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# CRESTVIEW

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2021

## Mistakes That Make Your Home a Target for Burglars

*Is your home vulnerable and what preventative measures can you take?*

With the holiday season in full swing and people traveling and buying valuables for gifts, it seems a good a good time to think about what mistakes you might be making that make your home susceptible to thefts.

It's tempting to post on your social media accounts what a fabulous time you're having while you are away, but you should think twice before posting because it alerts everyone who can see your content to the fact your house is vacant. Be careful with what you post even if you've got a private account, as 65 per cent of victims are burglarized by someone they know.

Burglars often case a neighborhood before choosing an appropriate target, keeping an eye out for houses containing items worth stealing. It's best to keep your expensive items out of view if at all possible. Installing blinds or similar window dressings and avoiding posting pictures on your social media account can help keep your belongings safe.

*See Burglars continued on page 2*

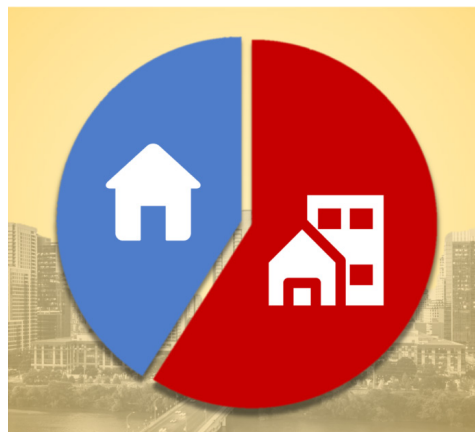


## The Truth About Single-Family Zoning in Austin

**FACT:** Austin Is Not "Dominated" by Single-Family Zoning—Most Lots Are Zoned for Multiple Homes  
(Third in series of articles regarding myths about Austin's land development code by Community Not Commodity)

### Key Points:

- Land developers and their allies in City Hall claim Austin is dominated by single-family zoning.
- In reality, a substantial majority of Austin's residential properties are zoned for more than one home.
- According to data from The New York Times, single-family zoning is used to a much greater degree in cities like Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles, and San Jose.



## Luminarias Along Arroyo Seco



The long tradition of luminarias along Arroyo Seco continues this year, its 27th anniversary. Every evening starting on Wednesday, December 22nd through Christmas on Saturday, December 25, the lights along the arroyo will be a sight to see. Neighbors volunteer to be respon-

sible for small, manageable blocks along the arroyo. Many of these Block Captains are long-time volunteers, and this responsibility is a family tradition. Those twinkling lights along the arroyo are a beautiful sight at night and even more enjoyable while strolling the hike and bike path with family and friends. Thanks to all of the volunteers whose work gives us four enchanted evenings!

You might ask where did the tradition of luminarias begin? No one knows for sure, but one story has it that luminarias lit the way for Mary and Joseph in their search for lodging in Bethlehem. Others place the tradition back even earlier, linking it to the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, when people mark the miracle of the container of oil that was only meant to last one day but lasted eight.

\*\*\*\*\*

For years, land developers and their surrogates have claimed Austin is "dominated" by single-family zoning and argued for its removal through urban densification plans like CodeNEXT:

*Two forms of housing dominate Austin: Single-family houses and large apartment buildings. This lack of housing variety does not reflect Austin's diversity and contributes to growing affordability issues. - "Inclusive + Affordable," City of Austin*

*[T]he zoning in most of Austin prohibits any housing besides single-family homes. - Connor Harris, Fellow, Manhattan Institute, Austin Business Journal, July 16, 2021*

**That's a myth!** In reality, fewer than half of Austin's residential properties are zoned for only one home - and our

*See Zoning continued on page 3*

# CRESTVIEW

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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CNA General Meetings are held the second  
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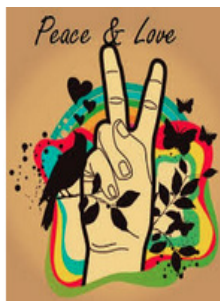
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### Neighborhood Email Groups

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[crestview-parents@googlegroups.com](mailto:crestview-parents@googlegroups.com)

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile  
to someone's face?  
Did I say words of  
healing? Did I let  
go of my anger and  
resentment? Did I  
forgive? Did I love?  
These are the real  
questions. I must  
trust that the little  
bit of love that I  
sow now will bear many fruits, here in this  
world and the life to come.

