

# Neighborhood Newsletter

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



## Voting Information for the Nov. 6 Election

**Early Voting:  
October 22-November 2**

**Election Day:  
November 6**



This November's mid-term election includes many important races for Austin voters. Statewide races include senator, governor, and Lt. governor. Our neighborhood will be voting for city council members for Districts 3 and 9, as well as mayor. There are also seven city bonds and four other propositions on the ballot.

Please be sure to exercise your rights and make your voice heard!

Go to [www.votetravis.com](http://www.votetravis.com) for election information, including sample ballots, polling places, and wait times. You can also check to see if you are registered.

### Voter ID

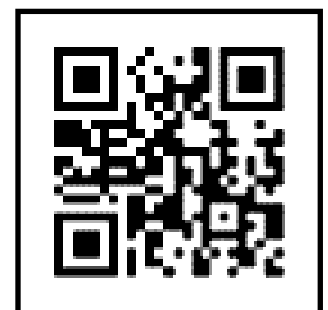
Voters are required to present a valid ID in order to vote. Here is a list of the acceptable forms of photo ID:

- Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
  - Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
  - Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
  - Texas Handgun License issued by DPS
- United States Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph
- United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph
  - United States Passport (book or card)

### League of Women Voters Austin Area Voters Guide

The nonpartisan nonprofit League of Women Voters is once again offering information on all races and candidates in the Austin area. Printed copies of the *Voters Guide* will be inserted in the October 25 edition of the Austin Chronicle and will be available in various locations such as public libraries. You can view a digital version of the *Voters Guide* at [lwvaustin.org/voter-guide/](http://lwvaustin.org/voter-guide/). You can also view personalized ballot information and candidate answers using the interactive *Voters Guide* at [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

*Since 1919, the League of Women Voters has been promoting active and informed participation of citizens in government. The League never endorses candidates or political parties.*



Vote 411 QR Code

## THES Tamalada Turns 25

Growing up, around the holidays someone's kitchen (my mom's, my aunt Bony's or my aunt Sylvia's) was taken over by a large crowd of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends for our Holiday *Tamalada*. To this day we get together every year. At a *tamalada* everyone has a job. Cousin Nito was in charge of *amazar la masa*, or kneading the corn *masa*. He now shares this job with his son who has bigger muscles than him these days (muscles or machines are very helpful for this step, when a large quantity of masa is involved)! My mom is in charge of making the *guisados*, the pork, chicken, and pepper fillings. These days, she makes vegan *guisados*, and vegan masas, as well. The rest of us make an assembly line around the table, and spill out in to the rest of the kitchen and dining room. We take the soaked corn husks and some of us spread the masa, and others add a portion of guisado to the masa fold the tamal (yes tamal, not tamale) and prepare it for steaming.

When I came to Travis Heights Elementary twelve years ago, I felt right at home when I found out that my Thunderbird familia has a Tamalada tradition of their own. I still remember my first Tamalada... retired teacher friends Chris Contreras and Carlos Gonzales handing out bandanas for our hair...my comadre Ysabel Peña talking my ear off...the school cafeteria filled with parents; some experienced, some novices...big containers of masa, and real spoons (not plastic cafeteria spoons). The familiar scents of guisados fill the air. Year after year, being a part of this tradition, which turns a quarter of a century this year, has been something very special.

The Travis Heights Elementary *Tamalada* started in 1993 as a way to draw parents in. A few years later, the *Tamalada* became part of the Travis Heights PTA fundraiser "Winterfest." By the time I came to Travis Heights, there were two different events: a Tamalada, and a Tamalada festival. The *Tamalada* happened on a weeknight, usually Wednesday, where the Travis Heights community would get together to make tamales with ingredients donated by area restaurants and grocery stores. The *Tamalada* Festival was on the following Saturday and these tamales would be sold/picked up at this festival. A few years ago we changed the name of the Saturday event to "Cultural Festival." (I personally would not object if we changed the name back to Winterfest.)

