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CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2025

AISD Considers Closing Dobie Middle School

Possibly Reassigning Students to Lamar

The Austin Independent School District (AISD) has announced that they may shut down Dobie Middle School located in Northeast Austin this fall because it has failed to meet state standards for three years in a row and said that moving Dobie's 544 students to Lamar Middle School was "one of the possibilities under serious consideration." Lamar has a capacity of 1,000 students and has a current enrollment of 1,100.

AISD Superintendent Matias Segura wrote in a letter to Dobie families saying that if the district temporarily closes Dobie and reassigns students, "Lamar Middle School is the best option given its location, capacity and state accountability rating of a B."

Austin district administrators have predicted that Dobie will again fall short of state academic standards this year, setting the campus on a path to a potential fifth year of failure. When a campus receives five F ratings on the state's A-F letter grade scale that assesses schools and districts, Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath must then either shut down the campus or take over the entire district by replacing the elected school board and, possibly, the superintendent.

Although there are other middle schools closer to Dobie, state law requires that students who are being relocated from a campus with an F rating must go to a school rated either an A or B. Lamar is the closest middle school campus that measures up to that standard.

Preparing Lamar to receive Dobie students would involve adding portable buildings and additional staff members to the campus, Austin school district spokeswoman Cristina Nguyen said.

Reassigning Dobie students will be extremely disruptive to their lives and educational process. Moving the students currently enrolled in Dobie to another campus would mean students who are not used to riding a bus will have to start taking one to campus. Lamar is about 5 miles southwest of Dobie and families would need to cross busy Interstate 35 and Texas 183 to get there.

In the Dobie Turnaround Plan FAQ, AISD outlined three options it must choose from regarding the future of the school:

- Restart the school for the 2025–26 school year in partnership with a charter school approved by the Texas

Education Agency. This would be similar to what has happened at Mendez Middle School with Third Future Schools. The charter school would have the authority to hire all campus staff, including teachers and the principal, and we could not guarantee positions for current staff.

- Permanently close Dobie at the end of the 2024-25 school year and reassign Dobie students to another Austin ISD middle school for the 2025-26 school year.

- Temporarily close Dobie at the end of the 2024-25 school year and develop a plan to

reimagine the school. Current Dobie students would be reassigned to another Austin ISD middle school for the 2025-26 school year and a new school would open at the Dobie campus at a future date.

If the school board decides to temporarily shutter Dobie, it would likely close for two years, Segura said. It would need to reopen as something other than a traditional middle school; for example, it could be reborn as a kindergarten through eighth grade campus, he said.

The Texas Education Agency has issued an extended deadline for Dobie Middle School's federal accountability

See Dobie continued on page 3

CNA Annual Officer Elections

The Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA) will be holding its monthly meeting on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7 pm to elect officers for the coming year. The meeting will be held in the Chapel of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection at 2200 Justin Lane.

Three executive council positions, including President, Vice-President and Treasurer, in addition to the four advisor positions, Place 1 through Place 4, will be up for election. The positions of President and Treasurer will be elected for two-year terms. Elections for the Vice-President and four advisor positions are for a one-year term. The current positions of Secretary and Newsletter Editor, elected in 2024, have a year remaining in their two-year terms.

To be eligible to vote for CNA officers, one must be a paid member at least seven days prior to the election on May 19, meaning that their dues must be paid (or postmarked) by May 11, 2025. (Note: Membership dues are due annually on a calendar year basis.) To be eligible for office, one must be a paid CNA member. To be eligible to run for the President's position, one must have previously served at least one year as a CNA officer.



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

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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
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Chapel
2200 Justin Lane

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Rite II Sundays at 10:30 am



City Plans Crestview Street Maintenance Work

Extensive street maintenance work in Crestview, happening now through October, aims to preserve the integrity of Austin's roads and increase their lifespan.