Henri Nouwen



*Burglars, continued from page 1*

Even displaying car keys can be a risk as it can guarantee them a high-value reward without drawing attention to themselves by carrying bulky items out of the house. While convenient for you, placing your keys anywhere near the front door leaves you vulnerable to a technique called fishing. Thieves feed a long item like a dismantled wire coat hanger through your letterbox to “fish” for and retrieve your keys. This is even more of a risk if your front door has a glass panel, as they can see what they are fishing for.

Oh, and don't post pictures of your house keys, a classic photo op every new homeowner is keen to stage. But in the 21st century, this is another way to welcome burglars into your home. By using simple software, thieves can zoom in on a picture of a key and have a copy cut in no time.



A mailbox full of mail will certainly catch the interest of any potential thieves in the area. Ask a neighbor to collect it for you, or update your preferences online and have your mail put on hold for the duration of your trip.

Your trash bins can be another tip off to criminals. Be sure to dispose of the packaging properly. Leaving intact cardboard boxes advertising your new items out by your bins could easily attract the attention of crooks. So break them down (the city asks you to do this anyway), fold the labels inside if possible and hide them near the bottom of your recycling bin. And while we are on trash bins, don't leave your bins out beyond trash day as this can be a sign to criminals, especially if they sit there for several days, that no one is home. Instead, enlist an neighbor or a friend to swing by and pull them in for you.

Holiday season isn't the only time thieves are on the prowl, so here are some other year-round tips.

Criminals can make plenty of money from selling your identity, so be sure to protect your laptop, conceal your passport and be sure to shred documents with details such as your date of birth, address, full names, etc, before trashing them. Cut up old bankcards and forms of ID and put the pieces in separate trash bags. Never keep them all in the same place and make sure they are out of sight.



Don't leave notes on your door for the postal carrier, delivery service or repairman. If you can't be there, most delivery services have an option to leave them a note digitally, letting the delivery driver know to leave your parcel in a safe space or with your neighbor.



Many burglars are opportunists, so don't leave tools around outside that could be used to make breaking in easier. Common hardware items like hammers, crowbars, screwdrivers and putty knives are often used.

Keep your doors and windows locked. Many people often forget to lock their back doors, patios and garage doors, leaving easy pickings for wily thieves. Be sure your deadlock works properly. If it doesn't go all the way into the frame, however, thieves can slide a credit card through to gain access to your home.

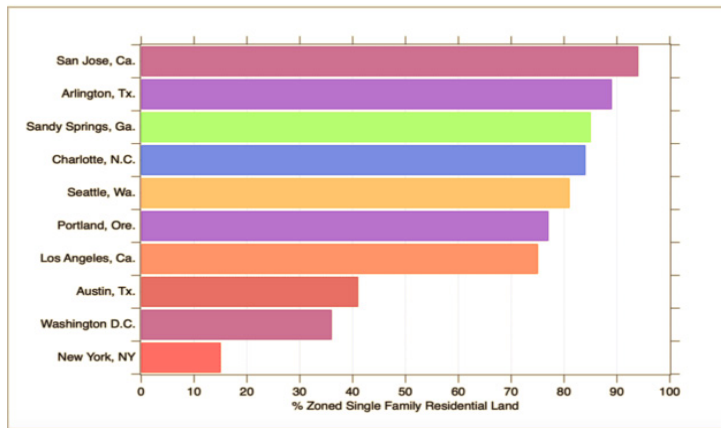
Use motion-activated lights. Leaving a light on all night isn't very energy efficient and is harmful to migrating birds, but they also aren't as useful for scaring away burglars as the shock of a light suddenly switching on.

Hope you have safe and crime free year!

community utilizes single-family zoning at levels far below those in comparable cities across the nation.

