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NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 2019

EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, September 9: Crestview Neighborhood Association Meeting. 7:00 pm at the Crestview United Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow St. Agenda: Representatives from Unconventional Austin will discuss Prop B on November's election ballot – see article. City of Austin (COA) will give an update on the development status of the Ryan Drive tract. Public Works (COA) will give a presentation on the renovation of the fire station at Grover and Cullen.

Thursday, September 12: 6:40 pm at the Brentwood Elementary School Café. Presentation of plans for the Modernization Project for Brentwood Elementary. See article.

Tuesday, October 1: National Night Out Parties. 7 pm to 9 pm. Look for signs on your block for party location. To register your party with the city, contact Veronica Saldate or register online at <http://www.austintexas.gov/online-form/national-night-out-survey>. APD recommends that you register your party by 5 pm on Friday, September 13th. For more information, see article on page 5.

Thursday, October 10: Brentwood Elementary School Welcome Walk at 9 am. Do you know any future bulldogs or families interested in learning about Brentwood? Invite them to our welcome walk. During a welcome walk, visitors have an opportunity to learn about Brentwood, tour the campus, and meet Principal Laroche. Please contact Brentwood Elementary at 512-414-2039 for more information.

"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are so certain of themselves and wiser people so full of doubts." Bertrand Russell

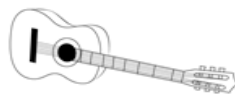
Proposition B: Austin's Choice this November

By Fred Lewis and John Riedie

This summer, with the City Council poised to move forward on a \$1.2 billion downtown convention center expansion, more than 30,000 Austin voters signed a petition asking for a public vote on the expansion of the downtown Convention Center. In addition, the petition, now Proposition B on the ballot this November would balance and reprioritize Austin's tourism investments - moving funds away from the Convention Center and investing into the things - local business, music and arts, parks and pools, and other cultural assets - that make Austin a great place to visit and to live, many of which we are at risk of losing.

Over the years, Austin's tourism tax, called the hotel occupancy tax, has grown into a significant source of revenue for the city. But because the Convention Center gets a set percentage, it's allocation grew too despite low attendance. In fact, the downtown Convention Center is responsible for less than 4% of tourism, yet it receives more than 72% of the funding (more than \$70 million this year). Proposition B would change that. If approved, it would:

1. Require public approval of the \$1.2 billion expansion of the Convention Center
2. Reprioritize existing funds from the Convention Center to promote and invest in Austin's cultural assets - local business, live music, art spaces, history, parks and pools
3. Require transparency in how public dollars are spent by the convention promoters



See Proposition B, continued on page 3



Brentwood Elementary School Design Development Community Meeting

(Editor's note: 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.)

During the Community Meeting on September 12, the design team (VLK) and General Contractor (Bartlett Cocke) will present an overview of the Modernization Project for Brentwood Elementary School through Design Development. Design Development is basically the mid-point in developing the actual construction documents for the project, which the General Contractor will utilize for bidding and construction of the project.

The presentation will cover the Site Plan, Floor Plans, and 3-D modeled interior and exterior images. Finishes and materials for the interior and exterior of the building will also be presented along with the project schedule and a high level discussion of what to expect during construction.

The design team will seek input from those attending as to their thoughts on the project design, overall site plan and construction activities, which can be provided on comment forms that will be provided, or during Q&A at the end of the presentation. Please plan on attending this informative meeting.

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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.

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What Happens When You Put the Wrong Things in Your Recycling Bin

By Nancy Harris, CNA Treasurer



We all know you are trying to be a good citizen and do your part to recycle, but what if you tossed something into your bin that wasn't supposed to be there?

There are two types of recycling, single and multi-stream. Single-stream recycling is the easier and is currently the most widely used in the United States. Austin uses single-stream that does not require sorting of plastics, paper, and glass. Once your recycling is picked up from your curb, your recyclable waste is dropped off to a neighborhood collection station where it's fed into a sorting system, and the remaining items go to the landfill.

It's at this point that items go through the important sorting stage. This is an important stage as it is estimated that about 30% of what goes into recycling bins shouldn't be there. You might think you're helping the environment when you start tossing everything into your recycling bin willy nilly, but you might be causing more harm than good. Those engine parts, concrete blocks, plastic bags and yard wastes that get thrown in could harm the sorting machines resulting in thousands of dollars of damage. Often humans have to pick out the more obvious non-recyclable materials, but even then crucial items can be overlooked.

Non-recyclable and even items that could be recycled or composted can also cause problems. A baby diaper or that pasta jar that you didn't wash can contaminate the paper and cardboard in your bin and beyond. So can that greasy, dirty pizza box you tossed into the recycling bin instead of the compost bin. Items that are made from a combination of materials can also be a problem. For instance, that paper cup with your coffee in it – if it has a plastic lining it is trash, if not, it is compost material.

