



## Brentwood Neighborhood Association

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

January 2020

[www.brentwoodaustin.blogspot.com](http://www.brentwoodaustin.blogspot.com)

# Annual General Membership Meeting & Elections

February 26th at 7 pm

1103 Justin Lane (Lions Club)

The annual General Membership meeting is **February 26, 2020** at 7 pm at the North Austin Lions Club at 1103 Justin Lane. BNA members will elect officers and a steering committee to serve in 2020 and will vote on any proposed changes to the Bylaws. We will also review our achievements over the past year. The Slate for 2020:

### Officers:

- ◆ President: Kristine Poland (Woodrow Ave.); 512.914.5505
- ◆ Vice-President: Barbara McArthur (Clay Ave.); 512.699.1493
- ◆ Treasurer: Angie Ward (Romeria Dr.); 512.452.1366
- ◆ Secretary: Diane Larson (Choquette Dr.); 512.919.2235

### Steering Committee:

Pamela Leighton-Burwell, Bill Morgan, Don Leighton-Burwell, Rachel Coperman, Bill Spiesman, and Two (2) Open Positions.

Officers and the steering committee are elected for a one-year term. If you are interested in serving, please contact an officer. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and help improve the neighborhood! The Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity to join or renew your annual dues. At only \$10/Household or \$5/Senior Citizens, your dues help fund annual events and neighborhood endeavors. All residents are welcome to join the Neighborhood Association; for Membership options: <http://brentwoodaustin.blogspot.com/p/join-bna.html>

BNA members are invited to attend the Steering Committee's regular monthly meetings, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the North Austin Lions Club on 1103 Justin Lane. Please contact us at [brentwood.austin@gmail.com](mailto:brentwood.austin@gmail.com) to add an issue to the agenda.

## Calling All Park Lovers

By Denman Netherland

Spring 2020 It's My Park Day (IMPD) is **Saturday, March 7** from 9 am - noon

in Brentwood Park, hosted by Friends of Brentwood Park. Projects suit many ages and abilities and include spreading mulch, clearing root collars, weeding flower beds, and maintaining the volleyball court. Keep an eye out for emails with information about how to register and what to bring. Online registration begins Feb 6. Information will also be available on our Facebook page.

Our thanks to **Eldorado Cafe** for tacos and **Genuine Joe Coffeehouse** for coffee! Please email [friendsofbrentwoodpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbrentwoodpark@gmail.com) to get involved with FOBP's leadership team or with park projects.

## Brentwood Elementary Update

By Arin Fullerton

The Brentwood United parents committee joined several Brentwood teachers and staff members recently for a meeting with AISD to review proposed locations to house Brentwood students during the school's modernization project. AISD determined that, along with Dobie, both Brentwood/Brentwood Park and Webb meet their stated physical criteria for a swing space. AISD is evaluating the cost and schedule across all three options. None of these options would require any grades to be "split off."

The Brentwood/Brentwood Park option would keep kids on-site by placing temporary portables on the fields along Yates, and using the existing 100 wing classrooms (current kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade) and gym. The 100 wing would be remodeled at the end of the project, after the new portions of the building are completed. The Webb option would add portables to the previous Webb Primary, and students would be housed in an all-portable school.

Anyone in the neighborhood is encour-

anthony, dot edu  
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aged to reach out to Brentwood United and to AISD with questions and comments so we can help with open communication and ensure voices are heard. **Brentwood United:** [unitedbrentwood@gmail.com](mailto:unitedbrentwood@gmail.com) and **AISD Future:** [aisd-communications@austinisd.org](mailto:aisd-communications@austinisd.org)

## See you at Brentwood Park in 2020!

By Kristine Poland

Due to the efforts of some Brentwood and Crestview neighbors, Phase 1 of the Brentwood Park project is finally ABOUT TO BREAK GROUND! The City estimates the demolition of the failing exercise equipment will begin in February. New equipment geared toward older children, such as a dodecahedron climbing structure, a large net climber, and a modern big-kid playscape, will be added.



Since the project was conceived in October 2016, fundraising and community-building events such as Oktoberfest, Violet Crown Festival, Violet Crown Car Show, yard sign sales, neighbor donations, and local business donations and sponsorships have raised \$88,000 to date for Phase 1! A grant from Austin Parks Foundation provides an additional \$50,000, and Austin Parks and Recreation Department is providing another \$120,000.