In Austin, single-family zoning is defined as zoning that allows only one house on a given property. It is designated as either “SF-2” or “SF-1” under the city’s zoning code. According to an analysis of City of Austin data, roughly 41% of the residential land in our community is zoned this way. The other 59% is zoned for duplexes, townhomes, apartments, and other forms of multiple housing.

Community Not Commodity compared the amount of single-family zoning in Austin to other major cities, based on an analysis by *The New York Times*. Here is what we found:



**The numbers don’t lie:** When it comes to its level of single-family zoning, Austin has more in common with cities like New York or Washington, D.C. than communities like Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles, or San Jose.

In case there’s any doubt, if you go to <https://communitynotcommodity.com/2021/11/23/fact-austin-is-not-dominated-by-single-family-zoning-most-lots-are-zoned-for-multiple-homes/> you will find colored maps that clearly show how multi-home zoning predominates in Austin.

Earlier this year, Mayor Steve Adler announced the city would soon restart the revision of our land code, albeit in a piecemeal way. This time, let’s hope local officials are guided by facts about Austin’s single-family zoning—not misinformation.

We’ll dispel more myths about zoning and Austin’s land development code in the coming weeks. Stay tuned! (Community Not Commodity is a local organization that advocates development policies that support community values over developer profits. For more information go to <https://communitynotcommodity.com/who-we-are/>)



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## In Memoriam


**K**irby Karl Krause, one of Crestview’s earlier residents, having bought his house in 1954, and a CNA member since 1986, died on October 29, 2021. Here are some excerpts from his obituary: Kirby grew up milking cows and delivering milk with his father and brothers. He served in the US Navy in World War II on the *USS Nevada* in the South Pacific theater, and he loved to tell stories of his 15 months at sea. Kirby moved to Austin in 1949. On December 23, 1950 he married Frances Ann Holik. They purchased a newly built home in the Crestview neighborhood on October 18, 1954, and became founding parishioners of St. Louis King of France Catholic Church. Kirby worked for Butter Krust Bakery for 42 years

See In Memoriam, continued on page 4

## All CNA Memberships Are Due for Renewal for 2022

**U**nless, of course, you have already renewed or joined for 2022. (And a big “thank you” to those folks who have!)

Since the early 1980s when the Crestview Neighborhood Association was formed, CNA has been dedicated to preserving and promoting the quality of life, safety and residential character of our neighborhood. Any resident living within the boundaries of Crestview (Lamar, both sides of Justin, Burnet Road and Anderson) are eligible to join the association. Dues are \$10 per year per household (up to 4 adult members) and are paid on a calendar year basis. To join the association or to renew your membership through December 2022, please use the form below. Make checks payable to Crestview Neighborhood Association or CNA. Or you can use PayPal by going to <https://crestviewna.com/join/>. Any questions regarding your membership can be directed to the Treasurer at [joincrestview@gmail.com](mailto:joincrestview@gmail.com).

	Crestview Neighborhood Association PO Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766 <a href="http://www.crestviewna.com">www.crestviewna.com</a>		All residents are invited to join Annual dues are \$10 per household
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## The Ethics of Traveling During COVID

Imagine yourself unvaccinated due to lack of availability of shots in your country as from your home you watch “tourists” walking the streets eating out and sightseeing. While vaccines are readily available in the United States, billions of people in other parts of the world are still waiting for COVID doses. This raises the issue of the ethics of traveling to places after you are vaccinated to places where the locals are not. There are different thoughts on the matter.

Arthur L. Caplan, Professor of Bioethics and author of *Vaccination Ethics and Policy*, doesn’t believe tourism revenue is impactful enough to offset the threat of variants derailing global pandemic progress or the risk of harming local communities. He feels tourism is “not the kind of systematic rebuilding of infrastructure or economy” and so “it’s hard to justify”. Henry Wu, an associate professor of infectious diseases at Emory University School of Medicine and director of Emory TravelWell Center, says one should consider not just their own safety, but also that of the place they’re visiting and their community when they return home. He cautioned that travelers should find out how the country they want to visit is coping with the pandemic and be especially cautious if the area is struggling. He feels that one could “add a potential burden to (the local infrastructure) if you were to get sick or injured for other reasons” and require medical care.

