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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 2018

EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, October 27: Roots & Wings Festival in Brentwood Park from 9 am to 12 pm. Information at friendsofbrentwoodpark@gmail.com.

Thursday, November 1: City Council vote on a resolution calling for proposals on development of the Ryan Tract. See article below.

Friday, November 2: LamarFest! 6 pm to 9 pm at 6201 Wynona Ave. Entertainment, food and fun! More information at www.lamarmiddleschool.org/lamarfest.

Saturday, November 3: Friends of Brentwood Park Work Day from 9 am to 12 pm at Brentwood Park. Information at www.friendsofbrentwoodpark.org.

Tuesday, November 6: Election Day!

Saturday, November 10: 9 am to 11 am: Hazardous Household Products Drop Off at the Crestview United Methodist Church. See article on page 4 for details.

Monday, November 12: Crestview Neighborhood Association Meeting. 7:00 pm at the Crestview United Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow St.

Monday, December 3: Brentwood Elementary School Welcome Walk at 9 am. Contact Brentwood Elementary at 512-414-2039 for more information.

If You Want a Say, Vote Yes on Proposition J

By Michael Curry & Barbara McArthur

On Tuesday, November 6, 2018, you can reaffirm your right to review and approve the City's next comprehensive revision of the land development code by voting "Yes" on Proposition J. Proposition J is the CodeNEXT citizen petition initiative. If Austin voters approve Proposition J, then before CodeNEXT (or a substitute comprehensive revision of the land development code) can become law, there will be a waiting period and voter approval requirement.

It will take the prospect of a public vote on the revised code to get the Council to... work with the community towards a consensus.

Proposition J's waiting period and voter approval requirements apply to "comprehensive revisions of the land development laws". Comprehensive revisions are once in a generation complete overhauls of a City's land development laws such as in 1985 and as proposed with CodeNEXT. Opponents have claimed that Prop. J would "hogtie" the city and prevent code improvements. Not true. Proposition J does not require a waiting period or voter approval for specific land development projects, targeted improvements to the Code, public works projects, or the enactment of new programs (such as flooding mitigation, new environmental standards or affordable housing) because those are not comprehensive changes to zoning districts across the city as CodeNEXT proposed.

When CodeNEXT was "suspended" by the Council in August, the Council indicated that they intended to restart a comprehensive land development code revision (probably under a different name) after the November 2018 election. The Council chose ballot language for Prop J that suggests a waiting period as long as three years after adoption for a comprehensive revision. That is misleading. Under the City's timeline, any waiting period would likely be about a year or less after adoption. In fact, the waiting period can be shortened or even eliminated if this time around the Council does its job and adopts a code reflecting a community consensus. In all likelihood, it will take until the summer of 2020 to create a new process, hold hearings and pass a revised code – if it is done the right way, that is, from the ground up, not imposed from the top down. The Council can amend Proposition J, including modifying the waiting period, by a 3/4 vote majority a few months later in November of 2020. So the effective date of the revised code can be almost immediate if there is strong support for the document. But it will take the prospect of a public vote on the revised code to get the Council to stop dictating, start listening and work with the community towards a consensus.

See Proposition J, continued on page 4

Council Resolution on Crestview Austin Energy Site

By Anne-Charlotte Patterson, CNA Vice-President

On November 1st, the Austin city council will vote on a resolution recommending re-development of a city-owned lot at 6909 Ryan Drive at Justin Lane currently used by Austin Energy for storage. The resolution language is based largely on a report by a CNA working group. The group's recommendations call for a mixed-use development that includes amenity-rich park space, affordable housing, and easy pedestrian access from the neighborhood to the Crestview Metrorail station. The recommendations were based on comprehensive neighborhood survey data.

Please urge Mayor Adler and city council to vote "yes" on the 6909 Ryan Drive resolution. Visit this link to email all council members: <http://www.austintexas.gov/email/all-council-members>

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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.

Treasurer: joincrestview@gmail.com

Twitter: @CNAneighbors

Facebook: [CrestviewNeighborhoodAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/CrestviewNeighborhoodAssociation)

Neighborhood Email Groups

crestview-neighbors@yahoogroups.com
crestview_forsale@yahoogroups.com
crestview-gardeners@googlegroups.com
crestview-parents@googlegroups.com

Crestview Artist Profile – Laura Maclay

By Marilyn Querejazu

Artist and crafter, Laura Maclay, makes dolls, stuffed crocheted animals, purses, quilts and paintings – all of which are beautifully displayed in her home studio on Cullen Ave. You can see her creations on etsy (www.etsy.com/shop/pursesnatcher), during WEST in May, at Blue Genie starting Friday, November 23rd through December 24 and by making an appointment for your own studio tour (laura@pursesnatcher.com)

Laura learned to sew and crochet from her mother and became an expert seamstress. She started making purses to sell in 2000 and branched out from there into the limitless world of fabric art.

Laura finds inspiration at the Blanton Museum of Art and Harry Ransom Center on the UT campus. She also visits studios and galleries during the East Austin Studio Tour in November. The most impressive art Laura has seen (so far) is the Chihuly Glass Museum and Garden in Seattle (www.chihulygardenandglass.com).