The recycling contenders that make it through sorting (sometime several rounds) are ready to be processed. For many years, the United States and other countries sent many of their recyclables to China. (China processed an estimated 45% of the world's recycling.) That changed in 2017 when China passed the National Sword policy banning the imports of all plastic waste. Even if a truckload of recyclables finally reaches its buyer, but is contaminated with just one baby diaper, the entire truck can be rejected. This shipping back-and-forth has huge environmental and economic implications.

So what should you do? First, know exactly what to recycle. A visit to the city site <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/single-stream-recycling> will help you decide what should and should not go into your bin.

Second, check out <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do> for a more refined list of specific items and whether they can go into your recycling bin or not, plus there are other alternatives for what you can do with the item. For example, if you look up Styrofoam, you will see that this should go into your regular trash bin. Alternatively, large pieces can be taken it to the Recycling Center at 2514 Business Center Drive and packing peanuts can be donated to a mailing center. There is also a reuse directory on the city website: <https://austineconetwork.com/austin-reuse-directory/get-rid-of/>. If an item does not appear on the City's website or you are still looking for alternatives, a quick search on your computer might reveal other options. There are organizations that melt old crayons, transform old toothbrushes, repurpose old sneakers or find homes for gently used stuffed toys. If you are still in doubt as to the recyclability of an item, it is better to put it in the trash.

Finally, make sure that items are empty, clean and dry so that they will not potentially contaminate an entire truckload of recyclables. And finally, **NEVER** put your recycling into plastic bags! If you desire to use a bag to keep items together and neat, always use a paper bag as it is also recyclable.



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Proposition B presents Austin with a great opportunity and possibly one of the most important ballot votes in a generation. It would allow us to invest into and preserve what makes Austin unique without having to ask property taxpayers to pay more.

Opponents of Proposition B, funded mostly by large multinational hotel corporations and development firms who will benefit from a downtown convention center expansion, have spread a lot of misinformation about the Convention Center and its benefits. But here is the truth:

- The downtown Convention Center currently receives 72% of all tourism dollars but is responsible for less than 4% of all tourism.
- All of the touted benefits of expansion - funding for the Palm School, homelessness and music - could be achieved today without expanding the Convention Center.
- A downtown Convention Center expansion will, including interest on the debt and annual operations, cost the public billions, money we could spend on higher priorities.
- According to the city's own study, the new Convention Center would only generate \$2 million in additional annual tax revenues, not including all the valuable land that would be removed from the tax rolls for the City, County and School District.

Recently, the City, determined to expand the center without voter approval, moved forward with its plan by increasing the hotel tax to the maximum allowed under State Law. They did this despite the earnest plea from County Judge Sarah Eckhardt and County Commissioners, to not put all of the money into the convention center, but to collaborate with the Coun-

ty to invest in infrastructure and assets all over Austin, including historically underserved East Austin. But the plea fell on deaf ears.

Then, with an emergency action, the District Court of Appeals, struck down the City's ballot language on Proposition B, calling it "misleading" and an "abuse of discretion." The City was directed to fix the language. (*Editor's note: In an 8-2-1 vote, Council Members (CMs) Leslie Pool and Ann Kitchen voted against staff's originally recommended ballot language, and CM Allison Alter abstained.*)

Whatever language ends up on the ballot, it is important that Austinites familiarize themselves with the proposition, the benefits and opportunities Proposition B presents, and get out to vote for Proposition B this November.

To learn more about Proposition B, visit unconventionalaustin.org.

Meals on Wheels Seeking Volunteers

Meals on Wheels Central Texas is seeking volunteers to fill dozens of open meal routes across Austin, the most vacancies the nonprofit has experienced since 2004.

Open routes are those that do not have a volunteer driver assigned to them. When routes cannot be covered by volunteers, Meals on Wheels Central Texas must rely on paid staff drivers, which in turn increases administrative and gas costs, thereby reducing the amount of money spent on direct services to homebound clients.

Meals on Wheels Central Texas counts on volunteers to deliver 93% of the 750,000 meals it distributes annually.

For more information: mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org.





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Art Happenings in September

By Marilyn Querejazu

September is the month of yearning - we dream of fall, cool air, not sweating. So let's put our minds in another time and place until the weather catches up with our sense of cool. How about ancient Greece?

The antiquities collection at the Blanton Art Museum is often overlooked in favor of current exhibitions, but there are curious and lovely things to see there. The ancient ceramics interest me, often common objects used for pouring, mixing and drinking. These ancient vessels are beautifully decorated with stories from mythology. Find the "Red Figure Column Krater" – a vessel used to mix wine from circa 470 BCE. The painting shows Ariadne, the daughter of the mythical king Minos of Crete, stepping into a four-horse chariot. On the other side are two athletes working with a trainer. In those times artists rarely signed their work, so art historians attribute this vessel to "The Pig Painter".



Red Figure Column Krater at Blanton Museum

Ready for a good art walk? The redesigned Laguna Gloria (3809 W 35th) offers 14 acres of art-in-nature experiences, with new sculptures, terraces, a cafe and gift shop. Your walk will take you through the sculpture garden, two new terraces and the Driscoll Mansion and grounds. Watch out for the peacocks! Check their web site for exhibitions and events.

