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# CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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JULY 2019

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**Saturday, July 13:** Know Your District 7 Pop-up Museum Event at North Village Library, 2505 Steck Avenue. See article below.

**Sunday, July 14:** CNA Ice Cream Social from noon – 2:00 pm, in front of the Violet Crown Clubhouse at the Crestview Shopping Center, 7100 Woodrow Avenue. See article below. Note: the annual Ice Cream Social takes the place of the regular July CNA meeting.

**Saturday, August 3:** 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 8:** Popsicles In Brentwood Park at 4:00 pm. Meet Brentwood Elem School Principal Ms. Laroche and new teachers. Questions? Email [brentwood.pta.president@gmail.com](mailto:brentwood.pta.president@gmail.com) or visit [www.brentwoodpta.com](http://www.brentwoodpta.com).

## CNA Ice Cream Social

The annual CNA Ice Cream Social is just around the corner. Come and join us on Sunday, July 14th from noon to 2 PM for a bowl of Blue Bell served by your CNA officers at the Crestview Shopping Center at 7100 Woodrow. Arlan's Market is supplying the Blue Bell, and PJ Christie and his band, Rabbit Hatch, will provide some tunes. For the kids, or just the young at heart, there will be a magic show from 12:45 to 1:30 in the party room at the new Violet Crown Clubhouse. Come by and say hello. We hope to see you there!



## Let Austin Resource Recovery Know What Your Thoughts Are on the Call-in Bulk Pickup Pilot Program

By Nancy Harris, CNA Treasurer

For over a year now, Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) has been collecting bulk items in our area on a trial call-in only basis. Crestview Neighborhood Association conducted a survey last December to gauge what people's thoughts were about the pilot, and this officer presented those findings to ARR and the Zero Waste Commission in February of this year. The results of that survey indicated that individuals had very strong feelings pro and con regarding the pilot, but that most people did not want to see the neighborhood-wide pick ups entirely replaced by call-in only service. (See the February CNA Newsletter at <https://crestviewna.com/newsletter/newsletter-archive/> for a summary of the survey results.)

Currently ARR is conducting its own survey. While not as comprehensive as the CNA survey, it is important that you take the ARR survey if you would like to have your opinions heard. The survey has less than 10 questions. Probably the most important questions are the one that asks about your preferences and the last one that is an open-ended question where you can give comments regarding your thoughts and experiences with the pilot program. Presumably ARR will use the responses to decide what course to take in the future. This could include making the pilot permanent, expanding it to other parts of the city, or making modifications to the pilot.

See Bulk Pickup, continued on page 3



## Know Your District 7 History: An Austin Public Library Interactive Pop-up Museum Event

On Saturday, July 13th from noon to 4 PM the North Village Branch Library at 2505 Steck Avenue, in connection with the Austin History Center, will host a Pop-up Museum. The centerpiece for the Know Your District 7 History event is a community driven display of items you feel tell the story of your district. Those who bring something to display will be able to write a brief story about the object and display it during the event for others to view. Sharing stories will help us learn more about what makes our spaces special. The community exhibit will be supplemented by a few items from the Austin History Center relating to the district as well as some resources to help those who wish to dig deeper into the history of their district.

Other activities for the day include:

- An oral history booth for community members to record short, Story Corps style oral histories about their experiences
- Children's activities and games
- Historic Photograph Cabinet Card activity
- Brief presentations about the council district and its history

For more information call 512-974-7480 or send an email to [ahc\\_reference@texas.gov](mailto:ahc_reference@texas.gov) [austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov).



# CRESTVIEW

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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CNA General Meetings are held the second  
Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at the  
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## Are Austin Officials Planning to Redevelop Your Neighborhood?

If you live in Austin and aren't a member of the 1%, then watch out: The "next" CodeNEXT has arrived, and it could displace you, your family and your neighbors. It all depends on the location of your home.

Check our map (<https://communitynotcommodity.com/do-you-live-in-a-transition-zone/>) to see if your area is at risk!

A few weeks ago, the Austin City Council called for something they call "transition" zones in neighborhoods throughout our community.

Inside those transition zones, land and tax values will rise sharply. Home sales are likely to result in demolitions, and most new construction will be multifamily rental, condominiums or mixed use (commercial and residential). Some single-family lots near corridors will be forcibly rezoned to accommodate structures as high as 65 feet. Visit <https://communitynotcommodity.com/2019/05/15/official-codenexts-replacement-arrived-worse-original/> to learn more.

