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CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 2025

Crestview Goes Wild

For CNA's guest speaker at the Thursday September 18 meeting, we have rescheduled City of Austin Wildlife Officer Emery Sadkin from the February meeting. Emery has a degree in Wildlife Biology from Texas Tech University and has been a Wildlife Officer for the City of Austin for six years.

Please join us in what promises to be an interesting and informative meeting about wildlife in an urban setting. And bring your questions – whether you currently have a wildlife habitat, you're interested in creating a wildlife habitat or if you want to know how to deal with unwanted wildlife in your yard. Or if you're currently in high school and want to know what a career in wildlife biology entails.

Meeting Details:

When: Thursday, September 18th at 7 pm

Where: Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Chapel, 2200 Justin Lane (Note: To accommodate our speaker, the meeting is on Thursday and not the usual second Monday.)

City of Austin Wildlife Program History

In March 2007, the City of Austin passed a council resolution to obtain National Wildlife Federation (NWF) community level certification. On March 12, 2009 Austin realized that goal and was recognized as a certified community during the Community Wildlife Habitat Certification Ceremony. To date, the City of Austin has 2,154 certified wildlife habitats.

The Community Wildlife Habitat project is part of the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat™ program. These projects benefit the entire community through education, outreach and promoting the use of native plants and landscaping to develop natural habitats that attract wildlife and birds, use little or no fertilizer and require modest watering.

Though the program started with the Community Wildlife Habitat effort, our city continues to demonstrate national leadership with our continued commitment to keeping Austin wild. Since 2007, Austin has obtained many other wildlife-related certifications. In 2021, Austin was the first city in Texas to take the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge in support of Monarch conservation. In 2022, Austin became a Bee City USA affiliate to support native bee conservation. In 2023, Austin was recognized as an official Bird City by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Audubon Texas for efforts in bird conservation. Austin truly is a community that recognizes the value of wildlife!



City of Austin Unveils New Logo to Mixed Reactions

Austin City Manager T.C. Broadnax unveiled a new brand logo for the city, which he said is the first in the city's history to unify the city and its services. He said that currently, the city has over 300 logos representing different departments, services and programs, which can lead to confusion for the public, which can "dilute trust

in the services we provide and create inefficiencies in how we do business."

The whole total project cost is an estimated \$1,117,558. Including \$640,000 for brand vendors, \$115,000 for public awareness campaign, \$75,582 to consolidate city-wide design software. and \$186,976 for support staff and legal counsel. The city did not provide estimates of the additional costs associated with implementing the logo but it could cost millions of dollars to provide such things as new uniforms, repaint city vehicles, stationary, etc. The city says the rollout begins Oct. 1, starting with digital platforms including websites and newsletters. Other city services will gradually adopt the new branding over time. Police, fire, and EMS uniforms will not change.

Reaction to logo was mixed with some folks liking the look and others appalled at the costs, especially given that the city is in a budget crisis. (We lost the city owned used bookstore, Recycled Reads, in order to save \$107,000 in the new budget.) The new logo is turning heads in Dallas where residents noted its similarities to the Dallas "D" logo. Austin's new logo features a nearly identical blue and green color scheme and a similar modern look. Dallas Mayor Armin Mizani posted on X: "Austin spent \$1.1M on their new logo and all the consultants did was Chat GPT the Dallas logo."

Makenzie Kelly, a former District 6 City Council Member, posted on social media a link to a petition calling to get rid of the city logo. She wrote in the post, "As a lifelong Austinite and former City Council Member, I believe our identity should reflect our voices. I started this petition because \$1.1M on a logo without public input isn't right." The petition goes on to call for the city council to put the logo design to a citywide vote, and pause the rollout of the new logo. Given that Austin prides itself on diversity, it is interesting that city leaders want to homogenize the various interesting and unique logos of the different city departments.

If you are interested in signing the petition the link is: <https://www.change.org/p/let-austinites-decide-stop-the-1-1m-city-logo-change>

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NEWSLETTER

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CNA General Meetings are held the second
Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at the
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How to Stop Your Dog From Pulling on Their Leash, According to a Trainer

by Alexia Kontolemos

The sight of an owner being dragged by a dog on a leash is one we've all seen: the person leaning backwards and gripping a taut leash, trying to slow down their overly excited pet. Most dogs love their walks and are naturally curious about their surroundings. Here are a few tricks to try to stop your dog from pulling on their leash.

Walking on a leash is an unnatural behavior for dogs. "The leash is a human tool that dogs don't have any concept of when they come to us," says Sam Mountain, owner and professional dog trainer. "Off-leash, they walk in a very different way, rather than in a straight line down a sidewalk tethered to a human. It's not natural to them at all. We need to teach them."

