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CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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JULY 2025

APD District Representative to Speak at July CNA Meeting

The Crestview Neighborhood Association will hold its July general membership meeting on Monday, July 21st, 2025, at 7 pm in the Chapel of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection at 2200 Justin Ln. *(Note: The meeting is being held on the third Monday this month, a week later than usual.)*

Senior Austin Police Officer Angela Coleman will be attending the meeting and will discuss the special role of the District Representative in the Austin Police Department (APD). In addition, she will talk about current issues of concern in Crestview and will answer questions from attendees. Meetings with Senior Officer Coleman are always interesting and informative given her wealth of knowledge and communication skills.



Please come with your questions and share your concerns about our neighborhood. Below is a description of the role and responsibilities of the District Representative.

The District Representative Program serves as a liaison between neighborhood communities and the police department's regional commands.

A police officer is assigned to specific districts within an area command to assist the community in solving neighborhood problems and facilitating open communication and partnerships. In 2011, the Department re-aligned bureaus, geographic boundaries, and personnel allocation to address Austin's ever-changing dynamic and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service. The area command in which you reside has its own team of District Representatives.

The District Representatives are called upon to do a myriad of activities, which include, but are not limited to, enhancing patrol efforts, attending neighborhood association meetings to provide input or answers, attending school functions to educate children about safety and crime prevention, assisting the community in solving non-emergency problems and helping the community become self-reliant. All district representatives are patrol officers who augment patrol and crime prevention activities, as well as respond to natural and man-made emergencies in support of patrol operations.

Community involvement includes:

- Neighborhood Watch programs
- Neighborhood Associations
- Business Associations
- Schools, PTAs, and civic groups
- Citizens On Patrol (COPs)
- Apartment Residents On Watch (AROW)
- Filling gaps between patrol services and community need

Urban decay prevention:

- Graffiti
- Abandoned residences and buildings
- Code Enforcement violations
- Illegal dumping

Celebratory Gunfire and Fireworks

Problem-Solving:

- Habitual and high-demand complainants'
- City representative complaints

Results for CNA Annual Officer Elections

Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA) officer elections were held at the May 19th meeting of the Association with the following results:

President: Lourdes Jones

Vice-President: Don Tucker

Treasurer: Nancy Harris

Advisor Positions:

Place 1: Debbi Warren

Place 2: Stacey Young

Place 3: Helen Kelley

Place 4: Jane Zion

A big thanks to the retiring officers for their years of service! They include Vice-President Anne-Charlotte Patterson, Advisor, Greg Smith and Advisor Roland Rodriguez.

And thanks to everyone who participated in the elections. Congratulations to the candidates that won. Welcome new officers and returning officers.

(Note: The positions of Secretary and Newsletter Editor were not on the ballot this year because elections for those officers' two-year terms are held on even numbered years.)



CRESTVIEW

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NEWSLETTER

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VICE PRESIDENT	Don Tucker
SECRETARY	Steve Kuehner
TREASURER	Nancy Harris
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Chip Harris
Place 1	Debbi Warren
Place 2	Stacey Young
Place 3	Helen Kelley
Place 4	Jane Zion

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

Treasurer: joincestview@gmail.com

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Austin ISD Trustees Approved Plan to Improve Failing Schools.

In June, the Austin ISD school board voted to approve a proposal to improve three middle schools that have received consecutive failing grades from the state. The ratings are primarily based on how students perform on state standardized tests. The overwhelming majority of students at all three middle schools are considered economically disadvantaged. STAAR results released in June show Austin ISD is struggling to close the achievement gap between students from low-income and wealthier households.

Additionally a majority of students at Burnet, Dobie and Webb are considered emergent bilingual, meaning they are fluent in one language and learning English. Starting in sixth grade, STAAR tests are offered only in English.

To avoid a similar fate to Houston ISD, Austin had several options, which included closing the campuses or partnering with a charter school to run them.

In the face of public outcry to keep the schools open, administrators opted to pursue a district-managed restart, basically meaning they came up with a plan to overhaul the schools and invest additional resources in them.

Austin ISD's chief of governmental relations, Jacob Reach, told trustees why the district pursued this option. "It is aligned with the request that we keep these campuses open," he said, "that we believe in these campuses and support them and operate them as a district campus."

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) must approve the plan and has until July 18 to say whether it has accepted the turnaround plans as is or if Austin ISD needs to make any changes. The proposal Austin ISD is submitting still allows it to partner with a charter school to run the campuses if needed.

The restart plans are based on the Accelerating Campus Excellence, or ACE, model, which requires major changes to staffing, the school day and an infusion of resources that range from offering more mental health services to providing students three meals a day. According to a 2023 annual TEA report, more than 40 schools statewide were using this model.

Here's a look at the model Austin ISD is following to try to improve schools.

The ACE model requires a lot of resources

The restart plan Austin ISD has proposed is going to cost an estimated \$1.7 million per campus — all while the district is slashing spending elsewhere to dig its way out of a \$93 million budget deficit. Andrew Hodge, the TEA's associate commissioner of system innovation, said the ACE model is resource-intensive. "It is sending what we know works in schools to those schools. And so that is the best teachers, that is more time, that is wraparound services for students and it's really engaging with community [and] ensuring that the campus is delivering on what the community wants," he said.

