

CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, July 22: CNA Ice Cream Social from noon – 2:00 pm, in front of the Little Deli at the Crestview Shopping Center, 7101 Woodrow Avenue. See article below. Note: the annual Ice Cream Social takes the place of the regular July CNA meeting.

Saturday, August 4: Brentwood Elementary School PTA Kindergarten Play Date, 9:00 am – 11:00 am at the Brentwood Schoolbus Playground, 6700 Arroyo Seco. Light refreshments provided. Open to all incoming Brentwood Kindergarten families.

Thursday, August 9: Brentwood Elementary School Kindergarten Orientation at 10 am. Questions? Email brentwood.pta.president@ gmail.com or visit www. brentwoodpta.com.

Welcome to the 28th Annual Ice Cream Social!

rab your sprinkles! It's time Gfor the annual Crestview Neighborhood Association Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 22rd from 12-2 pm in front of Little Deli. Catch up with neighbors and the neighborhood news while listening to live music. The festivities will include a children's activity hosted by the Girl Scouts and our famous Crestview ice cream eating contest (with prizes, or course.) And once again, we'll have raffle drawings throughout for gift cards and other goodies from your favorite local businesses. Huge thanks to Arlan's for their generous ice cream donation and continual support of the neighborhood, and to Little Deli for allowing us to use their space.

JULY 2018

Community Not Commodities' "Top 10" CodeNEXT Gross Overreaches by the Planning Commission

If you think CodeNEXT Draft 3 is wrong for Austin, you won't believe how Austin's Planning Commission wants to make it even worse. After the close of public hearings on Draft 3 of the proposed code, the chair of the Planning Commission (PC) started railroading a series of votes on about 950 proposals (many written by special interests), which would make the draft code even more extreme by promoting more neighborhood redevelopment, less compatibility, and less available parking. So, here's our list of top 10 gross overreaches by the Commission. We welcome nominations.

- 1. Designate over 100 streets and roads as "corridors", add commercial uses, and create so-called "transition zones" extending beyond the corridors to increase density. The PC envisions "transition zones" extending up to 5 blocks into residential neighborhoods.
- 2. Allow front yards to be completely paved by deleting front yard impervious cover regulations in residential zones.
- 3. Direct Staff to further reduce parking requirements to "as close to no parking requirements as possible," leaving it to neighborhoods to deal with new on-street parking through mechanisms like parking permits and parking meters.
- 4. Allow stand-alone parking garages in apartment zones adjacent to neighborhoods.
- 5. Undo compatibility standards that protect neighborhoods along Imagine Austin corridors by rezoning single-family uses so that compatibility is not required on at least 90% of the properties along these corridors.
- 6. Allow buildings up to 120 feet high (10-12 stories) on some corridors.
- 7. Guarantee to developers the right to build 90% of otherwise allowed impervious cover regardless of any other protections in the land development code.
- 8. Eliminate requirements of open space for projects less than 8 acres.
- 9. Undo occupancy limits for units built after a date in 2014, bringing back demolitions for new stealth dorms.
- 10. Effectively amend Imagine Austin using CodeNEXT as a back door.

If you're curious about how your neighborhood is affected by the transition zone proposal, take a look here: https://communitynotcommodity.com/wp-content/uploads/CNC-PC-transition-zones-06_01_18.pdf

CodeNEXT Election Update

A hearing was held on Monday, July 2, with attorneys Fred Lewis and Bill Bunch arguing that Austin citizens have a legal right to vote on CodeNEXT, the city's proposed land development code. District Judge Orlinda Naranjo listened to their arguments as well as those made by the City of Austin's attorney in opposition to having an election, and said she would take the matter under advisement and issue a decision as soon as possible.

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Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA). For information and to submit articles contact: Chip Harris nlchip@outlook.com 512-458-2488

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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 at the Crestview United Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow St. Treasurer: joincrestview@gmail.com Twitter: @CNAneighbors Facebook: CrestviewNeighborhoodAssociation

Neighborhood Email Groups crestview-neighbors@yahoogroups.com crestview_forsale@yahoogroups.com crestview-gardeners@googlegroups.com crestview-parents@googlegroups.com

> CNA Committees ADOPT-A-MEDIAN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ART AT ENTRANCES



Brentwood/Crestview Neighborhood Association Community Cat Project

By Emily Wilson, TRN Volunteer

In 2010, a problem was brought to the attention of neighbors through the Crestview list-serve. A colony of unspayed/unneutered community cats was causing neighbors problems due to nuisance behaviors and endless kittens. A community cat (feral cat) is an abandoned domesticated cat, or the offspring of a domesticated cat living in and around the neighborhood in colonies, not in a home. In response to our local issue, 3 or 4 neighbors educated themselves using resources from the Austin Humane Society and banded together to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) all the cats. A follow-up call to the resident in 2014 revealed that there have been no new litters of kittens and that only 3 cats are remaining. This is an example of what can be done



when compassionate neighbors work together and use TNR as an intervention technique.