To add seating walls, a berm, and additional bike paths to the scope of Phase 1 work, please consider donating today! <https://www.gofundme.com/f/brentwood-play-ground-project>

To read more about the multi-phase project and to view detailed park plans, go to <https://www.brentwoodplaygroundproject.com/>

## Violet Crown Festival — Save the Date!

The Violet Crown Spring Festival returns to Brentwood Park on **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 10 am to 5 pm. This art-filled festival is literally a walk in the park, with plenty of stops for music, food, shopping, and free kids' activities.

Proceeds from the beloved festival benefit projects in Brentwood and Crestview. Admission is free! Walk or bike!

For more information, visit <http://violetcrowncommunity.org>

## Sunshine Community Gardens Plant Sale

The annual plant sale will be **Saturday, March 7** from 9 am - 2 pm at 4814 Sunshine Drive. Over 120 colorful varieties of organic and heirloom tomatoes, 80 varieties of peppers, eggplants, tomatillos, and a wide selection of medicinal and culinary herbs, ornamental plants and flowers will be available. Nourish those and the rest of your garden with some organic compost. The sale is a family-friendly gathering with live music, entertainment for children, a silent auction, and booths.

Sunshine Gardens is a cooperative arrangement with the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired providing a garden oasis in the middle of the city. Gardeners provide technical and material support for plots used by students and teachers to grow produce sold in local farmer's markets. As Austin's largest and longest lived community garden, it has been on the forefront of green practices and natural gardening in Austin for 40 years. Members enjoy giving back - in 2019, the garden donated over 2000 pounds of fresh organic produce to the Micah 6 food bank, serving the needy and homeless in the UT area.

To support this community enterprise, send a tax-deductible donation to "SCG" at PO Box 302349 Austin, TX 78703-0040. [www.sunshinecommunitygardens.org](http://www.sunshinecommunitygardens.org)

## Lettuce Recycle!

By Dena Houston

As a City of Austin Recycling Block Leader for 27 years working with the City to stay informed on the latest recycling information, I now have the opportunity to share recycling information with you!



One of the biggest problems in the area of recycling is...**Contamination**. Putting the wrong items in the blue cart is costly to ratepayers, disrupts the recycling process, and causes serious safety hazards at the Materials Recovery Facility (the MRF). The MRF is where Austin's recyclables are processed. Here are the most common culprits:

- ♦ **Plastic bags** wrap around the machinery and damage the processing equipment. All plastic bags that come into the MRF are sent to the landfill.

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- ◆ **Pizza boxes** absorb food product and contaminate the other paper recyclables in the recycling stream. Pizza boxes go into the green curbside compost cart.
- ◆ **Wet paper** is not recyclable even if it dries out. It goes into the green compost cart.
- ◆ **Wire hangers** get wrapped around the sorting machinery and cause a lot of damage. They should be taken to a dry cleaner for reuse or placed in the trash bin.
- ◆ **Garden hoses** get wrapped around the machinery and have to be physically removed, which is very dangerous. These go in the trash bin.

How is this costly to ratepayers? Based on weight, the City pays the MRF for all material brought into the recycling facility. It then sorts and processes recyclable materials and sells them. The City receives a portion of that sales revenue. The City doesn't receive revenue for any contaminated items and pays a processing fee to haul them to the landfill. This extra expense is passed on to the ratepayer by raising solid waste fees.

**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>. If you have questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: [recycling@hpwban.org](mailto:recycling@hpwban.org)



## Brentwood Elementary Used Book Sale

By Megan Sykes

The Brentwood Elementary PTA is having its annual Used Book Sale **March 2 - 6, 2020**, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm.

- ◆ Children's and adult books are priced from \$.25 - \$2.00
- ◆ Games, puzzles, school supplies, CDs, DVDs and other items are priced from \$2.00 - \$5.00

Last spring, the book sale raised over \$2200 to help pur-

chase new books and materials for the Brentwood Elementary library. THANK YOU! from the Brentwood Elementary PTA; <http://brentwoodpta.com>

## The Next CodeNEXT: Latest Developments

By Barbara McArthur

The first reading of the new Land Development Code (CodeNEXT V4) passed on a 7-4 vote with amendments with Council Members Pool, Tovo, Alter and Kitchen voting against. State law allows you to file a petition with the City of Austin opposing any zoning change to your property or to property within 200 feet of your own. Council Member Pool introduced an amendment to the council to recognize those rights. The amendment failed on a vote of 4-7 with Council Members Alter, Kitchen, and Tovo voting to recognize protest rights for our citizens. To file your protest rights, you can go to [fileyourprotest.com](http://fileyourprotest.com).