Different breeds may pull for different reasons. A scent hound like a beagle might pull because they lock in a smell and get the urge to follow it. The dog's size also makes a difference when it comes to leash pulling: "Consider two extremes: a Chihuahua, for example, has to trot to keep up with the human pace, but with a large breed like a Great Dane, their natural gait will be faster and longer. There is some frustration that kicks in for larger breeds—we are expecting them to walk at a much slower pace than what is natural for them," Mountain explains.

Fortunately, there are ways to stop your pup from turning their daily stroll into a battle of strength. These simple techniques will let you enjoy leisurely walks with your dog that balance human expectations with your pet's need for sensory enrichment and exploration.

One technique is to stop in your tracks as soon as you feel your dog pulling on the leash. Don't move until they create slack on the leash. "This puts the responsibility on the dog to figure out how to get you to walk forward again," Mountain says. "They may sit, take a step back, or look at you. As soon as the leash tension is loose, you walk forward again." The dog soon learns that when they feel pressure caused by the tugging on the collar or harness, they will not be able to move forward.

Another technique Mountain suggests is to change directions and go the other way as soon as your dog reaches the "danger zone" at the end of their leash. By changing direction when they begin to tug at the leash, dogs learn that pulling toward something actually gets them taken the other way. When they do come back beside you again on a slack leash, it creates an opportunity to reward your dog with a treat.

Teaching your dog to engage or check in with you regularly is a big part of any leash training. "We need to be able to get engagement from our dogs, especially in environments where their attention is pulled elsewhere. Your dog has to be able to focus," Mountain says. "Anytime your dog offers you attention while out on a walk, say 'yes', and give them a treat." If they're rewarded for unrequested attention, they'll likely continue to do it more often; this creates the engagement that's really important for any type of training.

Make sure you don't reward any type of leash tugging. "Every step taken behind a dog that is pulling is rewarding that behavior. We are teaching them to pull on the leash. If they spot their favorite bush and they drag you over there, it's going to continue to happen. They got rewarded," Mountain explains. As with most dog training, consistency is key. If you don't expect the same behavior on every walk, the message gets confusing for your dog.

Pre-exercising your dog before trying to apply loose-leash training techniques is also a good idea, especially if you have a very excitable animal. Before your walk,



See *Leash* continued on page 3

Friends of Brentwood Park Donation Request

Friends of Brentwood Park (FOBP) is gearing up for the next It's My Park Day (IMPD) on Saturday, November 1st. Over the past few IMPDs, the city of Austin has scaled back on the availability of their loaner tools for the event. Please consider donating to FOBP so that they can purchase some tools dedicated for use at Brentwood Park. These tools will be labeled and stored at FOBP members' homes and brought out for each IMPD.

List of tools to be purchased:

- 5 shovels
- 5 rakes
- 5 pitchforks

Violet Crown Community Works (VCCW) will be collecting these donations on behalf of FOBP and then transferring the funds to FOBP to purchase the tools. To donate, go to the new FOBP website at <https://fobp.info/get-involved> and click on the "Donate on Behalf of FOBP" button. This will take you to the VCCW website where you can use the pay button to donate. Be sure to earmark your donation for FOBP.

Thank you for your generosity!



Older Adults Quality of Life Survey

Join the Quality of Life Study on Aging Conversation! In 2024, the City of Austin's Office of Equity and Inclusion and Commission on Aging launched the first ever Quality of Life Study on Aging. This work is supported by the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community and Cortez Consulting.

During the first phase of engagement, the team met with over 250 older adults and caregivers in small groups to learn of their experiences living and growing older in Austin. We are excited to support the next phase of the project, which involves the launch of a newly designed "Quality of Life Survey" and includes the topics heard from older adults during the first phase of the project.

We invite all older adults, 50 years and older, living in our community to join the conversation! The team has designed a new tool that gets to the heart of key topics and should take you no more than 5-7 minutes to complete. Please visit <https://bit.ly/joinQOL>. The survey will be available until September 19.

Leash continued from page 2

let them run in a fenced-in backyard or engage in another type of vigorous play followed by a short rest period—your dog will then be able to focus better on the training.

If you find you are not getting anywhere with the techniques you try on your own, seek help from a professional dog trainer. They'll be able to pinpoint the distractions in your pet's environment that are playing a part in the behavior and suggest some tweaks to make going for walks enjoyable for both you and your dog.

(Note: This post originally appeared on Mental Floss published August 2, 2023.)

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

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Burnet Road Business Burglaries

Austin police have been investigating a string of burglaries of businesses around Austin over the past several weeks. According to an affidavit, the burglaries started around July 25, 2025 and continued for weeks. The report states that the “burglaries include, but are not limited to Austin businesses such as East Side Pies, Vi Cafe and Pedrosa’s Pizza.” The list though is much longer according to the affidavit that says it is believed the same suspects have been involved in more than fifteen burglaries of buildings.