Laura advises kids who want to be artists to try as many creative activities as possible, from computer graphics to hands-on crafts. Don't get too focused on one niche or you may miss out on something important to you.



It's Always Arty in Austin

Let's Take a Walk, a group exhibition of Austin artists is coming to Art for the People, 1711 S. 1st Street. The exhibition begins Saturday, Oct. 27th, 2018 and continues through Saturday, January 26th, 2019. This promises to be an enjoyable show and sale. See <https://artforthepeoplegallery.com/exhibitions>

Harry Ransom Center - I love visiting HRC and try to go often, but there is just so much to discover within its walls – it can be intimidating. HRC is an archive of cultural artifacts and a treasure trove of information about art, history and literature. A great way to better understand what goes on at HRC is their introductory video called *Encouraging Discovery* (www.hrc.utexas.edu/multi-media/video/2014/discovery/).

The current exhibition is *Ed Ruscha: Archaeology and Romance*, through January 6, 2019.

Contemporary Austin Sculpture Park (AKA Laguna Gloria) 3809 West 35th Street – Always a great place for a stroll. Ponder the interesting outdoor art, like Ai Weiwei's *Cast Iron Tree Trunk* and listen to the strange peacock noises. www.thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions/

Austin Public Library Downtown - Enjoy the fabulous interior – there is always something new. Don't forget to explore the outdoor art – here's a preview: <http://austintexas.gov/page/public-artwork-central-library>.

Back in the Car

Houston - Although October was Arts District Month in Houston, you can always enjoy the creative corridor along Washington Avenue. Plan your visit with www.fresharts.org/content/arts-district-houston.

Don't overlook the towering concrete busts of Stephen F Austin, Sam Houston, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington overlooking I-10 and I-45 in the First Ward. Mount Rush Hour was created by Houston sculptor David Adickes.

Fort Worth - From Remington to O'Keefe, *The Carter's Greatest Hits* showcases the Amon Carter Museum permanent collection of masterpieces. Always beautiful, always free. <http://www.cartermuseum.org/>

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Howdy Neighbor

by Mike Lavigne, CNA President

Election time is here! In my former career, I'd be neck deep in stats and guiding resources until the last minute to try and increase voter turnout where it was most helpful for my candidates. This year though, it looks like there could be record levels of participation so most candidates are just hustling to raise their "Name ID" so that when all of us go to the polls they have a shot at beating the incumbents in what will most certainly be what we would call a "change election".

Incumbents are hard to beat. They usually have more cash on hand and an easier time getting more. Most lobbyists and industries reliant on government have a de-facto "friendly incumbent" rule. It's always easier to get on a winner's late train than risk upsetting entrenched power.

Speaking of entrenched power, don't forget to vote in the city elections alllllll the way down to the bottom of the ballot. Believe it or not, there is as much as a fifty percent drop-off in votes between the top and bottom of the ballot. This is another factor that plays in the favor of incumbents in local races.

This year we have an opportunity to elect a mayor that doesn't want to turn our neighborhood from single family to a "transition zone" with far fewer rules around the size and density of what can be built next to you. Your property taxes go up every time a house on your block is torn down and bigger, multiple luxury units are put up. Our current zoning already allows for ADUs (granny flats), duplexes and other forms of increased density. It is one of the things that makes our neighborhood housing stock so interesting and varied.

Developers still salivate over our neighborhood because our dirt is still considered cheap enough to make a decent

buck on a flip, and the mayor's appointees to the planning commission seem all too eager to help by pushing for more upzoning.

This was a major factor in the Austin Neighborhoods Council's recent endorsement of Laura Morrison for mayor.

Recently, a study of Austin's new apartment construction said that 88% of new builds were considered luxury apartments. Another study also showed that we are on track to well surpass the stated number of units needed in the next decade. Kinda makes you wonder what all this hullabaloo is about if it isn't really about affordability or a perceived housing crisis. It's just an effective real estate marketing tool. The fact is that between the costs of labor and materials on a sharp rise, in conjunction with our ever rising salary base, there will never be any affordable housing built that isn't subsidized.

Finally, I'm writing this on my way to Oktoberfest. I hope you enjoyed it, and as always, "Thank you, Nancy Barnard" for organizing such a fun event for such a great cause (Brentwood Park)!

Austin Animal Center – Adoptees and Foster Homes Desperately Needed

Austin Animal Center is committed to no kill, and has been saving 99% of the lives that come through our doors in the past few months - a number that's unheard of for open-admission shelters like ours. But we cannot do this alone, and we are fighting every day for solutions to save these lives.

On October 15, we had over 400 dogs, but they are more than a number- they are individual faces, with whiskers and puppy dog eyes. We are looking for heroes! We are in desperate need of adopters, foster homes (even just for a week) and rescue partners. <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/aac>



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Proposition J continued from page 1

Only with this electoral accountability will we get a new code that is driven by facts, that keeps promises and respects rights. Only in this way will we get a new land development code that will be fair to all neighborhoods in all areas of town, that reflects genuine consensus and that allows us to shape the future, not surrender to it. Only in this way will we get a say about the future of our homes, our neighborhoods, and our city.

