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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 2026

CNA October Meeting to Feature the City's "Grow Green" Program

The Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA) will be meeting on Monday, October 26, 2026, at 7 pm. (Please note that this is the fourth Monday of the month and not the usual second Monday.) The meeting will be held in the Chapel of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection at 2200 Justin Lane. The presentation this month will cover the city's "Grow Green" program, and the speaker will be Katie Duffy, the conservation program coordinator with the city of Austin's watershed protection department. All are welcome!

At this talk, you'll learn how to Grow Green by keeping rainwater on your lot so your plants can enjoy it, instead of watching it run off to the nearest storm drain. You'll discover how choosing the right plant for the right place makes your yard tougher, happier, and more resilient. And you'll see why avoiding landscape chemicals isn't just good for your garden - it protects our creeks, critters, and community, tying into Austin Watershed Protection's work to keep our waterways clean & safe.

Katie Duffy is a program coordinator and gardener who has spent over 20 years happily playing in the dirt. She joined the Austin Watershed Protection Department eight years ago to support programs that improve water quality and reduce flooding & erosion. With 13 years of experience in environmental work, she loves encouraging others to connect with nature through gardening, birding, and exploration. Her favorite flower is the Columbine.

Rainwater Benefits

Rainwater is better for plants than tap or municipal water because it is pure, naturally balanced, and free of harsh chemicals.

Key Benefits of Rainwater

100% Soft Water: Rainwater lacks the heavy minerals (like calcium and magnesium), salts, and treatment chemicals (such as chlorine and fluoride) found in tap water that can build up in soil and cause burnt leaf tips or damaged root systems.

Natural Nitrates for Growth: As rain falls through the atmosphere—especially during thunderstorms where lightning splits nitrogen molecules—it picks up bioavailable

nitrates and ammonium. This acts as a mild, natural nitrogen fertilizer that drives lush, green foliage.

Slightly Acidic pH: Rainwater has a naturally slightly acidic pH (typically around 5.5 to 6.5) due to dissolved carbon dioxide forming weak carbonic acid. This matches the ideal soil preference for most plants and helps dissolve and unlock trapped soil nutrients like iron and zinc.

Flushes Out Salt Buildup: Heavy rainfall deeply saturates the ground, leaching excess mineral and fertilizer salts down past the root zone where they can no longer stress the plant.

Higher Dissolved Oxygen: Fresh rainwater contains more dissolved oxygen than treated tap water, which supercharges root respiration and health.

Washes the Leaves: Rain naturally rinses away dust, pollen, and urban grime from plant leaves, allowing them to breathe and photosynthesize more efficiently.

It's My Park Day at Brentwood Park 11/07/25

Join us 9am - Noon on Saturday, November 7th for It's My Park Day, sponsored by the Austin Parks Foundation. We'll be shoveling, mulching, weeding, digging, and planting. Meet at the pavilion for check-in, refreshments, and your IMPD tee! If you can, please bring shovels, rakes, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, hand tools, gloves, etc., labeled with your name and phone number.

Visit <https://fobp.info/impd> and [@friendsofbrentwoodpark](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofbrentwoodpark) Facebook Page for the registration link and reminders. See you there!

Violet Crown Oktober(ish)fest

Presented by our neighborhood friends at Eldorado Café, this annual festival features beer from up to 20 local craft breweries, sausages, food trucks, live music and family-friendly activities. It takes place on Saturday, November 7th from Noon to 4 PM and is hosted by the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, located at 2200 Justin Lane. Attendance is free and proceeds benefit neighborhood projects such as playground equipment for the Brentwood Neighborhood Park. For more information, go to violetcrownoktoberfest.org, and/or follow on [violetcrownoktoberfest](https://www.facebook.com/violetcrownoktoberfest) on Facebook and Instagram.

Crestview Auto Repair Closing After 7 Years

It's hard to say goodbye to good friends and a great mechanic, but Jerry Sawyer and his wife Giselle have closed their business after serving Crestview and surrounding neighborhoods these past seven years. Located conveniently in the Crestview Shopping Center, their services will be greatly missed. Thank you, Jerry & Giselle, for the time you spent here and for keeping us on the road.



CRESTVIEW

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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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: joincrestview@gmail.com

Twitter: @CNAneighbors

Facebook: CrestviewNeighborhoodAssociation

Crestview Limericks

A few weeks ago we invited Crestview residents to express their love of our neighborhood in the form of a limerick. Here are the submissions we received. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did! Thank you to the folks who took the time to send them in.