Others have a more lenient position. Oli Esquivel, a Costa Rican tour guide, feels that if the travel industry comes back, the economy will recover more quickly. As does Gloria Guevara, chief executive of World Travel and Tourism Council, saying that is not just the jobs that are directly connected to tourism that benefit because of the spillover into other areas of the economy.

Saskia Popescu, an infectious-disease epidemiologist and infection preventionist at the University of Arizona and George Mason University, feels Americans shouldn’t forget as they’re considering traveling outside the country that they’re in a position that much of the world envies. “Be cognizant that other places are struggling,” she said. “Until you have worldwide access and adequate distribution of vaccines, then it’s going to inherently create inequity,” Popescu said. It is important to take the local’s position into account as you decide. A big concern for Nancy S. Jecker, a professor of bioethics and humanities at the University of Washington School of Medicine, is the structural inequalities the pandemic has amplified. While the fortunate can protect

themselves by staying home and working remotely, others have been forced to work in jobs that come with much higher coronavirus risks. They have to go to work to clean a hotel room, drive a cab or to cook for a restaurant. She says we should ask ourselves, “Are we exploiting those vulnerabilities or are we doing people a favor?” Jecker feels that not every scenario comes with the same ethical dilemmas. For example, if you’re going from a low-risk area to a low-risk vacation destination, the stakes aren’t as high as traveling from a high-risk area to a vulnerable area. No matter where you’re traveling, Jecker says, following coronavirus precautions is the ethical thing to do.

For those grappling with the question of where to travel, Guevara said, travelers should do their homework before choosing somewhere to visit, learn about a destination’s coronavirus response and rules not only countrywide, but by specific regions. Then pay attention to spikes in cases and whether a place is battling new variants before leaving for your trip.

\*\*\*\*\*

Did you know that using a fake vaccination card is illegal? The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) warns that if you did not receive the vaccine, you should not buy fake vaccine cards, create your own vaccine cards, or fill-in blank vaccination record cards with false information. By misrepresenting yourself as vaccinated when entering public places, using mass transit, or attending events, you put yourself and others around you at risk of contracting COVID-19. Additionally, the unauthorized use of an official government agency’s seal (such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)) is a crime. Because individuals may use fake vaccine cards to misrepresent themselves as vaccinated, the FBI strongly encourages social distancing and masking.

\*\*\*\*\*


*In Memoriam continued from page 3*

primarily as a bookkeeper. He could add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers in his head until his death. It was a gift! Kirby was very proud to be a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. It was hard to tell the difference between his volunteering with the KC and with St. Louis. He was involved in the KC fish fries during Lent, bingo games (where he was usually the caller), and Christmas-time tamales, and always volunteered when needed. Kirby served on the church’s Parish Finance Board, was a member of the Parish Activity Center and Gymnasium Building Committee, was a Captain of Ushers at Mass, and was a member of the Men’s Club. Kirby was a pillar of the church and will always be remembered.

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## Brentwood Elementary School Modernization Update

A virtual meeting was held on October 29, 2021 to provide an update on the construction status of the renovation at the Brentwood Elementary School.

Attendees learned that the construction work at the school is on track and the Brentwood campus is scheduled to be reopened for the August 2022 school year. The school is getting a complete modernization, including new classroom spaces, gym, cafeteria and playground areas.

Questions at the meeting included whether the campus design was altered due to COVID-19 and whether a public trail is included in the project. District officials said that all modernized facilities built through the 2017 Bond include expanded outdoor learning spaces, upgraded air filtration systems and window ventilation. Additionally, this project will include a hike-and-bike trail on Arroyo Seco that connects to the sidewalk leading to Brentwood Park.

Here is a link to watch the full meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoJ89XAuJ6M>. The presentation is also available for download at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12n7KHLXB0L5npSm21Xw7SyZLY0LzRkKA>.

To share feedback or ask questions, please reach out to [future@austinisd.org](mailto:future@austinisd.org) or call 512-414-9595.

