



Brentwood Neighborhood Association

BNA – Serving Our Neighborhood from 45th St. to Justin Lane and North Lamar to Burnet Road

April 2020

www.brentwoodaustin.blogspot.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS ISSUE OF THE BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER IS OUR FIRST SOLELY ON-LINE EDITION. DUE TO THE CURRENT OUTBREAK OF COVID-19, THERE WILL BE NO DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERIES.

WE WANT TO SAY THANK-YOU TO ALL OF OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR PUBLICATION. PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE BUSINESSES & SERVICES DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES.

THERE'S A LOT OF LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION. CONTACT BRENTWOOD.AUSTIN@GMAIL.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS. STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!

Welcome from our new BNA President

Hello Neighbors! If we haven't already met in the neighborhood, I want to introduce myself. I will be serving as President of BNA over the coming year, and I look forward to getting to know even more Brentwoodites.



I've lived in Brentwood for 15 years and may have met you in the hallways of Brentwood Elementary, or around the PTA table where I served as Parliamentarian. Or perhaps we met at the BES Back to School Picnic, which I helped revamp in 2014. More recently, I have been involved with Friends of Brentwood Park Playground Committee, leading the charge in private fundraising efforts, community building events (shout out to all my Oktoberfest people!), and grant-writing to provide a better play space for children of all ages. Many of you have seen the exciting progress already happening as the rusted and failing exercise bars were removed to make way for several new play pieces. Estimated completion of this project is June (visit <https://www.brentwoodplaygroundproject.com/> for more details)! For a couple of years, I coordinated the music line-up at Violet Crown Fest. Most recently, I coordinated neighbors affected by Atlas 14 floodplain map changes and engaged with heroic civil engineers in our neighborhood, City Watershed Protection Staff, and Councilmember Leslie Pool's office to amend floodplain maps and allow for the construction of additions on properties that meet certain criteria.

As I write this, we are all hunkering down in an effort to protect the most vulnerable among us from Covid-19. My hope is that as a community we can come together (metaphorically of course, because #socialdistancing!) to care for each other and use our network of resources to help neighbors during this challenging time. Please read on in the newsletter to find out ways you can help and get help in our community. Peace and Love, Kristine Poland

Violet Crown Care Network Seeks to Help Neighbors Affected by the Pandemic

By Anne-Charlotte Patterson, CNA VP

To state the obvious, we've suddenly entered a challenging and scary time. The good news: we live in one of the best communities on the planet! While we can't predict exactly what's to come, I know in my heart that our tightly-knit Violet Crown neighborhoods will weather the storm well. The amazing people who live here support and look out for one another. When I'm at events like the Violet Crown Festival [cancelled this year!], our local Oktoberfest, or waiting in the loooong lines to vote at our polling spots, I'm reminded again and again that the neighbors here SHOW UP, and they care.

About 10 days ago, I started talking with some neighborhood friends about what we can do to help during this crisis. We know we have neighbors whose situations have become precarious because of the virus. For example, now people who are ill or older can't just run out to Walgreen's or Arlan's. At the same time, lots of us would be more than happy pick up a few things on our own grocery store visits, or help place an online order for someone who's not tech savvy — if we just knew who was in need. We realize that some neighbors are already helping others, but what if we got organized to create a safety net for the whole village?

So, we (myself, Violet Crown Community Works board members Nancy Barnard & Bradley Linscomb, activist Annie Hartnett, BNA president Kristine Poland, and Brentwood PTA president Candace Pruett) decided to create the Violet Crown Care Network. The purpose of the VCCN is to organize a hyper-local safety net for our community,



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block-by-block. The goal is simple: 1. Use a block captain system to find out who on each block or street needs help or can offer help, and 2. Communicate specific needs to our network of helpers so whoever's available can raise their hand.

