



Brentwood Neighborhood Association

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

August 2020

www.brentwoodaustin.blogspot.com

Labor Day Parade CANCELED

Our neighborhood did not exist the last time the people of the City of Austin faced a pandemic like we have today — but here we are! In keeping with the goal of containing the contagion, we are canceling our Labor Day celebration. The good news is that you can sleep in on Labor Day — the bad news is that we will miss having our parade and watermelon in the park. We must all encourage one another to stay safe and look forward to the time when normal life can resume. This will not last forever, so we endeavor to make the most of what we have and celebrate each other from a distance until this pandemic is a thing of the past. Let's love one another well and get through this together.



Travis County Tax Assessor Bruce Elfant and Kristine Poland (BNA President) talking at our 2019 Labor Day celebration.

Brentwood Park Pool Remains Closed for Summer

Due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases and the projected trajectory of COVID related hospitalizations, all facilities and park amenities will remain closed. This includes facilities previously reopened such as cultural facilities, pools, golf courses, tennis facilities, park concessions, and other amenities.

All in-person programming will be suspended including sports and fitness programming, summer camps, and cultural programming. In addition, the Barton Creek and Bull Creek greenbelts will remain closed. Parks will remain open; however, all amenities (e.g. volleyball courts, tennis courts, playgrounds, disc golf courses, etc.) will be closed except for restrooms and water fountains.

City of Austin parks and trails (except for those listed above) will remain open; however, rules regarding mask use and social distancing continue to apply. PARD Rangers will continue to patrol parks and help educate park users for voluntary compliance.

For more information, go to: <http://austintexas.gov/page/pard-facilities-closures>

Good progress is being made on Brentwood Park's Play-ground Improvement Project!

In addition, the sidewalk and steps by the pool entrance have been replaced, and the main entrance to the park is getting a facelift along with a new sidewalk.

At this time, **It's My Park Day Fall** is on hold, pending a plan to mulch trees with social distancing. Information will be posted to the Friends of Brentwood Park Facebook page, Nextdoor and on the BNA listserv.

New BNA Google Group — Please, Sign Up Now!

by Don Leighton-Burwell

Some twenty years ago, BNA created this new-fangled thing called an "e-group" through Yahoo! to allow residents of Brentwood to communicate with each other regarding issues in our

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neighborhood. In recent years, we have many other resources for staying in touch (e.g. Nextdoor, Facebook, etc.), but we have continued to maintain our e-group to ensure that residents have a commercial-free method to address Brentwood-specific concerns.

Because Yahoo! is phasing out their support of groups, BNA wants all of our residents to migrate to our new Google group. As with the old Yahoo! group, we are restricting membership to Brentwood residents only (with some exceptions) and will maintain the same rules for posting, etc.

If you have not done so already, please join our new Google group via this link: [Brentwood-na Google Group](#). As of August 31, 2020, BNA will **permanently close** our Yahoo! group, so please join the new group prior to that date so that we don't lose contact with you. We want to thank Denise Dailey, our long-time moderator of the Yahoo! group, for her tireless and impeccable efforts to keep folks in Brentwood connected. She will continue to moderate the new Google group and we are truly grateful for her on-going dedication to our neighborhood.

You can also join the new Google group through our weblog at: [brentwoodaustin.blogspot.com](#) (look for link in the left column). This new e-group will continue to help our residents to stay in touch with each other and, more importantly, help to foster the unique and connected community that we so treasure in Brentwood — the best neighborhood in Austin!

Brentwood Water & Wastewater Renewal Project Update

City workers are replacing and upgrading aging water and wastewater lines on Brentwood Street and Arcadia with partial lane and road closures, from Arroyo Seco to Wild Street. Additional work is scheduled in the neighborhood and the roads will be repaved at the end of the project. To sign up for email updates, go to: [austintexas.gov/brentwoodwater](#)

Water Reservoir Replacement at N Lamar & Koenig Ln

From City of Austin/Austin Water

Construction has begun to demolish the old reservoir, replace it, convert the pump station into a new electrical building and to construct a new pump station. The work will be within the existing fence, with construction traffic the only impact to the Brentwood neighborhood. The new reservoir will be smaller in diameter and taller, making it visible from the street. A new systems control and data acquisition radio tower will be installed, along with new fencing around the perimeter.