Want to stop the city's plan? First, sign our petition (<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-transition-zones-in-austin/>) demanding that the city council withdraw its plan. Then forward this post to your friends, neighbors and neighborhood listserv. Finally, please consider donating (<https://donateway.com/donate/jrK7BSBb/community-not-commodity/payment>) to Community Not Commodity so we can spread the word about transition zones and their threat to our homes.

## Brentwood Elementary School Modernization Project

by Chip Harris, CNA Newsletter Editor

Funds in the amount of \$35,817,000 for the modernization of the Brentwood Elementary School were approved by voters in the 2017 AISD bond election. The architect for the project held a meeting in June to discuss the preliminary design plans and answer questions about the project.

In discussing plans that will increase the student capacity from 585 to 696 students, the architect explained that the work would be done in phases over two or more years. Demolition work is slated to be done during the summers with the appropriate asbestos abatement controls in place. Phase 1 is scheduled to begin in the early spring of 2020 and last 12 to 14 months, followed by the 2nd phase continuing another 12 to 14 months with all of the work completed by August of 2022. This will allow classes to continue during construction. Because of the flood plain along Arroyo Seco, the new building, with parts of it being two stories, will be located west of the existing structure. The area with the greatest risk of flooding is near the intersection of Brentwood Street and Arroyo Seco and a detention pond is being designed for that area, possibly underground if there are surface space limitations. The number of parking spaces will be increased from the current 70 to 90 in the future. This would allow a space for each of the 60 employees and 30 visitor spots. However, with a student capacity of 696, the visitor section may not meet the demand. There is talk of pursuing a partnership with Hope Chapel for the overflow parking. (Keep in mind that the front entrance will be relocated from Arroyo Seco to Yates Avenue.) The core spaces, such as the cafeteria and the gym, will be larger than they are now and will be separate areas.

Further discussion centered around the construction timeframe involved, budget constraints and construction management. The architect explained that they were learning a lot from their current work at other local schools that they would be able to apply beneficially at Brentwood. The design phase should be complete by this September, and another community meeting will be scheduled. Here is a link to the Facility Project Sheet that includes a drawing of the current plans: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tTB-UY5bHuGm9BbfhgLgeCGdN-QFx0mRA>

For questions about the project, call the 2017 Bond communications team at 512-414-9595 or email [future@austinisd.org](mailto:future@austinisd.org). For the most up-to-date information on the 2017 Bond Program, including a complete schedule of bond events and key dates, please visit [www.AustinISD2017Bond.org](http://www.AustinISD2017Bond.org).



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I contacted ARR to inquire whom the survey was being sent out to and how they were contacting customers. I was told that emails had been sent to utility customers who had an email address on file or on-call pilot users who had provided an email at the time. This only accounts for about 55% of the customers in the area covered by the pilot program. There are no plans to do a mail out to customers who may not use email or have an email on file with the city.

I was able to obtain a URL link for those persons who would like to respond to the survey that did not receive an email from ARR. That link is [https://austinenergy.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5sCljCPsbh4UEX7](https://austinenergy.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5sCljCPsbh4UEX7) for anyone who would like to comment. When I asked what the deadline for responding was, ARR told me that "Typically, the survey is closed once we have received enough responses to be considered statistically sound". In other words, there is no set deadline. They did agree since they were providing us with an open link that they would leave it open a bit longer than usual. So I highly suggest that you complete the survey quickly, before ARR decides to close it!

## Howdy Neighbor!

By Mike Lavigne, CNA President

**I**t's been a busy start to summer, so I'm keeping this one brief.

As many of you probably already know, we (myself and a bunch of families of the neighborhood) have made a significant investment in turning the old pharmacy in the Crestview Shopping Center into an ice cream shop/snoball stand/arcade and meeting/party space - the Violet Crown Clubhouse. Spending so much time there getting the place up and running has allowed me to meet so many of our amazing neighbors

and has already taught me many things. Here's a few for starters.

The start-up costs of opening in an old space are much higher than you probably think. It takes hundreds of thousands of dollars to put in new plumbing, HVAC and electrical when combined with all the usual start-up costs and rent. The permitting process wasn't as difficult as people say, it just costs money to create a comfortable and safe family friendly environment. A fact all the more frustrating when you hear about billionaires getting free land to build entertainment centers.

