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# CRESTVIEW

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER

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April 2018

#### EVENTS CALENDAR

**Monday, April 9:** Crestview Neighborhood Association Meeting, 7:00 PM at the Crestview United Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow St. Agenda: See article.

**Saturday, April 14:** Neighborhood Spring Fling Arts & Crafts Fair, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Faith Lutheran Church, 6600 Woodrow Ave.

**Tuesday, April 17:** Crestview Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (CNPCT) Meeting, 6:30 PM at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall, 2008 Justin Ln. Agenda: Bi-annual election of Vice-Facilitator and Secretary and vote on the meeting schedule. Contact Chip Harris at [austinchip@hotmail.com](mailto:austinchip@hotmail.com) for additional information.

**Saturday, May 5:** Violet Crown Spring Festival, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Brentwood Park. Free admission. See article for more information.

#### Announcements

Charles Bryant, who joined the neighborhood association in 1983, passed away on January 24, 2018. He will be sorely missed.

George Griffin, once named Austin Volunteer of the Year and a CNA member since 1985, passed away on February 7, 2018. Our condolences to his family and many friends.

Gertrude Stevens, a special resident of Crestview, passed away on February 8, 2018. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and neighbors.

George Sutton, active with the neighborhood association in many ways from traffic issues to helping with the newsletter, died on February 21, 2018. He was a man of many talents and interests whose absence will be felt by everyone who knew him.

#### About the Meeting

- CodeNEXT Q & A Session and Position Vote

This month's meeting will give residents an opportunity to ask questions about the city's proposed revision of the land development code, what is commonly referred to as CodeNEXT. Currently 1,500 pages long, CodeNEXT covers every aspect of how land can be developed from its use to its density and everything in-between. Ramifications for taxes, gentrification and quality of life are some of the issues. Council member Ora Houston, in comparing CodeNEXT to the city's 1928 segregation plan, made this statement:

"The 1928 plan was the architecture of a city for which Austin City Council wanted land for the growing center city and a city without minorities. Minority rights and minority wealth were sacrificed for the "greater good" – as defined by Austin's powerful. Today a similar change is occurring. The legal force of the 1928 Master Plan has been replaced by economic forces. Economic forces the city either encourages or does not discourage: increased density, increased value of the land, and population growth."

- City Staff Presentation On Changes to Bulky Pickup (Pilot Program)

City staff will describe the pilot program they are testing in Crestview that eliminates the current bi-annual pickups and replaces them with a "call-in" request for service up to three times a year. They will explain why changes are being made, the pros and cons of those changes for both the city and the residents, and what criteria they will be using to determine the success of the changes.

- Presentation by Ryan Tract Committee - Austin Energy 5.6 Acre Storage Facility

#### Art, Music, and More on Tap at the Violet Crown Festival!

Springtime means the Violet Crown Festival is on the horizon! Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 5th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Brentwood Park. This annual art-filled festival is put on by Violet Crown Community Works.

Plan on a day of jam-packed fun at this year's festival. Get those feet moving with some of our musical acts including Little Feet, Jungle Jill and the Jaybirds, Paragon Prep's 5th Grade Ukulele Group, Marc Dulong and The Band, and Alice in Pearls (see website for times and continued updates).

Chat with some of our community groups, many who will be running kids' activities. Please stop by and thank our gold sponsors for supporting the community.

You're sure to find the perfect gift for Mother's Day as the festival has 50 local vendors with an assortment of wares from which to choose.

After all that shopping and dancing, you're sure to have worked up an appetite. Luckily, El Dorado Cafe, Fire and Slice Pizza, Arlan's Domino Dogs, Amy's Ice Cream, and Snowie's Snow Cones will be on hand to satisfy your cravings.

Such a fabulous festival is only possible because of our fantastic volunteers. Become part of this neighborhood tradition and sign up for a shift or two, and this year, our volunteers will get a free shirt! Sign-up now at <http://signup.com/go/ZYMJEeT>

Parking is limited, so please walk or cycle to the festival. Please do not park in the pedestrian/bike lane on Arroyo Seco.

For more information, visit <http://violetcrowncommunity.org> or contact Nancy Mohn Barnard at 512-914-2917 or [okra@austin.rr.com](mailto:okra@austin.rr.com).

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## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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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

Twitter: @CNAneighbors

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### Neighborhood Email Groups

[crestview-neighbors@yahoogroups.com](mailto:crestview-neighbors@yahoogroups.com)  
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ART AT ENTRANCES

## Drawn Together

By Marilyn Querejazu

Drawing is basic. The materials are basic: graphite, crayon, charcoal, paper. The activity is basic - pick up a stick, make lines and marks. Render what you see into an image. Cavemen did it to tell a story and we've all feigned attention while doodling in the margins. It's cool to see this fundamental activity elevated to the loftiest levels of the art world.

