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# CRESTVIEW

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER

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AUGUST 2026

## Speaker at August CNA Meeting to Be from Audubon Society

The Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA) will be meeting on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 7 pm. The meeting will be held in the Chapel of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection at 2200 Justin Lane. All are welcome! We're fortunate this month to have as our guest speaker Jane Tillman, a representative of the Travis Audubon Society, an expert on birds and a gifted speaker.

### Put Out the Welcome

#### Mat for Backyard Birds

What is a bird looking for when it decides your yard is a good place for a drop-in visit or long-term stay? Just like humans, birds need food, water, shelter and places to raise young safely, to thrive. Learn how to attract a diversity of expected backyard species using native plants, water features, supplemental feeders, and nestboxes. Ever wondered "what bird is making that sound"? Come hear about how you can use Merlin to identify them.



### About Our Speaker

Jane Tillman is an active member of the Travis Audubon Society where she is a Master Birder. She has taught beginning backyard birding classes and gives talks about Central Texas birds and gardening for birds to garden clubs, neighborhood associations and libraries. Ms. Tillman gardens for wildlife and has a Best of Texas Backyard Wildlife Habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation. She has seen many species of birds in or over her yard, with a rare long-staying Broad-tailed Hummingbird in February 2024 being #100! Jane has been a Capital Area Master Naturalist since 2001 and is a past president of the Austin chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. She also helps put on the Native Landscape Certification Program classes through the Native Plant Society of Texas Austin Chapter.

For an interesting interview with Jane, visit the following website: <https://travisaudubon.org/murmurations/volunteer-spotlight-jane-tillman>

Attracting birds to your yard is important because they are vital members of the food chain as they eat garden pests, pollinate plants and their beauty and song can lower your stress. Come find out how to attract them to your yard!

## Austin AISD Boundary Changes

Earlier this year, in an effort to equalize attendance numbers and more efficiently run schools, the Austin Independent School District (AISD) proposed changing attendance boundaries to accomplish that goal with the school reassignments taking effect in the 2027-2028 school year. But in a letter sent recently to families, AISD has pushed back its proposed attendance boundary changes until the fall of 2028, when it may also recommend more school closures. The district's process involving comprehensive boundary changes which could change the assigned campuses for thousands of students won't formally start until January of 2027 followed by a vote in the fall of 2027 by AISD's Board of Trustees.

### How could boundary changes affect Crestview students?

Under AISD's proposed attendance boundary map included in the "Elm" plan, all of the Crestview elementary school students that live east of the railroad tracks that now attend Brentwood Elementary School would be reassigned to Wooten Elementary School, north of Anderson Lane and would no longer track to Lamar Middle School or McCallum High School, with results that would have serious consequences not only for the students and their families but for all of Crestview.

### Why having elementary students cross West Anderson Lane is dangerous

Under another AISD proposal, labeled the "Oak" plan, similar disruptions would adversely affect the Allandale neighborhood. Both the Elm and the Oak plan result in elementary school children having to cross West Anderson Lane to their new assigned school. In a post to their website, Allandale explained that the proposed boundary changes take families who can walk or bike to their current school today and rezones them across one of Austin's High-Injury Network (HIN) roads: West Anderson Lane. HIN roads are the small share of Austin streets associated with a disproportionate share of serious crashes. That is not a minor inconvenience — it is a student safety problem, especially for elementary-age kids. A boundary map that breaks a walkable school connection and sends children across a high-risk major arterial is not protecting neighborhood access, community stability, or student well-being.

Updates go out through special Advocacy Editions of Brentwood PTA's newsletter, *The Bark*. To subscribe to the Brentwood Elementary newsletter (known as the *Bulldog Bark*), visit the Brentwood PTA website (<https://www.brentwoodpta.com/>), locate the newsletter sign-up section at the bottom of the page, enter your email address, and click "Subscribe Now".

# CRESTVIEW

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA).

