



CASTLEWOOD-OAK VALLEY

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Quarter 2 2024 | covna.org

Letter from the president

By Denise Sample



It's officially spring time in Texas! I know I'm thankful for the rain, especially since it did not put a damper on the garage sale or Spring Fling this year. It's been great to interact with so many neighbors recently at events or while simply outside enjoying the weather.

The most common question I get asked is how to get COVNA news. There are three main ways that COVNA information is shared: printed newsletters, COVNA website, and the email listserv.



Kudos to Amanda on Barkwood Dr. for winning the Spring Fling bake-off with her gochujang cookies.

Newsletters are printed and delivered to every home in the neighborhood. COVNA.org contains

newsletters, minutes from

Executive Board meetings, and upcoming event information, with content copied to Facebook.

The email listserv is another way we connect. Getting on the email listserv is not automatic and requires you to sign up by clicking on the blue "Sign Up" button at the bottom of the COVNA.org website. Enter your email address and follow the steps to confirm your registration.

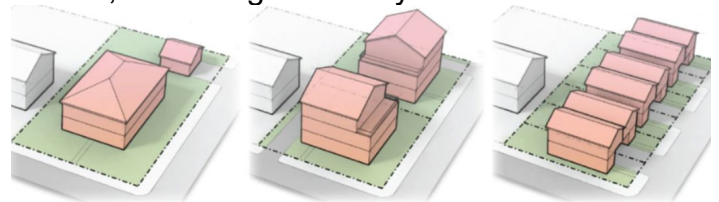
After that, you should receive any messages sent to covna@freelists.org.

If you have any questions about how to join COVNA or the listserv, please reach out to me or any other member of the board. ■

COVNA opposes HOME Phase 2 initiative

By Rita Thompson

Late last year, Austin City Council passed the first phase of the Home Options for Middle-Income Empowerment (HOME) Initiative as a part of ongoing updates to the City of Austin's Land Development Code. HOME's goal is to increase housing supply in areas zoned for single-family homes, according to the city.



Current Code: HOME Phase 1: Proposed HOME Phase 2: Credit: City of Austin

The first phase has allowed for up to three homes to be built on a single-family zoned property. The second phase, which City Council passed in May with amendments, allows up to six smaller homes on a single-family zoned property.

COVNA joined the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC) in opposing phase 2. ANC noted numerous concerns including: higher risk of

Castlewood-Oak Valley Neighborhood Association Board

Denise Sample, President: sample.denise@gmail.com ♦ Will Binford, Vice President: will.binford@gmail.com ♦ Dorothy Trainer, Secretary: dorothytrainer@jbgoodwin.com ♦ Ron Mattison, Treasurer: shadmatt@sbcglobal.net ♦ Rita Thompson, ANC Representative: thompsonsetser@gmail.com ♦ Michelle Hendrix, Immediate Past President: mhendrix@hendrixresidentialgroup.com ♦ Julie Chang, Newsletter Editor: juliec88@gmail.com ♦ covna@freelists.org

flooding with more impervious cover; loss of trees and tree canopies; no additional guard rails for the increase in short term rentals; and the city's overall lack of infrastructure to accommodate the density.

In general, the blanket zoning and broad brush changes do not address the specific concerns or challenges of individual neighborhoods.

Phase 2 allows for less restrictive compatibility standards, and will allow for a further reduction in the minimum lot size. Compatibility standards address issues such as height limitations, distances required between buildings, setbacks from streets, etc.

Phase 2 proposes a reduction in the minimum lot size from the current 5,750 square feet to as little as 1,500 square feet. To accommodate the smaller lot sizes, redevelopment in existing neighborhoods may include row houses; triplexes; fourplexes; garden homes; and cottage courts.

There is no question this will change the face of all our neighborhoods in time. If you have questions or concerns, contact the city's Planning Department at 512-974-7220 or District 5 City Council Member Ryan Alter, who voted in favor of phase 2 in May, at 512-978-2105.

I really appreciate the opportunity to serve as our ANC representative, and I hope the information I have provided is helpful. ■

Neighbors traversing the world

In February, we took an expedition cruise on the MS Roald Amundsen, a hybrid-



COVNA CALENDAR

2024

— FREE NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS —

<div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Summer Parade & Picnic</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 29 	<div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">National Night Out</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oct. 1
<div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Halloween Block Party</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oct. 26 	<div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Holiday Party & Board Elections</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dec. 7

Note
 Details for each event will be announced closer to the date.

Scan to join COVNA

powered cruise ship operated by Hurtigruten, a Norwegian company.

We first flew to Buenos Aires and then to Ushuaia, Argentina, where we boarded the ship.

The ship traveled through the Drake Passage, and cruised along the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula which extends north toward South America. The ship made its way south to cross the Antarctic Circle, enabling us to check off that item on our bucket list.

The ship was very comfortable; the food was wonderful; and we saw icebergs, whales, seals, lots

and lots of penguins, and a variety of other birds. The scenery was unbelievably beautiful. It was summer in Antarctica, and the temperatures ranged from 26 to 36 degrees. Most days there was no wind, and it was comfortable on deck with a jacket.

Although Hurtigruten is not well-known in the United States, it is widely-known in Europe, and the 380 passengers included many European travelers. It was a great trip.

- *Dan and Claudia Anderson*

This was a "bucket list" item for sure. We left England as we routed across the North Sea toward the land of the Sami people with their reindeer herds and the outdoorsy practical Norwegians. Each night we readied ourselves for the coldest air we have ever experienced. Just getting on all the layers was almost comical!

The Northern Lights proved to be elusive to us with the naked eye but we were able to get some good pics using the smart phone cameras. This was our third experience in Norway and we are still in awe of the beauty of the land and sea as well as the healthy lifestyles of the people.

- *Karen and Ron Mattison*