The original "North Austin Reservoir", built at the top of the hill in 1913, was an open tank enjoyed by waterfowl. It has exceeded its usefulness and the new modern reser-

voir and pump station will improve the reliability of our water distribution system. For more information and to sign up for email updates, visit austintexas.gov/NAReservoir.

Message from Leslie Pool, District 7 Council Member

We have a busy few weeks ahead as the City Council prepares to pass next year's City budget. The [draft FY2020-2021 City of Austin budget](#) includes promising measures to confront the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the systemic injustices in policing experienced by communities of color. I appreciate the hard work that went into the FY21 draft budget along with the effort that the City Financial Services Department put into changes responsive to the reimagining of public safety that the Council directed. I see the draft budget as a starting point, and I anticipate that more adjustments will be necessary to address the disparities experienced by our Black and Brown neighbors.

The City Council votes to finalize the budget on August 12, 13, and 14. For details on the meetings, go to: https://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/council_meeting_info_center.htm

McCallum HS Seniors Roll Towards a Bright Future with Parade

by John E. Byers, McCallum High Grad, past MAC Dad & Brentwood Native

Throngs of teary-eyed parents, siblings, McCallum teachers, coaches and staff, alumni and Brentwood neighbors lined the large campus on three sides to cheer, shoot videos and honor the 2020 Senior Class at a lengthy car parade on May 28, 2020.

Blue skies with a hot Texas sun, hundreds of blue and silver balloons, and blaring car stereos all combined to create a stirring event for the seniors. Many cars and trucks were festooned with upbeat slogans ("straight outta McCallum" and "Lights out – it's Knight Time") painted with blue and white sign paint. The students began to gather at the far north parking lot (MAC band practice site) well before 12 noon, with the overflow backing down Koenig Lane nearly to Woodrow Avenue.

At 1 p.m., the cars pulled out and headed south on Sunshine Drive, taking a right turn at Houston and then right onto Grover. Both AISD and APD police officers helped maintain a safe, orderly procession that culminated at the Dart Bowl parking lot.

Many of the cars and trucks also displayed the full name of the senior aboard, as well as their college destinations. Baylor, Cal Poly, Ball State, Colorado Mountain College, Hawaii, Sam Houston State, St. Edwards, Wisconsin and The University of Texas were all seen on various cars, dis-



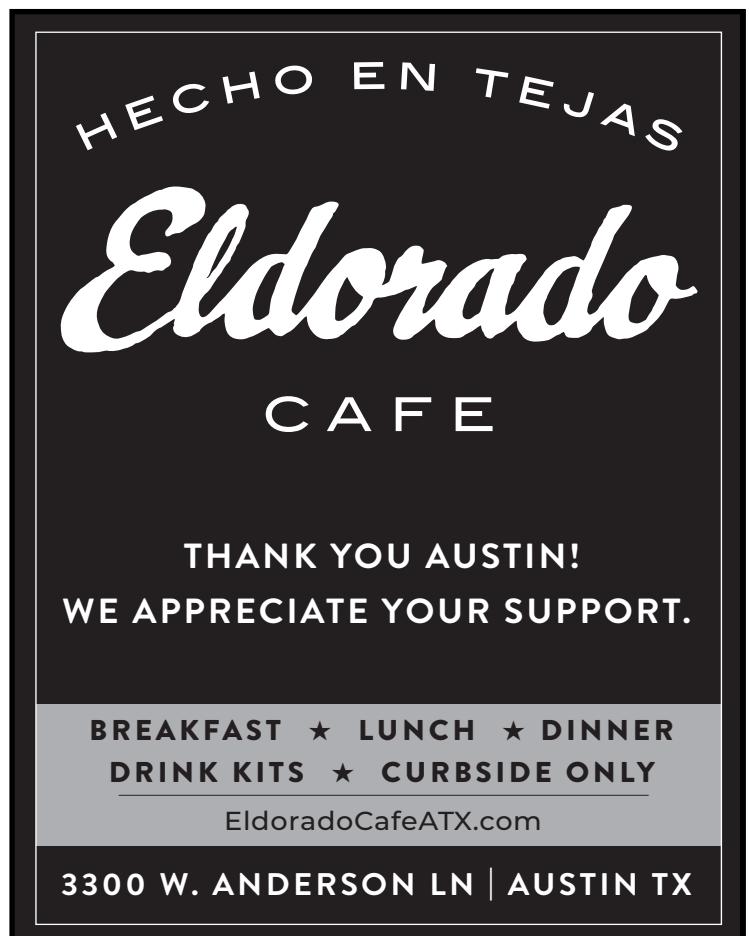
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Mac Graduation Parade (photo by Dave Winter)

