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CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2026

Council Member Marc Duchen to Be Guest Speaker at CNA's April Meeting

Meeting Details:

When: Monday, April 13th at 7:00 pm

Where: Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Chapel (in the same building as the sanctuary), 2200 Justin Lane

Guest Speaker: Council Member Marc Duchen

Other Business: Discussion & Possible Vote On The Duck Pond in Sheffield District Park (See article on page 2)

The April 13h meeting promises to be an interesting and informative meeting with council member (CM) Marc Duchen.

CM Duchen was elected in November 2024 to represent District 10, which includes parts of West, North, and Central Austin. His expertise in municipal policy, public safety, and effective community advocacy is built on a foundation of data and financial analysis. CM



Duchen's areas of policy focus include public safety, wildfire preparedness, environment and parkland, affordable housing, and efficient use of public funds.

During his relatively short time on City Council, CM Duchen helped lead on the adoption of a comprehensive city audit, put forth actionable proposals for preserving and producing affordable housing and held numerous community engagement events.

Last year, CM Duchen was the only member of the council who voted against having the City raise property taxes by 20%. Likewise, he was the only member who voted against a resolution at the Council's March 26th meeting to create missing middle/mixed use zoning categories which could "replace" existing single-family zones and significantly increase the density in established neighborhoods. And, along with CMs Siegel and Qadri, he voted against placing giant digital electronic signs all over Austin at bus stops. As a former officer of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, he brings a refreshing and neighborhood-oriented perspective to the Council. CM Duchen will be discussing property taxes, a proposed fall 2026 bond election, city initiatives, and their impact on neighborhoods, among other topics. There will be a Q & A session following his remarks so bring your comments and questions and join the discussion.

Hope to see you there!

Providing Safe Passage for Night-Migrating Birds

Every year, billions of birds migrate north in the spring and south in the fall, the majority of them flying at night, navigating with the night sky. However, as they pass over big cities on their way, they can become disoriented by bright artificial lights and skyglow, often causing them to collide with buildings or windows. While lights can throw birds off their migration paths, bird fatalities are more directly caused by the amount of energy the birds waste flying around and calling out in confusion. The exhaustion can then leave them vulnerable to other urban threats. Dozens of species are affected, including priority species—those we have identified as most in need of and most likely to benefit from our help such as the Allen's Hummingbird, Golden-Winged Warbler and Wood Thrush.

Audubon's Lights Out program is a national effort to reduce this problem. The strategy is simple: by turning off excess lighting during the months migrating birds are flying overhead, we help to provide them safe passage between their nesting and wintering grounds.

You can contribute to Lights Out & Safe Passage if you:

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Extinguish pot and flood-lights
- Substitute strobe lighting wherever possible
- Reduce atrium lighting wherever possible
- Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and all light directed upward
- Install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible
- When converting to new lighting, assess the quality and quantity of light needed, avoiding over-lighting with newer, brighter technology

2026 Greater Austin Clay Studio Tour

Saturday, April 11, 10am-6pm

Sunday, April 12, 11am-5pm

The Greater Austin Clay Studio Tour is an event to welcome the Austin community into area studios to take part in demos and workshops, purchase work from area clay artists, and experience what Austin has to offer the clay world.

For more information, a list of artists, a map of locations and a feast for your eyes, visit <https://www.greataustinclayartists.com/studiotour>

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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
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Chapel
2200 Justin Lane

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Future of Iconic Duck Pond Habitat in Sheffield Northwest Park in Doubt

Our neighbors to the west in Allandale have been working to preserve the iconic pond that has been a fixture in the park for decades and are reaching out to surrounding neighborhood residents for support. Here is a brief overview of the pond's status followed by the Allandale Neighborhood Association's Statement of Support for the pond. Their request is that neighbors who support preserving the pond contact their council member to request their commitment to preserve the pond.

From the Allandale Neighborhood Association:

The future of the pond at Sheffield Northwest District Park is in doubt, and a new and refocused planning effort is critically needed for the pond. The park's new pool provides no operational water for the pond, as the previous pool did since 1956. At present the pond's 25-acre catchment basin is inadequate to sustain its wetland habitat. We propose an entirely new, transparent planning effort to focus specifically on this beloved, iconic feature of Beverly Sheffield Northwest District Park. We also ask that the effort include neighborhood representation.

Our statement below reflects this concern and asks for your consideration and support of this effort to save the pond for its recreational value and its significant contribution as an important habitat for birds and aquatic wildlife.