Once, Crestview seemed too far north
I thought, "I can't live here henceforth."
I must have seemed callous,
When I called it "South Dallas."
But I've come to love this patch of earth.
(By Drew Smith)

Our Crestview has always been handsome,
The homes filled with memories and passion.
Many "3 beds/1 bath"
Sadly gone from the path,
Filled instead with pricey McMansions.

On a positive note, did you hear?
There are many great things we can cheer:
From Little Deli for all,
To the mosaic wall,
And friends, old and new, who are dear!
(By Anonymous Pasadena Resident)

Lived south of the river for years,
Then came a time to completely change gears,
Discovered that Crestview
Has the very best view
And the neighbors are absolute dears!
(By Ima Kidder)

*Mr. Rogers would have to agree
Crestview's the best place to be
Where the neighbors still smile
And will walk with you a mile
Where the neighbors are so neighborly.
(By Patty Cake)*

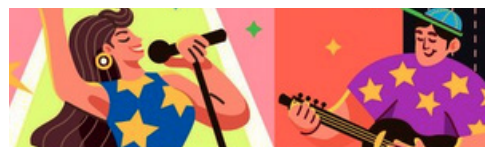
*There was old man near Grover
Whose property taxes went over
The amount he could possibly pay
Even working all night and all day
So now he's a homeless neighborhood rover.
(By Crestview Resident)*

*I came very late to the dance
Never gave north Austin a glance
But Crestview neighbors are dear
So very glad I moved here
Move away? Not a chance!
(By Debbi Warren)*

*Once in a neighborhood called Crestview
Everyone knew who they lived next door to
When they needed a friend
There was always a hand to extend
Don't we miss those we once knew!
(By Anonymous Aggie Resident)*

Plans for a CNA Variety Show!

By Nancy Harris, Treasurer



Crestview has many talented individuals, and the Crestview Neighborhood Association would like to give them the opportunity to showcase those talents. So CNA is putting together a variety show for an upcoming CNA meeting in early 2027. In order to make this happen, we need to have enough neighbors willing to perform. Do you have a special talent you would share at a neighborhood meeting? Maybe you sing, play an instrument, do magic tricks, tell jokes, do impersonations, mime, have a short comedy skit, juggle, are a ventriloquist, are a good storyteller or have some other novelty act or skill we haven't already mentioned. If so, we are asking neighbors to contact us by November 1st. If we do not get enough RSVPs, then we will not do a show.

Acts should be about 5 to 10 minutes long and should be appropriate for the general population of the neighborhood (there could be children present). Performers would be responsible for providing whatever costumes, props, music, etc. are needed for their act. Acts could have more than one participant but not be too large due to space limitations. Acts should be simple enough to set up in a short time. The exact date has not been set, but the plan is to have it on the second Monday in January, February or March. While we would try to accommodate everyone, depending on the response, the number of acts would be limited by the amount of time available and efforts to vary the acts.

If you have an interest, please contact us at joincrestview@gmail.com by November 1st. Let us know what the nature of your act is and about how much time you would need including set up. This will help us gauge interest in having an event, what types of acts to accommodate and how to set up the event. Once we see what the response is, we will start working on the next steps to make this happen.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions about the event or about your act.

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It's Not Too Early to Renew Your 2027 CNA Membership

Whether you paid last year, forgot to pay or want to join for the first time, it's not too early to pay your CNA membership dues for the calendar year 2027.

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 2027, 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. Any questions regarding your membership can be directed to the Treasurer at joincrestview@gmail.com.

Lower Your Bill With Wastewater Averaging

Wastewater averaging takes place from mid-November through March, and it's a great opportunity for customers to lock-in the best wastewater rate possible for the next year. It's simple — all you have to do is reduce your water use as much as possible during your wastewater averaging period.

Austin Water calculates your wastewater average based on meter readings for the clean water you use. The meter readings are taken over the course of three consecutive months in the fall and winter known as the wastewater averaging period. This coincides with seasonal low water use, when many households naturally cut back on irrigation, filling pools, washing cars, and other outside water uses.

As the yearly wastewater averaging process begins, remember to do your part and conserve water. For information about how Austin Water is saving you money through wastewater averaging, a list of conservation tips or to find out when your wastewater averaging period begins, visit <https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/wastewater-averaging>.



Crestview Neighborhood Association
PO Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766
www.crestviewna.com

All residents are invited to join
Annual dues are \$10 per household

Date: _____ New Member [] Renewing Member []

Household Members (List up to 4): _____

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4 Common Gardening Mistakes That Harm Pollinators

Pollinators are a crucial part of our food supply and ecosystem. In fact, a majority of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on pollinators to reproduce. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat is because of animal pollinators. Pretty remarkable, right? With this in mind, it seems pretty obvious that we should be doing our part to ensure these beneficial insects thrive. One of the best ways to do so is to cultivate a thriving garden filled with native plants. However, certain gardening and landscaping practices may be inadvertently harming local pollinators. Ahead, pollinator experts share the most common mistakes people make to the detriment of bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators.

