

Hey All CPNA'ers

2018 started out very cold, but hey it is January in North Texas- what did you expect? Did you see the ice on the pond in Crowley Park? That does not happen very often. Will not be long before we see the Bradford Pear trees with their white blossoms and that is when you know spring is here. If you recall last year, the wildflowers in our Crowley Park were brilliant and lasted for several weeks through the spring. On several spring afternoons, there was a traffic jam along North Spring Dr. Get out to enjoy these crisp days when the sun seems brighter and the colors seem more brilliant. Also remember to protect your pipes, landscaping, etc. from freeze damage.

We have several activities scheduled for the spring so watch for more details on the website and posted in the neighborhood. I want to point out one activity that has been very successful. It is our International Potluck Festival, which will be April 21st. Everyone brings a dish to share, and I have certainly enjoyed the new foods. This activity will also help you meet some new friends that you never knew you had.

Seems we had a streak of criminal activity in the neighborhood with car break-ins. The best way to prevent car break-ins is to park your vehicle in the garage. If you can't put your vehicle in the garage, remove all valuables and lock the doors. Be vigilant around your home and auto. Don't be a victim. Another way to prevent crime is by joining the Crowley Park Crime Watch Patrol. The Crime Watch Patrol is your neighbors "patrolling" the neighborhood and being an extra set of eyes and ears for the Richardson Police Department. If you are interested in joining please contact me at 972-238-7254.

Go outside and enjoy our winter weather because it will not be long until our long hot summer begins.

Sincerely,

Terry Ziegler
Grand President of
Crowley Park Neighborhood Association
(not a homeowners association)

P.S. What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? It gets toad away.....

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT TRASH BASH

Good news! Our annual winter "Crowley Park Trash Bash" has resulted in such a remarkable cleanup of the park that we cannot justify doing the event every year.



So the Crowley Park Neighborhood Association will only have its winter Trash Bash odd numbered years. The first time we skip the event will be February 2018. Thank you for your past efforts and I hope to see all of you at the 2019 event!

Submitted by: Leslie Gullede



On December 5, 2017, Crowley Park Neighborhood Association honored volunteers for their hours of service to CPNA. Thank you to Bill and Lesley Kinder for opening your home for this celebration. Thank you to all volunteers for sharing time and talents in service to CPNA. Hope to see more volunteers throughout 2018.

Upcoming Events

Spring Fling | March 15th

International Potluck | April 21st

Salute to Veterans | May TBD



More Info | crowleypark.com/calendar

YOUR voice &
Membership
is need!

CPNA is not an HOA, but rather a voluntary neighborhood association, focused on keeping our community clean, safe, engaging, and welcoming.

Crowley Park, the Jewel of Richardson, needs **YOU** to support the continuation of current projects around our beautiful neighborhood. We also need your fresh ideas to implement new projects to further our neighborhood!

Please consider joining CPNA and volunteering to promote our neighborhood programs and events. Please see membership application on the back of this newsletter.

Some of the most recent completed projects include:

- *Shade the Trail Phase 1 completed with the planting of over 68 trees*
- *Sidewalks to the north end playground and pavilion plus water fountain*
- *Crowley Park sign revitalized at Blackberry & North Spring Dr*

On going and future projects for the neighborhood include:

- *Possible Traffic flow changes for Clear Springs Dr, Spring Lake Dr, N Spring Dr & Primrose Dr*
- *Sidewalk to south pavilion scheduled for Spring 2018*
- *Phase 2 planting ornamental trees*
- *New North End Playground scheduled during 2020*
- *Study for a kid's book walk around the North Playground*
- *Study for exercise equipment at the South end*

We want and need your membership and ideas!!

**Please return the membership form found on the back of this newsletter
with your membership fee of \$25.00**

Crowley Park North Playground

The Crowley Park north playground is due for updates as per the bond program. The playground will be redeveloped in about 2 years. The city will seek community input on ideas for the playground development before sending three ideas to the vendor for development.

The future playground must stay within the current footprint of the playground. The city will contact the community for input.