The current schedule of CodeNEXT is for new maps and text to be released the week of January 27<sup>th</sup>. Currently the second reading is planned for the week of February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Some of the amendments passed by the city council include:

- ◆ *More and larger transition zones and “missing middle” housing in existing neighborhoods.* The city council directed staff to map additional transition zones around parks, schools, grocery stores, Imagine Austin Centers, and mobility-bond-funded improvements. They directed staff to rezone corner lots to missing middle.
- ◆ *Increased impervious cover and increased building size (floor area ratio) in residential neighborhoods.* For homes that are at least 15 years old in any proposed residential zoning category, the city council recommended allowing resubdivision with no minimum lot sizes, no parking required, increased impervious cover and floor area ratio (building size) for additional units built.
- ◆ Allowing some commercial uses in *any* residential zoning. Council introduced rules to allow small grocery stores in all residential zoning classes with a conditional use permit. They also want interior neighborhood commercial spaces with “basic amenities” such as, but not limited to, daycares, pharmacies, neighborhood groceries, restaurants, and civic spaces to be rezoned within the residential areas.
- ◆ The city council recommended changing the Heritage Tree Ordinance to make it an administrative process (no public hearings) to remove Heritage Trees on corridors. Additionally, the shorter front setbacks in both the transition zones and in the R2B zoning (proposed single family) targets the area where most people have front yard trees for redevelopment that would cause tree removal.

To view a map of the City of Austin's rezoning plan, go to [CommunityNotCommodity.com](http://CommunityNotCommodity.com)



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## Graffiti in Neighborhoods

By George Yanker

Graffiti is a mark made in any way on public or private property that is visible to the public. Creating graffiti without consent of the property owner is a crime in the City of Austin, and taggers are subject to various penalties under state law. There are at least 24 graffiti crews in Austin tagging all over the city. Graffiti hot spots frequented by young taggers are in parks and under bridges. As they get older and bolder, they do progressively larger and higher-up graffiti tagging where everyone can see it and is more costly to remove.



We can all look for and report graffiti using the city's 311 mobile app, calling 311 or emailing [austin311@austin-texas.gov](mailto:austin311@austin-texas.gov) with the title GRAFFITI ABATEMENT REQUEST. Include photos with directions to the location. Taggers are discouraged from sites that are quickly cleaned.

The biggest hurdle to prevention is overcoming graffiti indifference and educating the public about the importance of constantly pushing back. The challenge is to recruit and motivate all ages, especially teenagers, to diligently report graffiti to the city for cleanup. Neighborhood associations and PTAs united in the common goal of discouraging graffiti can be very effective.

- ◆ **Volunteer** to remove graffiti by contacting Keep Austin Beautiful at 512-391-0617 or by visiting the KAB website: [KeepAustinBeautiful.org](http://KeepAustinBeautiful.org).
- ◆ **Email** [Graffiti.Abatement@austintexas.gov](mailto:Graffiti.Abatement@austintexas.gov) to request a City presentation to your neighborhood or community group.

## BNA Yahoo Group Moving to Google Groups

By Denise Dailey

As you may know, Yahoo has drastically altered its Yahoo Groups service. It still exists, but has been reduced to essentially an email only list. Sending/receiving messages through Yahoo Groups has become unreliable, with no fixes in sight. Given this unacceptable situation, BNA is creating

a Google Group where we can continue to communicate with each other.

We will be sending invitations to Yahoo Group members to join the new Google Group. For those that are not current members, please check our webpage (<https://brentwoodaustin.blogspot.com/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/BrentwoodAustin/>) for directions on how to join.

## In Memoriam

**David Shulder**, Friend of Brentwood Park and Crestview neighbor, passed away suddenly at home on November 4. A long-time It's My Park Day volunteer, he led the maintenance of the volleyball court and helped mulch trees the previous Saturday morning. He was a hardware/software engineer at IBM for over 30 years, and an avid gardener and protector of the natural environment. A celebration of his life was held at Brentwood Park on November 10.

