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# CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2026

## Join our January CNA Meeting to Bring Crestview History to Life!

On Monday, January 12, at 6:30 pm (note the earlier meeting time), Brentwood residents Lauren Cook, Melanie Muenchinger and Jean Graham will bring Crestview/Brentwood neighborhood history to life through storytelling and community engagement. Have you wondered about the black-and-white pig leaping across the mosaic mural of Welcome Wall on Woodrow Avenue? Or perhaps seen the pig puppet at the Violet Crown Festival? This pig has a story of its own, and it is about more than a cute farm animal. Come learn about Domino, share your stories, and be reminded of the importance of community connections, public art, and fun celebration.

Lauren Cook is a writer, strategist, storyteller, and above all, a believer in the power of connecting. She is a two-time graduate from the University of Texas at Austin, with a



Author Lauren Cook



bachelor's in English and a master's in Spanish. A working mom, Lauren tries to appreciate her very full life with a public school teacher husband, two kids, a kitten, and a puppy.

Lauren self-published *Domino's Dots: How an Austin Neighborhood Legend Connects Us All* in late 2023, a children's book about the

value of community connections. It was inspired by a bell hooks quote: "The love we make in community stays with us wherever we go."

*Domino's Dots* illustrator Melanie Muenchinger will also be on hand to talk about the illustration process. Melanie is an artist, painter and writer based in Austin since 1991. She has created nearly 50 stamp sets, and her work has been featured in CardMaker and Crafts 'n Things magazines.

Jean Graham is the author of *Grassroots and Violet Crowns: A Neighborhood Story*. The book tells the story of how



Melanie Muenchinger, Illustrator

long-time residents, new transplants to the area, and children engaged in the creative process – bringing to life the shared history of the Brentwood and Crestview neighborhoods. Their enthusiastic response and collaborative efforts over a five-year period (2003-2008) fueled the funding and completion of an enduring artwork.

Jean will share how neighborhood residents and local icons inspired her public art installations like the Welcome Wall, the Domino puppet, and the Brentwood Elementary mosaic crane wall. Lauren's story picks up where Jean's art leaves off with the retelling of the story of Domino the mythical, renegade pig, a Crestview legend who roamed the neighborhood streets in the early 2000's.

Please bring your children to the meeting for the reading of Lauren's children's book, *Domino's Dots*. We hope neighbors will share their own memories of Domino, Jean's art, and other neighborhood stories as we appreciate our rich history together, inspiring our children to carry our stories into the future.

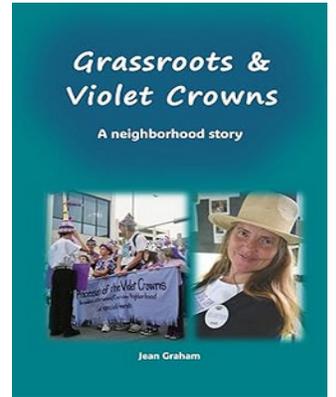
### Meeting Details:

When: Monday, January 12th at 6:30 pm (Note the earlier time as we hope you will bring your children for the book reading.)

Where: Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2200 Justin Lane (Note: the meeting will be held in the Chapel, which is in the same building as the sanctuary and has lots of parking.)

## City Closing Recycled Read Bookstore

Despite efforts by the public to keep it open, the City of Austin is closing Recycled Reads, its beloved second-hand bookstore located at 5335 Burnet Road. January 17th will be the last day that it will be open to the public. The bookstore is currently offering discounts on all its materials. It was created in 2009 as part of a way to achieve the city of Austin's call for zero-waste. It also served as a gathering place for various groups and organizations. The city will partner with Better World Books to recycle discarded materials, but details have not been announced. A limited selection of discarded library books in addition to cards, CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, sheet music and board games, most selling for \$2 or less, will be available for sale at all library locations. Patrons will greatly miss the large, eclectic selections that were offered at this one-stop location.



# CRESTVIEW

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER

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

For information and to submit articles contact:  
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#### CNA Contact Information

P. O. Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766  
[www.crestviewna.com](http://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: [joincrestview@gmail.com](mailto:joincrestview@gmail.com)

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## Crestview Donor Extends the Timeframe for Matching Contributions to the Pet Stations

Update on contributions for pet stations

by Nancy Harris, CNA Treasurer

In the last newsletter, we told you how a Crestview resident had generously offered to match the first \$400 in contributions to maintain the pet stations in Crestview during the months of November and December. CNA received \$180 from neighbors. With the matching funds that gave us a kitty of \$360 for bags for the station.