Real Estate Market Report for Richardson, Texas and Crowley Park through Year-End December 2017

It was another great year in Crowley Park! The area continues to experience wonderful growth. The addition of State Farm within the past few years had a positive impact on the real estate sales in our community, as well as provided our neighbors with some great new restaurants and amenities.

Interest rates remain low and it's a good time to buy. Homes for sale remain low in North Texas and Richardson has less than two months of supply.

Year-to-date 2017, there were 32 homes sold in Crowley Park, compared to 35 in 2016. Below is a comparison for single family homes sold in the City of Richardson compared to Crowley Park.

	City of Richardson	Crowley Park YTD 2017	Crowley Park YTD 2016
# of Sales	1,144	32	35
Average Price	\$303,428	\$313,687	\$290,539
Days on Market	22	16	17
Price Per Sq. Ft.	\$144	\$133	\$119

Note: Home values vary depending on location, price, and condition.

The information contained was obtained from the North Texas Real Estate Information Systems, Inc.

As of January 15, 2018, there was 1 home actively for sale in Crowley Park and 2 homes under contract. We remain very optimistic about our real estate market in 2018. If you have any questions regarding this information, don't hesitate to contact Rockie Marvel with the Marvel Home Team @ Keller Williams Central at (214) 801-0908.

Shade the Trail Update



By Nancy Crowe

Phase I of the Shade the Trail program is complete. The focus of Phase I was planting large canopy trees along the trail at Crowley Park to provide much needed shade along the trail. The response from our neighborhood was overwhelming and thanks to you and the City of Richardson, 71 new trees have been planted at our beloved park! Our overall goal is 100 trees. We are hoping to have a plaque of some sort recognizing all those who have purchased a tree. We are still awaiting city approval (hopefully more to come on that soon).

We will be beginning Phase II of Shade the Trail this spring, and while we may still include some large canopy trees, the focus will be more on beautification of the park with the planting of ornamental trees, particularly along the tree line around the park. We planted 7 ornamental trees this past fall – 4 on the west side of the park and 3 on the east side. The City of Richardson approved list of ornamental trees can be found on the cor.net website. We have chosen to plant Dogwood, Mexican Plum and Redbud. The color these trees will provide to the park in the spring will be beautiful!

To all of our neighbors in Crowley Park, please consider planting an ornamental tree(s) in your own yard as well. They do not take up as much room as a large shade tree, are easier to plant, and beautify your yard and our neighborhood.

Please remember, Crowley Park is our neighborhood and we get to make it our peaceful and beautiful place amidst all the traffic and concrete that continues to besiege us.

“SHADE THE TRAIL” DONATION FORM

Donation Date _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payable to: **CPNA** • Memo: **“Shade the Trail”** • Mail Checks: **PO Box 830114, Richardson, TX 75083**

Two Possible Options: _____

1. \$200.00 donations purchases a tree for someone special

Name of special someone: _____

2. Donation of any amount toward the “Shade the Trail” fund to plant trees in the park.

Amount: _____ Check#: _____

or donate online at crowleypark.com

Review of Code Enforcements

By Lindsay Turman

Can the City Find Your Home in an Emergency?

In an emergency, every second counts. Properly posted address numbers at the front and rear of your property can ensure that Richardson emergency service professionals can find your home in the unfortunate case that you need assistance.



To enable the Police and Fire Departments to respond quickly to emergency calls, address numbers must be posted at three different locations at your property. Firstly, numbers must be clearly posted on the front curb or curbside mailbox of your home. Secondly, the numbers should be on the front of your residence. Thirdly, numbers should be plainly displayed at the rear of the property on the house, garage, or fence.

To ensure that numbers are plainly visible, they must be between 3 and 10 feet off of the ground (not including curb painting) and a minimum of 3 inches in height. Make sure the numbers are a contrasting color to their background. Faded address numbers, or unmarked homes can seriously hinder emergency crew's ability to reach you in the event of a crisis.

