

Neighborhood Newsletter

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



ANNUAL SRCC



AND ELECTION

Tuesday, March 5, 2019
Potluck begins at 6pm, Elections at 7:30pm
Life in the City Methodist Church
(formerly Grace UMC)

Once again, we gather to cast votes for the South River City Citizens Officers and Area Coordinators who comprise our Executive Committee. This is the team that we as a neighborhood elect to represent us at City of Austin council meetings, board, and commission hearings. They will govern the association and work diligently on our behalf for the next year!

Our meeting will kick off with our annual potluck meal at Life in the City Methodist Church. Following our social gathering, we will elect our officers and confirm the reelection of our Area Coordinators. We have formed a nomination committee, which will follow Robert's Rules of Order for seeking qualified candidates for office,

confirming their willingness to serve, and then reporting their findings and recommendations. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Anyone wishing to run for office is encouraged to contact any of the officers prior to the March 5th meeting (*see back page for contact info*). Please note that our meeting is on a **TUESDAY**, so make sure you mark your calendars, join your neighbors, make new friends, bring a favorite dish, and vote. Disposable dinnerware will be provided, but feel free to bring your own reusable plates, utensils, and cups. Children are welcome!

ELECTION NOTE: February 6th was the deadline to become a new member and vote at the general membership meeting, but if your membership has not lapsed more than two years, you can pay your dues at the meeting and vote. Of course, we encourage your membership in the neighborhood association at any time! Please come to the potluck dinner in any event to meet your neighbors!

Your Candidates!

President: Eric Cassady
Vice President: Dan Fredine
Treasurer: Oliver Caruso
Secretary: Mary Friedman
Membership Secretary: Carol Martin

Fulmore Officially Renamed Sarah Beth Lively Middle School

The AISD board of trustees has voted to rename Fulmore; beginning this fall, it will be called Sarah Beth Lively Middle School. The mascot, the Falcons, will remain the same. Earlier this year, the Austin ISD Board of Trustees voted to begin the process of renaming five schools whose names had ties to the Confederacy, and Fulmore Middle School was one of those schools. Fulmore is named after Zachary Taylor Fulmore, a judge who helped create a public school system in Austin and served on the school board for 18 years. He was also a private in the Confederate Army. The district accepted name ideas from the public and then created a School Renaming Task Force with committees at each affected school. The committees considered all suggested names, voted, and made recommendations to the board. Sarah Beth Lively was a teacher and volunteer at Fulmore for 47 years. She taught social studies and journalism for 25 years, and then after retiring she continued to volunteer at the school for 22 more years.



Photo courtesy Austin ISD

Travis Heights Elementary: Our Neighborhood School

Do you have young children who will be 4 or 5 by September 1? Enrollment for fall Pre-K and Kinder is open! Join us and become part of an amazing community of parents, teachers, neighbors, and alumni. For almost 80 years, THES has been serving the children of the Travis Heights area. Our school delivers rigorous project-based learning and intensive enrichment programs, as well as dual language instruction and blended learning (using technology to differentiate teaching). Our campus is surrounded by natural beauty unlike any other school in Austin: Blunn Creek and Greenbelt, Big Stacy Pool, Little Stacy Park, and diverse playscapes. We have fun events year-round such as Fall Carnival and Tamalada, and we are accepting transfers from other attendance zones for most grades! Please visit our website to learn more: <https://www.travisheightselementary.com/> Questions? Contact the school office at 512-414-4495, or Gretchen Otto, SRCC Schools Chair and THES PTA President at 512-227-1507.

Remembering Longtime Neighborhood Advocate Louis Janosek

Louis Frank Janosek passed away on December 24, 2018, in Cedar Park, Texas, at the age of 94. He was born and grew up in Ellinger, Texas. At the age of 21 he served in the Army in World War II aboard transport planes in the perilous China Burma India campaign and later in the Air Force as a navigator aboard the B-36 Strategic bomber. He also served in Korea. He met his wife, Marjorie, at a USO dance after the war. As Louis completed his military service they settled in Austin in 1962.



