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# CRESTVIEW

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER

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JUNE 2021

## Brentwood Elementary School Construction Update

AISD held a community meeting in April to provide parents and residents an update on the construction activity for Brentwood Elementary School approved in the 2017 bond election and to answer questions. Below are some of the questions and answers from the meeting. This link will take you to a recording of the April Zoom meeting and the complete list of Q & A: <https://austinsisd2017bond.org/brentwood-elementary-community-meeting-april-6/>

### What work at the construction site is currently underway?

As of April 2021, site work is continuing, and demolition is complete inside the 100 and 300 Wings, which will be renovated and incorporated into the new design. Underground work on storm sewer, electric and communication lines is also underway.



### What is the current project schedule?

The original substantial completion date was November 2021, which would have allowed for an opening date in January 2022. A delay has pushed the new substantial completion date to March 2022. To avoid disrupting students in the middle of the semester, the new school opening date is August 2022.

### What is the size of the new school and how many students will it accommodate?

The school will be 99,601 gross sq. ft. and will accommodate 696 students.

### Are steps being taken in the dining commons to help with noise issues in the cafeteria?

Yes, there are acoustic wall panels throughout the dining areas that will help reduce noise levels.

### How will traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up so that it does not back up into the Yates and Brentwood intersection?

The drop-off queue will run north on Yates. Cars will turn left into the parking lot. This is comparable in length to what was at the previous building. Brentwood Drive will remain clear for buses.

**Is it correct that the fifth graders that were supposed to move into the building will no longer benefit from this construction, and that the teachers will be asked to stay at Webb Middle School for an extra 5 months?**

Yes, students entering fifth grade in August 2021 will not attend the new modernization. Brentwood staff and students will remain at Webb until the new campus opens in August 2022.

### Where can I find more information about the Brentwood modernization?

For more information and to sign-up to receive project updates, please visit [AISDFuture.com/schools/brentwood-es](https://AISDFuture.com/schools/brentwood-es) or email [future@austinsisd.org](mailto:future@austinsisd.org).

## Interested in Austin's Heritage?

*Help create a new historic preservation plan!*

Austin's Historic Landmark Commission recently created a Preservation Plan Working Group to draft a historic preservation plan focused on community heritage and equity. The new plan will replace Austin's 40-year-old preservation plan and includes recommendations for historic preservation policies, tools and programmatic changes at the city level.

The working group will include 20-30 people who will meet 10-12 times between July 2021 and June 2022. No formal experience with preservation is required, just an interest in local heritage. While some meetings will be held virtually, the City of Austin commits to ensuring that technology access is not a barrier to participation. After the working group provides the draft historic preservation plan to the Historic Landmark Commission, broad community engagement and feedback will be collected in a second phase of the project (expected to happen in 2022-23).

The City is hoping to include Austinites from a variety of backgrounds, diverse cultural and racial identities and from all geographic parts of the city. Compensation of \$25/hour is available for working group members who are not being paid to participate as part of their jobs. Participation is expected to take 40-50 hours over 12 months, including preparation for meetings.

The working group will tackle some pressing questions:

- Whose heritage is celebrated in Austin historic properties? What stories are missing?
- Who benefits from municipal historic preservation policies, programs and incentives?
- How can historic preservation tools help address affordability and displacement?

**How to Apply:** The application deadline is Monday, June 14 at 11:59 p.m. Apply online at [bit.ly/ATXpresplan](https://bit.ly/ATXpresplan) or call (512) 974-3393 to get a paper application.

# 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  
Crestview United Methodist Church,  
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## What We Can Learn about COVID from the History of Smallpox

The coronavirus has devastated the world and killed millions of people globally. It has infected millions of others, and new variants threaten the world even as vaccines have become more available. It's not minimizing the suffering wrought by the coronavirus pandemic, to think there's something reassuring about the fact that, at least in the case of smallpox, humanity eventually rose to the challenge of eradicating a deadly disease that had plagued man for centuries.

