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CRESTVIEW

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2019

EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, March 2: Friends of Brentwood Park Spring Work Day from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at 6710 Arroyo Seco St. More information: friendsofbrentwoodpark@ qmail.com

Saturday, March 2: Sunshine Gardens Spring Plant Sale from 9 am to 2 pm at 4814 Sunshine Dr. Info at http://sunshinecommunity-gardens.org

Thursday, March 7: Community Meeting about the design and modernization of Brentwood Elementary School from 5:30 pm to 7 pm at the school at 6700 Arroyo Seco. For more information or questions: 512-414-9595 or future@austinisd.org

Thursday & Friday, March 7 & 8: Brentwood Elementary School Used Book Sale. Check in at the front office at 6700 Arroyo Seco and bring your ID. Info at http://brentwoodpta.com/annual-events/used-book-sale/

Saturday, March 9: Arts & crafts event at Hope Chapel, 6701 Arroyo Seco

Monday, March 11: Crestview
Neighborhood Association Meeting
at 7 pm at the Crestview United
Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow
Street. Agenda: Discussion and
vote on \$250 donation to Violet
Crown Community Works for their
spring festival. Cap Metro contractor soliciting community feedback
about Project Connect through a
questionnaire.

Thursday, March 14: Brentwood Elementary School Welcome Walk at 9 am. Contact Brentwood Elementary at 512-414-2039 for more information.

Major Changes Proposed for Austin's Land Development Code

Just 17 days after Council Member Greg Casar posted his "Affordability Unlocked Resolution" (20190221-27) on the city council's message board, it was passed with amendments from the dais by the city council. The final amended version of the resolution will be available in early March, and is not available at the time of publication. City Manager Spencer Cronk and his staff will have until May 9th to formulate an ordinance to be considered by the City Council.

The course of this resolution and its implementing ordinances need to be followed closely because, as originally proposed, the resolution focused on removal of existing zoning regulation limits to promote maximum development of affordable housing. This includes removal of compatibility and McMansion standards (Chapter 25-2, Subchapter F), reducing setbacks by 50%, waiving all parking requirements, increasing height 1.25 to 1.5 times the existing limit, increasing density 1.5 to 2 times on multifamily and commercial, and 6 to 8 times on single family, waiving FAR (floor-to-area ratio) limits, changing the site plan process, and waiving duplex requirements. What this means is the ability to put 6 to 8 units on any single-family lot, with a height limit of 43 to 52 feet, setback from the street of 12.5 feet, with no parking provided. To build rental property, 50 to 75% of the units must be affordable to those making 60% (\$51,600) or less of the Median Family Income (MFI of Austin is \$86,000 for a family of 4) and for ownership it would be 80% (\$68,800). There is no restriction on the relative size of the units. For example, two very small affordable units could be built on a single-family lot with two very large market rate units. These entitlements would be granted by right automatically and there would be no petition rights for neighbors. The greatest increase of entitlements would be on single-family lots, and this would impact lower income rental homes and apartments first.

Recycled Reads Saved Again

By Nancy Harris, Treasurer

Much to the surprise of the public, the Library Commission and City Council who had no clue until the item came up on their January meeting agendas, the city's Real Estate Department and the Library Director had been working on a sublease for 2/3 of the space of the popular city owned bookstore,

Recycled Reads (RR). While this sounded bad enough to regular patrons and supporters of RR, it got even worse when it was discovered that the remaining 1/3 that RR would retain would not be for a slightly reduced bookstore, but would be primarily for book processing and offices. The actual bookstore would be reduced from about 4,331 sq. ft. to a small nook of only 360 sq. ft. – a reduction of nearly 92%! This would virtually close the bookstore.

No action was taken at the Library Commission meeting, but several council members asked that the item be postponed at their January meeting until further information could be obtained and the Library Commission had a chance to study it. When this did not happen by February 7, a second postponement was requested for March 7.