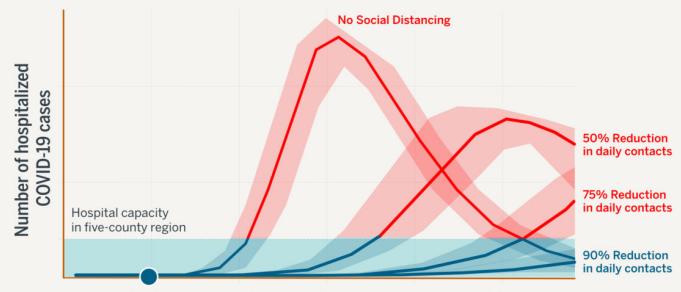
We're communicating with other community orgs in order to be as efficient as possible, and with the help of a Physician's Assistant, we've created a safety protocol to protect all involved.

If you'd like to be part of this endeavor:

1. Like and follow our Facebook page for updates
2. Complete the outreach form if you think you might be available to donate a bit of your time to your community. <https://forms.gle/ZYy1b9NGrKJ2hxTr9>
3. Reach out to me with any questions whatsoever! annecharlottep@gmail.com

When we're on the other side of this, I know we're all going to be really proud of our neighborhood.

COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS



How to Slow the Spread of COVID-19

- ◆ Stay home as much as possible, especially if you are sick, older, and/or have a medical condition.
- ◆ If you are sick, stay home except to access medical care. If you are able to take care of yourself, stay home. If you need to see your doctor, call first.
- ◆ Avoid gatherings of more than 10 people and non-essential trips into public. Cancel events of more than 10 people.
- ◆ Limit close contact (at least six feet) with other people. Employers should allow alternative work options as much as possible.

What else can we do to protect ourselves and others?

- ◆ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- ◆ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- ◆ Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces, including grocery items and packaging.

Here are some links to updated information:

- ◆ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> from the World Health Organization
- ◆ <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm#coronavirus> from the TX Department of State Health Services
- ◆ <http://austintexas.gov/COVID19> from the City of Austin
- ◆ <https://news.utexas.edu/2020/03/26/a-new-texas-covid-19-pandemic-toolkit-shows-the-importance-of-social-distancing/> from UT Austin
- ◆ <https://www.austinisd.org/coronavirus> from AISD
- ◆ <https://www.takeouttracker.com/> is updated frequently with Austin restaurants and coffee shops with filters for the type of food, whether they are open and if they offer delivery, to go or both.



Brentwood Playground Project

The Brentwood Park playground improvement effort is underway! Old and outdated equipment has been removed, the fencing is up and trees are protected. Phase I of this project, updating the playground infrastructure and equipment and adding pieces for older ages, should be completed by May.

The project is being funded by donations raised by a sub-committee of the Friends of Brentwood Park, Violet Crown

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Community Works, a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation and from Austin Parks and Recreation Department's parkland dedication fees. Phase II will require additional funds. Please consider donating today to show your love and support for our park! Here's the link to our [Go-FundMe](#) page.



It's My Park Day 2020!

On March 7, Friends of Brentwood Park and volunteers worked hard and:

- ◆ Distributed 30 yards of mulch to trees on the eastern side of the park
- ◆ Weeded trees
- ◆ Weeded and mulched the sign bed, purple martin bed, and the Shelton bed
- ◆ Weeded the volleyball court

Genuine Joe provided coffee and Eldorado Cafe donated breakfast tacos. Austin Parks Foundation and Austin Parks and Recreation delivered two loads of mulch, lent tools and provided organizational assistance.