The great news is that our wonderful donor has agreed to extend the matching offer for another 2 months. So if you wanted to donate but felt you had missed the window for taking advantage of the matching funds, here is your opportunity. There are signs on the stations with a QR code that will take you to the website or you can go directly to [http://crestviewna.com/pet-stations\\_donate/](http://crestviewna.com/pet-stations_donate/) where you will find directions for using PayPal or mailing a check. Be sure to indicate that the donation is for the pet stations.

Thank you so much to those members and residents who have donated past and present and to our generous matching donor!

## 2026 Is Here! Have You Renewed Your CNA Membership?

This is just a reminder to all members that if you have not renewed your membership in the last couple of months that CNA membership dues for the calendar year 2026 are up for renewal.

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. CNA brings you a newsletter and arranges meetings on topics of interest to the residents of Crestview. All residents 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 2026, please use the form below. Make checks payable to Crestview Neighborhood Association or CNA. Or to pay with PayPal, log into your PayPal account and send your \$10 dues to [joincrestview@gmail.com](mailto:joincrestview@gmail.com). 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
	Date: _____ New Member [ ] Renewing Member [ ] Household Members (List up to 4): _____ _____ Address: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____	



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## New Austin Environmental Directory Now Available

The new hard-copy edition of the Austin Environmental Directory, a free sourcebook of green issues, products, services, and organizations for Central Texas, has just been released. This is the 11th hard-copy edition since it began in 1995. The last edition was printed in 2020.

A PDF version of the new edition can be seen at this link:  
<https://environmentaldirectory.info/2025-pdfs/>

The theme of the new edition is resiliency, and was inspired when Texas' electric and water systems crashed during Winter Storm Uri in 2021. While several of the articles are updated stories previously published on the Internet, at least three of them have never been seen, or seen widely.

In this Edition...

- The rush for backup generators and batteries after two devastating power outages in Austin;
- Less-expensive products that will help get people through power outages without expensive generators and batteries;
- How Texas exported natural gas while its citizens were struggling with fuel shortages;
- How Austin can help fund research and development of clean energy;
- How an acute regional water shortage may only be 15 years away;
- Why and how Austin should establish its own regional food supply;
- Resiliency in Austin parks;
- A detailed description of the region's environmental groups and student environmental education programs.

Hard copies can be obtained at Half Price Books and Wheatsville Food Coop.

Paul Robbins, the Editor and author of most of the current edition, has been an environmental activist and consumer advocate in Austin for almost 50 years. He reflected, "The 2021 energy and water outages triggered by Winter Storm Uri were a wake-up call for regional resiliency and self-sufficiency. My general philosophy is not 'survivalist' or rugged individualism. Quite the opposite: I think people are stronger as a society. There is, however, a profound difference between self-isolation and self-reliance."

## Austin Wildlife Rescue Moves to New Home

As announced by KEYE News, Austin Wildlife Rescue will relocate its intake center to a new location off I-35, ending months of uncertainty after its longtime lease expired. The wildlife rehabilitation organization will be located at 811 E. 13th St., near I-35 in east Austin. Hours will remain 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.



The move comes after the organization's 25-year tenure at a wooded location off MLK Boulevard and U.S. 183, where it operated under a \$1-per-year lease from Travis Audubon. That lease expired in November.

Executive Director Jules Marin said in July the organization was seeking a new location with proper veterinary zoning and accessibility. The center handles approximately 10,000 animals annually, including native species such as Carolina wrens, raccoons and screech owls.

"AWR's new Intake Center location will make it even easier for our community to bring in injured and orphaned wildlife in need of care," the organization said.

### New WEEKLY SPECIALS

<p><b>MUNCHKIN MONDAY</b> Enjoy 1/2 off a Kid's meal with the purchase of an adult combo or dinner</p> <p><b>POP A TOP TUESDAY</b> \$2 off Top Pick, Top Special, Top Dog sandwiches and canned beer</p> <p><b>WING IT WEDNESDAY</b> \$2 off Two Piece Fried Chicken Dinners</p>	<p><b>TASTY TREAT THURSDAY</b> \$1 off All Shakes and Fried Pies</p> <p><b>FRIDAY FAMILY MEAL NIGHT</b> 12 piece Mixed Fried Chicken dinner with 2 Family Size Mashed Potatoes &amp; 2 Family Size Coleslaw</p> <p><b>CHICKEN FRIED WEEKEND</b> Enjoy Chicken Fried Steak &amp; Chicken Fried Chicken Dinners and Sandwiches on the weekend!</p>
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# Austin Energy To Trim Or Remove Trees Near Power Lines

Austin Energy and their contractors will be working in Crestview as they trim or remove trees near their electric lines. Below is the notification letter Austin Energy sent to the Crestview Neighborhood Association explaining the rights that property owners have in the process.