The owner of East Side Pies said that the burglars stole company safes and had robbed two of their locations the same night. The affidavit states that three of the most recent burglaries took place at Ricks’s Cleaners on Burnet Rd, Bird’s Barber Shop on Burnet Rd and Betsy’s Billiards on William Cannon Dr.

According to the Austin Police Department, there are additional cases connected and the investigation is ongoing.

National Night Out - October 7th

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that fosters positive relationships and communication between community members and police. During the event, residents in neighborhoods throughout Austin and across the nation are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors and representatives from various city services such as police and EMS personnel. This year National Night Out is Tuesday, October 7. To request a visit to your event by city representatives (this must be done by September 28) or for information visit <https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/national-night-out>.



New State Law Alters Land Use on Commercial Property

By Community Not Commodity

SB840, a new state law that went into effect on September 1, 2025, dramatically alters land use on commercial property in Austin. It allows residential development—including multifamily and mixed-use—on properties zoned for office, commercial, retail, or warehouse use without a zoning change or a public hearing.

According to the city, multifamily and mixed-use residential developments in commercial zones will be allowed to:

1. Reach a minimum height of 45 feet or the height that applies to commercial uses for the site.
2. Reach a density of up to 54 units per acre.
3. Include setbacks that are 25 feet or those imposed on commercial uses, whichever is less.
4. Develop an unlimited floor-to-area ratio (FAR).

This will allow automatic height increases in Neighborhood and Limited Office zoning (NO & LO) and Neighborhood Commercial (LR) with residential redevelopment. These are currently limited to 2 and 3 stories.

It also allows the conversion of non-residential buildings and prohibits traffic impact analysis, fees for traffic improvements, and impact fees. Additionally, it restricts utility improvements to those necessary for serving the proposed converted building.

The biggest impacts will be on large commercial or office tracts that do not already have mixed-use zoning, as well as small office and retail spaces located within existing neighborhoods.

By eliminating zoning hearings and traffic impact studies, SB 840 removes consideration of the compatibility of the project with the surrounding or nearby neighborhood.

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Austin Wildlife Rescue Looking For New Home

After 25 years tucked in a wooded area off MLK Boulevard and U.S. 183, Austin Wildlife Rescue's central intake center is preparing to vacate its longtime location. "As of this November, the lease that we have does expire," Executive Director Jules Marin said.

The site, currently leased from Travis Audubon for just \$1 per year, has provided critical access for the Austin public to bring in injured or orphaned wildlife. The center is expected to handle approximately 10,000 animals this year, including native species like Carolina wrens and screech owls.

Marin confirmed the organization is actively seeking a new location and acknowledged the difficulty of finding affordable alternatives.

Even with an uncertain future, operations continue. In a back room, staff treated a baby raccoon with a flea bath and deworming medication. A fledgling screech owl vocalized from a crate at the front of the building.

While the organization's rehabilitation facility in Elgin remains operational, Marin said it is not a viable replacement for the central intake center due to its distance from Austin.

"Veterinary zoning is going to be the most important thing," Marin said. "Veterinary zoning is what allows us to take in wildlife, whether or not we practice veterinary care at the intake location."

Those interested in helping find a new location can contact the intake center at 512-472-9453 or email jules@austinwildliferescue.org. (From a KEYE News story)



In Memorium

Charlene Zimmerman

Charlene Marcella Zimmermann, age 86, a retired teacher at Brentwood Elementary, passed away Sunday, June 29, 2025, in Austin, Texas. Born on October 30, 1938, in Schulenburg, Texas, she was the beloved daughter of Charlie Frank Zimmermann and Judith Anne Veselka Zimmermann.



At the age of 13, Charlene moved with her family to Austin, where they opened Zimmermann Texaco on Guadalupe Street. She graduated as valedictorian of McCallum High School in 1956 and earned her degree in Education from the University of Texas at Austin in 1959. At UT she was a member of Epsilon Kappa chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. She had a deep calling to teach which blossomed into a 39-year career at Brentwood Elementary, where she nurtured generations of young learners with skill, patience, and creativity.

Charlene was not just a teacher in the classroom, she was a teacher in life. When not working at school or helping at the family's Texaco station, she poured love into every act of service, especially through her cooking. Her homemade kolaches, strudel, cookies, and divinity became treasured gifts for family, friends, and neighbors. Her artistic talents showed up everywhere from meticulously cut bulletin board letters to hand-painted lunch boxes and lovingly crafted Christmas ornaments.

Charlene's kindness, strength, and deep love touched countless lives: her family, her Brentwood students and colleagues, the society of key women educators, her church community, and her neighbors. She will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

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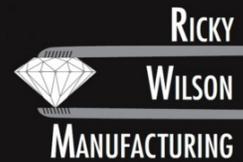
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