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### CNA Contact Information

P. O. Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766  
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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

Treasurer: [joincrestview@gmail.com](mailto:joincrestview@gmail.com)

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## Northcross Mall Redevelopment & LA Fitness Rezoning

Real estate developer Riverside has filed a site plan application with the city of Austin proposing “the demolition of existing buildings and utilities and construction of water quality, parking and utility improvement for future mixed use development.” This redevelopment of Northcross Mall does not include the Wal-Mart store but does cover the remaining nearly 13 acres that the mall covers and will result in the construction of over a million square feet of mixed use space, a significant increase over the existing mall’s size of 156,481 square feet.

The property owners of the large lot that LA Fitness occupies at 2020 West Anderson Lane have filed an application for rezoning with the city of Austin. The requested zoning change is from the current zoning of GR-CO-NP (General retail-Conditional Overlay-Neighborhood Plan) to GR-DBC60-NP (General Retail-Density Bonus 60- Neighborhood Plan). This change would allow them to build a taller building if it includes a small portion of low-income housing.

### Charter Amendments Chart a Less Democratic Austin

by Community Not Commodity

The charter is the fundamental governing law for a home-rule city. Under state law, any charter amendment must be approved by a majority of the city’s qualified voters participating in an election held specifically for that purpose, which in this case will occur in November 2026. State law also limits charter amendments to no more than once every two years.

The city council had originally planned to place these amendments on the November 2024 ballot, but that effort was derailed when the council was found to have violated the Texas Open Meetings Act.

These are the most concerning charter amendments:

**Amendment 3 (Item C)** This amendment eliminates the requirement that the Council set its meeting rules by ordinance, thereby eliminating the necessity of public input on the proposed meeting changes. The importance of a public hearing was demonstrated when the Council attempted to illegally reduce effective speaking times, thereby limiting citizen communication. The public airing and the ordinance requirement provided the opportunity for the changes to be successfully challenged in court. This charter amendment would undermine those protections.

**Amendment 12 (Item L)** This amendment allows City Council members to solicit and accept political contributions to retire campaign debt while they are still in office, rather than waiting until they are out of office. This was the only amendment proposed by the City Council (and not the Charter Review Commission). We understand why special interests like paying council members after they have been elected, but don’t understand why that should be allowed.

**Amendment 5 (Item E)** This amendment limits elections for initiatives or charter changes that result from citizen petitions to the next November of an even year. This can result in an unduly long wait for a vote after a citizen petition is validated because of the additional state law requiring two years between charter amendment votes.

The following amendments are also concerning:

**Amendment 1 (Item A)** This amendment eliminates or modifies terms in the Charter designed to keep the redistricting commission independent. It removes the prohibition of communication with anyone outside of a public hearing and allows council and city staff to interact with the “independent” redistricting commission.

**Amendment 6 (Item F)** Recall of a Council member currently requires a petition of at least 10% of registered voters in the district followed by a recall election. This amendment would change the threshold to 15%. A 15% requirement makes a recall petition more expensive, favoring a person or organization with deep pockets, instead of grassroots efforts.

The council says it will consider charter amendments from the public. One amendment that Austin desperately needs is an independent Ethics Commission whose rulings can be enforced.

You can send your comments to all city council members at <https://www.austintexas.gov/email/all-council-members>.

## City Council Resolution to Study Cheaper Building Rules for Small Multifamily Developments

*The Statesman* reported that the Austin City Council voted July 23rd to study whether smaller multifamily developments can be built under less costly construction standards while maintaining fire-safety protections, approving a resolution that supporters say could reduce housing costs but critics warned could weaken protections if not carefully implemented. The council approved the resolution on a 9-1 vote, with Council Member Marc Duchen opposed. Duchen said he was concerned the proposal could allow some smaller developments to use residential sprinkler systems that offer less protection than the commercial systems currently required.

The effort builds on the council's recent overhaul of Austin housing rules. In 2023 and 2024, City Council approved phases one and two of the HOME initiative, which allows up to three homes on most single-family lots and permits smaller lot sizes.

