

Neighborhood Newsletter

An occasional printed publication of the South River City Citizens' Neighborhood Association, Established 1973




**Austin Symphony's
July 4th Concert and Fireworks**

Free fireworks, a free live performance, with great food and drinks, and a variety of local arts & crafts vendors. At Vic Mathias Shores (formerly Auditorium Shores).

Fireworks 9:30-10pm

Ad Hoc Bylaws Update

The Ad Hoc Bylaws Update Committee has been meeting monthly since January 2016. Members of committee are present and past SRCC Presidents and Vice Presidents: Carol Martin, *Chair*; Tune Sounthaly, Marc Davis, David Swann, Gretchen Otto, Diane Presti, and Jean Mather, with Hugh Lowe, and Danette Chimenti are contributing as resource experts. The purpose of the ad hoc group is to bring the bylaws current with SRCC practices. For example, the exact day of the week or the specific location of meetings have been spelled out in the past bylaws, and more flexibility may be needed. Also, there will be a review of Standing Committees, notably

the addition of the Finance Committee that has been playing a key role in SRCC operating procedures for the past five years. When the committee has prepared a complete draft, recommendations will be presented to the Executive Committee. The process for approval by the General Membership will follow the requirements stated in the current bylaws.

As Chair, I can testify that this group is dedicated to thinking through each paragraph carefully, discussions are fertile, and the spirit of collaboration is positive.

—Carol Martin, Chair

SRCC Election Results

SRCC had a successful potluck and annual election meeting this past March with a turnout of 110 members and countless more non-voting residents. This special annual meeting was a great time for all to catch up with neighbors and get acquainted with new faces. While most of our incredible group of volunteers stepped up once again to serve, there were a few changes. Namely, Gretchen Otto stepped up from serving as Vice President to become the new President, and Diane Presti was elected as our new Vice President. Please join us in thanking all of this year's neighborhood leaders and volunteers for their tremendous dedication to our neighborhood!

—Tune Outhavong

2016-17 SRCC Officers:

President
Gretchen Otto

Secretary
Garret Nick

Vice President
Diane Presti

Treasurer,
Nancy Byrd

Area Coordinators:

Area 1
Claudette Lowe,
Marylin Orton

Area 3b
Brooks Kasson,
Marc Davis

Area 6
Laura Gass Weaver,
Rachel McClure

Area 2
Russell Fraser,
Eugene Kubelka

Area 4a
Sam Martin,
Mary Friedman

Area 7
Kelvin Glover,
Jackie Hatfield

Area 3a
Jo Webber,
Sara Newsom

Area 4b
Kris Asthalter

Area 8
Maria Martinez,
Kim Lanzillotti

Area 5
Neal Nuwash,
Elloa Mathews



From left to right: Nancy Byrd, Garret Nick, Diane Presti, and Gretchen Otto

Bread for All Food Pantry

Bread for All food pantry wants SRCC neighbors to know that we continue to operate at 1711 East Oltorf, across from the now closed Luby's. Distribution of food is from 6-7:30pm every Monday. Bread for All helps an average of 50 families, with more neighbors in need of help each week. In addition to helping families with food every week, APD officer and district representative Lopez is present for anyone that needs to see him on Monday evenings. Please stop by to see our operation, meet the volunteers and consider volunteering—the need for donations is ongoing. There is also a great need for Spanish speaking volunteers. The pantry is sponsored by Capital Area Food Bank.

—Neal Nuwash

Torchy's Tacos Alcohol Waiver

On Thursday, May 19th, the Torchy's Tacos alcohol beverage waiver was scheduled to be heard by the Austin City Council. This was not the first time this matter was to be before the Council. In the past, Torchy's has filed and withdrawn their application for an alcohol waiver and requested a postponement of

the hearing. On May 19th, just hours before its waiver request was to be heard, Torchy's Tacos again withdrew their request after having requested another postponement only days before. While nearby businesses, C-Boys and Magnolia Cafe have been grandfathered from the current ordinance, Torchy's would require the waiver.

The waiver would have allowed the restaurant to sell alcohol at its South Congress Avenue location by granting an exemption from a city ordinance that prohibits businesses from selling alcohol less than 300 feet from a public school. Torchy's needed the variance due to the proximity of Fulmore Middle School across the street.