It's easy to take for granted now that very few babies in rich countries die of disease in infancy, that most infectious diseases are treatable, and that there are vaccines available when we need them, but humanity only made the transition into that new world fairly recently. And smallpox eradication was a big part of it. In the 20th century alone, the disease killed between 300 and 500 million people. With luck, aggressive vaccination, and ambitious international coordination, we made the toll of infectious disease lower than at any point in history, and though it won't be easy, we can do it again. As we learn how to address current and future pandemics, it is worth understanding what we learned from the great infectious disease fights of the past.

A year ago, most people were unaware of epidemiological statistics like a disease's R0 (the number of people that an infected person will infect in a population without immunity), and a disease's "case fatality rate" (the percentage of sick people who die). But the COVID-19 pandemic prompted an epidemiological crash course for many of us, which ought to give us a new perspective on the horror of smallpox. The disease, like COVID-19, was primarily transmitted through close contact, especially in indoor spaces. Our best estimate, though, is that it was easier to transmit than COVID-19, with an R0 estimated to be between 5 and 7, even higher than the new coronavirus variants with an estimated R0 of 4.

In England, in 1796, doctor Edward Jenner demonstrated that contracting cowpox — a related but much milder virus — conferred immunity against smallpox, and shortly after that, immunization efforts began in earnest across Europe. By 1813, the US Congress passed legislation to ensure the availability of a smallpox vaccine that reduced smallpox outbreaks in the country throughout the 1800s. In the rest of the world, similar efforts were undertaken, with varying levels of commitment and success. In 1807, Bavaria declared vaccination for smallpox mandatory. In 1810, Denmark followed. Cases fell across Europe. Efforts by the British Empire to conduct a smallpox vaccination program in India made less progress, due in large part to mistrust by the locals of the colonial government.

By 1900, smallpox was no longer quite as much of a scourge in the world's richest countries. In the 1800s, about 1 in 13 deaths in London were caused by smallpox; by 1900, smallpox caused only about 1 percent of deaths. Several countries in Northern Europe had also declared the disease eradicated. Over the next few decades, more of Europe, and then the US and Canada, joined them. But as long as smallpox ravaged other parts of the globe, continual vaccination was necessary to make sure it wasn't reintroduced, and millions of people continued to die of it. It was not until the 1950s that a truly global eradication effort began to appear within reach, thanks to new postwar international institutions. The World Health Organization (WHO), founded in 1948, led the charge and provided a framework.

As we face down Covid-19, with effective vaccinations finally in hand, we're encountering the same challenge that the world faced with smallpox in the 1950s: As long as billions of people remain unvaccinated, there's no bulletproof way to keep anywhere in the world disease-free.

*See Smallpox continued on page 3*



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In the mid-1950s, there were extraordinary challenges that often looked utterly insurmountable in the quest to eradicate smallpox. In poor corners of the world, there were no roads or hospitals and no infrastructure to notify the WHO of a smallpox outbreak. Civil wars, famines, and refugee crises made disease surveillance and vaccination very difficult. But there were also features of smallpox that made it easier than many other diseases. For one thing, it didn't have animal reservoirs; that is, it doesn't live in animal populations that can reintroduce the disease in humans. That meant that once it was destroyed in humans, it would be gone forever. And, once a person has survived it, they are immune for life. Only one vaccine is needed for immunity in almost all cases. Additionally, it largely doesn't have asymptomatic transmission and has a fairly long incubation period of about a week.

That made it possible for public health officials to stay on top of the disease with a strategy of "ring vaccination". Whenever a case was reported, vaccinating every single person who may have come into contact with the affected person, and ideally everyone in the community, could keep the disease at bay. The switch to ring vaccination was a pivotal strategic change for the fight against smallpox. It let public health teams focus their resources where they were needed most. The last naturally acquired case of smallpox was in 1977 in Somalia. Doctors tracked down and vaccinated every potential contact of the case, and no one contracted the disease. Surveillance around the world found no more cases anywhere. Two years later, the World Health Organization declared victory over smallpox.

