

CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Hand-delivered on recycled paper to over 2,400 homes and local businesses

People, Pets, Plants and Pipes

Are You Prepared for Winter Weather? With the coldest months in Austin approaching and memories of the disastrous freeze of last February still haunting us, it is time to prepare for potential wintry weather.

What you can do well before hand

You can begin by insulating any pipes that are in exposed areas such as your garage or carport. Sealing leaks around doors or windows will also keep you more comfortable. Make sure you know where your water cut off is. In

Crestview, usually the owner's cut off is between the house and the meter box. If you cannot find the owner's cut off, there is access to the City' shutoff valve in the meter box. You will probably need a water meter key to open the box. These can be purchased at most hardware stores or (at the time we went to press) the City is offering free keys and hose bib covers at the Utilities Customer Service Center at 8716 Research Blvd., Suite 115 (the northwest corner of Ohlen and 183) Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Complete your preparations by making sure you have a battery powered radio, flashlights and plenty of batteries.

When a freeze is imminent

Start by covering your outside faucets with a Stryrofoam hose bib cover or faucet sock. Old towels wrapped around the faucet and secured also work well. Automatic sprinkler systems should be turned off and drained. Open cabinet doors under the sinks to allow warmer air to circulate around the pipes. Set one cold water faucet (the one farthest from you water meter) at a slow drip. Store enough water to last for several days and stock up on some non-perishable food items and household necessities. If you plan to be away during a freeze, turn your water off at the meter and leave your heat on set at about 65 degrees.

If they are in small enough containers, bring your plants indoors. If only a light freeze is expected, you may be able to protect plants simply by covering them with a sheet or a blanket. This acts like insulation, keeping warm air from the ground around the plant. For added protection when your protect plants in a freeze, you can place plastic over the sheets or blankets to help keep warmth in. Never cover a plant with just plastic, however, as the plastic will damage the plant. Make sure that a cloth barrier is between the plastic and the plant. Be sure to remove the sheets and blanket and plastic first thing in the morning after an overnight cold snap. If you do not do so, condensation can build up and freeze again under the covering, which will damage the plant. If your plants are



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dry, water the ground around them, but do not water the leaves and stems. Spraying the plant itself only works if you continually water until temperatures are above freezing which is not very practical. Otherwise, once the spray stops, the ice becomes the same temperature as the air and damage can occur.

The best thing you can do for your pets is to bring them inside. A dog's or cat's body temperature can get so low that they can't get it

back up and they can die of exposure. Even if they have to be left in an unheated area such as a garage, this is at least some protection. Any animal that cannot be brought inside can have its safety and comfort enhanced by providing hay for insulation or with outdoor heating lamps. Tarps or blankets can be used to block some of the wind. They should be provided access to unfrozen drinking water at all times and should be fed more often.

After a freeze

Once the freeze is over, if you turn on your faucet and find only a trickle of water or none at all, you may have a frozen pipe or water meter. At this point, you should try to locate which pipes are frozen by testing your faucets to see which ones do not work. If none of them are working, then the problem is on the exterior of the house. If only one floor is working, then the problem is between floors. If none of the pipes in the same room are working, the frozen pipe is between the main water pipe and where the water enters the room.

Once you identify which pipe is frozen look along the pipe for signs of freezing such as bulges, frost or ice. Also pay attention to the pipe's temperature looking for where the pipe feels coldest. Even a small amount of water can help thaw a pipe. If you have any running water, turn on your faucets and completely open the cold-water faucet nearest the frozen pipe to relieve pressure and reduce the chance it might burst. Other things that help are leaving cabinets open if a pipe is inside, wrapping the pipe in warm towels or using a hair dryer or heater. Do not use electrical appliance if there is standing water. If none of these things are successful, you should probably contact a plumber. Also, if you discover a broken pipe, you can cut the water off at the meter and seek professional help.

While we can expect a few short freezes, you can be prepared. And let's hope that we don't have a repeat of last February and that everyone stays safe and warm and dry!

CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Published monthly on 100% recycled paper by the Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA).

For information and to submit articles contact: Chip Harris nlchip@outlook.com 512-458-2488

For advertising information, rates and sizes go to: www.crestviewna.com

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CNA Contact Information

P. O. Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766 www.crestviewna.com CNA General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Crestview United Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow St. Treasurer: joincrestview@gmail.com Twitter: @CNAneiahbors Facebook: CrestviewNeighborhoodAssociation

Neighborhood Email Groups crestview-gardeners@googlegroups.com crestview-parents@googlegroups.com

The more it snows (Tiddely pom)

The more it goes (Tiddely pom)

The more it goes (Tiddely pom)

On snowing

And nobody knows (Tiddely pom)

How cold my toes (Tiddely pom)

How cold my toes (Tiddely pom)

Are growing -

Winnie the Pooh (from The House at Pooh Corner by A. A. Milne)



In Memoriam



Jerry Schmidt

Long term Crestview resident and CNA member Jerry Schmidt passed away on October 31, 2021. Always present at neighborhood meetings, Jerry wore many hats in the Association including newsletter editor, distributor and committee member.

He grew up on the family farm outside the small town of Guide Rock, Nebraska and was active in high school sports including football, basketball and track. After high school, Jerry enlisted in the US Navy and during his eight years of active service, he served on five different submarines and rose to the rank of Petty Officer – 1st Class.

In 1996, Jerry and his wife Diana, who he married in 1973, moved to Austin, Texas where Jerry opened Curio Corner Books, a used, out-of-print bookstore, specializing in Texas history.

Jerry enjoyed attending garage and estate sales, collecting antiques, and reading. He was a very active member at St. Paul Lutheran Church, serving and volunteering in a variety of capacities.

Our condolences to his family and many friends; he will be sorely missed.

Ruth Miller Burks

Another long term Crestview resident, Ruth Miller Burks, died on November 22, 2021. Ruth was born on the family farm near Jarrell, Texas on November 10, 1936. She attended the Nixon-Clay Business College in Austin and while there, met J. Martin Burks who she married in 1956. Together, they bought a new home in the Crestview subdivision in 1960. Ruth was engaged in many volunteer activities ranging from giving blood to helping at Austin Caregivers. She devoted 60 years of volunteering at Redeemer Lutheran Church and spent 18 years working at Redeemer Preschool.

Ruth and J. enjoyed going out to their farm that was their second home and were proud to receive special recognition from the Texas Legislature for the farm being in the same family for over 100 years. Ruth and J. loved taking road trips together, especially their trips to Palo-Duro Canyon for the fourth of July, and many day trips with their antique car club friends. Ruth's energy and commitment were cherished by many.

Jerry Chamkis

Jerry Chamkis, a 36-year Crestview resident and CNA member since 1985, left this life on November 27, 2021.

See In Memoriam, continued on page 5

*********All CNA Memberships Are Due for Renewal for 2022**********

Inless, 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) is 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

| Date: New Member [] Renewing Member [] Household Members (List up to 4):Address: | CINA | Crestview Neighborhood Association PO Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766 www.crestviewna.com | | All residents are invited to join Annual dues are \$10 per household | |
|--|-----------------|--|--------------------|---|--|
| | Date: | New Member [] | Renewing Member [] | | |
| Address: | Household Membe | rs (List up to 4): | | | |
| 1001055 | | | | | |
| Email: Phone: | | | | | |

Masking - We Should All Be Doing It

At the time of this writing, we are already in stage 4 in Travis County and looking at going to Stage 5 at any time. With the new more highly contagious COVID variant, omicron, an encounter that you could have tolerated with delta may well infect you with omicron. Even fully vaccinated individuals are more at risk of contracting COVID with omicron and should be masking in any public setting. Knowing this, it's worth re-examining your masking habits and possibly looking to upgrading the protection you get from your mask.