Reminders About City of Richardson Solid Waste Programs

Below are a few friendly reminders about City of Richardson Solid Waste operations:

- Household trash and recycling should be placed out for the morning of pickup. In Crowley Park, trash should be placed out on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Recycling should be placed out on Friday mornings.
- Remember that strewn litter is a violation of the City's Code of Ordinances. Make sure that your alley easements and parkways are free and clear of trash and debris.
- Brush and Bulky Item Collection can be placed out at any time; however, you must call in your BABIC pick-up prior to placing items on the curb.



Call 972-744-4111 or visit www.cor.net to schedule your pick up. If your bulky items are smaller than 50 pounds, please put them out with your regular trash!

Some Facts about Crowley Park Pond



- The current depth at the deepest point is about 5 and one-half feet.
- The waterfall was installed in 2007, and the pump system for it will circulate the entire pond once every 24 hours or so.
- We have a freshwater fill valve so we can top off the water level if we need to.
- We treat the pond with blue dye as a preventive measure to inhibit weed growth. The dye prevents certain wavelengths of sunlight from penetrating into the water, which keeps weeds from growing. The dye is completely non-toxic, very similar to food coloring.
- We monitor the pond regularly, especially in spring and summer, to make sure there aren't any weed or algae problems.
- We make sure that our mowing crew doesn't discharge grass clippings into the pond to prevent the organic matter from impacting the water quality.
- Neighborhood grass clipping and fertilizer that enter storm drains and wash into the pond also cause algae growth and toxins in the pond.
- Likewise, we don't apply fertilizer or pesticides to the turf immediately surrounding the pond to prevent it from running off into the water.

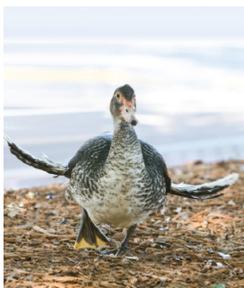
Protect Waterfowl by Not Feeding Them

Human food is junk food for ducks and geese. Feeding waterfowl is not good for them or the environment.

Richardson parks are home to many kinds of colorful ducks and geese that we all love. Taking kids to the park to feed the ducks is a tradition in many families, and while the ducks may seem excited and happy to see you, eating bread and other human food is not good for them. Nature provides them with everything they need to stay healthy. It may be hard to imagine that a handful of bread or a stray french fry could hurt the birds. But in most cases, one well-intentioned person leaves and another soon arrives, and before long, the birds are only eating human food.

Why is human food bad?

Foods such as bread, popcorn and chips are tasty to humans, but don't provide the nutrients waterfowl need to survive. Waterfowl that are malnourished or devoid of vital nutrients result in:



Propeller wings due to improper diet.

- the development of deformed wings (propeller wings)
- a decrease in reproductive rates
- an increased susceptibility to predators
- the loss of flight ability
- lowered energy
- lowered life expectancy

That's a lot of birds

Everyone has seen it. You throw a few bread crumbs out for a handful of ducks and before you know it, dozens if not hundreds of birds have flocked to you. And while this is cool to see, it is not good for the birds. When too many ducks or geese live in a small area, it is easier for the birds to catch diseases and get each other sick. Since we don't want our feathered friends to get sick, please don't feed them and contribute to their overcrowding.

Eating bread has side effects?

Another problem when people start feeding ducks and geese is the birds lose their fear of humans and can become more aggressive, while also being easier prey for animals that eat ducks and geese. Some birds will also die because they cannot compete for the natural resources or the human handouts.

Having too many birds in one place is also not good for the environment. The birds can become a nuisance by grazing



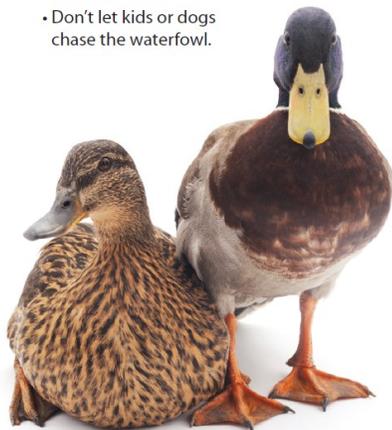
on grass, and excess nutrients in ponds caused by bird droppings can result in water quality problems. Uneaten food can pollute the water and can also attract other animals and pests.