## Meals on Wheels Central Texas to Resume Daily Meal Deliveries in January

As reported by KVUE, Meals on Wheels Central Texas (MOWCTX) is going back to delivering meals daily in January 2022 after more than a year of bi-weekly deliveries and they're looking for 500 volunteers to help out. The organization is searching for weekly route drivers, substitute drivers, meal managers and volunteers who can deliver meals via bike. Learn more about the volunteer opportunities on the MOWCTX website. Those interested in volunteering are being asked to fill out an application and attend volunteer orientation training, which will be held via video conference, according to the organization's website.

MOWCTX began delivering meals on a bi-weekly basis

in early 2020 in an effort to protect clients and volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the switch, the organization's clients have received two weeks' worth of frozen meals every other week. The organization has delivered far more than 1 million meals since the start of the pandemic, hitting that milestone back in May 2021.

For more information about volunteering, requirements and locations you can help at, visit the MOWCTX website: <https://www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org/get-involved/meals-on-wheels>



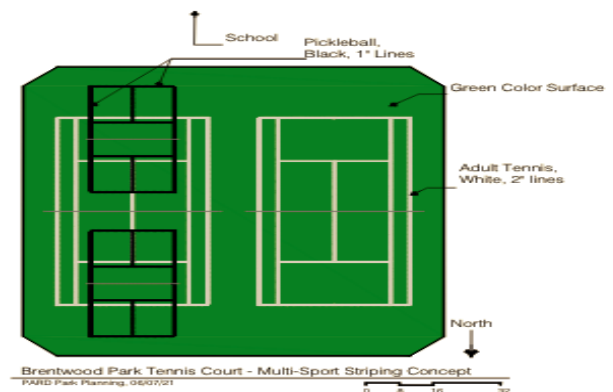
## Changes Coming to Brentwood Park

Austin Parks and Recreation will be making some changes to Brentwood Park during the month of December. The existing basketball court is to be resurfaced and restriped.

The tennis courts will also be resurfaced, but the existing markings will be changing. The court to the west will remain the same, but the eastern court will be striped for multi-use as not only a tennis court but also for two pickleball courts. Pickleball players will need to provide and set up temporary nets. The tennis nets will be permanently in place. New fencing for the tennis courts will also be installed.

For the uninitiated, pickleball is a paddleball sport that combines elements of badminton, table tennis, and tennis and is played by two or four players. It began as a children's backyard game in the 1960s and has become quite popular since then.

Below is a diagram of what the new courts will look like.



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## Howdy Neighbor!

By Mike Lavigne, CNA President

**H**appy Holidays! Porch thieves are out in force as always so let's try and keep an eye out for our neighbors. Also, leaving your porch light on is a decent deterrent given how dark many of our streets are.

Let's also be grateful that most of the criminal activity in the area is petty crime and nothing more dangerous. I'm proud to say Crestview remains a very safe place for the very young and old alike. I'm happy to report from my perch at the Violet Crown Clubhouse that kid driven vandalism seems to be on the decline. Our biggest related issue at the Clubhouse is the detritus left by the swarms of mini-humans loaded up with bounty from Fresh Plus who descend upon the Crestview Center in the late afternoon and vacate as the sun sets and dinner bells are rung.

I've been privileged to get to know the neighborhood kids over the last couple years and am grateful to have a good enough rapport with them that I can point and grunt and they'll move their bikes or clean up their trash, but I encourage you to remind them that this whole neighborhood (and planet) is their home, so let's treat it as such.

One of the great things about the Violet Crown neighborhoods is that we really are a village. The kids know if they are in trouble, they can grab any parent in eyeshot and they'll be fine. The reverse is true too, so if you see a kid being bullied or something seems off, I encourage you to just ask if everything is OK. We have an opportunity to raise a pretty badass generation of local kids, and so far I'm mostly impressed. Often annoyed, but generally impressed by this bunch.

Election season is back. It never really left. Several city council districts around us (but not ours) will have competitive

elections next year. We will be spared most of the vitriol since there isn't going to be much contested on our ballot locally until the Mayor's race gets going in earnest. That ought to be a fun one.

