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# CRESTVIEW

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER

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JULY 2021

## Volunteers Needed for Drive a Senior

Have you ever been stuck at home for weeks with no transportation, wondering how you will get to the doctor's office or access food regularly? This is the reality of many Austin homebound seniors. According to the Texas Demographic Center, Texas has the 3rd largest senior population in the country and Travis county holds one of the largest population pockets of those seniors 65+. There are only about 1,600 seniors currently registered with a senior transportation agency in the county, even though up to 23% of all 127,395 seniors may be homebound.

Drive a Senior-ATX has been providing free, volunteer-based transportation and other support services to seniors in Austin since 1985. They are dedicated to ensuring that no senior goes without access to healthy food or transportation to medical appointments. This requires a lot of volunteers! Lately, they have seen a surge in new client registration and ride requests. Many older adults are fully vaccinated and want to resume attending to their health needs and going to the grocery store after a year of isolation. They have seen a 99% increase in rides since May 2020 as seniors feel safe and are eager to experience normal life once again. They currently do not have enough volunteer drivers to keep up with the steady surge of requests. Austin's aging population is projected to grow almost 100% in the next 20 years (Texas Demographic



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Center, 2018), setting an unprecedented need for more senior services, especially to those who are isolated and homebound.

Volunteer drivers are an essential part of their "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" motto, a culture which strives to help eliminate social isolation, declining health conditions, and food insecurities for homebound seniors. Volunteers build meaningful relationships with elderly adults while providing a vital service to the community. Coordinating is done through a smartphone or computer, and schedules are flexible around the volunteer's daily life. You simply sign on to their platform, see what rides may fit in your schedule, and choose when and who you drive. It is great for those in retirement looking for regular interactions with neighbors, busy parents who only have a couple free hours a month, or college students whose schedules constantly change.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to sign up to be a volunteer driver, please visit [www.driveasenioratx.org](http://www.driveasenioratx.org). You can also call their main office at 512-472-6339, or email at [info@driveasenioratx.org](mailto:info@driveasenioratx.org). Orientation and training are done at your convenience online.

## To Mask or Not to Mask? – That is the Question

No question about it, life seems much more complicated lately, and nowhere is this more apparent than when it comes to COVID-19! With most state and city governments, as well as the Center for Disease Control, relaxing masking requirements but the World Health Organization calling for continued vigilance in mask wearing, it can get rather confusing. Add to all this, the economic pressure to reopen, politics, and the fact that we all have been restricted in our activities for months and are ready for COVID to all be over so we can get on with our lives and do the things our heart desires.

The good news is that vaccinations have brought down the infection rate, have been reducing the number of hospitalizations and deaths and have allowed for more freedom of movement. However, there are some alarming events happening. Vaccination rates are falling off, and the more contagious Delta variant is taking over. Texas' positivity rate that had fallen to 2.77% on June 7th is now up to 5.25%. Travis County is faring a bit better with a rise from 1.9% on June 18th to 3.2%.

Statistically, if you are vaccinated you have an excellent chance of not only protecting yourself from catching the virus,

but also a greatly reduced chance of not getting as sick and of avoiding hospitalization and death. Additionally, because of a reduced viral load, there is less of a chance you will transmit the virus to others. And that is great if you beat the statistics, but there are break-through infections, and there are reasons that you might not want to toss that mask just yet if your goal is to make sure that you are protecting yourself and others to the maximum extent possible.

**The Unknown Factors** – Because Covid-19 is so new, we don't really know all there is to know about it. We have had to constantly change our outlook, views and policies based on rapidly changing information. Sometimes there is lag between what is happening and when the patterns become apparent.

**Vaccinated or not?** – So far it seems that being outdoors greatly reduces the chance of spreading the virus whether you are vaccinated or not as long as you continue to maintain your distance if you are not. The case is pretty clear that if you are not vaccinated, you should be masking in all situations where you are in contact with others indoors except your immediate household. Most of the current cases, deaths and

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CNA General Meetings are held the second  
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Mask, continued from page 1

hospitalizations are among unvaccinated individuals. However, even if you are vaccinated, if you are in public settings where you do not know the vaccination status of people you may interact with, to fully protect yourself you might want to keep your mask. Surely no one would want to willingly expose others to potentially serious illness or possible death.