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played in college colors sign paint. As students rolled by on the crowded Sunshine Drive, volunteers shouted loudly: "What size do you wear ?!" and then deftly delivered a "MAC Seniors 2020" tee shirt to each celebrant. The one and one-half hour event was attended by a crowd of vocal supporters estimated at between 750 - 900.

Senior buddies Zeke French and Cotton Stone said that "we are just trying to figure it out" and that a trip to Seattle and likely a "gap year" were on the horizon.

The central Austin school has a storied history and legacy and now has a new chapter to be shared by all McCallum Knights. The 64th graduating class of A.N. McCallum High School created an indelible memory for the Knight Family that will be cherished and shared for years to come. For more photos of the parade, check out this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FOsGAaD-d48KfnpHBKM1vu9UeeKL1J0iN?usp=sharing>

Dart Bowl Shut Down after 62 Years of Family Fun and Plain 'ol Good Dining

By John E. Byers

The Dart Bowl bowling center (and its popular Cafe), a Brentwood business pillar since 1996, closed permanently on July 17, 2020. Co-owner John Donovan summed it up: "a lot of people are able to work from home, but you can't bowl from home," and said that the business losses delivered by the pandemic simply could not be overcome.

The 32-lane bowling alley opened in 1958 on Burnet Road just south of West Anderson Lane. It moved to 5700 Grover 38 years later, just across the street from A.N. McCallum High School. Several alumni groups from the 1960s, '70s and '80s have been meeting at the Dart Bowl Cafe for monthly luncheon gatherings.

Don Crow, Class of '65, said "a bunch of us made a trip over there early in the week, but word had already gotten out and, with the long waiting line - over an hour, we had to skip it." Crow, Charlie Meacham, Randy Harrell and several other classmates, friends dating back 60 years to



Peggy Zamarripa, Dart Bowl Cafe owner, thanks long-time customer Ray Thurmond for dining one more time, the day before the closing of the popular diner. It had been in operation for 62 years; the last 24 were at 5700 Grover Avenue.

Lamar Middle School, looked forward each week to dining together.

In its heyday, the Dart Bowl was home to both top-level city league play as well as a host to national tournaments featuring the top professional bowlers in the United States. But it was also a place where parents would bring youngsters to teach them how to bowl correctly. It was the site for hundreds of birthday parties over the years. The food from the grill never disappointed, as petite Peggy Zamarripa dished out enchilada plates, homemade bread and breakfast migas that brought her renown for nearly five decades.

John and Jacy Donovan and the Ray family, co-owners of the bowling alley, expressed sadness that the cafe business would have to close as a casualty of their decision. Ms. Zamarripa and Butch Martinets and his family owned the cafe as a separate business entity and operated it with great care and devotion to its hundreds of loyal customers. Mr. Martinets passed away in January of this year after investing 50 years in the Dart Bowl Cafe.

Ray Thurmond, 90, came in on July 16 from Leander for "my favorite dish, the Spanish omelet. I sure hate to see this place shut down. I started eating the food over on Burnet Road, and it has always been good," Thurmond recalled. He worked at the time as an engineer at IBM.

The list of destination dining establishments in north cen-

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tral Austin that have gone out of business continues to grow. In the past few years, The Frisco diner on Burnet Road, Threadgill's No. 1 on North Lamar, Enchiladas y Mas on West Anderson Lane and now the Dart Bowl Cafe have been shuttered.

Generous Neighbors!

