

Neighborhood Newsletter

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



Election 11/7/17

The 2017 Constitutional Amendment and School Bond Election is being held on

Tuesday, November 7, 2017
Early voting: October 23 – November 3

The League of Women Voters of Texas 2017 Constitutional Amendment Election Voters Guide (CAVG) in English and Spanish has been posted online on their website:

<http://www.lwvtexas.org/elections.html>
and can also be accessed at VOTE411.org.

Our state representative for Texas House District 51, Eddie Rodriguez, will be attending the November 6 SRCC general meeting to explain more about the amendments and to answer questions.

Travis Heights Art Trail November 4-5, 11am-5pm

Travis Heights Art Trail is in its fifteenth year! This neighborhood cultural gem showcases more than 40 of the city's longest-practicing artists as they open up their homes and studios to the public in this free event. This year, we will also feature an Author's Showcase at the Fairview Inn where local authors will be on hand reading from their books. There will also be book making demonstrations. The Travis Heights Elementary School Arts Program is one of the highlights of the art trail. Parents and children display and sell "kid" art and provide art activities for visiting children as a fundraiser for the school art program.

This is a neighborhood grassroots art show, created by and for the artists of Travis Heights. The annual Travis Heights Art Trail brings together artists, and art lovers for a unique event.

—Charlotte Bell, Director



AISS Bond on Nov. 7 Ballot

An AISD bond resolution will be one of very few issues on the November 7th ballot. A school bond election is when a school district asks voters for permission to sell bonds to fund capital projects, such as construction of new buildings, facility renovations and other improvements. If the resolution is approved, the district can sell bonds to investors to fund the projects and pay the bonds back over time, with interest. The total amount of this bond is \$1,050,984,000. The tax rate will not need to be raised in order to pay for these bonds, as AISD has been paying off old bonds. AISD's operating budget is needed to pay for regular expenses such as teacher salaries, while bonds are required for capital expenditures to repair and replace facilities. The bond proposal is informed by AISD's 25-year Facility Master Plan, after many years of study and a large number of community meetings. In the process of creating the master plan, each school building was evaluated, and many were determined to be in need of repairs and upgrades. Shifting populations have resulted in some overcrowded schools which need addressing.



Our local schools, Travis Heights Elementary School, Fulmore Middle School, and Travis Early College High School, are slated to receive bond money to cover projects such as computer lab and network systems improvements. The money raised through bonds will be used for school-specific projects, starting with the most needy schools. It includes money to modernize schools, and money to build new schools, including at Rosedale School, which provides tailored educational opportunities for AISD's most medically fragile students. None of the bond money is subject to recapture. In contrast, AISD is projected to lose \$534 million in local tax dollars to the state next year through recapture. AISD is also leveraging other resources to support this process: 2008 & 2013 available bond dollars, planned land and facility sales, and campus mergers to balance population shifts. <http://www.austinisd.org/bond>.

—Eliza Platts-Mills, SRCC Member
and Travis Heights Elementary PTA President

Mobile Food Pantry

Central Texas Food Bank Mobile Pantry is now in our area at 1711 East Oltorf. Fresh food and non-perishable items are distributed every 2nd Monday morning of the month from 9:00 am to 10:00am. *Bread for All* food pantry continues inside at the same location. Distribution is from 6-7:30pm every Monday. We help an average 50 families every Monday with neighbors in need of help still coming in weekly. APD officer and district representative Lopez is always present for anyone that needs to see him. Stop by to see our operation, donate, meet the volunteers, and consider volunteering yourself. We are especially in need of Spanish speaking volunteers. The pantry is sponsored by Capital Area Food Bank.