Without any way to be sure that someone is vaccinated or not, it is less risky for you to assume that they are not unless you know otherwise. Anecdotally, people seem to be becoming more lax about social distancing in public places since the masks have been coming off.

**Medical** - There are some individuals who cannot get the vaccine for medical reasons. There are also millions of people who have been vaccinated but their protection status is unknown. These immunocompromised individuals may be in just as good a position as most everyone else even though their antibody levels are lower (other factors like T cells could also play a role in protection), but we don't know for sure. Do you know if you are one of those persons? If you have had an organ transplant, cancer, are older, are taking any medications that weaken the immune system (such as steroids, or medications for Rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, etc.) or have some medical conditions that you may or may not be aware of (such as diabetes, AIDS etc.), you could be one of those individuals. It might be a good idea to talk to your doctor about your potential for reduced protection, and to continue to protect yourself by masking.

While avoiding serious illness, hospitalization and death is of primary concern, even milder COVID cases may have long-term repercussions and "break-through" cases do occur even if you have been vaccinated. Many individuals who have had COVID are what we are calling long-haulers, people who are still experiencing some lingering ill effects (fatigue, pain, memory and sleep problems, headaches, etc.) after having the virus weeks or even months after their "recovery". The truth is we don't know what lingering effects there might be and for how long (remember those unknown factors?). Older people and people with many serious medical conditions are the most likely to experience lingering COVID-19 symptoms, but even young, otherwise healthy people are susceptible. Avoiding contracting COVID at all seems to be a reasonable goal.

**Variants** - The Delta variant has been spreading at an alarming rate. It is much more contagious than previous variants, and while the current vaccinations seem to be holding their own against it, protection rates have been reduced some. As long as the virus is spreading, it will continue to mutate which will continue to reduce protection by the current vaccines, possibly to the point that the vaccines cannot keep up with the new variants.

**Travel** - We have been locked down so long, that it is understandable that we all want to escape somewhere or go visit friends and relatives. But not all parts of the world or even the US have very high vaccination rates and cases are on the rise. There were 21 states that reported an increase this past week in COVID-19 cases, compared with 8 states the previous week, and 25 states reported an increase in deaths up from 15. How do you know that the person reaching over your shoulder in the grocery store didn't just come back from a visit to relatives in one of those states? It is even conceivable that the current rash of summer vacation travel has been a factor in the positivity rate increase in Texas.

It is good to pay attention to statistics and what governmental agencies are telling us, but ultimately it is up to us as individuals to make intelligent decisions about what is best for us, our loved ones and other members of society. No one but ourself can decide what our "risk-level" is, but there are good arguments to err on the side of caution and to keep our masks on in public, even if we're vaccinated.



## Landscaping Tips That Are Eco-friendly

by Nancy Harris, CNA Treasurer

A few months ago I wrote about three popular landscaping trends that are (mostly) not so good for our environment: synthetic lawns, gravelscaping, and buying the wrong drought-tolerant grasses. This month let's talk about landscaping tips that will be good for the environment.

First, don't cut your lawn so short. Letting your lawn grow a few extra inches will help it to better tolerate drought conditions in warmer months as the taller blades help shade the roots. Roots grow deeper and lawns thicker, which means fewer pests, less disease and a decreased need for chemical intervention.

You might try going native! Native plants are accustomed to their area's growing conditions, so they're a smart low-maintenance option. Once established, they generally require less water and have fewer pest and disease problems. As a bonus, native wildlife love them, too, as they're a fantastic source for food and shelter. Your local nursery or extension service can advise you on which species are appropriate for the growing conditions in your neck of the woods.



Compost enriches soil with much-needed nutrients. Not only does it reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers, it improves drainage, water retention, and soil texture.

Instead of raking, blowing (certainly don't blow them into the gutter!), and bagging your leaves in the fall, cut them into tiny bits with a mulching lawn mower instead. The shredded leaves add nutrients to the soil as they decompose. Shred leaves when grass is still poking through them.