By Kathleen Boas

Recently my workplace, Austin State Hospital (ASH), put out a call for donations of men's pants and shorts. We notified the Brentwood Neighborhood Association listserv, and our community responded in a big way! Over the one weekend of the drive, neighbors dropped off (contact-free, of course) nearly 100 pairs of men's pants and shorts at our house, all of which have been delivered to the Personal Care department for distribution to the people the hospital serves.

At any one time, ASH has over 200 people in residence being treated for mental illness. Many come with only the clothes they are wearing, so Personal Care works hard to be well-stocked in order to meet everyone's needs, from children and adolescents to adults.

In usual (non-pandemic) times, clothing donations are accepted at a drop box on campus and volunteers assist with sorting and organizing the donations. Due to current precautions, access to the campus is limited, so the generosity of our neighborhood has been a great boost in making sure Personal Care has what it needs.

In many ways, 2020 has been disheartening, but generosity like this is a reminder that there is so much good in the world, and a lot of it is right here in our neighborhood! Thanks so much to everyone who was able to contribute!

If you'd like more information on volunteering at ASH (when that is again possible), you can visit the Volunteer Services Council website at <http://www.ashvolunteers.org/wp/>

If you or a loved one is experiencing a mental health condition, or you would just like to know more about mental health support and education available in our community, you can find out more at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Texas website at <https://nami-centraltx.org/>

If you or a loved one is experiencing a mental health crisis, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day: **1-800-273-8255**

Neighborhood Network

By Joe Sawicki

After noticing a few small crimes on our street, and reading about a nearby store robbery, I started to search for ways to prevent crime. Motion lights appear to be helping, but I wondered if there was a way to make a difference beyond my own property in a safe and peaceful way.

Neighborhood watches have been one way to do so in the U.S., including in Brentwood. However, in order to emphasize the human connection and not the idea of watching from a distance, we are proposing to call this a neighborhood "network" instead of "watch."

Austin Police Department's Community Liaison offers training on the topic, which emphasizes neighbors looking out for each other, and taking pride in the neighborhood. My neighbors and I took the 2-hour training, spaced 6-feet apart in my front yard. We learned a lot, including these suggestions:

- ◆ Increase awareness during daily routines
- ◆ Meet with your neighbors as a group
- ◆ Review crime statistics on krimelabb.com, and similar sites
- ◆ Deter, detect, delay, and deny crime (4D's)
- ◆ Take away the opportunity for crime, but accept that you cannot take away a person's desire or ability to commit a crime
- ◆ Secure our property using lighting, gate locks, pin or Charley bar for French and sliding doors, landscaping that doesn't allow a hiding place, window film, steel or fiberglass doors, longer screws in latch plates and hinges, recorded serial numbers of valuables
- ◆ If needed, report illegal actions

This training can be scheduled in person or by video conference at any time, including weekends and evenings, except Mondays, as long as a minimum of 5 people are committed to attend for 2 hours. Email Veronica.Saldate@austintexas.gov or joe.sawicki@gmail.com if you're interested.

Some blocks in Brentwood already have a network in place. If there's enough interest, we could communicate and organize across the whole neighborhood.

Neighbors have made several good suggestions, such as having a list of conversation prompt ideas to start a conversation with a neighbor you don't know as well yet. I will help write and publish a list. Also, we can organize who can keep an eye out for a block at different times, based on daily routines. For example, morning people and night people can combine to keep an eye out for the block for broader coverage each day. Another suggestion has been to strengthen the community as a whole by helping those in need with education, job placement, housing, and food. And another suggestion is to make eye contact, smile genuinely, and greet each neighbor and visitor you see when it's safe to do so, for multiple benefits.

So far, the feedback about a neighborhood network has had positive interest from my nearest neighbors, and also concern from others in Brentwood. Recent current events involving police use of force, bias, and a tragic death in-

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volving a neighborhood watch in Florida in 2012 weigh on our minds. One excellent resource to learn about any bias we might have is <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>. It appears to work better on mobile phones or tablets than on a computer. You can learn about any subconscious or implicit bias you might have with regard to a person's race, age, weight, and 12 other characteristics to help with self-reflection and, possibly, changes.