With a few exceptions, most of the streets in Crestview that are west of the railroad tracks will receive some type of maintenance. The few streets that will not be worked on include Justin, Cullen, St. Johns Circle, Hardy Circle, Pasadena, Grover, Woodrow, Arroyo Seco, Morrow west of Hardy, Richcreek west of St. Phillip and that part of Aggie between Grover and Woodrow. Two street segments, Morrow from Grover to Hardy and Piedmont between Grover and Woodrow are to be repaved. All of the remaining streets that will receive maintenance are to receive sealcoat treatments. (Here's a link to an interactive map showing the streets to receive maintenance work: <https://austin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c82789990c6b4c13b2e8e2313334a13a%20%20>)

Here's what to know about the work:

- The most common treatment is sealcoat, which involves spreading an asphalt-like material atop the street. It's meant to smooth the surface and remove hairline cracks that create potholes. With the exception of a small section of Piedmont between Grover and Woodrow and the stretch of Morrow between Grover and Hardy that are to be repaved, all of the work planned for Crestview will be seal coating.
- If your street is scheduled for a treatment, don't park on the street or your vehicle may be towed to a nearby street. Residents who live along streets identified for sealcoat treatment will receive a notice before scheduled work. These residents will be asked to move vehicles away from streets scheduled for maintenance for two days. Crews will be working from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on weekdays and 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on weekends. If rain is in the forecast, the street will be rescheduled for the next clear workday. Residents may call the Street Resurfacing Hotline at 512-974-9788 for the locations that will be sealcoated the next day.
- Sealcoat treatments may result in loose gravel that settles into the street in four to six weeks.

Sealcoating is one of the more notable treatment types the city uses on streets. According to the city, this is a cost-effective maintenance solution that is applied from April to October each year. The street aging process is slow at first, but after nine to ten years, the process accelerates. Cracks widen and allow more water to enter, creating potholes and patches. Sealcoat is applied to streets to stop the oxidation and slow the cracking. This treatment can substantially extend the life of a street as much as 15 years.

To apply, crews spray an oil mixture on the road then spread and roll the gravel mixture into place. Finally, they sweep up excess gravel, resulting in a smoother surface that eliminates the hairline cracks that lead to potholes.

Streets can be used immediately after treatment, which is typically done in 30 minutes. (Note that some driveways may be closed off during this time.) The first sweeping, however, will not take place for 24 to 36 hours from this time. However, hard braking or turning over newly-sealcoated streets should be avoided, since this can cause an increased amount of small gravel particles to break loose from the road before the treatment cures. Crews will return for additional sweeping of loose gravel if needed. Residents can expect loose gravel to settle in roughly 4-6 weeks.

See Street Maintenance continued on page 3



Because we do not move parked cars during the sweeping phase, there may be some loose gravel left underneath. Additionally, spots may occasionally be missed by sweepers, particularly at intersections or corners. Please call 512-974-8777 if you need Street and Bridge Operations to sweep up any excess gravel left on your street.

Sealcoat is not applied in cul-de-sacs due to sharp turning by vehicles in these areas. Instead, a slurry seal treatment may be applied in cul-de-sacs.

If the asphaltic binder is tracked onto shoes, carpets, or cars, WD-40 will soften the asphalt and allow it to be wiped off (but spot test carpets for color stability). If the material becomes stuck on people or pets, baby oil will dilute the material. If the material is tracked onto a concrete driveway or sidewalk, do not dilute it, as it will soak into the concrete. If a large area is involved, sand blasting can remove the asphalt, but excessive blasting could damage the concrete finish. For smaller areas, it may be better to let the material wear off with normal traffic.

Dobie continued from page 1

plan. The new deadline will be June 30 instead of the previous April 30 date, according to a letter from Segura.