Thus, with this second withdrawal of the application, Torchy's is presently not able to sell alcohol at their South Congress location.

Torchy's had plans for a full bar at this location even before construction began. They were aware that city regulations do not allow for that. SRCC, AISD and the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association were opposed to the requested variance, as were Austin Interfaith and other local groups concerned about the welfare of students at Fulmore.

In 2014, before construction began on the restaurant, the AISD School Board already opposed the waiver, as did Austin Interfaith. SRCC took quick action and voted, in the presence of the Torchy's representatives, to support AISD in opposition of the waiver. The AISD School Board has maintained a policy opposing waivers to the existing ordinance.

At Council on May 19th, several Council Members expressed frustration that this matter keeps popping up, then disappearing without any decisive action being taken. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo and other council members

expressed a desire to change the procedures governing waivers of this nature so that applicants may not simply file, withdraw, and re-file indefinitely. Council has passed a resolution asking city staff to draft a revision to the ordinance that would impose limits on how often the same applicant can apply for a waiver. Stay tuned to see what Torchy's next move will be.

—Diane Presti,
Vice President

CodeNEXT

CodeNEXT is the process of aligning Austin's land use standards and regulations (the Land Development Code, or LDC) with "Imagine Austin," the city's comprehensive plan. CodeNext progressed through several phases during 2013 and 2014:

Listening and Understanding: —"Listening to the Community Report" and "Community Character Manual"

—Diagnosis: "Land Development Code Diagnosis"

The City of Austin's CodeNEXT team, which includes staff from multiple departments and consultants is busy drafting and refining code elements. Virtually the entire LDC will be re-written or revised, including chapters relating to requirements and procedures, zoning, subdivision, site plan, transportation, drainage, environment, and others. The draft code will be released for public review and comment in January 2017. After an extensive review and comment period, the draft code will be revised in accordance with the feedback received, and delivered for City Council potential adoption. Once the code is adopted, the city will adopt a new Zoning Map to implement the zoning elements of the code.

During 2016, while the CodeNEXT team is drafting and reviewing code, the project team will issue and organize community

conversations and feedback on some of the most challenging and important topics that the code will address:

- Natural and Built Environment
- Household Affordability
- Mobility
- Fiscal Health

This is being accomplished through four "Code Prescription" papers. These Code Prescriptions represent a preview of the specific direction being taken in the new code as well as "conversation starters" to gather community feedback on whether these Prescriptions accurately reflect community values expressed in Imagine Austin. While the Code Prescription papers will not be revised based on feedback received, the feedback will be used to shape the new code. Feedback can be provided in several ways:

- Through your participation in the work of the Council appointed Code Advisory Group
- By providing feedback directly at SpeakUp Austin
- By joining a CodeWalk or a Reddit/AMA (Ask Me Anything)

Additional information about all of the means to get involved can be found at the project website:

www.austintexas.gov/codenext

—Diane Presti, Vice President

Yoga in the City

Life in the City will begin offering **FREE** yoga classes twice a week in June! *Yoga in the City* will feature a variety of classes taught by certified yoga instructors. Classes will meet on **Tuesdays at 9am, and on Saturdays at 9am at 205 E. Monroe St.** Each teacher offers a different class experience grounded in the principles of the Hatha Yoga tradition with a focus on wholeness of body, mind and spirit. There is no prerequisite in strength or flexibility to try yoga—all levels are welcome!

—Katie Apple

Intersection Changes

Walking or biking across Lakeshore Blvd. at Riverside can be daunting with right turning cars barely slowing down. It's really not even possible to cross from the south side of Riverside to Lakeshore to access the boardwalk, Cap Metro stops, or nearby restaurants. As part of the East Riverside Corridor study, improvements were recommended for this intersection to create a fully signalized intersection with pedestrian crossings for Riverside, and elimination of both right-hand turn slip lanes.

At the May 19th Council Meeting, a contract was awarded for this project. Construction is expected to begin in late July or early August and is expected to take 4 to 6 months.

—Michael Sledge,
SRCC Transportation Chair





Travis Heights Elementary Fundraiser and Community Action

Another healthy and fun academic year comes to a close at Travis Heights Elementary School (THES). Our school had two big events at the end of the year that were successful, in part, because of neighborhood participation.