The kids raised in this neighborhood are pretty darn cool. Most of our employees at the moment are between 14-17 and all raised in Brentwood/Crestview. They're sweet, honest kids, and it is a thrill to be their first boss. The kids that come in daily are all so well mannered and mature beyond their years that it gives me great pride to know they are from the hood. Unfortunately, we have had some pretty destructive cases of vandalism already, but we hope that new security and increased law enforcement presence will curb those.

Regulars keep the doors open. This isn't news to anyone who frequents a local anything, but it really is the truth. Whether it's a grocery, a deli, The Clubhouse or a bar, the small businesses that we believe help make Austin so unique need your support. Our city government often uses them as props to appear relatable, but the fact is that local government favors shiny new buildings and money over the horse that brung'em...every time.

That said, it really has been a thrill to meet so many new (to me) people in such a short time.

As always, if you run into me when you're out, please say "howdy". If you disagree with me, I'm usually happy to chat over a beer (or ice cream) and listen. The more of y'all I get to know, the more I realize how lucky we are to have this community.



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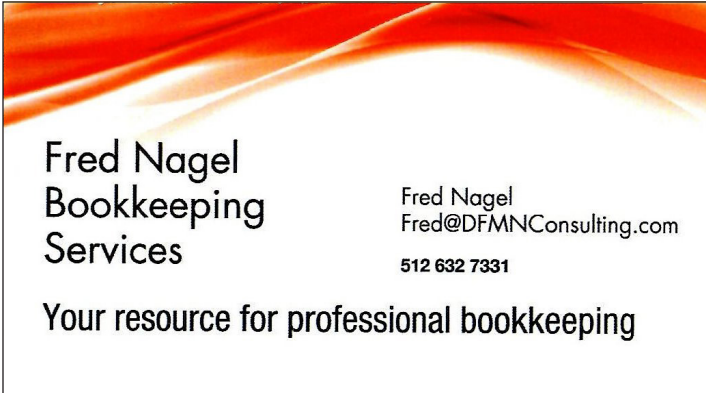
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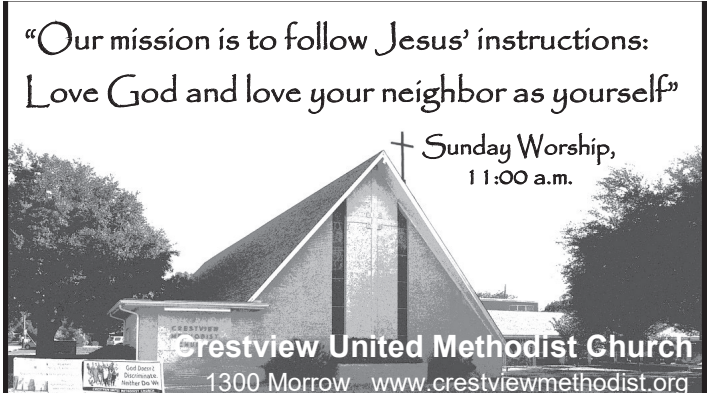
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## Mini Murals and Artboxes

By Marilyn Querejazu

Take a bland traffic signal/utility cabinet, add creative energy, and you get a lovey piece of public art right in the neighborhood. Up Art Studio, the force behind the 200 plus Mini Murals in Houston, has thankfully expanded the program to Austin. In our fair city these are dubbed Artboxes, and we now have 4 of them, one of which is near Crestview.

Austin Transportation Department contracted with UP Art Studio to help make possible the four Artboxes:

- Rundberg Lane at Little Walnut Creek Library, by Bydee.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Guadalupe Street, by Emily Ding.
- East Stassney Lane and Jacaranda Drive, by Niz.
- Arroyo Seco and West Koenig Lane, by Helena Martin.

Check out the Artbox on the east side of Arroyo Seco near Koenig Lane (featuring favorite birds of the hood) and learn more at [minimurals.org/austin](http://minimurals.org/austin). People and organizations interested in sponsoring an artbox installation may contact [matthew.ramirez@austintexas.gov](mailto:matthew.ramirez@austintexas.gov). Over 200 Austin Transportation traffic signal cabinets citywide are available to become artboxes.



Big thanks to Up Art Studio, the City of Austin DOT and Helena Martin for making our lives richer.