Statement of Support for Beverly Sheffield Northwest District Park Duck Pond:

Austin Parks and Recreation (APR) has done great things for our city, including opening Austin's first Olympic-size swimming pool in 1956. Now 70 years later, a world-class remodel soon will open at the celebrated pool in Beverly Sheffield Northwest District Park in the heart of Allandale.

With this impressive history, park visitors are disheartened that the beloved pond at the heart of this very same district park has not been properly maintained to ensure its continued survival. The pond's significance has been well documented, but the park's Vision Plan for Beverly Sheffield Northwest District Park's Duck Pond is inadequate given the feature's iconic status.

A new planning effort is needed - one whose overarching goal is to manage and maintain the habitat for birds and aquatic wildlife and to ensure ongoing access to nature enjoyed by the very young to those most elevated in age, and everyone in between. A bona fide planning effort also must consider the need for supplemental water - a water well, for example - as one of the strategies that could be pursued.

Thus far, options have been hastily presented without needed scientific studies as called for in the park's Vision Plan.

The Vision Plan needs an updated addendum to refocus on solutions to:

- maintain the pond to the greatest extent as a habitat feature including its fish and wildlife
- improve its function as a small water quality contributor to Shoal Creek
- provide for adequate water supply from rainfall and, in event of below critical rainfall, provide for limited make-up water
- provide for sensitive trail and public use access
- integrate protection and maintenance of the pond habitat with all aspects of the function of Northwest District Park and its secondary function as a dry-detention feature.

Thus, a key goal is to request that Austin Parks & Recreation (APR) convene a new planning initiative with a focus on the Duck Pond that will lead to a vetted, transparent plan and ultimately an implementable program including both Austin Parks and Recreation and Watershed Protection both for the short- as well as long-term.

Given recent conditions and circumstances that threaten the pond's future, the Allandale Neighborhood Association is calling for urgent action to ensure the pond will thrive as a cherished key feature in the center of the District Park, and that the pursuit of solutions to this aim will involve neighborhood representatives and its local experts.

We ask that Austin Parks and Recreation and Watershed Protection give this pond the respect, focused attention and support that it is due.

Burnet Road Corridor Project Update

Construction has begun along Burnet Road between Koenig Lane and MoPac Expressway, marking the next phase of safety, mobility, drainage, and connectivity improvements along Burnet Road. Two sets of crews will work simultaneously along the corridor; the first crew began construction on March 2, working north from Koenig Lane. The second team began work just south of Braker Lane on March 7. The crews will work toward US-183 throughout the rest of 2026. Expect traffic delays as the roadway may be reduced from two lanes to one lane going in either direction.

Planned Improvements:

- ADA-compliant curb ramps to improve accessibility
- Shared-use paths for safer walking and biking
- Installation of two crosswalk signals (Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, or PHBs) to support safer crossings
- Traffic signal upgrades
- Drainage improvements
- Realignment of Burnet Lane at Burnet Road to improve safety and traffic operations

Update to Donations on Pet Waste Stations

As a result of the matching offer by a Crestview resident and CNA member during November 2025 through February 2026 and the many generous neighbors who sent in donations to the pet stations, donations amounted to well over the \$400 that the donor agreed to match. As a result, funds for the station should maintain the stations far into 2026, and depending on usage and changes in costs for the bags, might even carry us through the whole year! For now we are in good shape, but we will keep you posted if that should change.

You can also always check the CNA website to see if donations are covering the costs to maintain the stations. https://crestviewna.com/pet-stations_donate/

CNA would like to thank those individuals who have made recent contributions towards the upkeep of the stations as well as over the past years. And a special thanks goes out to the donor who offered to match donations these last few months.

The Common Yard “Weed” Experts Say You Shouldn’t Remove This Spring

Give pollinators a crucial early food source and save yourself some time.


Gardeners may be eager to tidy up their lawns this spring — but experts say one common job should be delayed — don’t pull up those dandelions! Pulling up dandelions too early could remove one of the most important food sources for bees and butterflies emerging from winter.

The bright yellow flowers, often dismissed as weeds,

(See *Dandelions*, continued on page 5)

Violet Crown Festival
Saturday, May 2nd, 2026
10 AM to 5 PM
Brentwood Park
6710 Arroyo Seco





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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Front Yard Businesses, Electronic Signs in Neighborhoods & Other Council Actions That Affect Crestview

At the March 26th City Council meeting, several actions were taken that could drastically impact community life in Crestview and other central city neighborhoods. Here are some highlights from the outcome of that meeting.