—Neal Nuwash, Area 5 Co-Coordinator

A Delicious Way to Fight Hunger

Imagine being invited to lunch with all of your co-workers. You are asked to pick up a bowl, get some soup and a roll, and find a seat. While you are enjoying a delicious bowl of soup, your hosts share with you some surprising statistics about hunger in your community. They close by asking you to take your now empty bowl home with you as a reminder that there are less fortunate people whose bowls are empty. This happened in Michigan 27 years ago, and initiated the Empty Bowls Project. Faculty members had tears in their eyes as they left the cafeteria. The ceramics students who had made the bowls and presented the hunger facts had started something beautiful that has spread all over the United States, Canada and Europe.

In 1997, Kit Adams, along with teachers and students at ClayWays Pottery Studio, decided to host an Empty Bowls Project here in Austin and it was a great success. In the following years, the event became more and more popular and eventually outgrew the clay studio. Under the direction of Hester Weigand and Kris Asthalter, the Austin Empty Bowl Project became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with corporate sponsors and an advisory committee. A silent auction featuring bowls signed by celebrities draws additional people to the event and a local quilter donates a food themed quilt, which is raffled off. A Preview Party, open to the public, honors sponsors the night before. In 2016, AEBP donated over \$92,000 to the Central Texas Food Bank's *Kids Café* and Meals on Wheels Central Texas' *Meals for Kids*, bringing the total donated over twenty years to more than \$1,000,000. This year's event will take place at the Central Texas Food Bank at 6500 Metropolis Drive on Sunday, November 19th, 11-3pm. We hope you can join us for lunch and live music! Bowls are \$20 each, and the soup is outstanding. Your donation will provide 20 meals for hungry Central Texas kids. Thanks to our generous sponsors, 100% of the proceeds will benefit the children's programs of the Central Texas Food Bank and Meals on Wheels Central Texas.

—Kris Asthalter, Area 4b Coordinator



Travis Heights Elementary Upcoming Events

THES is a proud community-supported In-District Charter. We have exciting events coming up that we would love to invite you to attend!

October 27th
Fall Carnival

November 10th
*Assembly 7:30 am, Prospective
Parent Tour 8am*

December 8th
*Assembly 7:30 am, Prospective
Parent Tour 8am*

December 9th
Cultural Festival 10am-12pm

January
*Applications available for transfer
and Dual Language program,
due date TBD*

January 11th
*Assembly 7:30 am, Prospective
Parent Tour 8am*

January 19th
*Assembly 7:30 am, Prospective
Parent Tour 8am*

Check out our website for more information on how we Learn, Serve & Lead:

www.travisheightselementary.com



In Memoriam: SRCC Co-Founder Harriet Buxkemper

World traveler, college professor, election judge, heritage tree preservationist, Presbyterian, mother and neighbor, Harriet Buxkemper died this summer. Mrs. Buxkemper was the co-founder of SRCC in the early 1970's. Harriet was spurred to action when old oak trees were cut down near her house north of Woodland Dr. She joined with Jean Mather to form South River City Citizens, which grew quickly under their guidance to nearly 600 members. Fortunately, Harriet was effective at inspiring neighbors to join SRCC because soon the city began planning for growth with the Austin Tomorrow Plan. Harriet and Jean organized the neighborhood's response to the plan in an effort to maintain the single family character of our neighborhood. Harriet also volunteered for Sherwood Oaks neighbor, Margret Hoffman, who was elected to the Austin City Council in 1975. Harriet retired from Huston Tillotson College in 2000 as Associate Professor Emerita. During her years as an educator, she was not just a teacher and a coach. She impressed upon her students the importance of civic duty and responsibility. Harriet exemplified the word neighbor and she will be deeply missed.

—Elloa Mathews, SRCC Area 5 Co-Coordinator

Love Austin Pools—A Grassroots Aquatic Advocacy

Love Austin Pools (LAP) began as a campaign to advocate for neighborhood and municipal pools in Austin. After the presentation in June 2017 of the *Swim512* master plan, many folks became concerned about the future of some of Austin's iconic and beloved neighborhood and municipal pools. Though much good work was conveyed by the study commissioned for Aquatics, some projections worried neighbors across Austin.