What lessons can we learn from our battle with smallpox? Humanity's triumph over smallpox called on scientists and researchers from around the world to collaborate, even between rival countries in the middle of the Cold War. The

smallpox eradication program took both heroic efforts and a well-funded, well-supported public health system. The devastation of COVID-19 has hopefully made us aware of the work public health experts and epidemiologists do, the crucial role of worldwide coordination and disease surveillance programs.

(This is a condensed version of an article that appeared on the news site VOX. For the complete article see <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/21493812/smallpox-eradication-vaccines-infectious-disease-covid-19>.)

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## MORROW GAULT WATER & WASTEWATER RENEWAL PROJECT (MGWWIP)

The MGWWIP is part of Austin Water's program to replace and upgrade aging wastewater and water lines to help prevent sewage backup and spills. The project will replace about 16,089 linear feet of wastewater lines and 2,152 linear feet of water lines.

The project will begin in May 2021 and will take about 24 months to complete. It will include digging new trenches to accommodate the new water and wastewater lines while the existing lines remain in service; replacing old firehydrants with new ones (although locations may change) and restoring pavement upon completion of work.

Portions of the street maybe closed to through traffic at times. Emergency water outages are likely to occur during the project due to the age of the existing pipeline. Customers' service lines will be connected to the new line which will require water/wastewater service to be temporarily suspended. The project inspector will provide notice 48-hours prior to service being suspended with door tags on front doors. It typically takes several hours for connections to be completed and service to be restored. You can view project information at [austintexas.gov/morrowgault](http://austintexas.gov/morrowgault).



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## Howdy Neighbor!

By Mike Lavigne, CNA President

Unpredictability seems to have been the theme of the last month. Between the weather, the Legislature and the lifting of COVID era restrictions, I for one am looking forward to sunshine, less politics and getting back to some semblance of normalcy.

As of this writing, it is too early to know for sure what carnage the Legislature has left in its path or if and when they will return for more.

Locally, property values are skyrocketing at a breakneck pace. This means that we will all pay more in taxes and rent next year. As our city attracts bigger businesses and higher paying jobs, the pressure to densify to feed the beast will become greater and greater. While we all know that change is inevitable and growth will happen, how that change and growth impacts our neighborhood is something I feel strongly we ought to have more of a say in. We can't all live in a penthouse on top of the W Hotel like Mayor Adler. We won't all mingle with the millionaires at lunch at the Four Seasons to divvy up what's left of Austin to the wealthy real estate elite. The best we can hope for is to stand as firm as we can and look out for one another when our elected officials won't.

This puts us in a tough spot. Where do we put all the people that the Chamber of Commerce has invited to live here? What do we do with an unhoused population Greg Casar invited from across the country to sleep anywhere they'd like? Now that we've changed the rules on them, what to do? Council is attempting to tackle these issues, but we've seen their success rate thus far, and I can't say my confidence is high. On top of that, the city isn't given the authority or funds by the State or Federal government to realistically deal with these problems.

Recently a very rough list of potential sites for encampments was released and the Austin Energy site on

Ryan Drive was included as a potential campsite - this despite all the work done over the last year to embark on a Request for Proposal to turn it into a community and city benefit including affordable housing and park space, both things we are officially designated as having insufficient amounts of. That list is very early, but I suggest you let our council know your mind.

### 7113 Burnet Road

This brings us to our latest and biggest rezoning request. I've discussed it here before, as it has been happening on and off over the last couple of years. It is very much on now. The neighbors on Hardy Circle have diligently worked with CNA and the developer to create a restrictive covenant that will limit the height to 15 feet lower than they would otherwise have gotten and increased compatibility requirements and other details that will help retain quality of life. I don't love the situation, but I'm proud of and grateful for our neighbors dealing with reality and rising to the challenge.