Louis began his civic life in South Austin when he and his family moved to Sherwood Oaks in 1963, living just north of St. Edwards University where their new home was separated from the university by a dirt road. Like other newly retired families from Bergstrom Air Force Base, Marge and Louis volunteered as election workers at Travis High School. He was well known among his neighbors for his meticulous phone contact lists which he maintained for the South River City Citizens Neighborhood Association. Louis and his wife worked with SRCC to secure a successful vote on bond funding to purchase the land to create the Blunn Creek Preserve in the 1980s and protect the land from future development. He also worked with his neighbors and SRCC to stop the City of

Austin from allowing the Salvation Army to move its downtown transient shelter to South Congress near schools and homes. When Louis was not busy with his civic duties he worked hard to provide a loving home for his family. When he became a grandfather, his grandchildren were the highlight of his life. He supported them in their activities and loved having little chats in the backyard on the swing where he would impart life's important lessons. His grandchildren will miss his small jobs for big pay and his ongoing love, support, and laughter. He was active in his faith and commitment to God. He and his family were members of St. Ignatius and later St. Peter the Apostle Catholic churches. He served as an usher for many years at the latter. Louis is survived by his son, Louis Jr., daughter-in-law Sarah, grandchildren Clayton, Nora, and William, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Marjorie, and his son Jeffrey.



Neighborhood Watch Crime Update and Patrol Plan

An informal study of crime reports occurring in our SRCC neighborhoods indicates that most crime happens late at night, but that some property crime (such as porch thefts) occurs during the daytime on weekdays, that presumably because the thieves are hoping many people are at work during that time. There have been instances of vehicular burglary and grand theft auto. This is a reminder to be vigilant and pay attention to your surroundings. Keep valuables locked up in your house, not in your vehicle; keep your vehicle locked; to the extent that you can, keep lights on around your house and vehicles at night, and trim bushes and shrubbery around windows and doors close to the house or in secluded areas. When driving around, including to and from your homes, look for anything that seems out of place, and never hesitate to call 911 if you see something suspicious. The police have emphasized that they want the calls, even if it turns out that what you observed turns out to be a false alarm.

We are still seeking more participants in the SRCC Neighborhood Watch, in all parts of the SRCC neighborhoods, and hope to have more magnetic signs for vehicles and more neighborhood watch signs for installation to serve as a deterrent. The SRCC Neighborhood Watch Patrol Program is an extension of the classic Neighborhood Watch concept, but provides a more proactive element to enhance the ability of a neighborhood to reduce criminal activity. It involves neighborhood volunteers patrolling in clearly-marked vehicles looking for signs of criminal activity, suspicious persons or vehicles, and providing a visible presence in a neighborhood to deter criminal activity before it occurs. Criminals attempting to operate in a neighborhood patrolled by volunteers become more at risk of detection. Patrols also show residents that they do not have to be just victims; they can fight back against criminals.

Neighborhood Watch Patrols are non-confrontational. Volunteers must understand and agree that no volunteer is to confront a suspicious person or approach a suspicious vehicle. Instead, they are to call 911 and report their concerns to the Austin Police Department. Patrols are the eyes of crime prevention, never the arm. Volunteers for Neighborhood Watch Patrol within SRCC commit to at least two one-hour patrols per month. Ideally, this commitment is on a set schedule of day and time to allow for the coordination of maximum coverage of the neighborhood. With proper training, anyone willing to donate at least two hours per month to reduce criminal activity can accomplish this important task.

Magnetic Patrol signs for vehicles will be made available to volunteers at a location that is easily accessible. Volunteers stop by and get the signs just prior to beginning a patrol. The signs are returned after the one-hour shift is completed, and another volunteer picks them up and starts another hour of patrol. Patrols can also happen on foot.



Neighborhood Watch Patrol works. Residential and vehicle burglaries have declined rapidly in neighborhoods where patrols are active. And although patrol volunteers may never actually see a burglar, it is apparent that the would-be burglar is seeing the patrol and deciding to move to less alert neighborhoods. A small number of involved residents can actually make the difference. For more information, please contact Tom Groce, SRCC Public Safety Chair, at tgroce71@gmail.com.