In particular, a section of the *Swim512* report, originally titled *Site Sustainability Ranking* rated certain pools as “Bottom 12” and suggested that, once these pools “died” (industry-speak for running into major maintenance issues), they would not be replaced. This “Bottom 12” list includes Deep Eddy, Big Stacy, Little Stacy, Northwest, Reed, Ramsey, West Enfield, West Austin, Canyon Vista, Civitan, Gillis, Paque Zaragoza, and Shipe pools. Mabel Davis pool, which was ranked as one of the “Middle 12” pool sites, remained closed this summer due to a major leak, and its future is uncertain.

Swimmers citywide voiced concern about the loss of pools that act as community gathering places in a time when Austin is growing quickly. Pools provide valuable skills through swim practice, swim lessons, swim teams, and jobs for teenagers and adults. In our sub-tropical climate, pools provide primary outdoor recreation in the summer. The free neighborhood pools offer access regardless of economic class, age, race, or location. In a city where affordability has become such an issue, many folks expressed gratitude at having access to the health benefits of lap lanes and water classes, even if they could not afford a gym membership. At a time when booming population and traffic threaten more crowded quarters for Austinites, the municipal pools serve as a place where new and long-time neighbors meet and interact—often within walking or biking distance of home.

We concerned swimmers talked to each other and began writing and calling City Council about this

issue. Groups of us visited our City Council representatives' offices, and brought copies of letters from musicians, authors, parents of swim-team participants, as well as neighbors. The result made waves, so to speak.

Hearing from so many citizens concerned about their pools, the Parks and Recreation Board recommended the *Swim512* plan be sent to a working group, rather than be immediately approved. On 8/1, the City Council attended a work session on the plan and ultimately passed its own resolution to have a working group do further study on the *Swim512* plan before it can move forward. That is where things stand, as of September 2017.

Instead of simply disagreeing with the *Swim512* findings, LAP wants to be part of the solution. A loose alliance of swimmers has begun meeting with city officials and leaders of other Austin foundations and conservancies to find where our efforts and energy will be best directed, and how we can coalesce into a strong voice at the table for ongoing advocacy for the Austin pool system. We realize some areas are underrepresented and need pools. We recognize the cost of maintenance required to bring older pools up to code.

Our draft mission statement indicates our intention to “Protect, preserve, and treasure our community, municipal and free neighborhood pools.” We hope to advocate for the pool system and to search for creative solutions to make the pool system sustainable for the foreseeable future. LAP meetings are open to advocates from across the city. We have diverse ideas about the way forward, and welcome those hoping to contribute to our mission. Look for updates on Twitter @loveaustinpools or on the Love Austin Pools website at <https://loveaustinpools.wordpress.com/> Please follow our social media for up to date news.

—Laura Cottam Sajbel, SRCC Neighbor

Changes to the Bylaws and Ways to Get Involved

At the September 4, 2017 SRCC General Membership meeting, the proposed updated SRCC bylaws were unanimously approved (*see link to the full bylaws document on the SRCC website*).

In response to the rapid evolution of our neighborhood, a variety of issues needed to be addressed. We have expanded the number of specialized committees that are necessary to stay informed and engaged with a focus on issues that directly impact the neighborhood. This means there are more ways residents can get involved and contribute to the quality of life in our neighborhood. The topic-specific standing committees, including the newest additions, are: Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation, Mobility, Public Safety, Parks and Environment, Schools, Finance, and Communication.

The Committee Chairs are now included as voting members of the SRCC Executive Committee, as well as our Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) representative. Our ANC representative keeps the SRCC informed about the concerns of other neighborhood groups and get support from them, if needed.

We currently are looking for two committee chairs: Public Safety (i.e. neighborhood watch), and Communications (website, newsletter, etc). We also have some openings for Area Coordinators (Areas 4a and 8). Next year, we expect to have two officer vacancies: President and Treasurer. There are so many ways to get more involved with our community! If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please contact president@srccatx.org.

