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CRESTVIEW

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION **NEWSLETTER**

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DECEMBER 2018

A New Opportunity to Improve Austin's Land Development Code

By Michael Curry and Barbara McArthur

n November 6th, the voters declined to adopt Proposition J, the citizen initiative to require voter approval before a new comprehensive replacement of Austin's land development code could become effective. Proposition J offered a tool, a public vote on any new code, as a means to achieve the goal of a better, smarter land development code supported by a broad cross-section of the community. A slim majority of voters rejected that tool but, importantly, not that

There are lessons to be learned from the defeat of Proposition J, but to do so it is essential to understand its origin. Proposition J was a "break glass in case of emergency" initiative in response to CodeNEXT, the City's attempt at a comprehensive revision of Austin's Land Development Code. The Council withdrew CodeNEXT in August in the face of heavy criticism that it did not address our existing problems and created significant new ones. Many believed that the widespread up-zoning would fuel redevelopment that would exacerbate displacement and seal the fate of at-risk neighborhoods while pointlessly undermining established ones.

A land development code is an implementation document and not a planning document. Its function is to regulate land use in accordance with the City's approved comprehensive plan, including its small-area and neighborhood plans. CodeNEXT went off the rails when it sought to act instead as a new comprehensive planning document, and even worse, one that unilaterally rezoned the city in derogation of the wishes of its citizens.

The vote on Proposition J was a referendum on whether the community thought the CodeNEXT process and product were so irredeemable that we should consider the extraordinary step of taking the final decision out of the hands of the Council. Almost half of the voters said "yes." Such a substantial number of votes for such extraordinary action confirms the Council's decision to set CodeNEXT aside and order a new process. To the extent that Proposition J motivated that decision, it accomplished a critical milestone even in defeat.

There is now space for a fresh start. Now is the time for an inclusive process that seeks a broad community consensus, one built from the bottom up, not imposed See Land Code, continued on page 3

Take Our Survey on the City's Pilot Call In Bulk Pickup Program by Nancy Harris, CNA Treasurer

Ou might be aware that the city implemented a pilot bulk pick up program in Crestview between April and December of this year. This pilot eliminated the scheduled neighborhood bulk pickups and instead required users to call in for any pickups. As the program comes to its conclusion, we would like to hear from the residents regarding their feelings about the pilot in order to offer some constructive feedback to the city. Whether you used the program or not, please take a few minutes to complete the survey with your experiences, thoughts, and opinions about the pilot and how you feel services could be improved. A summary of the results will be shared with Austin Resource Recovery, the Zero Waste Commission and in a future edition of the newsletter. The short survey (Parts 1 & 2) can be found at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XJDMSMT and https://www.surveymonkey. com/r/XMVW895, or if you do not have access to a computer please call 512-458-2488 to have a paper copy delivered to you. The survey will close on December 30. Please let us hear from you. Your opinions are important.

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Saturday, December 22: In lieu of their regular meeting, the Crestview Neighborhood Association will host a Holiday Social at 7:00 pm at the Crestview Shopping Center at 7100 Woodrow. Light refreshments provided followed by a short stroll around the luminarias along Arroyo Seco.

Saturday, December 22 through Tuesday, December 25: Arroyo Seco Luminarias, Candles lit nightly along Arroyo Seco from Koenig to W. St. Johns.

Sunday, December 30: Deadline for completing CNA's Bulk Pick Up Survey - see article on page 1.

Cap Metro Double Track Update

Rail crews have completed the track wall and drainage channel on the north (east) side of the right-of-way and grade preparation work. Track welding and tie installation is also nearly complete as is signals work. The switch installation near Morrow Street originally scheduled for November is now slated to be installed on Sunday December 2nd followed by ballast delivery and final track alignment. Machinery noise and dust are likely during this work. Major construction activities are still scheduled to be completed by the end of the year with testing occurring during the first quarter of 2019.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Jackie Nirenberg, Cap Metro's Community Involvement Manager: jackie.nirenberg@capmetro.org 512-369-6201.

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 at the

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



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Howdy Neighbor

By Mike Lavigne, CNA President

I'm tired of politics at the moment. There's plenty of time next year to let you know about all the new things the city has initiated since the election to eliminate single family housing in our neighborhood, and there'll be lots of things we need to keep an eye on and several we'll have to show up for. But it's getting cold, the kids are out of school a ton and...ugly sweaters and hot drinks. So like the family dinner table, let's talk about anything but politics right now...