Last year, the council also approved changes allowing certain apartment buildings to be constructed with one staircase instead of two, another measure supporters said would lower construction costs while opponents raised concerns about fire safety.

(Editor's note: Councilmember Krista Laine said she proposed the resolution to reduce the costs for a four-unit development intended for families experiencing homelessness. With that in mind, the city could provide a way to reduce costs in the limited number of cases where the development is legally bound to maintain minimal rents. Instead, the code change would reduce costs for all, including market-rate developments. There is no guarantee that reducing building costs will reduce rents that are based on the market. The most affordable rents are associated with older structures, those that are disappearing rapidly in Austin.

## Step Into Civic Service: Help Power Local Elections

Travis County Clerk Elections is hiring poll workers for the upcoming November Election!

Election staff play a vital role in ensuring every voter has a positive experience at the polls. Poll workers are often the first friendly face voters see at their neighborhood polling place, and their welcoming attitude helps create a positive experience for everyone. From checking in voters to assisting with voting equipment, poll workers help make our elections accessible, secure, and efficient.

Requirements:

- Must be registered to vote in Travis County.
- Available to attend required training before serving.
- Work flexible hours, including evenings, weekends, and extended Election Day shifts from 6:00 a.m. until polls close.
- Lift 20 pounds.

Pay rates start at \$20 an hour. To apply, visit <https://votetravis.gov/current-election-information/become-an-election-worker/> hover over Election Information and select Become an Election Worker to view all available positions.

Be a part of the democratic process and serve your community!

\*\*\*\*\*

## June Officer Election Results

Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA) officer elections were held at the June 8th meeting of the Association with the following results. Debbi Warren was elected Vice-President, Chip Harris was reelected Newsletter Editor and Art Klempner was elected in an Advisor position.

A big thanks to the retiring officers for their years of service! They include Steve Kuehner, Don Tucker, Stacey Young, Helen Kelley and Jane Zion.

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## Express Your Love for Crestview

By Nancy Harris, CNA Treasurer

We all love our Crestview neighborhood, so for a lighthearted distraction we would like to invite you to show your love by writing a limerick about Crestview and your feelings for it.

A limerick is a short 5-line poem with an AABBA rhyme scheme and a bouncy rhythm. The third and fourth lines are usually shorter than the other lines. They often tell a story and are usually sort of silly and humorous (but we'll let you wax sentimental in honor of Crestview).

Here is an example:

For over forty-five years I've called it home  
Never a regret settling this Crestview loam  
Although it's changed a lot  
Its charm can't be bought  
From its roots I don't plan to roam

There are lots of sites on the web that can help you with the rules, but here is one to get you started:

[https://unclegoose.com/blogs/blog/how-to-write-a-limerick-in-4-steps?srltid=AfmBOoquYNKIItNMAkhpBaKSJq9SNMzhzDOa6aPffV8ALAwA\\_fRGFi\\_FK](https://unclegoose.com/blogs/blog/how-to-write-a-limerick-in-4-steps?srltid=AfmBOoquYNKIItNMAkhpBaKSJq9SNMzhzDOa6aPffV8ALAwA_fRGFi_FK)

Send in your limerick to [joincrestview@gmail.com](mailto:joincrestview@gmail.com) or mail it to CNA, P.O. Box 9505, Austin, Tx 78766 by September 13. We will pick some of them to publish in an upcoming newsletter and all of them will be posted on the website. Please include your name if you would like it to be published, or you can just say something like "Madison Resident" or "Anonymous" if you would rather not have your name used.

So let's have some fun and celebrate what makes our neighborhood special!

## How Much Will Austin Raise Taxes & Fees This Year?

The City of Austin announced a \$6.6 billion 2026-2027 proposed budget on July 17th, and it's expected to go to a vote for final approval in mid-August.