Chris DeWitt, director of the TEA's division of system support, said while the model has proved to improve student outcomes, the resources it requires mean districts have to be strategic when implementing it. "It's not a play you can call at every campus in the district across the board," he said. "It needs to be really targeted to your highest need campuses to rapidly improve those outcomes."

The lion's share of that \$1.7 million will go toward staff compensation, including stipends to attract and retain teachers. The restart plans require teachers at Burnet, Dobie and Webb to meet certain criteria in order to work at the middle schools. "What we know from research is that the number one most important in-school factor in kids' learning is the quality of the teacher in the classroom," Hodge said.

According to Austin ISD, 68% of teaching staff at Burnet were invited to return because they met the plan's criteria. At Dobie, the figure was 32%; and for Webb, it was 57%. This turnover prompted students at all three middle schools to stage walkouts in support of their teachers.

Hodge said while the ACE model is based on tried and true practices for improving student outcomes — like hiring more experienced teachers — it's crucial to engage the community in these changes. "No school improvement effort,

See Schools continued on page 3

no school redesign effort, no school transformation effort will ever go, in our experience, incredibly successfully if you don't start day one alongside with the community," he said.

Has the ACE model improved student performance?

Courtney Isaak Pichon, the chief partnerships officer with Good Reason Houston, has seen firsthand how the implementation of the ACE model can bolster student performance. Her group works with school districts in the Houston area to improve student outcomes. She said the ACE model is the cornerstone of the strategy to do that. "My headline for you is ACE works," she said. "The data shows it, and we need to scale these best practices so that more schools and more students benefit across the state."

Good Reason Houston has worked with Aldine ISD to implement the ACE model at two elementary schools. Isaak Pichon said when her group compared student performance at those two schools with 10 of the most similar campuses across Texas, students at the ACE campuses had higher student achievement and growth. She added that Black students, emergent bilingual students and students receiving special education services at Aldine ACE campuses also had better academic outcomes than at other schools in the district. "When you boil it all down, ACE is really just about having better talent and better instruction for students in underperforming schools," she said. "Better talent means that districts' strongest teachers and leaders are in front of students that need them the most."

Austin ISD officials said Aldine ISD is one of the districts they looked at when working on turnaround plans based on the ACE model.

Will the better results last?

While research has shown student achievement can improve quickly at campuses that use this model, test scores often fall back when the investment of additional resources ends. Hodge said a study of ACE within Dallas ISD found when the staff stipends were eliminated, it had an impact. "A bunch of those highly effective teachers left and the test scores did fall," he said.

Hodge said it's important for districts to figure out how they can continue to provide resources to these campuses to sustain their success.

David DeMatthews, a professor in the UT Austin College of Education, said the ACE model is just a temporary fix if there aren't broader investments to increase teacher quality. "In some ways, you're just robbing Peter to pay Paul. You're pulling out effective teachers from other parts of the school district and you're moving them into the school with the greatest need," he said. "You're not necessarily creating and retaining more effective teachers across the district."

DeMatthews also said while the model may give an immediate bump to student test scores, that's not the be-all and end-all. "One thing that worries me with the model is that Austin ISD is in hot water, maybe because they haven't been paying as close attention to some of these schools as they should," he said. "And now we're going to implement a model that heavily prioritizes student achievement on standardized tests to get out of hot water, but that's not necessarily what students need most from their teachers or from their school."

While Austin ISD officials have expressed confidence that this model will improve student performance at the middle schools, they do have a backup plan. If test scores aren't where they need to be to avoid a fifth failing grade from the state, Austin ISD could decide in December to partner with charter schools to run the campuses.

(Editor's Note: KUT News is the source for this article.)

TOP NOTCH *New* **WEEKLY SPECIALS**

<p>MUNCHKIN MONDAY Enjoy 1/2 off a Kid's meal with the purchase of an adult combo or dinner</p> <p>POP A TOP TUESDAY \$2 off Top Pick, Top Special, Top Dog sandwiches and canned beer</p> <p>WING IT WEDNESDAY \$2 off Two Piece Fried Chicken Dinners</p>	<p>TASTY TREAT THURSDAY \$1 off All Shakes and Fried Pies</p> <p>FRIDAY FAMILY MEAL NIGHT 12 piece Mixed Fried Chicken dinner with 2 Family Size Mashed Potatoes & 2 Family Size Coleslaw</p> <p>CHICKEN FRIED WEEKEND Enjoy Chicken Fried Steak & Chicken Fried Chicken Dinners and Sandwiches on the weekend!</p>
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Texas Legislature Passes Bills To Aid Developers

The Texas Legislature passed several bills this session cutting local regulations to allow more homes to be built while also giving cities greater flexibility to pursue policies that boost housing construction. Texas legislators overrode city zoning rules to allow smaller homes on smaller lots in some places and apartments and mixed-use developments along retail and commercial corridors in Texas' largest cities. They also dramatically weakened petition rights that give surrounding homeowners a voice in how development will occur in their community.