Welcome pollinators to your yard. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, pollinators such as honeybees, butterflies, and hummingbirds help pollinate 75 percent of our flowering plants and nearly 75 percent of our crops. There is increasing evidence that many of these vital pollinators are in decline. Planting a garden that includes plants that flower at different times of the year will provide nectar and pollen sources for pollinators throughout the growing season. Whenever possible, choose native plants in a variety of flower colors and shapes.

## How To Protect Your Car From Hail Damage Without A Garage or Carport

In Texas, hail season is usually over by the end of May – along with cold fronts. However, as we're learning this year with cold fronts, sometimes they come in July. And hailstorms can occur throughout the summer. If you don't have a covered area to protect your vehicle, you may want to consider some of these alternatives to avoid hail damage.

**Moving Blankets** - These are the thick polyester blankets that are wrapped around furniture to prevent scuffs and scratches during a move. They also work well to help lessen the damage to your car during a hailstorm. You may even want to use two or more blankets to increase your protection – with cardboard underneath the blankets to provide extra padding. And remember to place something on top of the blankets so that they won't blow off, either some heavy objects or rope that will hold the blankets in place. Cheaper (less thick) moving blankets will cost in the \$10-\$15 range, while thicker, higher quality ones average around \$35-\$45. They can be purchased at most moving supply stores and hardware stores like Lowe's and Home Depot. Or, given it's summer, you may not be using the blankets you already have at home too often and can spare them.

**Cardboard boxes** - As mentioned, cardboard boxes can be used, either double-folded or single, to cover more area – and remember to use something to keep them in place.

**Bags of potting soil or other supplies** - Here's the perfect excuse for putting off your gardening chores – with the added bonus that the weight of the bag will hold it in place. And these bags of soil do a good job absorbing the impact of the hail.

**Prefabricated car covers** - Ranging in price from less than \$100 to several hundred dollars, these complete car covers offer various degrees of protection.

If nothing is handy, don't forget about your floor mats – placed over your windshields, they may save you from a pile of broken glass. \*\*\*\*\*

### Arlan's is Now Fresh Plus

As of June 1st, Arlan's Market in the Crestview Shopping Center was sold to Fresh Plus, an Austin-based grocery since 1927. Currently, they are in a "transition" phase as they make way for new items. It is expected that this location will stock items similar to other Fresh Plus locations. Reportedly there are no plans to make major employee changes. New hours: 8 am to 9 pm, 7 days a week. Stay tuned for more.



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## Watch Out for Fraud

Computers, telephones and mail – these are all contact points for people who might want to take advantage of us. Fraud comes in many shapes and sizes and seems to be on the rise as scammers become more and more sophisticated. Here are a few common scams to be on the look out for.

Health scams are not only a risk to your bank account, but possibly to your health and wellbeing. Be wary of products that are advertised as preventative medicine or cures for common health conditions or diseases. Do your research before paying for items that seem to be “miracle cures”. Consumers have lots of choices in buying prescription drugs these days, but as you search for the best price or most convenience, be careful about the source of your medications. Counterfeit drugs are on the rise, so you need to be vigilant about the quality and integrity of the drugs you buy. A helpful site to learn more about identifying and avoiding health fraud scams is <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/protecting-yourself/health-fraud-scams>.

Telephone and marketing scams may promise you phony prizes, merchandise or services, try to tug at your heartstrings or manipulate your emotions, or try to intimidate you in an effort to steal your money or your identification. These fraudulent schemes, often perpetrated by skillful con artists, may take the form of someone posing as a close relative who is in need of money or an authority figure trying to scare you into paying money to avoid legal or criminal action. If using dishonesty to steal your money isn't the goal, it could be a cover for an attempt to steal your personal information that can then be used for such things as to open credit accounts, get loans, for medical treatment or obtaining utility service.

A very frequent scam is one involving a fraudster, claiming to work for a well-known technology company like Microsoft or Norton, who contacts you claiming that viruses have been detected on your computer. The fake tech representative alleges they can remotely remove the virus for a fee (typically between \$100-400). Think twice before paying up or allow them access to your computer. They may install tracking software that gives the fraudster access to personal information on the computer.

Other scams take advantage of people's desire to better themselves financially. Many people jump at the opportunity to make money quickly when it presents itself. But, have caution that these opportunities may actually turn out to be scams that take your money, rather than help you make it. Beware of claims that promise “guaranteed earnings” and

“big profits fast” with “no risks” – there is always risk in investments.