—Carol Martin, SRCC Membership Secretary

National Register Historic District for Travis Heights/Fairview Park

To honor the distinctive historic character of Travis Heights, a committee of neighbors have re-vamped an effort to designate much of Travis Heights a National Register Historic District. While the designation would not offer legal or zoning protections against demolitions, it would give the area the imprimatur of an historic area that fosters preservation of our homes.

The group leveraged donated funds remaining from previous fundraising efforts to create a historic district and obtained a grant from Preservation Austin to begin work. A local architectural historian will update a survey of the area bounded by the rear property line of South Congress Avenue, Kenwood Avenue, East Riverside Drive and East Live Oak Street. More money is needed to complete the project, however, as the nomination moves forward.

At last count, the area boasted more than 1,000 structures that would contribute to a historic district, including Victorians, Craftsman bungalows, Tudor-style cottages, and Mediterranean revivals. If the district earns the National Register designation, it will be not only the first residential National Register district in South Austin, but also one of the largest in all of Austin. Furthermore, because the City of Austin lacks a cultural resource survey for South Austin, this National Register Historic District will serve as an inventory of historic residential structures in the area and will chronicle the district's history as one important story in Austin's growth as a city. The National

Register Historic District will serve to document the district as historically significant, as the city plans for greater density and revises its Land Development Code.

The hope is that through a National Register designation, the neighborhood's structures will be documented, its residents will learn about the district's history and architecture, the neighborhood will serve as a focal point of preservation for both visitors and residents, and ultimately, the designation will provide some measure of protection—if only through awareness—for our neighborhood's historic homes.

If you would like to donate to the National Register Historic District effort, you may do so through the Austin Community Foundation online at the website, historictravisheights.org. If you would like to know more about National Register Districts, go to the Texas Historical Commission's information page, thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/national-register-historic-places. If you have further questions about donations, National Register Districts, or would like to find out how you might volunteer to support this effort, contact Travis Heights resident and SRCC Historic Preservation Committee member Angela Reed at reed.as@gmail.com.

—Bob Gee, SRCC Historic Preservation Committee



"No Event Parking" signs have been posted at St. Edward's University lots, encouraging visitors to park in our neighborhood

Update on St. Edward's parking problems

As autumn approaches and school starts back up, St. Edward's University students are returning to campus, and parking problems are returning to the Sherwood Oaks neighborhood. As David Swann reported at the September general meeting, St. Edwards has begun posting "No Event Parking" signs at their parking lot closest to the Sherwood Oaks neighborhood. This contradicts the promises made by the University to provide event parking on campus.

The University sent out two very expensive separate mailings to encourage our neighborhood to get RPP. SRCC has told the University, officially on many occasions, that SRCC wants the University to provide parking on campus, not in our neighborhood, and we do not want RPP. Postcards appear to have been mailed to only a portion of the neighborhood, rather than to all residents, perhaps in an effort to cherry-pick results to their survey.

Mitigating overflow parking and event parking and the University's continued promotion of RPP to solve their parking problem are the complaints heard most from neighbors. The postcard says the University is writing tickets for illegally parked cars on Congress and Woodward as well as St. Edwards Dr. No one can park on either Woodward near the campus or S. Congress in traffic lanes, so this requires no effort on their part. Neighbors who live near the intersection of Carnarvon and St. Edwards Dr. have noted the SEU police parking their own private vehicles in the neighborhood near the Operations Building in order to avoid paying for on campus parking.

During August dorm orientation, the University map provided to arriving students showed an arrow pointing to the campus entrance on St. Edwards Dr. at East Side Dr. as well as showing the new entrance closed on Woodward that directly accesses the parking garage. This Woodward entrance was clearly open when David and I walked there to check, and the new Woodward entrance has a "NO TRUCK ENTRANCE" sign. This means the university is designing its interior vehicular plan to force trucks into our neighborhood. The SRCC Transportation Committee is working with Area 5 leaders and city staff to ensure that any plan the city implements regarding speed humps, bike lanes, etc will help and not make the problem worse by pushing the SEU overflow parking further into Sherwood Oaks.