—Tom Groce, SRCC Public Safety Chair

Little Stacy Park Improvements

Construction finally began in January on long-planned improvements to Little Stacy Park. At this point, the park has been closed and the contractor has installed all the construction fence and all tree protection and the construction entrance. They are coordinating with Watershed and Transportation on the Sunset Lane closure (the right-of-way vacation is still pending but moving forward). The contractor should soon begin demolition of existing hardscape (sidewalk) to be removed. Then they will start by installing the new storm drainage (raingarden overflows) and electrical for site lighting. Installation work will begin at the northeast (downhill) corner of the site and move in phases toward the southwest corner in hopes that some portions of the park can be opened before construction ends. Work is expected to be complete within six months, barring weather or other unforeseen delays. PARD expects the wading pool to be open as usual during the summer. This project to improve Little Stacy Park is being implemented through PARD's Capital Improvement Program. The project anticipates improvements to correct erosion issues, comply with accessibility standards, address maintenance, and provide a more enjoyable and inclusive play experience. The city hired a consulting firm, Asakura Robinson, to create the new design. It has been in the planning stages for more than four years and has gone through a lengthy public input process including three public meetings and several presentations and updates at SRCC meetings. Planned improvements include: resurfacing the tennis courts, adding rain gardens, improving the basketball court, adding a hillside slide, replacing some out-of-code play equipment with nature play-based materials, and making improvements to the entrances and the shelter house. You can see project information online at: <https://austintexas.gov/departments/little-stacy-park>.

—Gretchen Otto,
SRCC Newsletter Editor and Schools Chair

South of Oltorf: Big Changes, from Sidewalks to IH-35 Access

The short "sidewalk to nowhere" at the west end of St. Edwards Drive in front of the university's shipping and receiving facility is being extended thanks to taxpayer dollars. The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) will build a sidewalk to join the existing sidewalk three blocks east of Eastside Dr. The new sidewalk will connect in front of the Holy Cross Brothers residence across from the Blunn Creek Nature Preserve.

As part of this project, a sidewalk will also be installed in the near future, on Carnarvon Lane. These projects, while paid for by tax dollars, also benefit the university whose overflow parking onto Sherwood Oaks streets in recent years has increased since the school began charging students, faculty and staff to park on campus. Why pay to

park when you can park for free in the neighborhood?

At the east end of St. Edwards Drive, TxDOT has delivered its long-promised correction to the southbound IH-35 on-ramp. The entrance ramp was built at a right angle to St. Edwards Dr. when the Highway 71/290 flyover was built. The on-ramp at St. Edwards Dr. was too close to the flyover entrance according to the Transportation Criteria Manual, hence causing dangerous merging. The new on-ramp will be further north and better aligned with the new exit ramp north of Oltorf. Soon, the free right turn onto the southbound frontage road at Oltorf will return after TxDOT consultants heard complaints from SRCC members at its December meeting. While the reconfigured on-ramp at St. Edwards Dr. limits neighbors' easy access to 71/290 westbound, the lack of access has already proven to reduce traffic cutting through Sherwood Oaks streets from S. Congress to IH-35. YAY!

—Elloa Mathews,
Area 5 Co-Coordinator

Norwood House

We did it! We're so happy to be able to say in 2019, that municipal funding for our precious Norwood House is finally in place! Been a long time coming (like, 30 years). Thanks to all of you who helped us make calls and write emails supporting Norwood on the 2018 bond (\$2m) and for specified allocation of HOT (hotel-occupancy tax) funds (\$1m for Norwood) which passed in October. The project total has been estimated at \$6.3m, which means we still need to raise about \$2.5m in private dollars in addition to the \$800K we've already raised. For now, not much will change at Norwood itself, but we're hard at work behind the scenes to complete all construction documents, finish the permitting process, and be shovel-ready at the site next fall. We thank our fantastic professional team members, all of whom have a special passion for, and connection to south Austin, Travis Heights and the Norwood House: **Mell Lawrence Architects, Campbell Landscape Architecture, Dunaway/UDG Associates (Civil Engineers), Leap!Structures (Structural Engineers)** 2019 will be the most momentous year yet for our project. Please help us as we work to get this treasure repurposed for all to enjoy, before the 100-year anniversary of the house! For those of you who may not know, we are also thrilled to announce that Austin Parks Foundation, has recently recognized the merits of our work by awarding us a \$250,000 matching grant! All contributions will be matched until the grant is fully funded. This would put a huge dent in our fundraising goal, so please consider donating to Norwood now, while your gift is DOUBLED, and help us reach the full \$500K! Hop onto our website, norwoodparkfoundation.org to donate. No gift is too small, and they really add up when they're matched. **Thank you Austin Parks Foundation for making all our parks better, and for this very generous gesture in support of the Norwood project!**

SRCC Meetings

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

We thank all of 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.

