

COVNA

Castlewood - Oak Valley Neighborhood Association



Note from the President

What wonderful start to the year we have had. Things certainly got a little scary with that devastating ice storm. The silver lining I witnessed was how readily available neighbors were willing to help one another with recommendations for trades and the open flow of communication on all channels. Neighbor and COVNA sponsor KC with ATX Roofing jumped in to help so many of us. Thank you KC!! The enthusiastic support was a beautiful reminder of how lucky we all are to have landed in this special neighborhood. What a comforting feeling it is to know that Castlewood and Oak Valley neighbors care for one another the way they do.

Our annual events have been so fun and there's more to come. The garage sale was the most successful to date. We had almost 30 homes participate and the weather was incredible. Many thanks to Tina on Collingwood for being such a pro and stepping up to lead the committee that organized such a successful COVNA Garage Sale! We are grateful to the awesome folks on Crownspoint Circle for being such wonderful hosts again, this time for the Spring Fling.

Looking ahead I hope to see everyone at Summer Picnic. If you are interested in being involved or sponsoring, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any of the board members. Finally, if you suspect that your neighbor, new or not, is not familiar with COVNA please encourage them to visit COVNA.org to join. As they say, the more the merrier!

With gratitude from Me and Mine to You and Yours!

-Michelle Hendrix 512.736.1680

COVNA Executive Board - contact info

President: Michelle Hendrix (Comburg Castle): michelle.hendrix@compass.com

Vice President: Will Binford (Comburg Castle): will.binford@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ron Mattison (Queenswood): shadmatt@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Denise Sample (Comburg Castle): sample.denise@gmail.com

Newsletter: Katy Hamill (Crownspoint Dr.): kaydeebugg@gmail.com

ANC Representative: *position currently open*

Immediate Past President: Sean McCormack (Barkwood)

There's an open Board seat and we'd love to have you join us! Contact any current Board member for more information about serving as ANC Representative.

You'll find the full-color newsletter, including a local business review of Giddy Up's, additional COVNA Board news, and a list of our sponsors on our website: www.covna.org

If you need assistance with City services or have questions about City Council, reach out to District 5 representative Ryan Alter by emailing district5@austintexas.gov or call (512) 978-2105

2023 Neighborhood Events Calendar

Summer Parade and Picnic - Saturday July 1
National Night Out - Tuesday October 3
Halloween Block Party - Saturday October 28
Holiday Party and Board Elections - Saturday Dec 2



Location for all events TBA. Dates subject to change.

Thank you!

Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors, who make our neighborhood events possible! These people are our neighbors and friends - please continue support their businesses!

DOROTHY TRAINER, JB
Goodwin REALTORS®
Crownspring Drive
512.796.3723
dorothytrainer@jbgoodwin.com

CASTLEWOOD LAWN
SERVICE, lawn care
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*Contact Will Binford for more info
about sponsoring COVNA events*

With spring and summer comes mosquito season - ugh! To find a bit of relief from everyone's least favorite insect, remember the Four Ds:

- **Dusk and dawn:** different species of mosquitos are active at different times of day, but the species that spread West Nile Virus are most active between dusk and dawn.
- **Dress:** wear light-colored, loose-fitting pants and long sleeves when you are outside.
- **DEET:** apply insect repellent that contains DEET on exposed skin and clothing.
- **Drain:** get rid of standing water in your yard and neighborhood - this is key! Check flowerpots, clogged rain gutters, birdbaths, kiddie pools; these can all be breeding sites for mosquitos.

There are many mosquito treatments neighbors have used, but remember they are often ineffective when other neighbors don't use them. They can also be harmful for birds, bees, butterflies, and other creatures, as well as for our water supply when the runoff enters gutters. Please use caution and care when choosing how to address mosquitos in your own corner of Castlewood/Oak Valley.

Austin is now officially a Bird City

Austin Parks and Recreation Department, along with other City departments and nonprofit organizations have partnered to receive official Bird City certification by Texas Parks and Wildlife and Audubon Texas. This is a continuation of efforts Austin and Travis County have made to be more bird-friendly, including the Lights Out Resolution in 2021 and World Migratory Bird Day Resolution in 2022.

Of more than 300 species of North American migratory birds, 95% migrate through Central Texas. Our COVNA amateur birders certainly have seen some of these, including various warblers and even seabirds like Franklin's gulls. Did you know that most of these birds migrate at night? One of the most important and easiest things you can do to support bird migrations is to **turn out unnecessary outdoor lights between 11p-6a** during Spring and Fall migration seasons. You can find more information about Lights Out Texas here: <https://travisaudubon.org/lights-out-texas>

To support local and migratory birds, work in your yards and gardens with birds in mind:

- Avoid heavy chemicals and fertilizers
- Put out water sources, especially during our dry summers
- Plant native wildflowers or plants that produce fruits and nuts

Let's continue to love and care for the wonderful birds we see throughout Castlewood and Oak Valley.

Travis County will celebrate Migratory Bird Day on May 13, 2023 at Hornsby Bend with a bird walk and bird survey. Find all of the details here: <https://travisaudubon.org/?event=world-migratory-bird-day-at-hornsby-bend>



Local Reviews:

Giddy Ups

by Sean McCormack

Giddy Up's is a beloved dive bar at 12010 Manchaca Rd that has been around for over 25 years. Recently COVNA's past president spent a while at this "old Austin" stalwart, still hanging on in the midst of a booming "new Austin" bar scene just a couple miles up the road.

Giddy Up's is known for its cocktails, beer & wine local musicians. The bar has a funky Texas decor and a huge outdoor patio with a big yard.

Recently, I went in for happy hour, ordered a well drink and was shocked that it only set me back \$2.50. Had I ever heard of the brand liquor that I was served? That's besides the point. There are a lot of bikers who frequent Giddy Up's and the day I went in was no exception. We all talked about hunting and different ways to kill boar.

Giddy Up's is a decent bar if you're in the mood for live music as there is someone playing there just about every night.

Curious about a local spot? Email me at sean@nicemoverealty.com and I'll put it on my list.

Upcoming event: Summer Parade and Picnic

Mark your calendars now for Saturday July 1: COVNA hosts a car and bike parade in celebration of 4th of July followed by a picnic with our neighbors. Festively decorated cars, bikes, and people are encouraged! Plan to ride or plan to watch.

COVNA Executive Board news

As announced at Spring Fling, there is an initiative to change the by-laws to allow absentee voting in Board elections. Stay tuned for more information and a possible vote to amend during the Summer Picnic following the parade Saturday July 1. Also please note that Board elections will be held in early December this year - hopefully giving neighbors more flexibility in what is a very busy month for many! Board seats up for election in 2023 are: President, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor. The incumbent Newsletter Editor will not seek re-election; please reach out to Katy if you want to know more about the position!