Religion!

Not really, but I would like to thank the Crestview United Methodist Church for always helping out when we need a place to meet and letting us use their place for the hazardous material recycling drive. It was a success as usual. Thanks also to Elaine Stegant for always making sure it happens and runs smoothly.

Scooters are fun! They really are. Months ago I bought one of the electric ones that are so ubiquitous now so I could zip between my usual stops in the neighborhood. But don't let their innocence and size fool you. There is an in-

crease in emergency room visits because of them. I'm not quite sure why they dump so many at every corner in our neighborhood. It seems like we could do fine with half as many. But regardless, if you use one, please please be mindful of our limited sidewalks. We just don't have enough sidewalks in our hood and when you block a sidewalk when you park one (or six) of those things, they can make it difficult for our neighbors and friends that don't get around as easily. They can



make life very difficult for people in wheelchairs and walkers. So if you hitch a ride on one, please try and park it so it doesn't obstruct the sidewalk. Thank You!

In lieu of a December CNA meeting this month we are going to do a little howdy-do in the Crestview Shopping Center parking lot with some sort of hot drink for the kiddos and then a short stroll down Arroyo Seco to enjoy the luminarias. This will be at 7pm on December 22nd. I hope to see you there.

Finally, I'll take advantage of presidential privilege and wish Lilah a Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas just to make sure she keeps reading these. I do hope you all have a peaceful and happy holiday season. I talk a lot of trash, but it is just my opinion, and if I see any of you in person and you disagree with me, feel free to buy me a beer and try to convince me otherwise. I'll listen, and I hope you will too.

Have a happy new year, and be careful out there folks.

City Council Moves Forward with Austin Energy Site Redevelopment

On November 1st, the Austin city council passed a resolution calling for the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for redevelopment of the Austin Energy property located at 6909 Ryan Drive near Justin Lane. The resolution, which prioritizes quality parkland, affordable housing, access to the train and bus stops at Crestview Station and the inclusion of flexible creative space, was founded on recommendations developed by CNA's Ryan Drive Working Group. Staff members from the office of Council Member (CM) Leslie Pool authored the resolution with assistance from Crestview resident Anne-Charlotte Patterson and Midtown resident Rachel Tepper.

In the coming months, the city's Economic Development department will conduct a market survey of the property and the city's Office of Real Estate will then create a detailed RFP. CM Pool's office will facilitate communications between members of the Ryan Drive group and city consultants to help ensure that resident feedback collected by the group helps shape the request for proposal. The RFP is expected to be finalized and issued in late summer of 2019.

Land Code, continued from page 1

from the top down. Instead of counting votes on the dais, the Council needs to work for agreements in the community as to how best to implement our City plans. We need a code revision based on facts and real-life experiences not assumptions and planning theory. We need a code that has the flexibility to accommodate those who arrive in the future while respecting the rights of those who are already here. Now is the time to create a code that creates an efficient permitting process, while continuing to allow residents a say in what happens where they live.

To do those things the City needs to regain the trust of the citizens. Instead of trying to "handle" the community, the City

needs to listen to the community. No one should be required to learn a new code language (What is a "Transect"?) to understand what changes the City is proposing. It should not take hours of detailed study to discover how each small part of the proposed code is different than the existing law and what it could mean on the ground. The City should spend more time explaining the document and less time selling it. Citizens are entitled to know not just the perceived theoretical benefits of an implementation approach but the downsides as well.

The citizen initiative embodied in Proposition J helped get us a new start. Now there is time to come together and improve our Land Development Code so that it does its job and works for everyone.

Annual CNA Membership Renewals Due

Thank you to all of the folks who supported the work of the Crestview Neighborhood Association through their memberships this past year. Membership dues are \$10 per household per year on a calendar basis with renewals due in January. Renew you membership by using the form below or by visiting www.crestviewna.com and paying through PayPal. You can also use the form to become a new CNA member. Thank you!