Dear Crestview:

Austin Energy will be working in your neighborhood, pruning and removing trees from near the electric lines. The National Electric Safety Code requires Austin Energy to maintain our lines to ensure the safety of our customers and maintain reliable electric service to your neighborhood.

Before we actually perform any work on the trees, we will attempt to contact each property owner that has trees that may be affected by the work. Our contract notifiers and Austin Energy staff will work with each property owner to attempt to reach an agreement on the work to be performed on the property. Our notification process is provided below for your information.

- Contract notifiers evaluate each property to determine the proposed work to be done.
- If the property owner is not home, a door hanger with the details of the proposed work will be left at the residence, unless there is no house or structure.
- The notifiers will attempt to contact the property owners by telephone to discuss the proposed work.
- If the property owner can still not be contacted, a certified letter will be sent to them with a copy of the proposed work to be done.

During this process, each property owner may request the following actions from Austin Energy and its contract

personnel.

- You may request an on-site meeting with a contractor representative to review the proposed tree work.
- You may request an on-site meeting with an Austin Energy employee to discuss the proposed tree work.
- You may request to have a third-party present during the meetings.
- You may request modifications to the proposed tree work.
- You may request to not have trees removed on your property.
- You may request to be present when the tree work is performed.
- You will receive a written work plan (VWP) documenting the final plan for your property.
- You may request pricing on potential electric system modification to minimize or reduce tree work.

We are always available to answer any of your questions or concerns about

the proposed tree work and any possible tree replacements for your neighborhood or individual properties. If you or any of your neighbors have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (512) 505-7563.

Lloyd McMillan  
Austin Energy



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## My Personal Experience With Austin Energy & Trimming

By Chip Harris, CNA Newsletter Editor

I was surprised and concerned when I found a door hanger on my front door recently notifying me that eight of twelve trees along the back property line would be removed. Knowing that I didn't have to accept Austin Energy's (AE) initial "Vegetative Work Plan" (VWP), I contacted Austin Energy, along with an arborist, and arranged an appointment to discuss alternatives that would preserve the trees and allow them to continue the roles they play that are critical to our environment, aiding in flood mitigation and carbon sequestration, to name just a couple.

At the appointment, attended by AE and their tree trimming contractor, in addition to an arborist and me, we reviewed the necessary line clearance limb by limb. As a result, only one tree had to be removed, not eight, and the trimming agreed to, while reduced, was acceptable to both AE and me. In the revised VWP document that I signed off on, AE agreed to "Reduce Clearance Approved On Site With Customer By AE". The Work Plan also stated that both my arborist and I would be present when the work was performed and that the trimming would be "directional" and limb-by-limb. A date was set for the trimming and everything went well. If you would like to discuss AE's line clearance process with me or have questions about your options, feel free to contact me via email at [austinchip@hotmail.com](mailto:austinchip@hotmail.com).



## Austin Energy Upgrading Electric Lines

At the same time that Austin Energy (AE) is performing its cyclical tree trimming work in Crestview, they are also initiating work to upgrade the electric lines in an effort to reduce the number of outages and their duration. Some of that work is planned for Crestview and involves replacing the existing copper lines with aluminum lines, among other changes. The project is called The Electric System Resiliency Plan (ESRP) and comes after two major winter storms and a microburst earlier this year. The plan is meant to make the local grid more reliable. Over the course of a decade, the utility estimates the plan will result in \$735 million in system improvements. In the immediate fiscal year budget, Austin Energy says they've got \$60 million for the plan. The utility will prioritize the following in FY 2026:

- Replace existing overhead lines "with more robust equipment and better technology to withstand damage and be more reliable." That process is called circuit hardening and will expand to 10 circuits
- Begin wildfire-specific circuit hardening in 10 high wildfire risk areas
- Replace "40 segments" or large sections of underground cable
- Install automatic switches on power lines that can detect problems, "briefly cuts power to clear temporary issues (like a branch falling) and then automatically recloses to restore power, significantly reducing outage time." Those are called reclosers and the utility is aiming for 30 main line reclosers and 100 lateral reclosers
- The funding will also allow the utility to conduct circuit optimization studies, inspect roughly 8,000 poles and do more vegetation management alongside risk and hardening efforts

Austin Energy said ESRP expenses will be included in annual utility budgets throughout the next 10 years.


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