Zilker Botanical Garden is an Austin treasure and a living, breathing work of art. Enjoy these gardens and more: Cactus and Succulent Garden, Hartman Prehistoric Garden,

Herb and Fragrance Garden, Isamu Taniguchi Japanese Garden, Mabel Davis Rose Garden and the Butterfly Trail and Garden. Don't miss the art in the visitors' center.

On September 14th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. the Zilker Botanical Garden will host a gardening seminar, "Selection, Planting and Care of Your Trees". Master Gardener Jerry Naiser will take you through the steps of selecting, planting and caring for your trees. October through April are optimal tree planting months in Austin. Find out what to plant and how to care for your trees so they will continue to enrich our neighborhood and add value to your property.



"Bridge to Walk Over the Moon" Japanese Garden at Zilker Botanical Garden

Wally Workman Art Gallery (1202 West 6th) continues to be one of the best (if not the best) art galleries in Austin. The 100-year-old historic building is the perfect environment for the 50-plus works of art shown there. I love walking up the creaky steps to explore the art in the stairwell and on the second story walls. In September the art of Sarah Ferguson will introduce brightness and introspection. Check out the new, improved Sweetish Hill Bakery, just a few steps east.

In Memorium

John Benton Carlson, a longtime former Crestview resident and CNA member, passed away on July 13, 2019. During WWII, he became a paratrooper and was trained to be on the front lines of a possible assault on Japan. He was a charter member of the Crestview United Methodist Church and continued to be instrumental in the church's growth and development. Our condolences to his family and many friends.



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Howdy Neighbor!

By Mike Lavigne, CNA President

If you've got kids in school, then the end of summer break means it's back to bedtimes and caring what day of the week it is. It also means you've got a solid chunk of day free to get back to making a living, eating lunch with other grown-ups and hopefully re-engaging in civic activities among other things.

Clearly, it's still ridiculously hot and summer isn't nearly over. Unfortunately, the City doesn't prioritize spending the money to keep our pool open. They'd rather spend the money on land giveaways to millionaires from out of state and building a convention center with Hotel Tax money despite having the option to use some of that money to benefit our parks. In fact, they feel so strongly about that issue that despite tens of thousands of citizens signing petitions to ask for an election on these issues they waited until after 1am in the morning to write ballot language that twisted and contorted the intent of these measures. The courts are now stepping in to correct our out of control city government. There should be resolution between the time I'm writing this and the time you get this at your door. So stay tuned!

I had lunch with Eddie Wilson a few days ago over at Threadgill's. It was Thursday, so of course we had chicken and dumplings. He's an old pal, and it was good to catch up. But really he wanted to share with me some good news. The South Austin Museum of Popular Culture is packing up and moving across the river to our neighborhood! It'll be rebranded as the Austin Museum of Popular Culture and will have a new home in the building behind the original Threadgill's on North Lamar. The first exhibit will be in late October and will, coincidentally, feature the artwork of Jim Franklin. He was the artist behind the iconic images associated with Eddie's first business, the Armadillo World Headquarters.

If you haven't picked up a copy of Eddie Wilson's recent "memoir", you ought to head over to Threadgill's or Bookpeople and get a copy. It's a fun read, and you can really hear his voice in those stories. We'll have more in next month's newsletter about the art museum coming to our neck of the woods. It is pretty dang exciting.

As Eddie Wilson says and as usual, "I'll be easy to find!" I'm usually at the Violet Crown Clubhouse in the afternoons if you have any questions or concerns. If you miss me leave a note or shoot me an email, and I'll try my best to help.

See you around the hood, neighbor.

National Night Out

National Night Out is a great opportunity for citizens and law enforcement to partner up against crime. This year, National Night Out will be Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 7 to 9 p.m.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support and participation in crime efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations
- Let criminals know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

During the event, residents in neighborhoods throughout Austin and across the nation are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, firefighters and EMS paramedics. Events such as cookouts, block parties and neighborhood walks will all occur simultaneously throughout the city and nationwide.

For more information about National Night Out visit <http://www.oclc.org/national-night-out.html> or contact Office of Community Liaison Attn: Veronica Saldate by phone (512) 974-4735 or email Veronica.Saldate@austintexas.gov.

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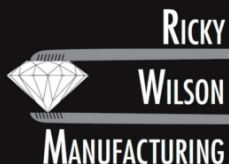
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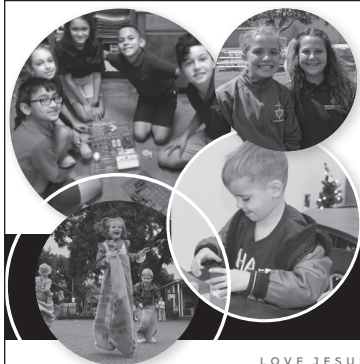
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