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**Milton "Butch" Martinets**, proprietor of the Dart Bowl Café for nearly 50 years, passed away peacefully on January 7. An extremely hard worker with a strong work ethic, he always had time for a good joke, an interesting story and kind words for all. A phenomenally gifted storyteller, Butch's story is part of the old Austin history. He was very well respected and immensely loved and will be remembered by the many people whose lives he touched.

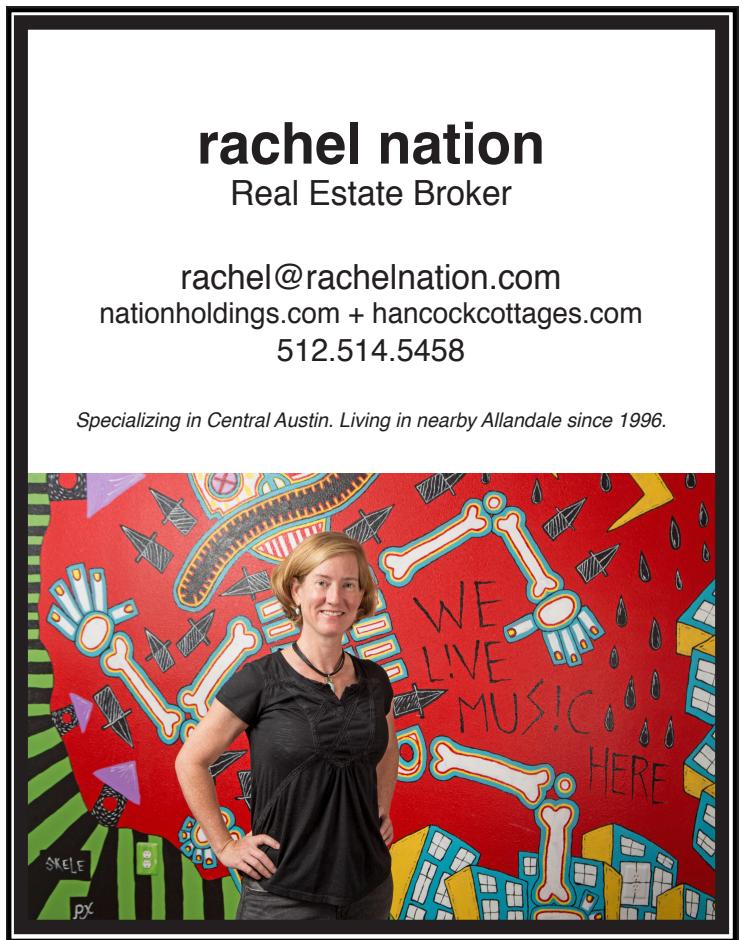
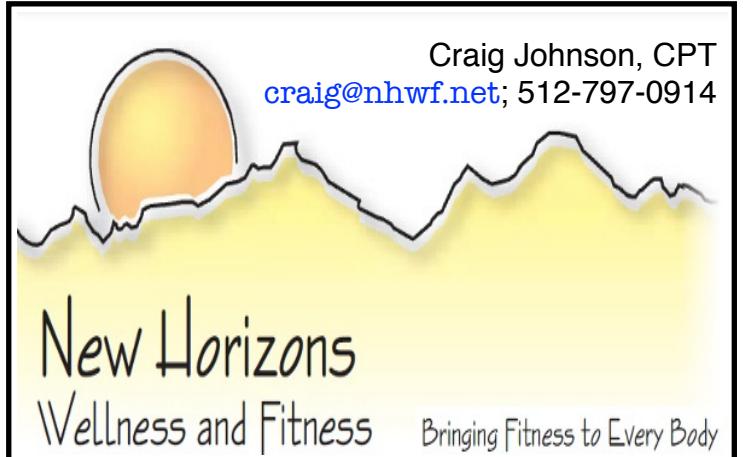
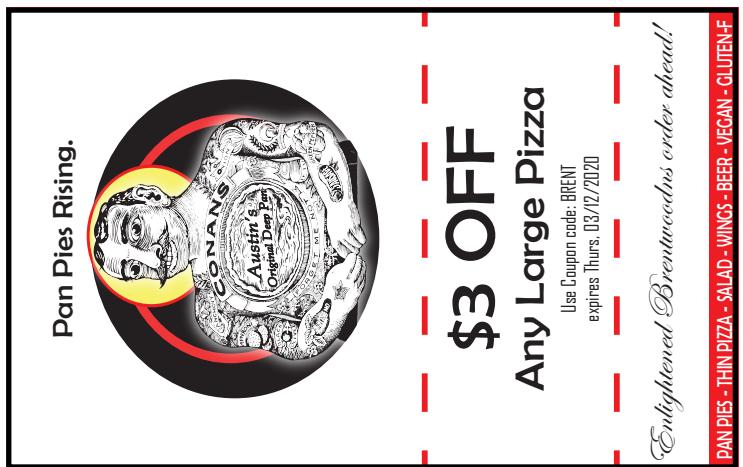
## How '5G' May Impact Brentwood