Ducks and geese will eat almost anything they find including litter and old fishing supplies like lead weights. Please leave the natural environment in its natural state and throw away your trash.



What can you do to help?

- Please don't feed the waterfowl.
- Help educate others about why feeding ducks and geese is not good for the birds.
- Pick up your trash, and any other trash you see in the park, litter can hurt birds in so many ways.
- Don't let kids or dogs chase the waterfowl.



Typical waterfowl diet

- Grass, weeds and clippings
- Earthworms
- Small fish and fish eggs
- Small crustaceans
- Algae, aquatic plants and roots
- Frogs, salamanders and other amphibians
- Aquatic and land insects
- Seeds and grain
- Small berries, fruits and nuts

Even though these are the foods ducks and geese should eat, please don't feed them to the birds—waterfowl will become dependent on us for food.



For more information on waterfowl, please visit the City of Richardson Parks and Recreation website at:

www.cor.net/waterfowl

Information gathered from:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division
- National Audubon Society
- Melissa Mayntz, Birding/Wildlife Bird Expert

Getting Your Child Ready to Read



Early exposure to language, whether through reading, talking or even singing, has a profound influence on children's learning through life, research has found. Hearing language from a TV is not the same, studies have found. For young children, the words have to come from a real live human.

The Five Best Ways to help your child get ready to read and a few books to support readiness are:

1. TALKING- Books that invite participation

Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See by Bill Martin
Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann
Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas

2. SINGING- Books with rhyme and poetry

Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw
Down by the Station by Will Hillenbrand
Sylvia Long's Mother Goose by Sylvia Long

3. WRITING- Books for fun with letters

Alphabet under Construction by Denise Fleming
Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin

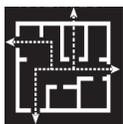
4. READING- Books with rich language

Skippyjon Jones by Judy Schachner
Big Plans by Lane Smith
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

5. PLAYING- Books with movement

From Head to Toe by Eric Carle
We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
If You're Happy and You Know It by James Warhola

Check out all the resources at our Richardson Public Library



Spring into Action

With the upcoming time change on March 11th we all will "spring forward" moving all of our clocks up by an hour. Why not add to your routine some quick and easy steps to ensure you are prepared? It only takes a few minutes to change out the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Remember to check these detectors once a month to ensure they are working properly. Take the time to review your emergency go kit with the family. Check each item to ensure it is still in good condition and not expired. Are there other items you may need? If you have a pet, pack food and extra water for each animal in the household. Remember, it is important to have enough supplies to last 7-10 days. A little time spent now can save a lot of stress and worry later.

Let's Get Ready Richardson! Find critical information about local hazards and preparedness actions from the City of Richardson Office of Emergency Management at www.cor.net/em or for more information call 972-744-0900.

Properly dispose of leaves to prevent drainage issues

The City's storm drain system is kind of like your shower, it works best when it isn't clogged. The purpose of a storm drain is to quickly remove excess water from the street. Like your shower, storm drains can get clogged and cause the water to back up. This time of year, falling leaves are responsible for most clogged drains.

While cleaning up leaves in your yard, remember not to sweep or blow them into the street. Instead, consider mulching and composting. Leaves can be shredded and mulched, or added to a compost pile or bin.

Brush and yard trimmings can also be turned into mulch and compost through the Brush and Bulky Item Collection (BABIC) program. Make sure trimmings are placed in a compostable bag, which can be purchased at home and garden stores. When you schedule a pickup, mention you have yard trimmings for compost. Your pickup day is the same as your recycle day.

To schedule a BABIC, call 972-744-4111, visit www.cor.net/recycling or use the MyRichardson App. For more info, visit www.cor.net/BABIC.



eat

For anyone looking for new options in eating around Richardson, the Richardson Chamber of Commerce has some ideas for you.

Go to www.richardsonchamber.com/shop



A Physical for Your HVAC System

By Krishna Upadhyaya

It is a mystery why people don't invest in real estate, despite having the means to invest. It is understandable that the fears of big maintenance may hinder someone from deciding to invest. However, precautions can be taken before the investment: e.g. get an inspection completed with a reputable inspection company, buy a home warranty for appliances – costs for home warranty are nominal compared to the benefits.