Under current law, if a developer seeks to rezone a property to build homes and 20% of neighboring landowners object, the city council can only approve the rezoning by a supermajority vote. In Austin, that supermajority vote requires nine votes of the eleven-member City Council, three more than a simple majority of six vote. House Bill 24 by state representative Angela Orr, raises the petition threshold for objecting property owners to 60%. Even if neighbors meet that mark, the city council would only need a simple majority to approve the rezoning.

Senate Bill 15 by state Senator Paul Bettencourt will allow houses to be built on smaller lots. The bill prohibits major cities from requiring homes built in new subdivisions to sit on a lot larger than 3,000 square feet. As passed, the bill doesn't apply to existing neighborhoods and new subdivisions built

under the bill's standards must sit on at least five acres of land.

Senate Bill 840 by state Senator Bryan Hughes will allow apartments and mixed-use developments in more places. The legislation allows owners of lagging shopping malls, strip centers, offices and warehouses to convert those properties into residential housing but it doesn't allow for residential uses on land that has heavy industrial uses or is located close to heavy industrial sites or military bases.

The legislators also passed bills intended to make it easier to convert vacant office buildings into residences, compel cities to allow manufactured houses and enable cities to adopt building codes that effectively allow smaller apartment buildings. In addition, they eased rules in college towns that say how many unrelated adults can live in a home.

In Memoriam

Jackie Goodman

By Jo Clifton, Austin Monitor

Jackie Goodman, 79, who served on the Austin City Council for 12 years starting in 1993, passed away on Tuesday, June 3. She had been hospitalized but had come home before her death. She served as Mayor Pro Tem for several years starting in 1998. She is survived by her sisters, Janis Morgan of Austin and Joann Morgan and nephew Chris Freid of Washington state.



Goodman, who was selected for Austin's 2016 Women's Hall of Fame, is remembered for her dedication to the environment, civil liberties and advocating for the less

See Goodman continued on page 5

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Goodman continued from page 4

fortunate in the community.

Before her election to City Council, Goodman served on the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board. After leaving the Council in 2005, Goodman continued her service to the city through various community groups, including 30 years as a board member of the Save Barton Creek Association.

“Jackie was an institution in her own way,” Travis County Commissioner Brigid Shea told the *Austin Monitor*. “I served with her for my one term on the City Council, and she was an indispensable source of knowledge and wisdom about zoning especially, and so many other issues. Because of her experience on the Planning Commission, she had deep knowledge of the city’s cryptic zoning process, and I relied on her to understand it. Beyond that, she was incredibly sweet and kind and loyal. She had a deep commitment and passion for protecting Barton Creek, Barton Springs and the environment in general. She devoted her life to that purpose.

“I remember her and her late husband, Jack, in lively debates and discussions, as a group of us formed (the Save Our Springs Alliance) through the summer of 1991. The community owes her and Jack a deep debt of gratitude for their enormous work to protect and preserve our beautiful environment,” she continued.

Jack Goodman, also a strong environmentalist, died in 2022. He and Jackie moved in Austin from El Paso in the late 1960s. Jack served on the board of the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District for 22 years.

“I am saddened to hear of the passing of former Mayor Pro Tem and Council Member Jackie Goodman,” Mayor Kirk Watson said via email. “Jackie and I served together during my first stint as mayor. More important, she was a friend and advisor. She was great to work with, and I always appreciated her heart for public service as well as her commitment to

environmental conservation. She made a difference in the city she loved.”

Political advisor and friend Alfred Stanley told the *Monitor*, “Because of Jackie’s soft-spoken, gentle demeanor, many underestimated her. Yet through patience, knowledge, and her unflappable good nature, Jackie proved to be a great negotiator — always seeking a win-win that would maximize protection for neighborhoods and the environment. Time and again, she achieved more than others thought possible.”

Former Travis County Commissioner Karen Sonleitner remembered Goodman fondly. She said, “This truly is the end of an era. Jackie was elected under the old at-large system and her brand was synonymous with standing up for neighborhoods. But not just hers in South Austin. Everyone’s neighborhoods. She put her stamp on parks, saving the environment and childcare issues.”

“My time as Travis County Commissioner overlapped with Jackie’s service on the Council,” she continued. “I could always count on her to press for city/county cooperation. Jackie was part of a ground-breaking trip to Washington DC, trying off-budget cycle to secure federal funds to purchase land for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP), when we were scrambling as a community for resources. Our united coalition of Democratic and Republican elected officials, landowners and representatives from the business community made our case to 14 key legislative offices over 2 days. It was a success, breaking the logjam on federal grant funds for the BCP. That’s an important part of her legacy. And, she was just fun to be around.”

Her sister Janis said Jackie did not want a funeral to mark her passing. However, she added that someone from the Open Door Preschool, where Jackie worked at one time, might be planning an event. This story will be updated when we get more information.

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