—Elloa Mathews, SRCC Area 5 Co-Coordinator

CodeNEXT – It’s BAAACK!

CodeNEXT Draft 2.0 was released by city staff on September 15. It’s longer (now over 1300 pages), though still incomplete. It no longer uses the confusing Transect/ Non-Transect zoning nomenclature initially proposed, but renames and modifies virtually all zoning categories. It proposes expanded entitlements (higher density) in most neighborhoods at slightly lower increases than the first draft. It retains existing zoning and protective overlay for Neighborhood Conservation Combining Districts, such as Fairview Park. On the other hand, it eliminates Neighborhood Plan Overlays, effectively eliminating Neighborhood Plans (although there is still an administrative section on amending NPs). And it’s available for public comment for the month of October.

The overall schedule remains aggressive. Once again, the city and its consultant have failed to provide reliable or readily available comparison tools between existing regulations and zoning, and what was proposed in Draft 1, or changed in Draft 2 (although some new text is highlighted in green in online text). SRCC, at its October 2 Membership Meeting agreed to formally request a delay of at least 6 months.

The SRCC/EROC Ad Hoc Committee on CodeNEXT will review the zoning provisions of the code (and just a few other sections, as we can) and the revised zoning map impacts to SRCC and will prepare a second position paper and submit online map comments by 10/31/17. We also want to encourage you to submit comments with the available online tools listed below.

For much of the neighborhood core, the new zoning designations are for House Scale Residential “R”, designated mostly R3 west of Stacy and mostly R2 east of Stacy, where the number designates the maximum number of units generally allowed, with other area and setback limits established by a category designation at the end,

like R3C. Some of the McMansion limits have been included in the residential categories. Generally, this is better than Draft 1, roughly equal to current zoning (SF3) east of Stacy (including east of I35); but still effectively up-zoned west of Stacy. That generalization needs to be further verified, and we still have to look into the Multi-family Residential, Mixed Use and Main Street designations over next few weeks.

Resources:

- City’s main CodeNEXT website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/codenext>
- City’s tool for reading the text and making online comments on Draft 2.0 proposed Land Development Code: <https://codenext.civiccomment.org/>
- City’s tool for comparing and making online comments on the existing versus proposed zoning categories for individual properties (identifies the current and proposed zoning designation, but one needs to compare a lot of old versus new code text to determine the types of impacts): <https://codenext.engagingplans.org/codenext-comparison-map>
- Video of City Council work session 9/20/17 in which consultants highlight the intended improvements between Draft 1 and Draft 2: <http://austintx.swagit.com/play/09202017-804>
- Community Not Commodity is a project of non-profit Save Our City Austin and has a variety of CodeNEXT information resources for neighborhoods, FAQ, position papers and online petitions (more like a letter to the Mayor): <https://communitynotcommodity.com/>

—Tom Fitzpatrick,
SRCC CodeNEXT Committee Chair

9/15/17	Draft 2.0 was released for public comment
10/2-10/23/17	Community-wide Open Houses (Central Open House on 10/16/17, at Austin High)
10/17/17	SRCC Special Meeting w/ Mayor Adler & Council Member Kathy Tovo
10/31/ 17	Deadline for public comments to be accepted on Draft 2
11/28/17	Draft 3.0 Release (incorporating any changes responding to public comment) for final review
1/11/18	Land Use Commission (LUC) recommendations
2/8/18	Council review of Draft 3.0 with LUC recommendations
4/18	Planned Council adoption of final new Land Development Code and zoning map

A Special Thank You to Marty Christman

Longtime neighbor Marty Christman and his family are moving away from Sherwood Oaks, so Marty has resigned from his role as Environment Chair. We wanted to say a special thanks to Marty for his many years of service to our neighborhood. He did a lot of pro bono engineering work for SRCC. Marty helped to protect our natural resources such as Blunn Creek, and helped to reduce flooding through the Long Bow storm drain project, and water detention facilities at St. Edward's and The District at SoCo. Thanks in part to his work, homes in Sherwood Oaks are less prone to flooding. Marty has been a great neighbor; helping others with yard work, construction, and delivering the newsletter. Best wishes to the Christmans, you will be missed!