Using Pesticides and Insecticides

The gardening practice most detrimental to pollinators is the incorrect or excessive use of pesticides, particularly insecticides. "Bees and other pollinators are insects, so the most worrying pesticide is the use of insecticides. Many (but not all) of our insecticides are broad-spectrum," says Thomas M. Butzler, horticulture educator for Penn State Cooperative Extension. "Meaning that they do not distinguish between the harmful pests and the beneficials."

Butzler adds that it's hard to know the long-term effects



pesticides have on pollinators. While studies have been done to see how these chemicals affect animals, including some pollinators, there are no tests observing how those pesticides will react with each other in a bee's body. "An adult bee may (or may not) be able to process these chemicals, but imagine what happens to a young developing honey bee as it is fed pollen with this cocktail of chemicals," he says.

Prioritizing a Lush Lawn Over a Lush Garden

Lush green grass is a goal for many homeowners, but getting there may inadvertently hurt local pollinators. "Lawns are food deserts for pollinators," says Christina M. Grozinger, professor of entomology at Pennsylvania State University. "While the green grass might look nice and be easy to maintain through mowing, pollinators need flowering plants to get nectar (for sugar) and pollen (for protein and fat) to feed themselves and their babies." She adds that butterflies need to lay their eggs on specific plants, and most species require plants that are not grasses.

Removing broadleaf weeds from your lawn to achieve uniform, green grass takes away any chance pollinators have to receive the nutrients they need from your landscape. "Those broadleaf weeds have flowers at some point in their reproductive cycle and can serve as a food source," says Butzler. "If broadleaf weeds are totally absent from the lawn, bees will not visit."



See Pollinators continued on page 5

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Planting Flowers That Don't Support Pollinators

It's not enough to grow a random assortment of flowers in your garden—they must contain nectar or pollen to be of use to pollinators. “Many ornamental plant species have flowers that do not produce nectar or pollen,” says Grozinger. “It is important to choose flowering plants that attract pollinators and can provide the food they need.”

Butzler adds that some bees are highly selective when it comes to the plants they will feed from, so you may also want to research the varieties native to your area and their preferences. For example, Butzler notes that the squash bee is native to the Americas, and its food source comes only from squash plants, such as pumpkin.

Over-Cleaning Your Garden

You put a lot of work into your garden, so it makes sense that you want it to look nice. However, try to resist the urge to clean it up too much. “Pollinators utilize many areas of the garden for overwintering sites, including leaf litter, hollow plant stems, soil, and old beetle tunnels in stumps and logs,” says Zaidee Powers Rosales, integrated pest management coordinator at Cornell Botanic Gardens. She says to wait to rake fall leaves to provide an overwintering habitat for these insects, adding that butterflies and bees overwinter in leaf litter.

It is also best to wait to cut back plant stems until the following growing season. “Many of our native bees are cavity nesters, raising their young and overwintering in hollow plant stems,” says Butzler.



“Removing those dead flower stems could be removing next year's garden pollinators.” He says tidying up a front yard garden is fine, but encourages gardeners to let backyard green spaces “go a bit wild” into winter and early spring. Some bees even nest in the ground during winter, so Rosales also recommends avoiding disturbing and compacting the soil when possible

How to Make Your Lawn More Pollinator-Friendly

If you've been participating in the above gardening practices, don't worry. There are ways to make your landscape safe and more hospitable for pollinators.

- **Grow a diverse range of pollinator plants:** Increase your odds of attracting pollinators by growing a diverse selection of pollinator-friendly plants in various colors, types, and species. “And don't forget woody plants,” Butzler says.
- **Prioritize native plants:** Grozinger recommends choosing native plants when possible, as they typically support pollinators and do well in your growing climate, reducing the need for irrigation and pesticides.
- **Use an integrated pest and pollinator management approach:** Pesticides are unavoidable at times. In these instances, Grozinger says to use an integrated approach, only using these chemicals when you see severe plant damage. Always read the labels so you understand how much to use and how long they last. “Apply pesticides in a targeted way, to the specific plant or region that is being damaged, and apply them before the plants flower, or at night when the flowers are closed,” she adds.
- **Plant for multiple growing seasons:** Ensure your garden design has flowers that bloom from spring through to fall. “It does not help our pollinators to have access to a great pollen producer in June, yet nothing is available to our late-season pollinators if your flower garden is done blooming in September,” says Butzler.

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