Email scams take many forms. They may be claims that you have won a foreign lottery, a survey that installs malicious malware on your computer when you click on a link, someone pretending to be your bank in an attempt to fork over your password, or a con artist asking you to help recover a large sum of money from an overseas bank and offering a “reward” for doing so – once you give your bank account number.

Social networking sites can also be a problem. Hackers can gain access to a friend's email, Facebook or Twitter account, so be mindful of emails that don't seem like something your friend would send or post. Also watch out for quizzes or requests for money on social media. They may be scams that end up costing you a fee or donations that aren't going to that “sick baby”, but into a thief's pocket.

There are so many different variations of scams that we can't cover them all here, but here are some general guidelines for avoiding making the mistake of falling prey to the swindlers.

Never give out any personal information to someone who calls or emails you without you making contact with them first, even if they seem legitimate. Check out any claims made by the person contacting you and get details in writing before you commit. Don't agree to anything on the spot – pressure to act immediately is a danger sign. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Be careful what information you share on social media – ask yourself “If some with criminal intentions saw this, could it harm me?” While it will not stop unwanted calls, you can limit them (and the ones you get are more likely to be scams) by getting on the National Do Not Call Registry by calling (888) 382-1222 or visit [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov).

If you do become a victim of a scam, you can report it. Reporting does help with the detection of patterns of fraud and abuse. For internet-related crime, you can report it to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov/complaint](http://www.ic3.gov/complaint). Telephone scams can be reported at [www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crmt&panel1-1](http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crmt&panel1-1). To report a credit card breach or identity theft and get assistance with a recovery plan to help you deal with it, go to <http://www.identitytheft.gov/>.

Con artists have been around forever, but today there is more opportunity than ever for them to connect with us. It is unfortunate that we all have to be so suspicious, but being a bit more skeptical and cautious can save one from becoming the victim of a scam.



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## In Memoriam

**William James “Jimmy” Fulwiler** passed away on January 29th, 2021. Before retiring, he owned and operated Jimmy’s Automotive in the Crestview Shopping Center where his repair work was appreciated by many. He was born into a working-class family and he and his siblings were taught to have strong convictions. This led Jimmy to be a quiet, self-reliant, honest, and humble man. Jimmy loved tennis and earned a scholarship with Cornell University for tennis but turned it down to instead attend the University of Texas. He served in the Army Reserves from 1970 to 1976. On August 2, 1989, Jimmy married Annabelle Baring in Ormoc City, Philippines. Together they moved to the Austin area in 1989. Jimmy loved cars and had a mind for business. This led him to open several businesses in Austin including a Western Auto Parts, a liquor store and finally Jimmy’s Automotive. Jimmy loved a good steak on the rare side, enjoyed going to the gun range, and spending time with his family and dogs. He loved music, especially music from the 60s and once played an organ in a rock band. Jimmy was a long-time attendee of Hyde Park Baptist Church, where he and Annabelle dedicated many years to teaching Sunday school. Jimmy and his innumerable talents will be greatly missed by many.

**Hilario “Lee” Gallegos**, a Crestview resident since 1963 and CNA member since 1986, died on June 23, 2021. He was born on October 29, 1929 in McNeil, Texas and spent his life in Austin where he graduated from Nixon Business School majoring in Accounting. As a member of the US Army, he was a veteran of the Korean War. He and his loving wife Olivia were married for over 64 years. Lee was known for being a waiter at two of Austin’s finest restaurants, La Fiesta and Neuvo Leon. He loved people and waited tables until he was 80 years old. Being an avid golfer, he spent his extra time in the sun, out on the golf course. He could always be found walking the course, playing a round of 18 holes and cooling off in the clubhouse. His friendly personality and smiling face will be long remembered.