Area Coordinators

Area 1 Claudette Lowe	512-447-1514
Area 1 Marilyn Orton	512-440-7770
Area 1 Lee Schneider	451-250-5936
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 Marc Davis	512-656-2841
Area 4a Sam Martin	512-441-5222
Area 4a	—Volunteer Needed!
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	gassweaver@sbcglobal.net
Area 7 Jackie Hatfield	jackie.hatfield@gmail.com
Area 7 Sounthaly Outhavong	outhavong@hotmail.com
Area 8 Kim Lanzillotti	512-658-8565
Area 8	—Volunteer Needed!

Ad Hoc Committees

<i>Norwood House</i>	
Wolf Sitrler	512-447-2150
<i>CodeNEXT</i>	
Tom Fitzpatrick	fitz@prismnet.com

Standing Committees

<i>Planning & Zoning</i>	
Russell Fraser (Chair)	russell_fraser@msn.com
Jean Mather	
Kent Anschutz	
Marc Davis	
David Swann	
<i>Historic Preservation</i>	
Michele Webre (Chair)	512-422-1262
Angela Reed	
Melanie Martinez	
Ian Reddy	
Bob Gee	
<i>Finance</i>	
Sam Martin (Chair)	512-441-5222
Will Andrews	
<i>Mobility</i>	
Mike Kelly (Chair)	txcheeser@gmail.com
Mike Sledge	
Jeff Kessel	
<i>Public Safety</i>	—Volunteer Needed!
<i>Parks & Environment</i>	
David Todd (Chair)	512-416-0400
<i>Schools</i>	
Gretchen Otto	512-227-1507
<i>Communications</i>	
Chair	—Volunteer Needed!
Maia Reeves (Newsletter)	newsletter@srccatx.org

Representatives

<i>Austin Neighborhood Council</i>	
James Bilodeau	ancrep@srccatx.org
<i>City District 3</i>	
Kim Lanzillotti	512-658-8565
<i>City District 9</i>	
James Bilodeau	ancrep@srccatx.org
<i>East Riverside (EROC)</i>	
Toni House	512-447-8090
<i>Greater South River City NPCT (GSRC)</i>	
Elloa Mathews	512-442-6986
<i>South Central Coalition</i>	
Elloa Mathews	512-442-6986
<i>South Central Waterfront</i>	
Wendy Todd (Chair)	wendypricetodd@gmail.com
<i>St. Edward's</i>	
Elloa Mathews	512-442-6986
<i>Travis Heights Art Trail</i>	
Charlotte Bell	512-447-2150
<i>Travis Park Apt/Austin Interfaith</i>	
Terry Franz	512-447-8786



SRCC Officers

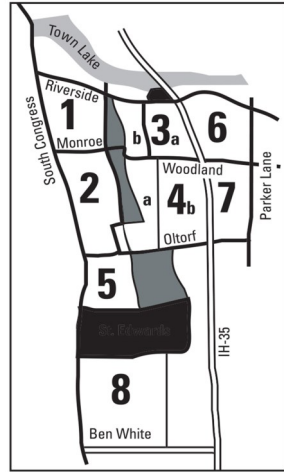
President—Gretchen Otto, president@srccatx.org
Vice President—Dan Fredine, vicepresident@srccatx.org
Treasurer—Nancy Byrd, treasurer@srccatx.org
Secretary—Mary Friedman, secretary@srccatx.org
Membership Secretary—Carol Martin, membership@srccatx.org

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 area 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 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): _____