Once the bases are covered and investment is made, there are few simple things that can keep the major costs away. I will discuss one of those simple things – Air Filter for HVAC. Replacing air filter regularly has benefits:

- Quality of air in the house will be better as a good filter will keep most of the contaminants out of the house. People with allergies will see a marked benefit in the symptoms. Savings on health bill, anyone?
- A clean air filter will save on utility costs as the HVAC system will run more efficiently without having to fight through the dirt clogged filter.
- Efficiently running HVAC system means longer life span for the system thus avoiding costly maintenance, repairs or replacement. Getting few extra years from an expensive system is well worth the cost of few extra air filters.

Replacing air filter on regular schedules for HVAC system is similar to getting regular physical checkup for human beings – avoid costly repairs and catch minor things before they become huge.

Watch Out For Squirrel Damage To Tree Bark

By Wells Brothers

Watch Out For Squirrel Damage To Tree Bark

Those furry tree climbing comical rodents known as squirrels are either loved or hated by us humans. They are fun to watch as they chase each other around the neighborhood. The hate comes when they chew up patio furniture and then start working on a hole into your house. The padding on the patio furniture can be replaced and holes in the house can be repaired. The damage they cause to trees from eating the bark can be fatal.



The reason they eat bark is unknown. I have read theories that include teeth maintenance, water, and nutritional needs and that it's a pain response from a pregnant doe. Whatever the reason, it can cause the death of branches and the entire tree in some cases. I have found info that says "squirrels like trees with smooth thin bark". Apparently, not all the squirrels know this. One of our reps has had to remove a Red Oak because of squirrel damage. Bottom line is do not take bark damage from squirrels lightly.

Controlling squirrels can be challenging. First and foremost, remove the squirrel nest from your tree. I have had good luck with predator scents like fox and coyote urine. They work well in defined areas such as flowerbeds and attics. You must use a lot to be effective and they are designed as a repellent. When the squirrel is gone a permanent solution must be installed. Hawk and owl decoys get a bad rap but I have had good luck with them. They must be placed high and moved at least weekly. I have not tried sonic repellent devices but what feedback I have read is not promising. The sure way to control squirrels is by trapping. Once trapped they should be relocated to the woods or Valhalla!

Dr. Steven Vantassel with the University of Nebraska did a webinar workshop about squirrel control in 2013. It's just over an hour long and it has some excellent information.



Tax Cuts and Jobs Act: Impact on Individuals

Reported by Luann M. Wagnon

LMW Tax Solutions

On December 22, 2017 the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, one of the biggest tax law changes in decades, was signed into law. Many of the changes are permanent, others including most of the tax cuts for individuals, will expire in eight years. The provisions affect tax years 2018 through 2025, unless noted otherwise.

Individual income tax rates

The legislation replaces most of the seven current marginal income tax brackets 10%, 15%, 25%, 28%, 33%, 35%, and 39.6%. The new lower rates are 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35% and 37%. The legislation also establishes new marginal income tax brackets for estates and trusts, and replaces existing “kiddie tax” (this income is currently taxed at the parent’s rate) by taxing the child’s unearned income using the estate and trust rates. This is something grandparents need to keep in mind for gifts of income producing assets to grandchildren.

Standard deduction and personal exceptions

The new legislation basically doubles the existing standard deduction amounts. The additional amount for the elderly and blind has not changed. The higher standard deduction amounts mean that fewer people will itemize deductions. The new tax law also repeals the deduction for personal exemptions.

2018 Standard Deduction Amounts

Single or Married Filing Separate	Before \$6,500	After \$12,000
Head of Household	Before \$9,550	After \$18,000
Married Filing Jointly	Before \$13,000	After \$24,000

Itemized deductions

State and local taxes are limited to \$10,000

Home mortgage interest deduction Individuals can deduct mortgage interest on no more than \$750,000 of qualifying mortgage debt. For mortgage debt incurred prior to 12/16/2017 the prior million-dollar limit will continue to apply. No deduction is allowed for home equity indebtedness.