To commemorate the centenary of their deaths, 60 works on paper by Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele have made their way to Boston from the Albertina Museum in Vienna. The more I read about these two men the more I realize that their stories are as important as the art.

Similarities in the work of Klimt and Schiele, other than the elegant elongation of the models, are subtle. In addition to their deaths during the flu pandemic of 1918, there are important intersections in their lives. Klimt was mentor and teacher to Schiele, and they were apparently friends. They both created work of intense beauty as well as art that disrupted their lives with scandal. And sadly, works of both artists have been the focus of efforts to recover art stolen by the Nazis during

WWII. The most famous may be Klimt's stunning *Woman in Gold*, subject of the 2015 film starring Helen Mirren.

The Boston exhibit, *Klimt and Schiele: Drawn*, includes only works on paper - drawings and watercolor. An overview of the exhibit, slide show and mini-lecture are here: [www.mfa.org/exhibitions/klimt-and-schiele-drawn](http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/klimt-and-schiele-drawn).

If you are inspired to learn more about these two artists, the Austin Public Library has everything you need.

Should you get a hankering to draw, Austin is full of opportunities. There are classes at the Art School at Laguna Gloria, The Dougherty Arts Center, and Austin Community College just to name a few.



*Portrait of a Girl, 1917, black crayon on wove paper. Egon Schiele*

## Recommended

### Austin Central Library Gallery at 710 W. César Chávez St.

The exhibit, *Garden City, Mega City*, is a mind-expanding look at architecture that is more than just real estate. Don't miss it. Through April 15, 2018,

### The People's Gallery Austin City Hall 301 W. 2nd St.

This year-long exhibition of painting, sculpture, drawing and other media by 102 local artists may take several visits to fully appreciate. Lucky for us, it's free and open to the public through January 1, 2019. Additionally, you can vote for your favorite artwork as the "People's Choice" to be purchased and added to the City's permanent collection.



## Howdy Neighbor!

By Mike Lavigne, CNA President

You good? Great! It's been a minute since I had a chance to dig into this space so here goes <cracks knuckles>...

### CodeNEXT

I'm sure you are as sick as hearing about this as I am talking about it. But that's exactly what the bad guys want! It's a classic rope-a-dope. They start out waaaaay out in left field asking for something crazy so that when they give a little it looks like they've moved to the middle. This took over a year of neighborhoods working hard and being volunteer advocates against a paid industry. Many of us with families and jobs not in real estate are worn out and wounded from the arrows slung by those paid to fight against the citizens of Austin. We can't quit now though.

Now that the third draft is out, the city and CodeNEXT consultants are claiming that much of the worst stuff is actually just errors and don't worry about it. The problem is, they've been saying things like this each time and they aren't getting fixed. This is why the petition to allow citizens to vote on CodeNEXT is so important.

As we go to press, we're told that we likely have enough signatures to get CodeNEXT on the ballot. This is good news! With any luck they will rejigger the code proposal into something citizens can work with instead of the dangerous product the city is trying to hurry along.

### Ryan Drive

This could be cool. As you know, we have a unique opportunity to have input in development on a tract of land at Justin

and Ryan. The city isn't going to give us the whole thing as green space (boooo!) despite Crestview being designated park deficient. The good news is that the city will retain ownership of the land and can dictate what happens there in the long term. Unlike developments like The Grove and Mueller, here affordable housing can remain affordable. Parkland can be designated, and we don't have to rely on a developer keeping their promise to make a deal work.

Anne-Charlotte Patterson (CNA VP) has convened a working group to work with CM Pool's office. That group was tasked to come up with broad recommendations of what we would like to see happen at the property. They've employed various means of gathering input and will have their findings soon, and they will be presented to the CNA for final approval. I'm tremendously proud of the work Anne-Charlotte and her merry band of neighbors have done thus far and am excited to see what (beyond the obvious need for parkland) they bring forward.

### AND...

The Violet Crown Festival is around the corner! Go volunteer if you never have. It is literally one of the reasons we moved to this neighborhood and still very cool.

Finally, commit to getting out and meeting one new neighbor this month. I was recently stopped by a newish neighbor on my block I'd yet to meet, and I'm so grateful he bothered. Turns out we have good friends in common and...beer.

See you around the hood!

Mike



*Diki Swensenberg, MSN, APRN, FNP-C*  
Primary Care Provider



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# Capital Metro Begins Double Tracking Rail Line in Crestview

By Nancy Harris, CNA Treasurer

*Editor's note: CapMetro attended the March 12th CNA meeting to discuss the recent work that has started on the rail line behind homes on Grover Avenue, Ryan Drive, St. Johns Circle and Wildcat Pass. This was followed up with a written response to the questions that were addressed. Below is a summary of some of the responses to those questions. The full document can be viewed at [www.crestviewna.com](http://www.crestviewna.com).*

In 2014, Capital Metro received an \$11.3 million TIGER IV grant from the Federal Transportation Administration matched by local funds. This grant project includes the construction of railroad sidings, signals and systems at four locations, including Crestview Station.