### Constant Escape at Carver Museum

The Carver Museum complex at 1165 Angelina St. offers a perfect escape from Austin's hot summer afternoons. The Gallery hosts several exhibits offering elaboration on Austin's cultural present and past. *Constant Escape* is a collaboration of works from Austin artists Adrian Aguilera, Betelhem Makonnen, and Tammie Rubin in sculpture, photography, text and video. *Constant Escape* succeeds in defying the definition of art as one style or another, asking viewers to attach meaning where they find it. The exhibit ends July 20, 2019. See <http://www.austintexas.gov/carvermuseum> for details.

## Summer Brings Challenges for Wildlife

No question about it, summer is here! Just as the extreme Texas heat means extra precautions should be taken by humans, our urban wildlife friends have additional needs to survive the hot temperatures, too. Here are a couple of tips to help keep wildlife safe and healthy this summer.

First, access to water is paramount. Be sure your yard or garden has plenty of fresh, clean water every day for birds and bees to drink and bathe. Shallow dishes filled with small pebbles are best for bees, while birds like something a little deeper.



Just as important is cover where wildlife can find shade from the heat, protection from the elements, hide from predators and build nests. Depending on the species, shelter can be trees, shrubs, a brush pile, a toad abode, a bird house, a rock pile or even a dead tree or branch.

Don't forget to think about the wildlife this summer!



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## The Convention Center Should Be Our Choice

Do We Fund Our Culture, Heritage and Environment, or Does Council Commit \$2 Billion More To the Convention Center?

By Bill Bunch, Executive Director, Save Our Springs Alliance

People don't come to Austin for the convention center. Convention center visitors make up less than 4% of our hotel visitors. Yet the convention center consumes more than 72% of our hotel tax tourism dollars. That's more than \$70 million this year.

The things that visitors and residents alike love about Austin – live music, vibrant arts, parks, pools and unique local business – fight over the remainder, or get nothing at all. Many of these we are losing due to years of neglect and Austin's affordability crisis.

Despite the convention center's record of failure, with annual operating losses in the \$20 million range, in a surprise move in May the council gave preliminary direction to the City Manager to begin moving forward with a \$1.2 billion center expansion. That's double the \$600 million expansion plan the council voted down in 2017.

When you add in land costs, interest payments, lost tax revenues from taking more prime downtown real estate off of the tax rolls, inevitable cost overruns and likely higher annual operating losses, it would be a \$2 billion-plus commitment over 30 years of the bond debt. That's \$2 billion-plus that should be going to what we love about Austin.

**And council would do this without voter approval.**

In response to this move, a few leaders in the arts, local business, neighborhood and environmental communities responded with a citizen initiative petition drive. The Unconventional Austin citizen initiative petition (<https://unconventionalaustin.org/>) would, if approved by Austin voters in November, do two things. First, it would require voter approval for any major expansion of the convention center. (Austin voters approved \$69 million for the original center in 1989, and \$110 million for the 1998 expansion, but this time we would be locked out.)

Second, the petitioned ordinance would limit hotel tax spending on the convention center to no more than 34%; the remaining two-thirds would be dedicated to cultural, heritage and environmental tourism, and tourism related transportation projects – with actual benefits to both residents and visitors.

The Austin Independent Business Alliance and Save Our Springs Alliance have endorsed the Unconventional Austin petition. The word is just getting around on this issue – and like our land development code rewrite, this is one that will define who we are as a city.

Read more, and if you are so inclined, contribute to the Unconventional Austin SPAC at [UnconventionalAustin.org](https://unconventionalaustin.org/).

If you take a look, I think you will agree that investing in a major convention center expansion is a phenomenal waste of money. Our hotel tax revenues are growing rapidly – but it has nothing to do with the convention center. We can and should invest our hotel tax dollars in those people, places and activities that engage visitors and residents alike. The Unconventional Austin petition will do that – if we finish the petition drive and voters approve it this November.



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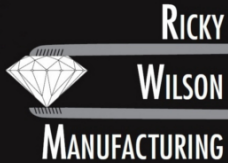
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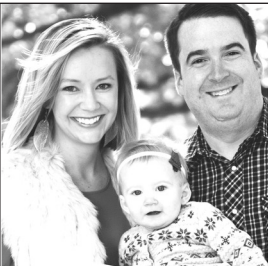


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