Some parents have asked why the changes seem to have come about so suddenly. The answer is complicated. In the Fall of 2024, Austin ISD was developing a plan as part of an application for a state grant to fund intensive interventions at Dobie. (86.6% of Dobie's students are economically disadvantaged, and 72.1% are English language learners.) AISD believed that these extra funds would allow Dobie to make the necessary gains to avoid the threat of TEA intervention. Unfortunately, the grant was very competitive and was not awarded to Dobie.


At that time, AISD also believed that they would have two years to get Dobie where it needs to be to avoid a TEA intervention, but conversations with TEA indicate otherwise.

In 2018 - 2019, before TEA changed to the "A-F" ratings, Dobie met accountability standards. Then COVID hit. For three years, schools were not rated because of the pandemic. For the next two years, 2022 - 2024, state courts prohibited the release of school ratings because of lawsuits. Under the new rating system, Dobie would have received an "F" for the years 2021- 2024. While there have been improvements during the 2024-2025 school year, it is not expected that they will be enough to receive a "C" or better.

The lawsuits are expected to be settled sometime this spring and it is likely that TEA will be permitted to release the ratings from the last two school years. TEA has indicated that once the lawsuits are settled, districts will immediately be held accountable for their ratings. According to state law, if a school district allows a single school to fail to meet state accountability standards for five years in a row, the TEA has the authority to intervene. This could involve requiring the district to partner with a charter school to run the school, requiring the district to close the school or by appointing a board of managers to run the entire district.

Improvements at Dobie were also part of the 2022 Bond Election with a total project budget of close to \$37 million. The design plans were completed in the winter of 2024.

What does this mean for the bond funds allocated to Dobie? This depends on what option the board votes on for the future of Dobie. The funds could stay at Dobie if the school is restarted with a charter partner or if it is reimagined in the future. If Dobie permanently closes, the funds would be re-allocated to another project to benefit students in the region. According to the districts website, the dollars would follow Dobie students to the extent possible.

**New** **WEEKLY SPECIALS**

MUNCHKIN MONDAY
Enjoy 1/2 off a Kid's meal with the purchase of an adult combo or dinner

POP A TOP TUESDAY
\$2 off Top Pick, Top Special, Top Dog sandwiches and canned beer

WING IT WEDNESDAY
\$2 off Two Piece Fried Chicken Dinners

TASTY TREAT THURSDAY
\$1 off All Shakes and Fried Pies

FRIDAY FAMILY MEAL NIGHT
12 piece Mixed Fried Chicken dinner with 2 Family Size Mashed Potatoes & 2 Family Size Coleslaw

CHICKEN FRIED WEEKEND
Enjoy Chicken Fried Steak & Chicken Fried Chicken Dinners and Sandwiches on the weekend!

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May Is Older Americans Month

Older Americans Month is an annual observance held every May, led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), to recognize the contributions of older adults, highlight aging trends, and reaffirm commitments to serving this population. It's a time to celebrate the diverse experiences of older Americans and promote positive perceptions of aging. It was established in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy and was first called Senior Citizens Month. In 1965 the observance was officially renamed Older Americans Month.



When the observance was first established, about 17 million Americans were 65 and over. As of the year 2020, that number had grown to over 52 million, and is expected to grow to approximately 95 million by 2060. As Austin's community of older adults continues to increase, we as a city are committed to recognizing and celebrating our older population. Through dedicated efforts and partnerships, we continue to work toward making the lives of our older adult community as fulfilling and satisfying as possible.

Each year the ACL establishes a theme for the observance. The theme for 2025 is "Flip the Script on Aging" and focuses on changing the way society views, talks about, and approaches aging. And, it encourages individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and misconceptions around aging.

The City of Austin's Austin Senior Services Hub website provides access to essential resources for Austin seniors, including affordable senior healthcare, home repair

assistance, food pantry services, reliable senior transportation, and engaging senior living activities. The aim is to connect seniors with trusted services, including senior healthcare resources, making it easier to find the support needed, whether it's fixing a home, finding a ride, or joining community events.