Now, go get vaccinated so we can talk about all these things in person at a real meeting soon!

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### Brentwood Elementary News

**2021-2022 Registration:** Have a kiddo returning to Brentwood in the Fall? Don't forget to register your student for the 2021-2022 school year. Every student must re-register each year, and registration is key to ensuring appropriate staffing on campus and showing support for our fabulous Bulldog teachers and staff. <https://www.austinisd.org/enroll>

**June Jumpstart:** The Back-to-School season is a busy time, so get a jumpstart on your to-do list by ordering your school supplies through the PTA school supply fundraiser. Order now through June 20 and your school supply box will be shipped directly to campus. To learn more or order, visit the School Supply Sales page on the Brentwood PTA website. <https://www.brentwoodpta.com/school-supply-sales>



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## Art Old and New

By Marilyn Querejazu

Each US President selects art for display in the oval office from the White House's permanent collection to reflect their tastes and interests. One of the paintings the 46th President of the United States chose for the Oval office is *The Avenue in the Rain* by Childe Hassam (1859 – 1935). Childe Hassam was a very successful American painter from Dorchester, Massachusetts. He is considered a leading American impressionist whose work focused on urban street scenes in Boston, Paris, New York and other cities.

The avenue in the painting is 5th Avenue in New York City. American flags hang down over soggy pedestrians in a scene filled with blue and violet light. The flags and their reflections are vivid.

The painting has been in the White House's permanent art collection since the Kennedy administration and was on display in the Oval Office during Bill Clinton and Barack Obama's terms in office. It hangs to the left of the Resolute Desk.

For more information about how the walls of the Oval Office have been adorned over time, you might enjoy reading "The Art in the Oval Office Tells a Story, Here's How to See It" at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/05/05/arts/design/oval-office-art.html>.



Childe Hassam, Self-Portrait 1916, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C

**Commerce Gallery** 102 S Commerce St, Lockhart Thursdays - Sundays 11am-5pm 512.657.1850 [www.thecommercegallery.com](http://www.thecommercegallery.com)

The current and permanent exhibits are well worth the drive to Lockhart. See work by Leslie Lewis Sigler, Shawn Cox, Molly Mansfield and artist in residence Christopher St Leger. Check out the *Polka Dot Rodeo*. Through June.

The first Friday of every month Lockhart's downtown merchants will be open from 5-8pm. Come out and support local businesses.

### HOPE Outdoor Art Gallery – opening this summer

There is a very ambitious plan afoot for a 17-acre open air gallery, events space and food/artsy retail space near Austin Bergstrom International Airport. There are high hopes for the "largest earthen-built structure in Texas history, the new HOPE Outdoor Gallery will include a unique 'HOPE' layout that will be visible to planes flying into the Austin airport, offering visitors a positive first impression of the city." Stay up to date on the project via *Austin Culture Map* ([austinculturemap.com](http://austinculturemap.com)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/HOPEOutdoorGallery](http://www.facebook.com/HOPEOutdoorGallery)).

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### In Memoriam

Frank W. Bomar passed away on April 17, 2021. He owned and operated Home Lumber Company, a fixture on Burnet Road for over 70 years. Born in 1936, Frank and his family moved to Austin in 1945. He graduated from Austin High School in 1950, received his architectural engineering degree from The University of Texas in 1955, and continued in the family business at the lumber company. Frank combined his knowledge of architecture, materials, strong business practices and a general inquisitive nature to work with generations of builders, contractors, handymen, and homeowners with their projects. He will be sorely missed.

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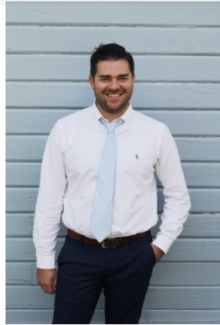
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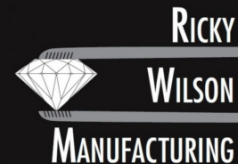
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