For our neighborhood network in the early stages of forming, we will emphasize the human connection, be safe, be peaceful, and have the goal to prevent crime, all while specifically making ourselves and property seem not worth the risk or time for a criminal.

Lettuce Recycle!

By Dena Houston

RECYCLING AT AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - PART 2

Below is the continued story of some of the wonderful initiatives in the field of recycling and reuse that are happening at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA). This information is from an interview with B. J. Carpenter, the Sustainability Program Coordinator at the airport.

- ♦ **COMPOST COLLECTION** – Many airport restaurants and coffee shops have begun providing compostable containers for their customers. These containers can be put directly into the compost collection bins now provided at ABIA (even with food product in them).
Please make sure the containers are labeled “BPI certified compostable”.
- ♦ **AIRPLANE WASTE AND RECYCLING** – Your plane is about to land and the flight attendants come around to collect your trash and recyclables in separate bags. What happens to those bags? Since most planes are not designed with separate built-in receptacles for trash and recyclables, much of the time both bags are dumped in a single large bag in the waste container at the back of the plane. When the cleaning staff come on board to clean the plane, they don't know whether to throw that bag in the trash cart (with the black lid) or the recycling cart (with the blue lid).

To address this problem, all the collection bins at all airline gates had their lids changed from black (trash) to blue (recycling) so that now everything goes to the Texas Disposal System's (TDS) recycling facility. TDS has made a special arrangement to pull the recyclables from this mate-



rial and therefore keep them from going to the landfill.

Incidentally, cans and bottles that the flight attendants use to serve your drinks and then return to the airline serving carts go to the airline's “hub” airport (not ABIA). For example, American Airlines planes could be serviced at DFW.

THE THINKERY

The Thinkery (Austin's children's museum) accepts all kinds of creative supplies. Please visit their website for more information: <https://thinkeryaustin.org/thinkery-material-donations-v3/?fbclid=IwAROk-D9d5ulJbQobicyn6qnNes9RpSReSsRFJlx-G6s01OrZjQ1Op3MvyWdXY>

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS:

- ♦ **WHAT DO I DO WITH BUBBLE WRAP AND STYROFOAM PACKING MATERIAL?** Many mail/shipping stores, will take these for reuse as long as they are in good condition. Bubble wrap can also go into the plastic collection bins at the grocery stores.
- ♦ **PLEASE REMEMBER – WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!!!**

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: recycling@hpw-bana.org.

New Group & Peaceful Neighborhood March

by Brentwood Anti-Racism Group

In the wake of the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, several community members came together to form the Brentwood Anti-Racism Group (BARG). BARG is a group of Violet Crown (Brentwood/Crestview) residents committed to making our community anti-racist and affirming that Black Lives Matter in our neighborhood. The group's first event will be a neighborhood march. All are welcome to join this family-friendly, peaceful event.

March Details:

- ♦ **Saturday, August 15**
- ♦ Line up: 8:00am, March begins: 8:20am
- ♦ Brentwood Park - meet on the west side of the park, near the baseball field
- ♦ Face masks required
- ♦ **Sign Up Link:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iY6V3xIuZeJcFi9XFuyEWsl4gyr2nz-Ufs4xzAzagpgU/edit>

The purpose of this march is to spark action within our

community. Change is ongoing - it does not start and stop here. Walk to symbolize your commitment. Donate to contribute to tangible change: [Communities of Color United Mutual Aid Fund](#). With years of experience doing this work, CCU knows how to support the community — and they're calling on us to help. Consider becoming a sustaining monthly donor.

For Updates and Future Events: [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#), and for more on groups leading in our community:

- ◆ Austin Justice Coalition: <https://austinjustice.org/>
- ◆ Communities of Color United: <https://www.facebook.com/CCUCoalition/>

Fighting Mosquitos in Your Yard & Garden

By David Mizejewski, National Wildlife Federation

Mosquitoes are annoying, but spraying to kill adult mosquitoes isn't an effective solution. There's no way to avoid a fatal impact on beneficial insects, such as bees, butterflies and other wildlife when spraying broad-spectrum insecticides (regardless of what companies who spray tell you).