- Approved the resolution for front yard businesses in single-family neighborhoods, under the guise of “economic opportunity” with all members voting yes. They expect to identify neighborhoods for this “pink” overlay program in the next 90 days. Council Member (CM) Harper-Madison’s office’s claim that this “is a state-level mandate (HB 2464), not a local policy choice”, contradicts the intent of HB 2464 that defines a “no-impact home-based business” as one that “operates in a manner in which none of its activities are visible from a street.” Having front yard accessory structures with signage certainly does not align with this law and is not mandated. They are also waiving all traffic generation from for home-based businesses (now limited to 3 trips per day) and allowing 200 square foot structures to be placed in front yards. The only businesses not allowed would be tobacco sales.
- Approved the resolution to create missing middle/ mixed use zoning categories that could “replace” existing single-family zones and allow up to 6 units on a standard size lot. Their advisors include Austin Infill Coalition, AIA Austin, Home Builders Association Austin, ABOR, AURA, Planning Commissioners, and City staff. Only CM Marc Duchen voted against this and said “But as people want to settle into homes, they’re going to leave Austin. And no matter how much

upzoning we do, we won’t have a community [i]f we can’t make this a place where families can remain. We continue to force families out of our cities . . . Given our track record, it seems like this proposal will be making building and preserving single family homes less likely. And maybe that satisfies the needs of a few.”

- Approved city-wide giant digital electronic signs at all bus stops. This would include bus stops along Woodrow where 7 foot electronic signs with advertising could be placed next to homes. CM Mike Siegel attempted to make amendments to curb the signs in single-family neighborhoods and limit the total number of signs to 200. but he only had CM Duchen’s support. Previously, the city of Austin had fought all the way to the Supreme Court about regulating signs, but this council flipped the position.

CM Duchen said, “worry that our new strategy, whenever we do need money, is going to go to, you know, a lobbyist to dispense candy



or corporation in place of a real policy with real guidelines.” In the end, CM Siegel, CM Duchen and CM Qadri voted against the giant signs.

- Rejected a postponement request and approved amplifying a rezoning on a contaminated property near UT from 60 feet to 445 feet tall – so that it would “pencil out” for the developer, despite protests by nearby neighborhoods and the University of Texas. CM Duchen voted no and CM Ellis abstained.


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In Memoriam - Francis Lynette Alley

Lynette Alley, a long-time Crestview resident and institution, passed away on December 5, 2025. She lent her energies to many Crestview endeavors, including development of the bike/walking path along Arroyo Seco, the City's Adopt-A-Median program and maintaining one of the pet stations to name just a few.

She worked as a mom until her children were grown and then went to college to earn her B.A. in business. She worked as a secretary at the University of Texas until she learned enough about accounting and then worked as a bookkeeper for UT. While she worked, she attended class during her lunch hour earning three hours of credit each semester. Upon retirement, she gardened on her corner lot growing wildflowers specific to a prairie and served as a docent at Lady Bird's Wildflower Center.

In Lynette's honor, here are a few paragraphs from a 2016 Austin American Statesman article focusing on Lynette's work in her adopted median located behind the Crestview Shopping Center:

Stooped over in a roadway median, Lynette Alley deftly uses a pair of clippers, trimming some tall plants back. Women pushing strollers and dog walkers say hello as they pass by Alley, hard at work in the Crestview neighborhood.

Alley takes care of this small patch of land through the City



of Austin's Adopt-A-Median program, which she helped start. Wearing a floppy hat, red sunglasses, long sleeves, long pants and very worn-out shoes, Alley works in the median near Arroyo Seco and West St. Johns Avenue in the mornings before it gets too hot. Once she has filled her little green wagon with trimmings – after about two hours — she heads back to her nearby home.

“My dream for this is to make it like an open prairie,” she said, with flowers to attract all kinds of insects and birds. Alley takes pride in this small public space. She wants it “to be a pleasant place to come ... with an array of flowers,” she said.

Dandelions continued from page 3

provide vital early-season nectar when very few plants are blooming. In early spring, many pollinators are emerging from diapause — a dormant period similar to hibernation. But gardens and parks often have very few nectar-rich flowers at this time, which can leave bees struggling to rebuild energy reserves after winter.

If nectar isn't available in March and early April, colonies can be weakened before the season has properly begun. Bee activity often doesn't match what's flowering in our gardens and many people aren't aware of the simple garden tasks that can protect them.

The humble dandelion is one of the most important early nectar sources for bees and other pollinators. The flowers are rich in pollen when there is little else in the garden flowering

Because dandelions can grow almost anywhere — from cracks in the tarmac to lawns and flowerbeds — gardeners often try to remove them. Delay mowing the lawn or removing dandelions at this time of year so the bees can enjoy them.

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