by Michael Curving

Telecommunications companies are implementing the 5G network ("5th Generation"), upgrading wireless infrastructure used in cell phones and other mobile devices. While promising technological innovation, a substantial body of research suggests it will come at a great cost to human health, property values, and personal privacy. The City of Austin chose to become an early adopter of the upgrade and anticipates that 5G will be rolled out city-wide.

The advertised benefits include a quantum leap in download speeds needed to support interconnected electronics and "smart" appliances. 5G will be the backbone to technologies critical to the development of the "smart city" of the future. 5G operates at a high frequency, carrying as little as 500 to 1,000 feet, requiring RF-emitting small cell boxes on every block in our neighborhood. The number of "small cell" installations needed to support 5G could grow from 13,000 to more than 800,000 across the country.

A group of over 250 scientists, professionals, policy makers, and activists drafted an International Appeal to the UN and WHO for a moratorium on the roll-out, citing *over a thousand* published studies linking electromagnetic frequency (EMF) and radio-frequency (RF) radiation to adverse health effects ranging from headaches, dizziness, depression, tin-



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(cont'd. from page 7)

gling of the skin and extremities to heart palpitations, sleep problems and infertility to potentially fatal conditions like brain tumors, other forms of cancer, cardiovascular issues and genetic damage to sperm and ovaries.

Opposition to 5G is growing and, in spite of significant hurdles, organized push-back has been successful at halting proposed new wireless installations. 5G will be likely be here within the year. If you would like to join other Brentwood residents to discuss the effect on our neighborhood and available options to help protect ourselves and loved ones, please visit [Austin5G.org](http://Austin5G.org) for details about an upcoming community impact meeting, for cited sources and with links to key resources. Please take time to learn more about this issue at <http://Austin5G.org/letter>.

### BNA Dues Renewal:

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

**I WANT TO SUPPORT THE  
BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD!**



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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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What are your most important concerns?

Can you deliver newsletters on your block? Yes / No (please circle one)

Renewal or  New Membership?  \$10.00/Household

(Please check one)  \$5.00/Senior Citizen Household

Additional Donation? (this will really help!)

Please make checks payable to **Brentwood Neighborhood Association**; Clip and mail form (with check) to:

**BNA, 1707 Romeria, Austin TX 78757**. Contributions are NOT tax deductible.

## 2019 BNA Officers & Steering Committee

Contact BNA at: [brentwood.austin@gmail.com](mailto:brentwood.austin@gmail.com)

<b>President:</b>	Bill Spiesman	5700 Clay	512-699-1493
<b>Vice-Pres.:</b>	Barbara McArthur	5700 Clay	512-699-1493
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Angie Ward	1707 Romeria	512-796-1060
<b>Secretary:</b>	Diane Larson	1307 Choquette	512-919-2235

### Steering Committee:

Pam Leighton-Burwell	1417 Palo Duro	512-467-7093
Rachel Copperman	5604 Wm. Holland	512-680-1997
Bill Morgan	2005 Burbank	512-454-7207
Don Leighton-Burwell	1417 Palo Duro	512-323-2017
Kristine Poland	5709 Woodrow	512-914-5505
Meg Driscoll	1413 North St.	512-371-9869
Rachna Patel	rachna_patel@alumni.northwestern.edu	



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Brentwood Area: Year to Date	2018	2019
Sold Transactions	99	136
Avg. List Price	\$490,219	\$528,682
Avg. Sold Price	\$484,354	\$523,306
Avg. SF of Sold Properties	1,457 SF	1,475 SF
Avg. Days on Market	34 Days	25 Days

For more detailed market information about your home contact John Dunham ([johndunham.com](mailto:johndunham.com)).

All YTD data is pulled from Austin MLS for single family residence as of Jan. 1, 2019 - Jan. 01, 2020