Greg Casar is vacating his council seat to run for a US Congressional District that excludes us and extends down into San Antonio(?!). I will take this opportunity to remind you that he has consistently declared war on our neighborhood, suggesting that we are exclusionary elites for trying to limit the powers of Big Real Estate to knock down the last affordable housing and build more expensive newer products. He also has pushed to make more of our streets high traffic cut-thrus between Lamar and Burnet. He pretty much just does whatever the developers ask him to do.

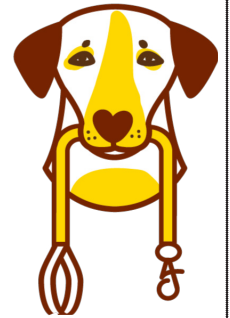
Luckily, Eddie Rodriguez is running too. He's a long time State Representative who has made real progress on issues from subsidized affordable housing to beer-to-go and urban farms. If you have friends east of I35, feel free to educate them.


As always, I'll be easy to find. Feel free to reach out and tell me how right I am!

### PET STATION VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Crestview Neighborhood Association is looking for a volunteer to restock the pet station located on the southeast corner of the Crestview Shopping Center. Duties would be to replenish this station's bag supply & dispose of trash as needed. Bags are provided by CNA.

If you are interested or for more information, please call 512-458-2488 or email [joincrestview@gmail.com](mailto:joincrestview@gmail.com).



  
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# Making

by Marilyn Querejazu

Step away from that online shopping cart! Put down that catalogue. And whatever you do, do not buy gifts for your loved ones from a big box store. Tis NOT the season for giving gifts mass-produced in faraway countries.

Make (or buy) handmade gifts and give something truly unique to your special people. Making stuff is meaningful, creative and very thrifty.

Americans have had on-again off-again attraction to craft and folk art since our founding. Mass production tried hard to kill handcrafting, but thanks to digital technology, crafting how-tos and online selling, opportunities for small craft enterprises are almost worldwide. We have at our fingertips you tube, etsy, martha stewart, diynetwork, hdtv, goodhouse-keeping and many, many more sites just chock full of photos, videos, instructions and ideas.

Whether you want to dabble in woodworking (birdhouses, picture frames, toys, planters, candle holders...), cement, tile, or glass (paving stones, mosaic, coasters, trays, wall art...), fiber arts (knitting, crochet, sewing, embroidery, weaving...) or paper (flowers, paper mache, gift cards, ...) you can find the information you need to get started.

Gifts from the kitchen are the best! Cookies, candy, breads, chex party mix, hot sauce...Especially if packaged with lovely vintage china, holiday tins, mason jars or cute tote bags.

After perusing online ideas, a trip to Austin Creative



Reuse will help you find affordable materials for any project and more ideas. Take time to stock up on budget-priced gift bags, containers and holiday paper. [Austincreativeuse.org](http://Austincreativeuse.org), 2005 Wheless Lane.

When I start a new project, I keep this quote in mind: "Try again, fail again, fail better." (Samuel Beckett). It helps. If you absolutely can't make stuff, then buy something made locally. Austin is full of crafty people crafting crafts just for you. Checkout the schedule for Austin Flea, a roving band of artisans ([www.austinflea.net](http://www.austinflea.net)) and Brentwood Social House's Holiday Market December 5th from 9 am to 3pm.

Thrift shops offer a wonderful creative alternative. There are many thrift shops around Crestview/Brentwood where you can browse to your heart's content for that elusive Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle T shirt or a perfect oil lamp to prepare your friends and relations for the next blackout.

Try an old plus new gift option. For example:

- Thrift shop teacup and saucer + fancy tea bags
- Thrift shop coffee mug + hot cocoa mix
- Old mason jar + gourmet popcorn (unpopped with recipe)
- Used DVDs + pizza making kit
- Used mystery paperbacks + snuggly socks
- Old candle sticks + new candles + snuggly socks
- Old candle sticks + new candles

Happy crafting. I hope it leads you to a joyous holiday and creative new year.





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dia's  market

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