TNR of our community cats prevents overpopulation, needless suffering, nuisance behaviors, and other undesirable consequences caused by unspayed/ unneutered community cats. TNR is a non-lethal method of population control where cats are humanely trapped, then evaluated by a veterinarian, spayed/ neutered, ear-tipped, vaccinated, and returned (after recovery) to the same location. TNR is the only method of intervention that is 100% safe for our community cats and that effectively reduces the community cat population.

Without your help, this situation can quickly overwhelm a community. If a street starts with one abandoned, unneutered male and one unspayed female cat, in one year, there can be 12 kittens. Next year, assuming 6 of the kittens are female, each of those kittens can have 12 kittens, and if the original male and female were around, they could have an additional 12 kittens for a total of 84 kittens in two years. At the end of 3 years, a community would have 588 new kittens that would be the descendants of the first pair of cats.

In early 2014, both Crestview and Brentwood's Neighborhood Associations voted to support the TRN approach to address our neighborhood's community cats. The neighborhood associations purchased 6 Tru-Catch cat traps and a volunteer offered support with free trap checkout, education and coaching assistance. Two traps can be checked out for a week at a time to Crestview/ Brentwood residents. Please contact volunteer Emily Wilson emily. wilson8596@gmail.com to check out traps and receive instructions on how to TRN. For information about trapping community cats or managing a colony, please see www.neighborhoodcats.org or www.alleycat.org.

North Austin Reservoir and Pump Station **Improvements** Project

The Austin Water North Austin Reservoir and Pump Station are located at the NW corner of the intersection of FM2222 and N Lamar. The reservoir was originally built in 1912 and renovated in 1978. The reservoir serves the North and Central portions of Austin, including Brentwood, Crestview and the surrounding neighborhoods. The reservoir and pump station are currently in the design phase with construction estimated to begin in 2019 to meet current standards and to ensure greater reliability in the future.

For more information, contact Richelle Brown, 512-972-0145, Richelle.brown@austintexas.gov

June CNA Meeting Notes

By Steve Kuehner, CNA Secretary

Tancy Mohn Barnard, CNA Officer, gave an update on the Brentwood Park Playground Equipment Project. She said that an application had been made to the Austin Parks Foundation for a \$50,000 grant for Phase I redesign. This would include removal of the current exercise equipment and kids' swings and replacing them with an older kids play-scape with curbing. The projected costs of this phase are \$150,000. To date, \$23,000 has been raised from individuals, including sign and T-shirt sales; \$10,000 from businesses, \$30,000 from the city's Parks and Recreation Department's parkland dedication fee and \$30,000 - \$40,000 from Violet Crown Community Works. Funding still needed includes \$10,000 from other sources, possibly to be raised during the upcoming fall

Octoberfest. Nancy reminded attendees that the park project is a multi-year effort. She said that the group will apply for an additional \$100,000 grant to start phase II.

Michael Embesi, Community Tree Preservation Division Manager, City of Austin, shared information about the history of city ordinances protecting trees, the city's goals for its urban forest and challenges that it faces. Folks can visit this website: (http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/) and calculate the benefits of trees on their property. With inputs of location, species and tree size, users will get an understanding of the environmental and economic value trees provide on an annual basis. If you would like a copy of Mr. Embesi's Powerpoint presentation, contact Chip Harris at austinchip@ hotmail.com.

In Memoriam

Irene Burks, a Crestview resident since she moved into a new home in 1959 and a CNA member since 1986, passed away on May 8, 2018 and will be missed by all whose lives she touched.

Emory Muehlbrad, another original Crestview homeowner (1953), died on May 28, 2018. In addition to his career at DPS, he and his wife Wanda served as foster parents to over 300 children in addition to their own. Our condolences to his family, friends, and many foster children.

Doris Marie Coker Doss (Millard), a Crestview resident for 43 years, passed away on June 8, 2018. Doris owned and operated a neighborhood daycare for many years and treated the kids as if they were her own. Everyone who knew Doris will miss her.

REDEEMER HOPE, LIFE, HERE, NOW!

See In Memoriam, page 5



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Textiles and Art

By Marilyn Querejazu

Woven art, fiber art, textiles, tapestries – this is art that begs to be touched. Your fingertips want to be part of the appreciation process - to feel the bumps and dips, the warp and weft, the coarseness or softness of the fibers.

Textiles are both art and necessity. As art they are legendfilled tapestries, fine rugs, and artisan wall hangings. In addition to their rich colors, the essence is tactile - made by hand and appreciated by hand.

Textiles are part of being human - of daily existence as well as ceremony. From your favorite sleeping tee shirt to the royal wedding veil, woven stuff has been an essential part of life since we climbed down from trees.

And nothing adds more warmth and color to your home than well chosen, hand made (possibly your own hands) tex-tiles.