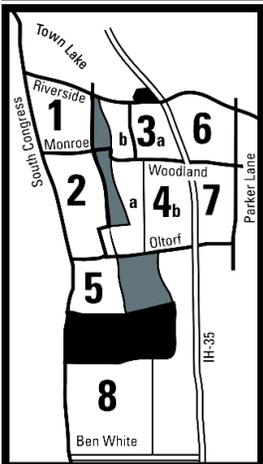
<u>Area Coordinators</u>	<u>Standing Committees</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
Area 1 Claudette Lowe 512-447-1514 Marylin Orton 512-440-7770	Planning & Zoning Russell Fraser (Chair) russell_fraser@msn.com Jean Mather Kent Anschutz Marc Davis David Swann Ian Reddy Sarah Campbell	Austin Neighborhood Council James Bilodeau ancrep@srccatx.org
Area 2 Russell Fraser 512-771-9736 Eugene Kubelka 512-441-9262		City District 3 Kim Lanzilloti 512-658-8565
Area 3a Jo Webber 512-441-3117 Sara Newsom 512-444-8292	Historic Preservation Michele Webre (Co-Chair) 512-422-1262 Angela Reed (Co-Chair) reed.as@gmail.com Melanie Martinez Ian Reddy Bob Gee	City District 9 James Bilodeau ancrep@srccatx.org
Area 3b Brooks Kasson 512-444-8100 Marc Davis 512-656-2841		East Riverside (EROC) Toni House 512-447-8090
Area 4a Sam Martin 512-441-5222 <i>Additional Volunteer Needed</i>	Finance Sam Martin (Chair) 512-441-5222 Will Andrews	Greater South River City NPCT (GSRC) Elloa Mathews 512-442-6986
Area 4b Kris Asthalter 512-443-4963	Mobility Chair Volunteer Needed Mike Sledge Jeff Kessel	South Central Coalition Elloa Mathews 512-442-6986
Area 5 Neal Nuwash 512-462-9093 Elloa Mathews 512-442-6986	Public Safety Tom Groce (Chair) tgroce@gmail.com	South Central Waterfront Wendy Todd (Chair) wendypricetodd@gmail.com
Area 6 Rachel McClure 512-326-5572 Laura Gass Weaver gassweaver@sbcglobal.net	Parks & Environment David Todd (Chair) 512-416-0400	St. Edwards Elloa Mathews 512-442-6986
Area 7 <i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Schools Gretchen Otto (Chair) 512-227-1507	Travis Heights Art Trail Charlotte Bell 512-447-2150
Area 8 Kim Lanzillotti 512-658-8565 Vicky Moerbe 512-442-5678	Communications Betty Weed (Chair) communications@srccatx.org (Newsletter Editor) Gretchen Otto Maia Reeves (Newsletter Designer)	Travis Park Apt/Austin Interfaith Terry Franz 512-447-8786
		South Central Affordable CDC J.B. Sigmon jb.sigmon@gmail.com
		SRCC Officers
		President Eric Cassidy president@srccatx.org
		Vice President Dan Fredine vicepresident@srccatx.org
		Secretary Mary Friedman secretary@srccatx.org
		Treasurer Oliver Caruso treasurer@srccatx.org
		Membership Secretary Carol Martin membership@srccatx.org

Membership Levels		
# 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 are **not** tax-deductable. 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:	\$ _____
Additional Donation to SRCC General Fund:	\$ _____
TOTAL:	\$ _____

Date: _____

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

SRCC Area (*see map*): _____

Phone (s): _____

Email (s): _____