**Guy Sean Little** left this earthly home way too soon on June 3, 2021. Born on November 13, 1961 in Decatur, Illinois, Sean had been a Crestview resident since the last millennium. He was a loving son, brother, husband and stepfather. After graduating from The University of Texas with a degree in government and economics, he worked in the Austin area as a real estate agent and later became a broker establishing his own brokerage, Austin Lone Star Realty. Marketing as the “Duplex King”, he specialized in duplex sales in Austin and later throughout Texas. He was well respected by his

many colleagues and clients. Many have said that he was open, honest, trustworthy and professional in all dealings. To many he was more than a broker, he was a trusted friend. Sean lived his life courageously and passionately, loving all things western and the great outdoors. He was happiest when he was hiking, biking, rafting, ziplining and riding his motorcycle. Bella, his rescue dog, had a special relationship with Sean, who also adored horses. Gifted in forming lasting relationships, he would talk to people for hours and enjoyed meeting people from all walks of life. Sean had a heart as big as Texas and was a kind and generous soul who genuinely cared about people. Sean will be missed by all those whose lives he touched.

**Cordelia Ruiz**, a former longtime Crestview resident and an original CNA member dating back to 1982, departed this life on June 24, 2021 at the age of 100. She and her husband Elias played a major role in Crestview’s history with their involvement in a lawsuit that resulted in major changes in the way that the Dallas Nightclub operated.

Cordelia was a devout Christian and a faithful member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Austin, TX for over 75 years, serving in numerous roles including Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, and Recording Secretary. She was a member of the United Methodist Women and was known for being humble, thoughtful, fun-loving and sincere. She was also known for her remarkable record-keeping and perfect penmanship. She was extremely hospitable and her tacos were the best. Employed for 24 years as an Administrative and Medical Assistant to several Physicians in Austin, she then finished her career as a Medical Claims Specialist until her retirement in 1995. Our condolences to her many friends and family; our community has lost a truly remarkable woman.

**Monsignor Louis J Wozniak**, affectionately called “Father Louis”, passed away on June 7, 2021. In June of 1973, Fr. Louis was appointed pastor of St. Louis Church in Austin. He held his position there for 16 years. During his time at St. Louis, many ministries were developed, others expanded. New facilities were built to meet the growing needs of the parish including an activity center, a gymnasium, and a reconversion of the original church into a religious education center. In 1980 at the request of Bishop Harris, Pope John Paul II gave father Wozniak the title “Monsignor”. In June of 1989, Msgr. Wozniak was appointed pastor of St. Helen Church in Georgetown, Texas. He served the parish for 10 years before retiring. Over the years, Msgr. Wozniak touched the lives of thousands of people and his legacy will live on as a result of all that he accomplished.

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## Zoning Updates

By Chip Harris, CNA Newsletter Editor

### 7113 Burnet Road

This case was heard by the Planning Commission (PC) on June 8th and is scheduled to be heard by the City Council on July 29th for first reading. This 4.3-acre site is currently zoned primarily commercial with a 60-foot height limit, and the owner is requesting a change to Multi-family 6 (MF-6) which allows solely residential development but with a height up to 90 feet and an unlimited number of apartment units. City staff has recommended a lesser zoning of MF-4 which would allow 232 units and a height of 60 feet. The PC approved the requested MF-6 zoning with the following conditions: that the maximum building height be limited to 75 feet instead of 90 feet; that building height be limited to 40 feet between 50 and 200 feet from adjoining single-family homes and that the building setback from single-family homes be at least 30 feet.

### 901 & 907 Stobaugh Street

Located at the northeast corner of Crestview, both of these lots are zoned single-family SF-3 and each has a single-family home on it, the one at 901 dating back to 1924. The 2 lots total an acre in size and other similar properties in the area have been developed with more density by subdividing the lot but building under SF-3 guidelines. However, the owners in this case are requesting multi-family 4 zoning that would allow up to a total of 54 units with a height of 60 feet. This case is scheduled to go before the PC on July 13th.

For additional background on these zoning cases, please see the May edition of the newsletter on the CNA website <https://crestviewna.com/newsletter/newsletter-archive/>. \*\*\*

### Mosquito Repellents and Deterrents

According to WebMD, here are some of the better repellents and ways to deal with mosquitoes.

**Things that work:** Repellants such as Deet – You will

need 20 – 50% (10 – 30% for children), but be aware it can make your sunscreen less effective. Picaridin – A plant-based product found in Cutter Advanced and Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus (which also contains IR3535, a man-made compound. Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus - found in Repel and Off! Botanicals. (But don't use the pure oil as it hasn't been determined to be safe). BioUD – comes from tomatoes and is found in BiteBlocker. Deterrents: Cover up and empty any thing that holds standing water.