See Recycled Reads, continued on page 4

CRESTVIEW

NEWSLETTER

Published monthly on 100% recycled paper by the 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

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Mosaic Art in Austin

by Marilyn Querejazu

Mosaic art is contemplative - you look closer and closer and then just fall into it. A mosaic is the meticulous joining of zillions of irregular pieces into a whole idea. They are tactile, colorful, weirdly wonderful and often right out in the open for all to enjoy.

Austin is rich in public art – including incredible mosaic art. This is my list of must-see mosaics, but there's more out there, just look for it.

Rhapsody: E. 11th Street at Charles E. Urdy Plaza

A gorgeous example is *Rhapsody*, a tribute to East Austin's musical past designed in 2003 by University of Texas Art Professor John Yancey. You've got to be there, to walk around and touch the 50-footlong mural to appreciate this work of art.



Deep Eddy Pool: 401 Deep Eddy Avenue

This mosaic is another reason to visit the oldest swimming pool in Texas. After a dose of spring fed enlightenment, wander under the trees west of the pool to the tile and mirror mosaic depicting the pool's history. Wanda Montemayor began the ambitious mural in 2006 as part of her art-therapy thesis project. Fellow artist Lisa Orr and local high school and middle school students contributed.

Lake Nessy: Mueller's Lake Park at Simond Avenue

This large mosaic sculpture is inspired by mythological water creatures, using handmade tiles to give the feeling of barnacles and other sea life, while adding texture with smooth, glossy, glass tiles. Nessy is a creation of Dixie Friend Gay, renowned for mosaic artistry. See her gorgeous work here: http://www.dixiefriendgay.com/

A Day in the Park: Shipe Park, 4400 Avenue G

We'll have to wait for the new and improved Shipe pool to open to see this mural again. By artist Hollie Brown and community helpers, this colorful 600-square-foot mosaic filled with trees, flowers, bugs, butterflies, owls, and playful park-goers tells the story of a day at Shipe Park.

Your Essential Magnificence: South Congress and Live Oak

This one is hard to describe – just go see it and sit on it. Ok, it's a chair; it's a chair shaped like a creature covered in mosaic. Most importantly, it's from the mind of sculptor James Edward Talbot. I encourage you to see his incredible artwork on Facebook.

And closer to home:

Wall of Welcome: Crestview Shopping Center, 7100 Woodrow Ave.

This massive community project was completed in 2008 with the creativity and guidance of artist Jean Graham. It tells the story of the Crestview/Brentwood neighborhoods from cotton fields to the famous runaway pig. A neighborhood treasure.

Brentwood School: 6700 Arroyo Seco

On the west side of the school building behind the tall brick chimney is another excellent tile mosaic. This one was created by Jean Graham with the assistance of art teacher Linda Anderson and Brentwood students.

Sea of Knowledge: North Village Library, 2505 Steck

This large glass mural by artist Kathleen Ash serves as a boundary between the main library area and the room in which story time takes place. It shows children sailing on open books over an ocean of letters on a journey of discovery through reading - perfect for our neighborhood library.

Want more information? Check out the Austin Mosaic Guild at https://amg.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page id=0&club id=40980.

Howdy Neighbor!

by Mike Lavigne, CNA President

As expected, City Council is up to its old tricks again. Instead of waiting for the City Manager to come up with a new process to include stakeholders (citizens) in the development of land development code and other fixes, there is a resolution by Council Member Casar to circumvent most zoning, compatibility and parking standards if a project has some affordable units. Affordable by his standards doesn't mean affordable for low-income residents or service industry, just affordable for people making 60% of median family income. It also just means a project has to have some single bedroom "affordable units" to qualify for the entire project to avoid following the rules in place. This means that a project on your block could be taller, bigger and more dense than anything around it with far less parking than is necessary.

If you have opinions on this I encourage you to call council and let them know.

At our March meeting, we will have a contractor with Capital Metro who is working on a community engagement and outreach program related to Project Connect and has been attending neighborhood meetings around town with a questionnaire soliciting public imput. If you use public transportation or feel impacted by public transit, I encourage you to attend.