It's estimated that the proposed increases in property taxes and fees will cost the "typical" residential ratepayer \$345.95 a year – or about \$29 a month. That number includes:

- \$173.87 in property taxes, based on a non-senior homestead assessed value of \$484,907 and a 20% general homestead exemption.
- \$93.12 from Austin Water, based on 5,800 gallons of water and 4,000 gallons of wastewater.
- \$43.92 from Austin Energy, based on customer electricity usage of 860 Kwh.
- \$20.40 from Austin Resource Recovery, based on a 64-gallon garbage bin.
- \$10.44 from the Drainage Utility Fee, based on customers with 3,100 square feet of impervious cover.
- \$4.20 from the Clean Community Fee per single-family home.

The 3.5% increase in property tax collections is the maximum the city can adopt under state law without seeking voter approval. The increase has become politically charged less than a year after voters rejected Proposition Q, which would have raised city property taxes by more than 20%.

Council Member Marc Duchon, the only council member to vote against the budget that led to last year's property tax election, told the council he was surprised by the proposed budget and thought that it would have been more "reflective of some fiscal discipline after the tax rate election last year and instead it looks like we started off with the max. It's not really what I was expecting," he added. "When I look back for the last four years at the 3.5% that we approved, it sure looks like the state gave us a ceiling, but we treat it as a floor," he said.



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## In Memoriam - Louise Cooke

by Chip Harris, Newsletter Editor

Kathryn Louise Davis Cooke, known as Louise, a Crestview resident since 1946 and charter CNA member since 1982, passed away on July 12, 2026. She helped build the association, passing out the newsletter and contributing in many other ways. Louise was a very special person and she will be sorely missed.

Here is her obituary as printed in the Statesman:

Louise Cooke, 100, passed away peacefully on July 12, 2026, surrounded by family. Louise was born on January 17, 1926, in Carpinteria, California.

Louise loved to tell stories about growing up in Carpinteria, a small, scenic coastal town, where she enjoyed going to the beach and playing the clarinet in high school. When she was 19 years old, she attended a dance with a friend and met Glenn Cooke, a Marine from Austin, Texas. They were married on May 18, 1945, in Santa Barbara and moved to Austin a little over a year later.

The couple soon found a home in the newly-developed Crestview subdivision. They became active charter members of Crestview United Methodist Church while raising their children: Elaine, Diane, David, and Robert. Nothing meant more to Louise than motherhood, and every two years, she piled all four offspring on a train and took them to visit her hometown. Her involvement in Crestview



included providing transportation to Sunday School for visually-impaired children, baking countless chocolate sheet cakes for the annual church bazaar, and serving as a Cub Scout leader for Troop 48.

Being a grandmother of 10 was the icing on Louise's chocolate sheet cake. Always up for an adventure, she carted her grandkids all over Austin to climb steam engines, explore libraries, swim and picnic in local parks. She also enjoyed co-leading a needlepoint group at the Senior Activity Center and square dancing with Glenn. When 13 great grandchildren came along, they renewed her sense of fun. She was always up for a game of Skip-Bo or Rummikub.

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## In Memoriam – Guy Tudor, Wildlife Illustrator

Guy Tudor, a self-taught ornithologist, wildlife illustrator and MacArthur fellow whose field guides to birds trained generations of naturalists and citizen scientists about how to distinguish a Rufous-breasted Leaftosser from a Lesser Hornero, died on July 14, 2026, in Greenport, N.Y. at the age of 91.

Excerpts from his obituary in the New York Times:

It was Mr. Tudor's ability "to capture the unique behavior, motion and exact plumage of obscure species" that earned him a MacArthur fellowship in 1990.

"Once he got off a plane in Caracas carrying a telescope he had affixed to the butt of a rifle and immediately started pointing it around on the tarmac, looking for birds. Half the military of Venezuela came charging at him."

"People claim Guy was a curmudgeon, but it's really that he was alarmed — and rightly so — by what is happening to the natural world," Mr. Gwynne added. "He always used to say, 'The infidels have invaded my church, and they've almost reached the altar.'"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/25/science/guy-tudor-dead.html>

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