On May 3rd, we held our annual end of year celebration and Camp Champions fundraiser at Guero's Taco Bar. THES 5th graders head off to Camp Champions every year for a 3 day/2 night trip that takes learning out of the school building, and into nature. This is a once in a lifetime experience for many of our students, but difficult for some families to afford. Our event brought together neighbors, friends, prospective families, alums, and current THES Thunderbirds to support our 5th graders in raising funds for their trip. Our neighbors in SRCC helped us raise over \$4,000—double the amount from last year!

May 18th, THES PTA and Austin Interfaith held a Community Action to preserve affordable housing in our attendance zone, ensure the city and school district invests in Parent Support Specialists, Prime Time After School, and ensure alcohol sales are prohibited near schools. The Community Action included the owner of *The Heights*

apartments on South Congress Avenue. The owner plans to redevelop all the low-income units on the property to build market-rate apartments. A large number of THES students live at *The Heights*, so we asked the owner to commit publicly to ensuring a smooth transition for our families during the redevelopment, that the project would not permanently displace families, and that families will have comparable transportation to continue attending their current school. The owner answered yes, and said that he would continue to work with us.

We also addressed Torchy's Tacos request for a waiver granting them an exception from a city ordinance that prohibits businesses less than 300 feet from a public school from selling alcohol. Two AISD School Board Trustees, and two City Council members pledge to oppose the variance in person or in writing. Council members and Board Trustees that were in attendance also committed to work with us to support funding for Parent Support Specialists, Primetime After School programs, and restoring funding for the Victory Tutorial Program in the 2016-2017 City of Austin budget. We had over 180 people from the community show up to show support. Yet another example of the incredible people living in SRCC—thank you!

—Raymond Sinatra Jr.



Travis Heights Art Trail 2016 November 5-6, 11-5pm



The Art Trail will be 14 years old this year! Little did we know, when Terri Hubbeling and I had the conversation 15 years ago, that we were about to launch an event that has become a neighborhood tradition. Travis Heights is full of creative and interesting people, and the art trail has become a way for all of us to meet and visit with each other.

Kids that attend the trail now have a fun art activity, created by Andy and Karyn Couvillion, to be found at their location on Travis Heights Blvd. Donations go to the art program at THES. In the past, Fulmore middle school music students played

a concert at one of the houses on the Trail. We are hoping that parents of these young musicians will become involved this year to perhaps expand this event.

Last year, we had a literary house at the Fairview Inn. The response was excellent. However, we need someone to organize, and spearhead this part of the Trail. Anyone interested?

The Art Car Parade will be back this year with more crazy art cars. We always welcome new sponsors and artists. Contact us for more information.

www.travisheightsarttrail.org.

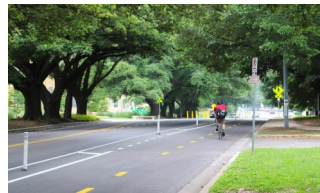
—Charlotte Bell

Lakeshore Blvd. Improvements

The City of Austin Transportation Department recently completed restriping the length of Lakeshore Blvd. Feedback from the community stakeholder meeting in Nov. 2015 was incorporated to help ensure that these improvements addressed the concerns of the neighborhood. Changes include multiple new crosswalks with mid-street pedestrian refuges and a two-way protected cycle track from Pleasant Valley Road to Riverside Drive. In addition, bikes turning south on to the various side streets have refuges where they can safely wait to cross without

being obscured by parked vehicles or blocking other cyclists. Parking areas are clearly delineated and are placed so that there is less danger of collisions between bikes and opening car doors. This beautiful tree-lined street, the boardwalk, and the Hike and Bike trail have been transformed in the last couple of years to a much needed, and well utilized recreational area for nearby residents and their families. These changes will help prevent Lakeshore Blvd. from becoming just another shortcut for traffic and help this area retain its character as a neighborhood park.