While effective, spraying your yard can be harmful to you or your pets if you come into contact with the chemicals while they are still wet or in the air. Because these chemicals kill indiscriminately, you will also be wiping out plant pollinators like bees and butterflies, and aphid-eating ladybugs.

**Things that don't work:** Wristbands, Citronella, essential oils, garlic, Vitamin B, bug zappers and ultrasonic devices. \*\*

### Voices of Violet Crown 10th Anniversary

by Susan Burneson

On July 5, Voices of the Violet Crown celebrated 10 years of having a website. The Brentwood/Crestview neighborhood project grew out of history and community displays at the Violet Crown Festival beginning in 2003. The project continued with oral history interviews and three films, all featured on the website, along with blog posts and local resources. As coordinator of the project, I recently contributed information from the website for the City of Austin's Art-on-the-Corridor project for Burnet Road and for a fifth-grade neighborhood history project at Brentwood Elementary. Recent website updates include "2020 — A Year Like No Other." Other popular posts include "Just What Is a Violet Crown?," "The Mystery of Abercrombie, Texas," "History of Hancock Creek/Arroyo Seco," and "A Green History of Brentwood and Crestview." To find out more, visit [violetcrownvoices.com](http://violetcrownvoices.com).



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## Art Around Town

by Marilyn Querejazu

Here's some news: The 77th State Legislature appreciates artists! Eight talented Texans received an honorific appointment including Texas Poet Laureate Cyrus Cassells of Austin, State Musician Leon Bridges of Fort Worth, State Artist Jennifer Ling Datchuk of San Antonio and State Musician Eva Ybarra of San Antonio. The positions, created by SB 1043, are for one-year terms.

"In honoring these individuals, we bring attention to the important role the arts play in shaping Texas' cultural landscape," said Gary Gibbs, executive director for the Texas Commission on the Arts. "These Texas State Artists are the best of the best. Their work defines our character of place and reflects the distinctive qualities that make Texas unique."

Any Texas citizen can nominate an artist and self-nominations are encouraged. The next call for nominations will take place in the fall of 2022.

### Now at the Blanton Museum of Art - Sedrick Huckaby.

Fort Worth artist Sedrick Huckaby paints his powerful portraits from life. This exhibition includes a series of new portraits featuring sitters posing with quilts, along with an older, monumental painting of a quilt by itself.

See his incredible website first <https://huckabystudios.com/work/sedrick>.

**While you are in the neighborhood...**one of the most interesting sculptures on UT campus is *Figure on a Trunk* by Polish artist, Magdalena Abakanowicz (1930-2017). The bronze sculpture is located at Bass Concert Hall Plaza, a 13-minute walk from the Blanton. You can read about the art and the artist, listen to the audio guide and view the entire collection of UT's outdoor art here: <https://landmarks.utexas.edu/collection>.

**Why waste that nice garage on junk?**



Magdalena Abakanowicz, *Figure on a Trunk*, 2000

How about a DIY art gallery? Goodluckhavefun was a pandemic project in West Austin by artist Tim McCool and designer Kira Prentice. They opened last fall and judging by the appointment calendar have been very busy. Garage gallery: <https://sightlinesmag.org/a-weird-phantasmagorical-dimension-matthew-langland-at-goodluckhavefun>

**Now at Wally Workman Gallery - Diana Greenberg: Sunlight**

Her work is clean, with loads of color and movement – you will feel sunlight. Her work is also inspired by nature, flowers and the grays and blues of twilight. Greenberg works and lives in Austin, Texas. Enjoy the artist talk and video before visiting. [www.wallyworkmangallery.com](http://www.wallyworkmangallery.com). Open Tuesday through Saturday 10am-5pm. Sunday 12 pm – 4 pm. Appointments appreciated.

You know things are getting back to normal because the **Paramount summer film series** is back. Check out the schedule and get ready for popcorn, the really big screen and AIR CONDITIONING.

Have yourself some fun.

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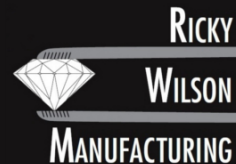
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