LDC Revision Update and Court Win

By Barbara McArthur

[Click on [hyperlinks](#) to see videos and more documents]

Background. The City of Austin has been pursuing a revision of our Land Development Code, originally called CodeNEXT, that would substantially change Austin. In doing so, the City has treated the existing community as a blank slate where demolition and displacement are encouraged by large increases in development rights and the reduction or elimination of compatibility standards and parking. There has been little or no discussion of the infrastructure needed, public safety implications or environmental impacts. At the same time, the city has ignored the input of its own demographer who has pushed back against assertions that our ex-

isting land development code has constrained the construction of housing. The analysis shown below is from the city demographer's [4th quarter 2019](#) report:

State law gives homeowners petition rights when their property, or property within 200 feet, is being rezoned. When community members became interested in exercising those rights with the far-reaching zoning changes proposed, city staff asserted that there were [no rights](#) in this LDC (CodeNEXT) process, and posted that information on the city website. In December, Council Member Leslie Pool proposed an amendment to recognize petition rights.

After that motion failed, she presented a second amendment to protect Austin property owner's [rights should the court hold the city's position is wrong](#). That motion also failed.

Second Reading. When the CodeNEXT process was stopped before elections last year, the Austin community was told that the City would only proceed at the "speed of trust". The speed of trust is apparently very fast, because the City Council and the public were given only 6 business days to review substantial changes to a 1350+ page document and over 30,000 zoning map changes before the council's second reading in February ([Listen](#) to Council Member Alter's concerns). For the second reading, there were three days of public hearings - on the first day people were only given two minutes to testify; on the second day, only [one minute](#) was considered enough for the majority of the council. Concerns about localized flooding and increased density were [dismissed](#) as anti-science and climate-denying. Amendments for [sidewalks](#) to be a consideration in areas proposed for increased density and reduced parking were defeated. An amendment to apply [tenant protections](#) to other affordable housing programs was rejected. In closing comments, Council Members addressed concerns about the public [losing trust](#) in the process, the [community concerns and inequities](#) and the [lack of vetting of amendments passed](#). The second reading passed on a 7-4 vote.

The community fights back - and wins. A group of property owners from across the city filed suit against the City to enforce their statutory rights to notice and to file protest petitions. They were represented by the law firm of Gray & Becker. On March 18, Austin plaintiffs won their case against the City of Austin, prevailing on all grounds. The judge concluded that the City had [violated state law](#). The Court [ruled](#) that the City had failed to give the required notice to property owners and, as a result, the Council's votes on first and second readings on the City's Code Revision ([CodeNEXT or LDC Revision 1 and 2](#)) were void. Additionally, and more significantly, the Court ruled that the City's refusal to recognize legitimate statutory zoning protest rights is illegal. You can read the declaratory judgement [here](#). You can watch the complete hearing [here](#), or you can watch a 20-minute excerpt of the court case [here](#).

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Council Member Leslie Pool said in her newsletter:

“Certainly, to move forward with the LDC revision, city administrators must revise their process, and that process should reflect the court decision and acknowledge the public’s rights. Our future actions must be grounded in community inclusion and agreement, given the high stakes.”

Going forward. The legal victory means that we now have an opportunity for a code revision that is community supported and is fair and equitable to all segments of the population and all parts of town. Protest rights - by requiring a three-fourths majority vote - serve as an incentive to create a better code that earns broader community support as reflected in the super-majority vote of the Council. Working together, we can make a difference.

If you want to exercise your legal right and file a protest, use this link to file online: www.fileyourprotest.com.

Brentwood Elementary School Update

At a February 4 community meeting at Brentwood Elementary, AISD staff recommended using space at the Webb Middle School campus to house Brentwood students beginning next year.

Superintendent Paul Cruz carefully reviewed the possible implications of each move, and determined that relocating to the Webb Middle School site is best suited to the needs of the Brentwood students and staff. The campus is about 2 miles from Brentwood, and the layout of the space ensures that Brentwood and Webb students have their own sections of the campus to call home.

A Brentwood transition committee made up of Brentwood staff and parents is working on the details of the transition. The final layout of the swing space will be provided to the Brentwood community and will indicate where the gym, cafeteria, library, play areas, administration and other core spaces will be located. The layout will also indicate drop-off and pick-up locations. They are working on issues of transportation, after-school programs, transfers, enrollment, safety and parking, which will likely be limited during the school day. Starting in the Fall 2020 semester, AISD will provide bus transportation to and from the Brentwood neighborhood and Webb campus for all students that are zoned to attend Brentwood Elementary. The bus routes and timing will be finalized in Summer 2020.

