongside the firefighters that respond in your neighborhood! Come to Station 16 at 7000 Reese Lane to help with a community workday on Saturday, Nov. 5th at 10:00 AM.

The goal will be to revitalize the landscape beds for the des-

ignated wildlife habitat and paint a mural on the hose rack and shed along the Grover side of the station. You can see in the picture what the landscape looked like in 2012 when Crestview neighbors helped to get Station 16 designated as a Certified Wildlife Habitat.

We need your help in rejuvenating the landscape. Please bring basic lawn tools, such as rakes, pruners, and wheelbarrows, for the yard work. AFD will provide paint and brushes for the mural and this will be a great opportunity to see the Fire Engine and take a Station Tour.

Treats and drinks are welcome if you would like to share and if you have any questions, feel free to call the station at 512-974-0016.



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ANC Transportation Bond Resolution

Editor's note: The Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) is an umbrella group with nearly 100 individual neighborhood associations like CNA as members. They have reviewed the proposed transportation bond and their executive committee passed the following resolution outlining their concerns.

RESOLUTION OF THE AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE TRANSPORTATION BOND PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2016, the Austin City Council voted 7-1-3 to place the \$720 million transportation bond proposal on the November 8, 2016, ballot; and,

WHEREAS, the limited public process has provided neighborhoods with insufficient time to understand and consider the transportation bond proposal; and,

WHEREAS, residents of neighborhoods have expressed the following important concerns about the transportation bond proposal:

1. The inextricable interdependencies, coordination, and timing of the transportation bond proposal with CodeNEXT, Corridor Plans, Capital Metro's Connect 2020 Master Plan, and Neighborhood Plans have not been sufficiently analyzed, considered, and explained; and

2. The improvements to the corridors are likely to facilitate displacement of low- and moderate income families, expedite the elimination of single-family homes within ¼-mile of the corridors, and permanently alter the character of single-family neighborhoods adjacent to the corridors; and

3. The bond proposal will effectively shift tens of millions of dollars in traffic mitigation costs from developers to taxpayers; and

4. Many citizens have little trust and confidence in the City's ability to effectively and efficiently implement within 8 years one of the largest bond proposals in Austin's history; and

5. The total costs to fully implement each of the corridor master plans have not been determined combined with the lack of details for the proposed improvements to the corridors makes it impossible for taxpayers to determine the benefits versus the increased tax burden; and

6. The bond proposal fails to demonstrate meaningful traffic congestion relief while the citizens of Austin expect traffic congestion alleviation with only piecemeal application of the monies; and

7. The bond proposal will consume excessive borrowing capacity at a time of more pressing needs such as effective traffic congestion relief, construction of fire stations identified in the AFD 2016 Service Delivery Analysis and flood control measures; and,

8. The \$420 million allocated for corridor projects represents just 51% of the \$820 million estimate referenced by staff and a mere 28% of the \$1.5 billion estimate by the city manager's office, leaving doubt as to its efficacy and illustrates a need for continued borrowing and taxation to complete the projects; and,

9. The bond proposal is not applied to all districts in an equitable manner; and

10. The single-item bond proposal intentionally forestalls citizens' ability to vote on individual items.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) Executive Committee hereby urges the City Council to:

1. Address the concerns listed above on or before absentee voting starts on October 24, 2016, and

2. On or before October 24, 2016, enact a policy that the corridor improvements will not be utilized to override neighborhood plans or facilitate the elimination of single-family homes or upzoning of single-family zoned properties immediately adjacent to the corridors.



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**Sunday Worship,
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