Medical expenses The adjusted gross income (AGI) threshold for deducting unreimbursed medical expenses is reduced back to 7.5% for both 2017 and 2018.

Charitable contributions The top adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation percentage that applies to deducting certain cash gifts is increased from 50% to 60%

Casualty and theft losses- The deduction for personal casualty and theft losses is gone, except for casualty losses suffered in a federal disaster area.

Miscellaneous itemized deductions Miscellaneous itemized deductions that would be subject to the 2% AGI threshold, including tax preparation fees and unreimbursed employee business expenses are no longer deductible.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

The child tax credit is doubled from \$1000 to \$2000 for each qualifying child under the age of 17. The amount that can be refunded has been adjusted along with the income level when the credit is reduced. A new \$500 nonrefundable credit is available for qualifying dependents, who are not qualifying children under age 17.

Business tax rates and other business changes will be discussed in a later report.

These are only basic descriptions of the new tax law changes. There are others. The Internal Revenue Service will publish guidance as to how these will specifically apply to individuals.

FOXCREEK PARK

Foxcreek Park is the newest park in the city of Richardson with the dedication occurring on a very chilly October 28th morning. Officials from KDC (the developers of the City Line project), the City of Richardson and the park designers cut the ribbon for the official opening of the park.

KDC 's goal is to provide ample green space to this most northern part of Richardson. Foxcreek Park, along with the Cityline Park on Routh Creek, is part of the city's initiative to have a pocket park location within walking distance of every neighborhood in the city. As you are driving along Renner Road, look to the north side of the road behind the CVS Pharmacy. Foxcreek Park has a 75 -foot pedestrian and cyclist bridge, a covered pavilion, limestone benches, hike-and-bike trails and ornamental planting beds. The playground has designated equipment for age groups 2-5 and 5-12 year olds.



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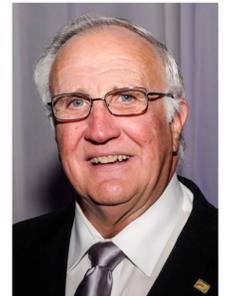
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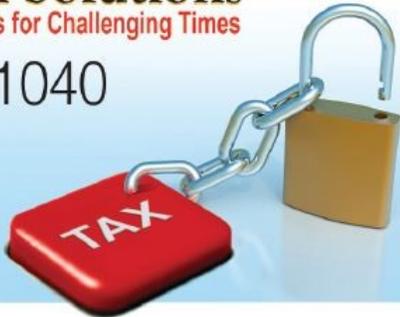
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CROWLEY PARK

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Monica Enfield, Treasurer
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OPEN

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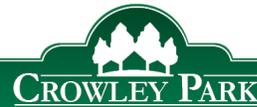
Heather Stevens
Technology
stevenshmj@gmail.com

Have you checked out our new website?
Visit crowleypark.com

Contact our leadership team!

Have suggestions, article ideas or questions? Submit them and we'll answer them in future newsletters!

P.O. Box 830114, Richardson, TX 75083



www.CrowleyPark.com

Crowley Park Neighborhood Association Membership Application

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Other Adults in Household: _____

House Address: _____

Best Contact Number: _____

Best Email: _____

Annual Membership Costs per household is \$25.00 payable in the following forms:

Cash Credit Card Check

Payable to CPNA, mailed to PO Box 830114, Richardson, 75083

For credit card please go to www.crowleypark.com/membership

Interested in Volunteering? Check a box below and we'll reach out to you (descriptions can be found on the back):

- Neighborhood Safety (Crime Watch Patrol)
- Social Events
- Civic and Environmental
- Newsletter/Flyer Distribution
- New Residents Welcome Committee

Assist/Become a Board of Director or Committee Chair:

Area of Interest:

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT CROWLEYPARK.COM or
CONTACT GLENDA JENKINS AT 972-680-0885**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Crowley Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA)

CPNA is a voluntary group of neighbors that strive to develop lines of communication with the city, promote a safe clean and attractive community, and bring residents together to preserve and enhance the livability and value of our neighborhood.

Committee Use Only:
Payment received date: _____ Payment Method: _____