It took hundreds and hundreds of hours of detailed study to discover and expose the truth about CodeNEXT buried in reams of paper and obscured by the City's public relations presentations and consultant jargon. It took 31,000 signatures. It took a lawsuit and a victory in court.

You earned the right to vote; now it is time to preserve that right to vote. On November 6th we make it formal. Vote "yes" to Proposition J to vote on CodeNEXT or its replacement. Vote "yes" to forge a community-based consensus.

Taste of Brentwood Fundraiser

by Jennifer Deegan

Brentwood Elementary PTA is holding its second "Taste of Brentwood" fundraiser on February 8, 2019 and would love to have neighborhood participation in this year's silent auction - artists, artisans, businesses, and service providers all welcome!

We are accepting goods, gift cards, and direct sponsorship and will be thanking all of our supporting businesses during the event. Supporters who contribute more than \$100 in value will benefit from additional recognition.

This is a great way to get your name in front of our parents, and all funds raised go directly to support PTA programs that

enrich our school, including teacher supplies, fine arts residencies, visiting authors and library databases.

Feel free to email me at jldeegan@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions. I'm happy to provide more detail on request.

Household Hazardous Products Drop Off

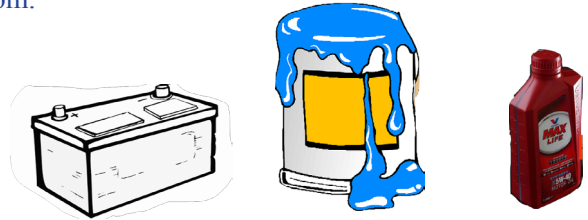
A recycling collection of household hazardous products will be held by the Crestview Neighborhood Association and Crestview United Methodist Church in the church parking lot at 1300 Morrow Street on Saturday, November 10. Items will be accepted from 9 am to 11 am (unless the trailer fills up before 11 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:

- Large batteries (please recycle small batteries at Batteries Plus or Lowe's)
- 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.

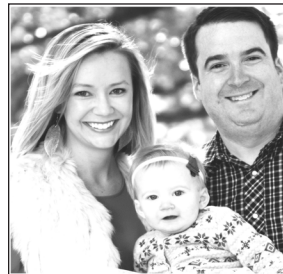


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Austin Neighborhoods Council Makes Endorsements for Mayor and Council

The Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC), a city-wide neighborhood umbrella group that CNA belongs to, endorsed Laura Morrison for mayor. In her two terms on the City Council, Laura established a record of working to maintain the character of our neighborhoods and to protect our quality of life. Her greatest commitment is to ensure that Austin remains a great place for all of our current residents and local businesses while making room for new neighbors.

ANC has been in existence for more than 40 years, and its membership includes over 80 neighborhood associations representing thousands of individual residents all across Austin. ANC hosted its official City Council forum and endorsement meeting on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. Residents representing a diversity of neighborhoods all over Austin listened as candidates for City Council districts 1,3,8,9 and Mayor participated in the event.

ANC's endorsements for the City Council races were: District 1-Vincent Harding, District 3-Susana Almanza, District 8-Bobby Levinski and District 9-Kathy Tovo.

Candidates also completed a written survey. Responses may be found at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/u4xy9iowc6jmy27/ANC-2018-ForumPacket.pdf?dl=0>

"We provide a forum to discuss candidates' positions on issues specifically related to one of Austin's many at-risk assets - our neighborhoods and the quality of life of our citizens," said ANC President, Jeff Jack. "Since the CodeNEXT debate we now have a much clearer idea of what is at stake as our land-development code is addressed. The stakes are high and our members endorsed the candidates who best represent Austin residents and neighborhoods in this process."

www.ancweb.org

In Memoriam - Todd Bol, Founder of Little Free Libraries

Mr. Bol, whose streetside memorial library provided the inspiration for Little Free Library, a nonprofit that he grew into a network of more than 75,000 tiny, whimsical book exchanges that encourage passersby to "take a book, leave a book," died of pancreatic cancer on Oct. 18 at a hospice center in Oakdale, Minnesota.

In what he later described as "a spiritual gesture" to his late mother, Todd set to work one day in 2009. Repurposing wood from his garage, he built a dollhouse-size library in the shape of a one-room schoolhouse complete with a steeple and a tiny toy bell.

He said he began to realize the potential of the little library when his wife hosted a garage sale in 2010, and more people seemed interested in examining his library and discussing its books than in perusing the Bol family's knickknacks.

There are now Little Free Libraries in all 50 states and in 88 countries. They stand inside Los Angeles police stations and at New York City subway stops, at prisons in Wisconsin and hospitals in Ireland, at a refugee camp in Uganda and a schoolyard in South Sudan.

After his death, the organization requested that "stewards" tie a silver or white ribbon around their libraries in his honor. <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2018/10/18/little-free-library-creator-todd-bol-dies>





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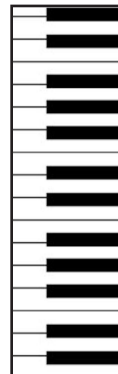
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