Because COVID- 19 was a new disease, there was slim evidence early on to either prove or disprove the effectiveness of mask-wearing to slow its spread at the onset of the pandemic. But over 49 studies from around the world have shown that wearing a mask reduces the transmission of the virus to some degree and thus helps slow the spread.

A February 2021 article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that wearing a cloth mask can reduce transmission of exhaled droplets from infected wearers into the air by around 50% to 70%. Additionally, masks were shown to help prevent uninfected wearers from inhaling large respiratory droplets. A high-speed laser-light video experiment in *The New England Journal of Medicine* caused oral fluid droplets to appear as flashes in the light. When observed, between 227 and 347 oral fluid droplets flashed when participants said the words "stay healthy" without a mask. When the same phrase was spoken with a mask, the flash count remained close to background level.

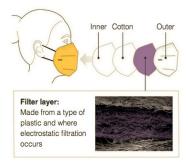
In a June 2020 University of Iowa study, researchers used data analysis and models to measure community spread before and after a mask mandate was enacted. Data found that daily case rates dropped after the mandate. A June 2020 study in *The Lancet* reviewed 172 other studies from 16 countries and found that while different masks offer different effectiveness,

masks overall result in a large reduction in risk of infection.

(To see a summary of all 49 studeis, you can go to https:// www.kxan.com/news/coronavirus/do-face-masks-work-hereare-49-scientific-studies-that-explain-why-they-do/.)

So how can we make sure that when we wear a mask it is most effective? To be beneficial any mask should be thick enough to contain your respiratory droplets and particles and to provide you some protection from particles expelled by others. It should be made of multiple layers of tightly woven, breathable fabric. Your mask should also fit snuggly with no gaps. Masks with a nose wire and adjustable ear loops or head straps can help insure a tight fit. Your mask should be comfortable enough to wear without constant adjustment. A mask that does not constantly cover your nose and mouth or that is frequently pulled down to breath or talk is not effective. If the mask has a good fit, you will feel warm air come through the front of the mask and may be able to see the mask material move in and out with each breath.

What types of masks are the best? The best masks are N95, KN95 and KF94 masks. N95 masks have a denser network of fibers than surgical or cloth masks. That tighter mesh, together with an electrostatic charge in the material, generally makes such masks the



most efficient at trapping larger droplets and aerosols that are exhaled by the wearer. They also better block such particles from being inhaled. Properly fitted, certified N95 masks can filter up to 95% of particles in the air. Don't wear an additional face covering on top of these masks.

See Masking, contined on page 4



Masking, continued from page 3

Less effective because of gaps on the sides are surgical masks, commonly called blue masks because there's usually a blue-tinted color on the outside of the masks. They can be made more effective by placing a cloth mask over the surgical mask, which makes the fit of the face covering more snug. (Officials don't recommend wearing two surgical masks as this can actually make the gaps worse.) One can also purchase a mask fitter or brace that will help prevent air leakage. Another alternative is to use the fold and tuck technique to make them fit more snuggly. (A video with instructions can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzTAZDsNBe0

Because they can be washed and reused and because people find them more atractive, cloth masks are very popular. However, some doctors feel that while they offer some protection, they may not offer adequate protection against omicron when used alone. The most recommended configuration is two layers of tightly woven cotton with a third layer of non-woven fabric. The third layer could be a mask filter insert or a synthetic fabric such as polypropylene.

Some common face coverings offer poor protection. A bandana tied around the face does not work as well as a mask because it is open at the bottom. A gaiter (a tube of thin, stretchy knit fabric that can be worn around the neck and pulled up to cover the nose and mouth) is usually too thin to provide sufficient protection. Likewise, masks with exhalation valves can allow your droplets to escape into the air.

Masking does not alleviate the need to continue to use other safety measures such as getting vaccinated, social distancing and hand washing, but it is a major component in helping to stop the spread of COVID and the development of new variants that may be even worse. Politics and cultural unfamiliarity (studies have shown mask-wearing was lower in countries where face masking to prevent disease was not as common as in others) should not keep one from wearing a mask. Masking is about not only your personal health but about caring about the health of your loved ones and the community at large.