The Austin Senior Services Hub website is <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/austin-senior-services-hub>. If you'd like to sign up for the Age-Friendly Austin Quarterly Newsletter, email agefriendlyaustin@austintexas.gov.

Summer Reading Programs

Looking for something to motivate your youngsters to read over the summer? Check out these programs to incentivise them. You can do one or both!

- **Austin Public Library Summer Reading Program**

APL challenges you to read or be read to at least 20 minutes a day from June 1- August 10 and complete three activity badges! Libraries have a list of badge activities. Open to all ages. Children can earn a free book and adults a free mug. (While supplies last.)

- **Texas State Library and Archives**

- June 2 - August 11. Sign up at

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/summerreadingprogram>

Review books throughout the summer for a chance to win a fantastic prize. There will be a kickoff party and live author talks.



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In Memoriam

Charles Woodrow Ayers

Longtime Crestview resident and Austin native Charles Ayres died peacefully on July 19, 2024, at 93.

Charles is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Ayres; and son, Charley Ayres. He was preceded in death by his youngest son, David Russell Ayres.

Charles was born on October 25, 1929. He graduated from Austin High School. Charles began working for the University of Texas in the printing division. In 1951, he married Jo Ann and over the next 8 years, the couple welcomed 2 children into their home.

Charles was an active and devout member of the Crestview Baptist Church in Austin.

Our condolences to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

Connie J. Holt

Connie Holt was born on December 13, 1947 in Liberal, Kansas and died peacefully on March 22, 2025 in Austin, Texas. Connie attended dental school in Kansas City, Kansas, then moved to Odessa, Texas where she met her true love. In 1972, they both decided to move to Austin where she worked as a dental assistant and soon became a dental technician. She later retired after 25 years at Wal-Mart.

Connie loved her dogs and cats and now she can reunite with her dogs, Toby and Jack, who died two weeks before her. She was known for her tremendous generosity towards people and animals. Connie never hesitated to help a person in need and never expected anything in return. She



once drove to New Orleans to make a donation to Pit Bulls and Parolees and to thank those who took care of the dogs.

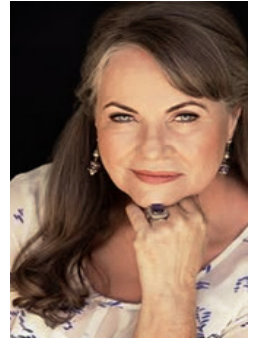
Her farthest travel was to Australia where she overcame her fear of heights by climbing Uluru (Ayers) Rock. Connie's favorite travel destination was Vegas where she kept the slot machines busy and enjoyed the shows. Connie is predeceased by her parents. She is survived by her lifelong partner for over 52 years, Josie Rodriguez, and extended family and many more friends.


Mona Lee Fultz

Actress, Brentwood resident and Crestview business owner Mona Lee Fultz passed away on March 31, 2025.


She was a graduate of the University of Texas, Austin, and Juilliard School in New York City. She was a character actor in various films and TV movies since the late 1970s, having acted in over 53 feature films, and her most recent film has not yet been released. Her first "Mom" role was co-starring as the mother of star Christian Slater in the popular teen cult movie, *The Legend of Billie Jean*. She also played Mitch's ear-pulling mom in *Dazed and Confused*.


In addition, she was in many commercials such as Coca Cola, Chevy's Coming Home series launching Chevy's new electric hybrid vehicles and ESPN's promotions for the Longhorn Network. She also served in the USO and the SAG-AFTRA union. Her acting studio, "BriteLites Acting Studio," was one of the first in Austin and found its lasting home in Crestview Shopping Center in the 1990s. She coached actors all around the country for over 30 years while still acting herself. She leaves behind many admiring fans, devoted students and a community that will miss her deeply.



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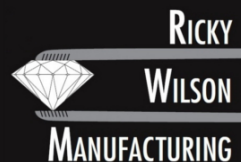
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