Here are three better, more natural ways of reducing the chance of being bitten by mosquitoes this summer as you enjoy your outdoor spaces:

Eliminate Breeding Spots

First, focus on larval control by eliminating the standing water where mosquitos lay their eggs and go through their aquatic larval stage. This is more effective at reducing mosquito populations in your yard than spraying for adults. Clogged gutters that hold small pools of water are a favorite breeding spot. Clean them out and install screening on top to prevent debris from collecting and holding water. Check kids' playsets and toys, garden décor, outdoor debris or any other place that holds standing water and drain it.

Mosquitoes take five to seven days to complete their metamorphosis into winged adults, so empty and refill birdbaths every two days and you'll eliminate any eggs or larvae. For garden ponds or any other water source you cannot drain, add the natural soil bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis* or "Bt" which targets mosquito larvae and other biting flies but is essentially harmless to other wildlife and people. Bt is sold in most garden or home improvement centers and online as "mosquito dunks." You can also add a pump or fountain to keep the water surface moving, which reduces the chances of adult mosquitoes laying eggs there.

Use Repellents

Second, make it harder for mosquitoes to bite you. Repellents applied to the skin or clothing that use Picaridin and DEET are most effective, as are those with the oil of lemon eucalyptus. Mosquitoes are not strong flyers so an-

other simple solution is to install a few large fans which will blow most mosquitoes away before they can get close you. Wear loose-fitting long sleeves to minimize exposed skin.

Enlist Mother Nature's Help

Third, use Mother Nature's method for controlling mosquitoes by supporting and attracting mosquito predators. Mosquitoes are eaten by some species of birds, dragonflies, bats, salamanders, lizards, frogs and spiders. Create a landscape that supports these kinds of wildlife. Predators won't eliminate every last mosquito, but neither will spraying insecticides.

How we fight mosquitoes at home matters. America's wildlife is in crisis - a point vividly underscored by a recent UN-backed report that showed nearly 1 million species are at risk of extinction due to human activities, including the use of pesticides. We are causing an "insect apocalypse" that is destabilizing the ecosystem upon which all life on this planet depends. We can all do our part to address this global crisis, starting in our own backyards.

Possoms - Did you know?

By Matthew Kehres, NWF

America's only native marsupial has a bad reputation—but doesn't deserve it. Commonly called "possum", the scientific term is "opossum", distinguishing it from the Australian native.

Did you know that one opossum can consume around 5,000 ticks in a single season? These unfussy omnivores do more than protect us by eating disease-carrying ticks; they also clean up our ecosystems by eating rotting plants and dead animals.

Possoms are nature's pest control and cleanup crew, but many people don't realize they're essential, and may even try to harm them, falsely believing they are aggressive and transmit dangerous diseases like rabies through bites. In reality, these nocturnal creatures are resistant to rabies and are more likely to play dead than attack when they encounter humans.

If you see a possum in your garden, yard, or neighborhood, don't call an exterminator! This misunderstood marsupial keeps our ecosystems healthy, eats slugs and snails, and keeps humans safe from disease.

Brentwood Elementary News

New students will register August 3 - 6 from 9 - 11 am and 1 - 3 pm at Webb Middle School. Text 512-856-1420 for Curbside Service upon arrival. New and returning students may prefer to register online through the parent cloud: <https://www.austinisd.org/technology/parent-cloud>.

School will begin on August 18, but in a remote format for at least the first 3 weeks of school.

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In Memoriam

Paul David Roch, longtime Brentwood neighbor, passed away on July 1. He served the state of Texas for over 40 years, assisting in the aid of Texans. Paul touched all he met with genuine kindness, advanced humor and easy disposition. There was always a thoughtfulness in all he did, and he did things well. He ran his first marathon at age 59, eventually running four others, after spending his entire life running for pleasure. He was easily recognizable, especially when running in the neighborhood, by his unique braid and bandana. His music knowledge was vast and widely known; his neighbors appreciated receiving CDs in lieu of candy at Halloween. Paul is survived by his mother, wife Paulette, daughter Anna, son Marshall, daughter-in-law Emily, grandson, siblings, nephew and countless friends. His family intends to host an open mic to swap stories when we are able to gather again.

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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