Project Connect

At the March 5th “Coffee on the Corridor” for Burnet Road, the latest design plans for the first Burnet Road projects that will go to construction were on display:

- ◆ [Burnet Road/Braker Lane intersection](#) (construction is anticipated in late 2020)
- ◆ [Burnet Road from Koenig Lane to White Horse Trail](#) (construction is anticipated in fall 2021)

Enhancements near Brentwood include: raised medians along Burnet Road to prevent mid-street left-hand turns, signal improvements at Romeria and Burnet across from Lamar Middle School, and a mid-block pedestrian crossing light ("hybrid beacon") at White Rock Dr and Allandale Rd (aka Koenig Ln).

Recycled Reads hosted the event, and Monkey Nest Coffee provided the delicious coffee and pastries. The next Coffee on the Corridor is scheduled to be held on June 5th, 2020 at Recycled Reads from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Bring your questions, comments and suggestions!

Funding for the project is from the 2016 Mobility Bond.

Save The Bees!

By Teresa Holmes

This years' annual reminder comes with even more gravity than usual. As Summer approaches, we will start to see more mosquitoes. **Those of us depending on our vegetable garden BEG OF YOU, please do not hire a mosquito spraying company or use pyrethrin/oids.** The poison, yes, the organic pesticide that broadcast kills, is still poison. It is highly toxic to the bees we need for pollination, and to the lacewings and ladybugs we need to eat aphids; in other words, all the live parts of a healthy ecology. There is also evidence that the same nerve damage the pesticide causes them may affect us as well.

Each Spring, our garden is BUZZING with bees , and the tomatoes, fruit trees, peppers, squash, etc. are covered. Once the trucks start rolling into the hood, spraying during the day time when the bees are all out pollinating, they are nearly completely wiped out. This results in us having to go out with a paint brush and do our best to hand-pollinate in order to have food.

My tips each year are to:

- ◆ Limit time outdoors during dusk and dawn.
- ◆ Wear appropriate protective clothing.
- ◆ Stay on top of emptying standing water.
- ◆ Wear DEET or your choice of organic "OFF"
- ◆ If you have a pond, buy mosquito fish.
- ◆ Keep mosquito dunks in standing water, including French drains.
- ◆ Spread cedar pellets.
- ◆ Clear out brush piles.

Basically use one of the many non-poisonous options available. We thank you from the bottoms of our hearts! We want to be able to continue to share our harvests with everyone and doing the above will help make that possible.

When we know better, we are expected to do better.

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Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston

How often does our mail go directly from our mailbox into our blue recycling bin? The average American household receives 848 pieces of junk mail every year.

JUNK MAIL seems to be just a fact of life BUT we can greatly reduce the amount of unwanted mail by doing just a few things. We can also reduce the amount of wanted mail. I have tried all the options listed below. We get so little mail that our mail carrier told us we had really lightened his load!

HOW TO REDUCE UNWANTED MAIL

- ◆ **WEEKLY GROCERY STORE FLYERS** - To stop receiving these flyers, visit <https://www.redplum.com/help/how-can-i-be-removed-from-your-mailing-list>. Be patient. It takes about 6 weeks.
- ◆ **UNWANTED MAIL OR CATALOGS** – Visit <https://catalogchoice.org/>. Their mission is to stop junk mail for good. It is a non-profit service that sends merchants your catalog “opt out” requests or guides you how to do it.
- ◆ **OTHER CATALOGS** – When ordering something online, a huge catalog often arrives within a week from that same company. By calling, you can request that they no longer send you their catalog.