—Mike Sledge, SRCC Transportation Committee



Area Coordinators

- Area 1 Claudette Lowe 512-447-1514
- Area 1 Marilyn Orton 512-440-7770
- Area 2 Russell Fraser 512-771-9736
- Area 2 Eugene Kubelka 512-441-9262
- Area 3a Jo Webber 512-441-3117
- Area 3a Sara Newsom 512-444-8292
- Area 3b Brooks Kasson 512-444-8100
- Area 3b Tim Boswell 512-589-5593
- Area 3b Marc Davis 512-656-2841
- Area 4a Sam Martin 512-441-5222
- Area 4a Mary Friedman 512-619-5773
- Area 4b Kris Asthalter 512-443-4963
- Area 5 Neal Nuwash 512-462-9093
- Area 5 Elloa Mathews 512-442-6986
- Area 6 Rachel McClure 512-326-5572
- Area 6 Laura Gass Weaver 512-415-2027
- Area 7 Kelvin Glover 512-415-2027
- Area 7 Jackie Hatfield 512-444-4153
- Area 8 Maria Martinez 512-443-9784
- Area 8 Kim Lanzillotti 512-658-8565

Standing Committees

Planning & Zoning

- Jean Mather 512-444-4153
- Kent Anschutz kent@kentanschutz.com
- Marc Davis marc.davis@gmail.com
- Russell Fraser russell_fraser@msn.com
- David Swann swanito@att.net

Parks, Schools & Environment

- David Todd (Parks) 512-416-0400
- Sherri Ancipink (Schools) 512-707-2627
- Marty Christman (Environment) 512-912-0724

Transportation & Public Safety

- Mike Sledge transportation@srccatx.org
- Jeff Kessel jeff@impactpro.com

Neighborhood Patrol Chair

—Volunteer Needed!

Communications

—Volunteer Needed!

Membership

- Carol Martin membership@srccatx.org

Financial

- Sam Martin 512-441-5222

Newsletter

- Maia Reeves newsletter@srccatx.org

Ad Hoc Committees

Norwood House

- Wolf Sitler 512-447-2150

TH-FP Historic District

- Michele Webre 512-422-1262

Representatives

Austin Neighborhood Council

- James Bilodeau ancrep@srccatx.org

City District 3

- Kim Lanzillotti 512-658-8565

City District 9

- James Bilodeau ancrep@srccatx.org

East Riverside (EROC)

- Toni House 512-447-8090

CodeNEXT

- Russell Fraser russell_fraser@msn.com

St. Edward's

- Elloa Mathews 512-442-6986

South Central Coalition

- Elloa Mathews 512-442-6986

Travis Heights Art Trail

- Charlotte Bell 512-447-2150

Travis Park Apt/Austin Interfaith

- Terry Franz 512-447-8786

SRCC Officers

President

- Gretchen Otto president@srccatx.org

Vice President

- Diane Presti vicepresident@srccatx.org

Treasurer

- Nancy Byrd treasurer@srccatx.org

Secretary

- Garret Nick secretary@srccatx.org



SRCC Meetings

1st Monday every month at 7:15pm at Life in the City United Methodist Church, 205 E. Monroe

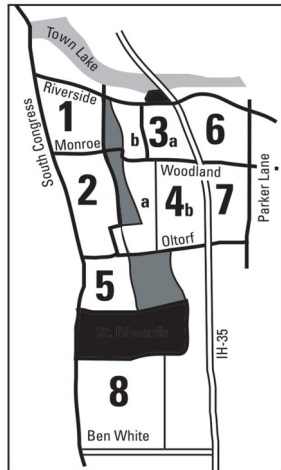
We thank all our officers, area coordinators, committees, and representatives for their dedication to our community! Call your coordinator for SRCC questions, volunteer opportunities, or to help deliver newsletters.

Membership Levels		
No. of Years	Individual	Family
1	\$20	\$35
2	\$35	\$65
3	\$50	\$95

Become a member and be eligible to vote! Join or renew online (www.srccatx.org) or at the membership table at meetings. To pay via PayPal, go to www.srccatx.org/membership-dues/. You can also send a check made payable to SRCC, along with this completed form to:

SRCC, Attention: Treasurer, P.O. Box 40632, Austin, TX. 78704.

Notes—For Family memberships, please provide the names of each family member (adults residing at the same address). When paying via PayPal, you can include the names of family members in the Instructions to Merchant or Shipping Details areas. Dues and contributions are **not** tax-deductible. If dues lapse, renew at a SRCC meeting and be eligible to vote. New members can vote after 28 days.



Number of Years (circle one):

1 2 3

Membership (circle one):

Individual Family

Membership Fee Due: \$ _____

Add'l Donation to SRCC General Fund: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Date: _____

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

SRCC Area (See Map): _____

Phone (s): _____

Email (s): _____