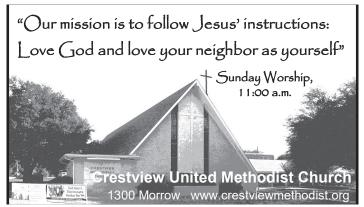
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RESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	Crestview Neighborhood Association PO Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766 www.crestviewna.com		All residents are invited to joir Annual dues are \$10 per household
Date:	New Member []	Renewing Member []	
Household Membe	rs (List up to 4):		
Address:			









Austin APD Crime Search Report for October 2018

Crime	Street	Date	Time
ASSAULT CONTACT - SEXUAL NATURE	69XX BURNET LN	10/1/18	19:38
AUTO THEFT	8XX JUSTIN LN	10/10/18	10:15
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	12XX PASADENA DR	10/14/18	15:37
BURGLARY OF VEHICLE	7XXX RYAN DR	10/17/18	10:32
BURGLARY OF VEHICLE	72XX EASY WIND DR	10/23/18	10:45
BURGLARY OF VEHICLE	72XX EASY WIND DR	10/27/18	16:44
CRASH / FAIL STOP AND RENDER AID	2XXX ANDERSON LN	10/16/18	18:39
CRASH / LEAVING THE SCENE	75XX LAMAR BLVD	10/5/18	12:53
CRASH / LEAVING THE SCENE	72XX EASY WIND DR	10/11/18	15:10
CRASH / LEAVING THE SCENE	69XX LAMAR BLVD	10/26/18	9:35
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	21XX ANDERSON LN	10/3/18	16:52
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	22XX RICHCREEK RD	10/28/18	11:00
DUI – AGE 17 TO 20	74XX LAMAR BLVD	10/15/18	1:20
HARASSMENT	7XXX ARROYO SECO	10/18/18	12:11
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	15XX DARTMOUTH AVE	10/22/18	9:05
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	8XX MORROW ST	10/23/18	10:22
THEFT	69XX BURNET LN	10/5/18	15:49
THEFT	9XX ANDERSON LN	10/6/18	18:51
THEFT	72XX EASY WIND DR	10/12/18	19:19
THEFT	8XX SUGAREE AVE	10/22/18	10:43

December Crime Prevention Tip: Develop a "crime prevention" attitude. Stay alert - Stay tuned-in to your surroundings and be aware and prepared, even in your own neighborhood. Stand tall - Walk confidently and don't look like a victim. Trust your instincts - If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave right away and get help if necessary.



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Painting Motion - John Marin

By Marilyn Querejazu

an Antonio's holiday gift to Austin is *Becoming John Marin*, an exhibit at the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) of hundreds of paintings and drawings from the work of this distinguished American artist. He is known for capturing the energy of New York City's crowded streets as well as the silence of rural Maine.

John Marin (1870-1953) still did not know what he wanted to do with his life at age 40. He sold sewing notions, trained

as an architect and loved to draw. He traveled through Europe, painted, became more confident, was discovered by collectors and in 1948 was considered by *Look Magazine* as the greatest American artist. His painting style is modern with energetic, sudden brush strokes, while his drawings are precise and thoughtful.

Of all the renderings of Brooklyn Bridge, my favorite is his watercolor from around 1912. Marin painted this work when the Brooklyn Bridge was still considered modern, erupting from the banks of the East River. See John Marin's art and read his story here: www.becomingjohnmarin.org/about

Fun can be had going in any direction from SAMA: You can walk, ride the bus, rent a bike, take a river taxi, or combine these modes. Here are some ideas:

The Pearl retail and restaurant complex is a ten-minute walk from the museum and central downtown is a 30-min walk along the San Antonio River.

You should make time to bike or walk along any of the 15 miles of trail connecting four Spanish colonial missions—Concepción, San José, San Juan and Espada. You will be surprised by the natural setting of the river and its banks. Also, you can toast San Antonio's 300th birthday at the Hotel Havana (1015 Navarro St.), the Friendly Spot (943 S. Alamo), the Blue Star Brewery (1414 S. Alamo) and other wonderful places.



Back to Austin

To see a world of beautiful art under one roof, I recommend Flatbed Press and adjoining galleries at 2832 East MLK Jr. Take time to see Daniel Arredondo's Studio – his trees are fantastic. Gallery Shoal Creek is incredible, too.

Happy holidays to you and yours, Marilyn











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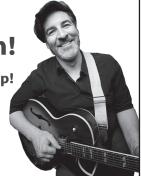
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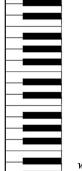
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