Summer is a good time for indoor endeavors like sewing, weaving, basketry and macramé. Google "woven art" for ideas and check out the woven things from around the world at 10,000 Villages (4803 Burnet Road). Don't forget You Tube and Austin Public Library as handy resources. Plan your project, spread your materials across the dining room table, turn on some music and get going. Make something!

More Inspiration

Davis Gallery 837 W 12th Street presents "...of Warp and Weft" an exhibition featuring the work of Austin based artists Caprice Pierucci and Charles Heppner. Pierucci's medium is carved wood while Heppner photographs delicate cheesecloth. Both explore spirituality, beauty, and rhythm. Through July 21.

Austin's Blanton Museum presents "Ancestral Modern -



Australian Aboriginal Art". This includes large colorful canvases, painted bark strips and sculpture. Through September 9. Blantonmuseum.org

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft presents "Rooted, Revived, Reinvented: Basketry in America". Exploring fiber art works from traditional to highly unconventional. Through September 2. crafthouston.org

San Antonio's McNay Art Museum presents "Dario Robleto: Ancient Beacons Long for Notice". His message and use of very unconventional materials make this exhibit a good reason to get on I-35 and head south. Through September 23rd. Mcnayart.org

Cap Metro Double Track Update

Phase I work, which included vegetation clearing, excavation, track wall construction and track bed preparation, has been completed. The next step in the project will be the laying of ballast rock and the shift of the existing track and ties onto the new ballast. Because the track will need to be out of service, the ballast and track shift will need to be completed on a weekend. While we do not have a date yet for that weekend work, we will notify you as soon as a date has been selected. Once the track has been shifted, excavation, track wall construction and track bed preparation for the new track will take place.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Jackie Nirenberg, Cap Metro's Community Involvement Manager: jackie. nirenberg@capmetro.org



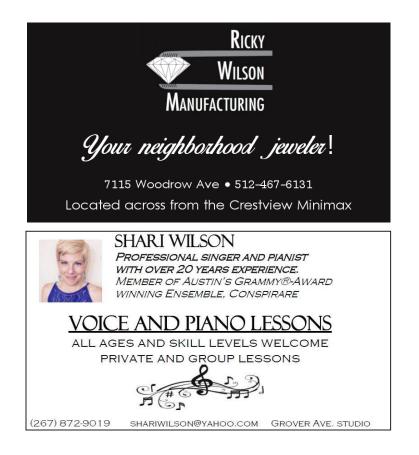
Don't Mow that Lawn!

By Nancy Harris, CNA Treasurer

While a freshly mowed lawn is a beautiful sight to behold, there is good news for those who like to procrastinate. Mowing your lawn too often may be a bad idea for the bees. Who needs bees you ask? Anyone who cares about gardening or likes to eat fruits and vegetables, that's who.

A recent article in *Biological Conservation* (https://www. sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320717306201) found that mowing your lawn every two weeks, as opposed to once a week, made a significant impact on the number of bees in the urban landscape. This "lazy lawnmower" approach allowed for plants such as dandelions, clover and other wildflowers to bloom providing more abundant sources of pollen and nectar for these pollinators. The experiment looked at mowing cycles of one, two and three weeks and found that the optimum time frame between cuttings seemed to be two weeks. Once a week mowing did not produce enough flowers, and while the three-week cycle produced the most flowers, the bee populations actually decreased. The researchers felt the longer cutting cycle made it more difficult for the bees to reach food in the taller grass, especially the small sweat bees.

Since 2006, seemingly healthy bees have been abandoning their hives at an alarming rate. This mass disappearance, called Colony Collapse Disorder, has resulted in the loss of about 1/3 of the bee colonies in the United States – the lowest point in 50 years. These natural pollinators do more than produce \$150 million a year of honey; they also cross-pollinate \$15 in crops each year including many of our favorite foods such as almonds, apples, berries, carrots and cantaloupes to name just a few. 90% of wild plants depend on bees to thrive and grow. All this makes it vitally important that we do what



we can to provide food for these winged workers.

If you need more encouragement to back off a bit on the mowing, keeping your lawn higher is also good for the grass.



Higher grass means more blade surface which results in better photosynthesis and healthier grass. Not to mention that it provides some shade for the roots providing increased moisture reserves that help it to survive the hot summer season. Less fre-

quent mowing will also save energy and time.

So while you don't have to "let your yard go", maybe mow a little less often, and let a few weeds and wildflowers grow to provide food for the bees. The bees and the grass will thank you.

In Memoriam, continued from page 3

Newton LeBlanc, a longtime Crestview resident and CNA member left this life on June 9, 2018. He and his wife Shirley were founding members of the St. Louis Catholic Church and he was the first School Board President of St. Louis Catholic School. He will be sorely missed.

Eva Mae Waggoner, a CNA member since 1984 and original Crestview homeowner before the streets were paved (1950), died on June 12, 2018. Mae was a treasure and always had a great story to share about the neighborhood in the early days, and she hosted a fabulous National Night Out party in her driveway for many years. Thank you Mae! We'll all miss you!

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