The Violet Crown Festival is on May 4th at Brentwood Park. We will have our push-up challenge around the main stage at 4ish. It will be a two minute challenge and we will have groupings by age/grade. Probably K-5, 6-8th grades, Boys/Girls 9-12th grades, then Men/Women under 30, Under 40, Under 50 and then 51+. We are open to suggestions though so this could change some if you have a better plan. In the meantime, do your push-ups! Lilah and I like to mix in some squats between push-ups just to mix it up. Training is





just starting for us, but I'm looking forward to a good showing. And remember to watch that form!

Is there something you would like to see discussed at a CNA meeting? We can ask almost any city department or elected official to come out and talk to us. Same thing goes for AISD or even the County. Please let us know!

We are inviting our Council Member Leslie Pool to come out in April and give us an update and field questions. She and her staff are always very responsive and usually pretty quick at turning around answers they don't have on hand.

Until then, I'll see you around the 'hood!

In Memoriam

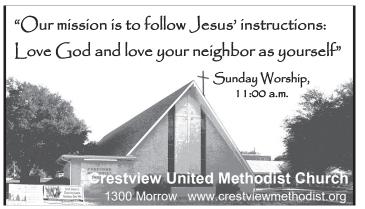
John Clinton Patton, a Crestview resident since 1969 and a CNA member since 1994, passed away on January 17th, 2019. His family described him as the most dependable, hardworking, trustworthy, dedicated and funny family man ever. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Benny Martinez, to whom no one was a stranger, died on February 6th, 2019. He was a talented musician who could play any instrument. He will truly be missed by many Crestview locals who would all agree that any conversation with him would be interesting.

Sophie Agnes Zvonek, former owner of Sophie Zvonek's Beauty Shop on Morrow Street which opened in 1958 and founding member of the St. Louis Catholic Church, left this life on February 23rd, 2019. Gifted with a green thumb, she could nourish any plant back to life. She will be sorely missed.







Recycled Reads, continued from page 1

RR was established in 2009 by the Austin Public Library to deal with books weeded from the library book shelves (Anyone been here long enough (pre-1990s) to remember when they went into the trash bin behind the central library?) and, as part of the city's zero waste initiative, a place where people donate books and the proceeds could go to the library. Since then RR has diverted more than 3,000 tons of material from the landfill. It has put hundreds of thousands of affordable books into the hands of teachers, children, seniors, and other individuals of limited means. Not only does it find new homes for books, but also other media such as LPs, tapes, CDs, VHS tapes, and DVDs. One can even find art works there. Over time, RR has also added community workshops such as fix-it clinics and crafting classes, poetry readings, musical events and other programs that promote reuse and literacy.

According to library staff, the "new" plan was to have sales at the branch libraries, something that was already being done. Unfortunately, there is no way that branch libraries can absorb the incredible amount of material that is sold at the centralized bookstore. Branch libraries simply do not have the room for these items, nor do they want to deal with them as they may be slow moving items that sit on the shelves until the right person comes along. Even now, some of them will only sell donated items because of the potential confusion caused by selling ex-library books. Another issue with this plan was that patrons of RR do not have the time to go to 20 branch libraries to look at the small collections they have available. Teacher and family's time is much better used at a centralized location with a wide selection.

Staff suggested that the sublease was a cost saving move. Yet the program was never designed as a money making venture any more than our parks, libraries, art centers, recreation centers, etc. are. Just as our city wide recycling programs



Dan Walker

Agent

2105 Justin Lane Suite 103 Austin, TX 78757-2448 Bus 512 973 9499 dan@austintexinsurance.com austintexinsurance.com NMLS #139716 NMLS MLO #1410010 MLO License #1410010





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serve a purpose that citizens feel is important, so does RR by saving precious materials that bring meaning and joy to people's lives by putting affordable books in their hands.