The railroad siding, or second track, will be used for the northbound and southbound Redline commuter trains to pass each other. This will allow for an increased frequency of trains as CapMetro plans to have rail cars run at 15-minute intervals during peak times (currently they run at 30 minute intervals). When the additional trains begin running in 2019, there may be brief periods of time when a train will be stopped on the siding to allow a second train to pass.

Approximately .6 miles of the existing main track between the Crestview Station and Morrow Street will be moved as much as 12 feet to the west (towards the homes along Grover, Ryan and St. John's Circle). The closer the tracks are to the station or Morrow, the less the shift. The siding will be approximately .3 miles long starting roughly at 7115 Ryan and extending to 7511 Grover and will be placed on the eastern side (towards Midtown).

The siding will be 17 feet from the main track at the widest point. All work will be on the existing CapMetro right of way.

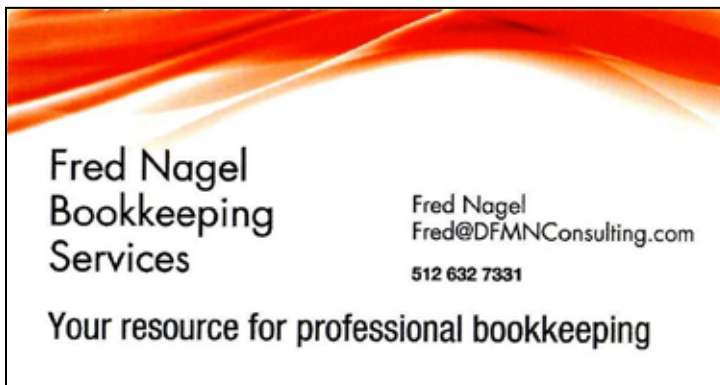
Construction will include clearing and grubbing of vegetation within the railroad right-of way; earthwork including subgrade preparation much like you do to build a road; construction of a short concrete ballast wall; the placement of granite ballast; shifting the existing track over including railroad ties; drainage improvements; earthwork on the east side; construction of the second track including ballast, ties and switches; and railroad signal modifications.

Construction began in late February and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The normal work schedule is 7 am to 5:30 pm Monday-Friday, although there will be some work on weekends, especially for work to shift the existing tracks and some signal work that requires no trains to be using the tracks. Construction will be in phases, and there will be periods of inactivity.

The same type of equipment that is used to build a road will be utilized for the earthwork including dump trucks, concrete trucks, backhoes, rollers, etc., and one can expect the noise that accompanies this type of construction machinery. If rock is encountered digging the footer for the ballast walls or drainage ditches, there will be noise associated with removing the rock.

Dust will be generated when the road base is placed, but rolling and compacting generally don't generate a lot of dust. Placement of the ballast also generates noise and dust.

See Cap Metro, continued on page 5



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A short ballast wall to contain the ballast (rock) that underlays the railroad ties and track is part of the plan. The height of the wall will be approximately 2' above the existing grade and is made of concrete. A trench will be dug, wooden forms for the concrete constructed, concrete will be poured, the forms will be removed, and the trench backfilled and compacted. There will only be 1' of separation between the ballast wall and the edge of the railroad right-of-way (property line). Trees and vegetation in the railroad right-of-way that conflict with the construction of the ballast wall will be removed. Any vegetation remaining in the small area between the ballast wall and the railroad right-of-way line will be maintained by Capital Metro's rail operator Herzog.

A drainage pipe is being placed in the new ballast to the

south, and there are drainage improvements being made on the north side of the new track, including a concrete lined ditch.

For general questions, emergencies or issues related to the Crestview siding construction, please call or email Sam Sargent in Capital Metro's Community Outreach department.

Telephone: (512) 318-3179.

Email: [Sam.Sargent@capmetro.org](mailto:Sam.Sargent@capmetro.org)

Information will also be available online at [www.capmetro.org/metrorailimprovements](http://www.capmetro.org/metrorailimprovements).

In addition, informational emails will be distributed periodically to provide updates on construction progress. To sign up for email updates, send an email to [sam.sargent@capmetro.org](mailto:sam.sargent@capmetro.org).





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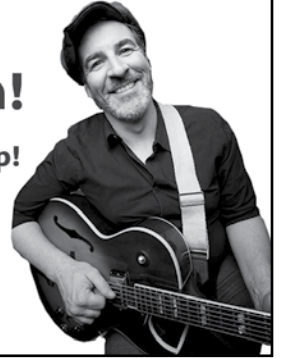
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