As Dolly Parton said, "Whether you get the shot or not, you need to be mindful. And I don't think it'd kill anybody to wear their mask and to do their social distancing, especially now that we have new variants of the pandemic going around."

Myth Buster:

Myth – The COVID vaccine will make you magnetic.

Fact: There is no scientifice basis for this. The vaccines do not contain any ingredients that could remotely produce an electromagnetic field as they are free from any metals like iron, nickel, cobalt, lithium, and rare earth alloys, as well as any manufactured products such as microelectronics, electrodes, carbon nanotubes, and nanowire semiconductors. In addition, the typical dose for a COVID-19 vaccine is less than a milliliter, which is not enough to allow magnets to be attracted to your vaccination site even if the vaccine was filled with a magnetic metal. Another thing to keep in mind is that many people use coins to "prove" this myth. However with the exception of a steel penny made in 1943, US coins aren't ferromagnetic (aka strongly attracted to a magnet) Though coins are partially made of nickel (which is ferromagnetic), there's not enough in them to work that way. Many people willing regularly put metal into their body in the form of multivitamins and it does not turn them into human magnets as the metals are so diluted and spread out through your body that they don't cause a magnetic effect. Why might magnets or other objects stick to the skin? The oil and sweat on one's skin could be a factor. Or just as some people can balance a spoon on their nose, it is not surprising that some people can balance magnets on their arms.



In Memoriam contined from page 2

Jerry was born on the 6th of June in 1942 in Los Angeles. He served in the US Navy and studied physics at UCSB. He was a radio engineer and assisted in numerous community radio projects. He moved to Crestview in 1985 and opened his house to those who needed, or wanted to, assist in technological and artistic projects. He was married to Andy Carroll who predeceased him.

Always engaged in civic affairs, Jerry was one of the longest serving newsletter distributors in Crestview, covering three streets during his lengthy tenure. And long before cell phones produced video, Jerry was filming neighborhood meetings for the benefit of the group.

Time spent with Jerry was always entertaining and informative as Jerry was knowledgeable and conversant on so many topics. His wit and counsel will be greatly missed.

A celebration of Jerry's life has been scheduled for Saturday, January 15th, from 9 am to 1 pm at Cook-Walden Funeral Home at 6100 N. Lamar

Martha King

Martha King, caretaker of one of the most admired yards in Crestview, left this world on December 2, 2021.

Martha graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1986, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She completed a thirty-year career at UT when she retired as Executive Director of Endowment Services and Compliance in August 2013. She made time to volunteer throughout her life with many organizations, including Meals on Wheels and Project Transitions.

Martha became a Master Gardener in Travis County. Her volunteer hours in that community brought very special friends into her life. She spent long days working in her Crestview garden with her true love and life-long partner Beverly, and loved meeting neighbors who stopped to tell her how much they enjoyed walking by her beautiful yard.

A most special soul, she will be missed by all who crossed her path.

This and That

Time to Register to Vote by Mail

If you live in Travis County and you're 65 or older, now is the time to apply to vote by mail for the elections to be held during calendar year 2022. Annual applications may be submitted starting the first day of a calendar year (January 1) and not later than the 11th day before Election Day. Visit the Travis County Clerk's website: https://countyclerk.

traviscountytx.gov/departments/elections/ballot-by-mail/ to download an application form or call the Clerk's office at 512-854-4996.

You may vote early by-mail if you are registered to vote and meet one of the

- following criteria:65 years of age or older on Election Day
 - Sick or disabled
 - Expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day
 - Away from the county of residence on



residence on

Election Day and during the early voting period

· Confined in jail, but eligible to vote

Thanks For The Memories

A big "Thank You!" to all of the folks who participated in lighting the luminarias along Arroyo Seco this year. The weather was perfect for an evening stroll and the lights made for an awe-inspiring experience.





Jordan Kautz, DVM

Owner, Medical Director

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