HOW TO RECEIVE WANTED MAIL ELECTRONICALLY

- ◆ **MAGAZINES** – Most magazines are available online. Just call and request that option.
- ◆ **BILLS AND CREDIT CARD STATEMENTS** - Almost all bills, including utility and credit card statements, can be received electronically. Select “go paperless” from their websites.

Below is a “cheat sheet” for recycling. It doesn’t address all recycling questions but it helps provide a basic understanding of what can and cannot go into the blue curbside bin.

RECYCLING CHEAT SHEET FOR THE BLUE BIN

- ◆ Nothing smaller than a credit card.
- ◆ No mixed materials (no plastic soap pump with metal spring, no candy wrappers, no orange juice cartons, no paper coffee cups).
- ◆ No contaminated paper products (no wet paper - even if dried out, no pizza boxes, no food product on paper).
- ◆ Nothing that can wrap around sorting machinery or that poses a danger at the recycling facility (no plastic bags, wire coat hangers, rope, garden hoses, hypodermic needles, or aerosol cans with anything in them). Empty

aerosol cans DO go into the blue bin.

- ◆ Lid rules – All glass jars need to have their lids removed. Keep all plastic lids on plastic bottles and containers. All separate lids smaller than a credit card go into the trash. All separate lids larger than a credit card go into the blue bin.

PLEASE REMEMBER - WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT

If you don’t know how to recycle something, put it in your trash can to avoid recycling contamination.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>. If you have questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: recycling@hpwban.org

The 2020 Census

It's fast, it's easy, and the data you provide is important, including how many representatives we have in congress and how hundred\$ of billion\$ in federal funds are allocated to our community. Funding is used for a variety of needs from preventing child abuse to preparing for natural disasters.

Go to <https://2020census.gov/> for more information. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail using the 12-digit ID printed on the form you received in the mail. Note that the census does **not** ask if anyone in your home is a U.S. citizen. Canvassers will begin visiting homes that have not responded in May, or when determined safe for in person contacts.

Free Resources from the National Wildlife Federation

By Collin O'Mara

The National Wildlife Federation is providing free access to the National Wildlife Federation’s educational materials with the hopes of bringing joy and enrichment.

Go to [The National Wildlife Federation-helping-families-through-the-covid-19-outbreak](https://www.nwf.org/Helping-Families-Through-the-COVID-19-Outbreak) for some resources to help inspire young people with the wonders of wildlife and nature:

- ◆ Free Ranger Rick Digital magazines and content as well as Parent Reading Guides
- ◆ Free Eco-Schools Curricula and Program
- ◆ Free Garden for Wildlife Tips
- ◆ Download [the National Wildlife Federation’s new Nature Guides](https://www.nwf.org/Nature-Guides) to learn more about the wildlife and plants you encounter on your hikes and in your own backyard.
- ◆ [De-stress While Helping Wildlife](#)

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Contact BNA at: brentwood.austin@gmail.com

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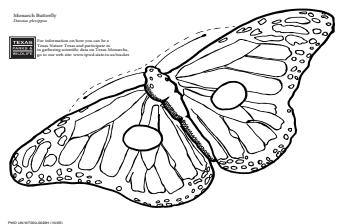
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Rachel Copperman	5604 Wm. Holland	512-680-1997
Bill Morgan	2005 Burbank	512-454-7207
Bill Spiesman	5700 Clay	512-699-1493
Don Leighton-Burwell	1417 Palo Duro	512-323-2017

Two (2) Vacant Positions — Contact us if you're interested in serving!

Coloring Activity — Texas Parks and Wildlife

Coloring is a relaxing activity for artists of all ages! Click on this [link](#) to download and color this lovely butterfly mask — fun for the whole family!



Go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tracker to learn how you can be a citizen scientist.

BNA Dues Renewal:

Use the form below to support BNA, or join on-line via PayPal:

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BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION "Supporting" Membership Form (2020):

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What are your most important concerns?

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Renewal or New Membership? \$10.00/Household Additional Donation? (*this will really help!*)
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