In 2015 when RR was under attack by some council members who are no longer on the dais, city council eventually voted to renew the lease for seven years. It was citizen involvement that saved RR from being axed. With the support of council members Pool, Alter, Tovo and Kitchen, once again citizen involvement helped to save RR in 2019. Late in the day the Friday before the Library Commission was to meet on February 25th to discuss recommendations for RR, word was out that the City Manager, Spencer Cronk, had decided that the sublease was not worth pursuing and withdrew it from consideration.

Several speakers still turned up at the Library Commission meeting to express relief that the disaster had been averted and to plea for measures that would avoid a similar situation in the future. The Library Commission appointed a working group to explore some of the suggestions that were made. Stay tuned for further news on that front. In the meantime, check out RR (located at 5335 Burnet Road http://library.austintexas.gov/recycled-reads) if you haven't already. You are in for a treat!

Free Income Tax Help Available

Foundation Communities will be providing free tax help for low-income families and individuals in Austin. Assistance will be provided until April 15 at the Community Financial Center at 5900 Airport Blvd. For hours and days of operation, visit CommunityTaxCenters.org or call 211 for more information, to schedule an appointment and find out what to bring. The service is free for individuals and families who make less than \$55,000 annually; income eligibility increases by \$5,000 for each additional person for families with more than four members.



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Bulk Pickup Pilot Update

Just in case you missed the notice sent out by Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) a few weeks ago, the bulk pickup pilot program has been extended through the rest of the year in Crestview. This means that customers will have to call 311 to arrange a pickup of bulk items as there will be no neighborhood wide bulk pickups at least through 2019. Customers must have at least 2 items for pickup and be ready to tell what the items are when they call so the appropriate truck(s) can be sent out. You may arrange up to 3 pickups during the year.

When asked why the pilot was being extended, ARR said, "to continue to evaluate its usage, ease and convenience to the customer and measure the diversion of materials". Asked what the results of the initial pilot period were, ARR replied that they "received numerous calls and diverted tons of material from the landfill". No numerical statistics or comparisons to the previous program were provided. ARR says it plans to mail a survey to customers in Spring 2019. Be sure to let them know how you feel about the pilot.

Final draft of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan now available for review

Members of the community can now review the final draft of the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP), Austin's new, comprehensive transportation plan. This final draft includes a policy document that outlines the ASMP's goals, objectives, and action items, as well as updated draft maps showing how the ASMP will impact Austin's transportation network. See the ASMP website (https://www.austintexas.gov/asmp) to review both the final draft policy document and updated draft maps.

The ASMP is Austin's first locally focused transportation plan. It will replace the 1995 regional Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan in guiding the City's transportation policies, programs, projects, and investments. Once adopted, it will amend the transportation element of Imagine Austin, the City's comprehensive plan.

The ASMP will go to City Council for review and adoption later this spring.

See this webpage: https://www.austintexas.gov/page/get-involved-asmp for a frequently updated list of events where community members can share feedback. For more information, please contact the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan team at ASMP@AustinTexas.gov.

North Village Library Expands Hours

Beginning Friday, March 1, the Yarborough Branch Library at 2200 Hancock Drive will be closed for a comprehensive interior renovation, accessibility improvements, landscaping upgrades and exterior repairs. The project

is scheduled to take approximately 11 months. During the closure, Austin Public Library customers may receive full library services at other branch locations including the nearest branch, the North Village Branch Library at 2505 Steck Avenue. Holds not picked up by March 1 at Yarborough will be transferred to the North Village Branch. Starting on March 3, the North Village Branch Library will expand it's hours to include Sundays from 2 - 6 PM.



Sea of Knowledge, stained glass at North Village Library











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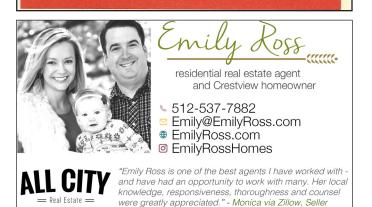






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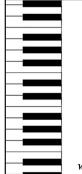
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