The Cultural Festival is a fun school community event that includes performances, tables celebrating a wide variety of cultures, and a *mercado*. The PTA is always looking for parents, neighbors, and teachers to create the cultural tables for the festival. At these tables, members of our community can showcase something about their culture, their heritage, their countries of origin (or that of their parents/grandparents), and so on. Both events have evolved throughout the years, as have our school and our community, but the core of the tradition is still here.

Our Tamalada this year will be held on Wednesday, December 5th, in the afternoon, and the Cultural Festival will be on Saturday, December 8th, in the morning. We would love for our neighbors to join us! If you would like to volunteer at the Tamalada, please contact Susie Chaverria, at [susiechaverria74@gmail.com](mailto:susiechaverria74@gmail.com). If you would like to host a table to share your culture, please contact Jeniffer Barrera, [jenthesp91@yahoo.com](mailto:jenthesp91@yahoo.com).

—Edith Rios,  
THES Pre-K Teacher



Parents at Tamalada



## Travis Heights Art Trail

*The Longest Running Artist/Studio Tour in Austin!*

**Saturday and Sunday, November 3-4, 11:00am to 5:00pm**

Visit artists in their studios and homes in the Travis Heights neighborhood. Thirty-nine artisans are participating this year, and will present high-quality workmanship in painting, pottery, photography, woodwork, jewelry, and other fine arts. The Travis Heights Art Trail has become an area tradition, with thousands of fans walking along the beautiful streets of Travis Heights. Have Fun! Buy Art!

Contact Charlotte Bell with questions: 512-447-2150

—Charlotte Bell

## Travis Heights Elementary Events

The school year is now in full swing and children are settling into their classrooms and working hard. Here are some fun upcoming events that the whole community is encouraged to participate in:

### Fall Carnival

Friday, October 19, 5pm-8pm

*Travis Heights Elementary Campus*

The Carnival is our big fall event and it has become a great tradition. Get ready for games, inflatables, a photo booth, a cakewalk, yummy food, tons of prizes, and a haunted hallway! Children big and small are welcome to join in the fun!

Come and see what makes our school so special.

### PBL Benefit Dinner

Saturday, November 10, 6:30pm-9:30pm

*Travis Heights home of the Ellmers*

*(advance tickets required)*

A special evening for parents and other members of the community to come together to support

Project-Based Learning at THES. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please contact Oliver Bernstein for more information or to buy tickets:  
oliver.bernstein@gmail.com

### Tamalada

Wednesday, December 5, 3pm

*Travis Heights Elementary Cafeteria*

See article in this newsletter for more information about this honored tradition.

### Cultural Festival

Saturday, December 8, 10am-noon

*Travis Heights Elementary*

*Main Hallway and Cafeteria*

An opportunity for all the families in our school to share their heritage with the community. Families host a table with information on the history, food, language, dress, etc of their country of origin. There will also be performances and a *mercado*. Come and learn about our diverse community!

### Support THES while shopping!

You can create an AmazonSmile account linked to your current Amazon account. This unique link will take you directly to the page where you can support Travis Heights Elementary: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6062872>

Or, if you choose to go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), be sure to search for "PTA Texas Congress 864 Travis Hts Elementary School" to find our school. Remember to start at [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) when doing your shopping! Travis Heights will receive 0.5% of your eligible purchases. THES also has an Amazon wish list. Teachers dream of having items for their classrooms that support learning and help children be more comfortable. The school has started an Amazon wish list to make donating really easy. Check out what some teachers are asking for:

[https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/2H9VLM7C41LU/ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_cp\\_ep\\_ws\\_FkWKBBFA8TMQC](https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/2H9VLM7C41LU/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_FkWKBBFA8TMQC)

—Gretchen Otto,  
SRCC Schools Chair,  
and THES PTA President

## Fulmore Middle School Renaming

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,

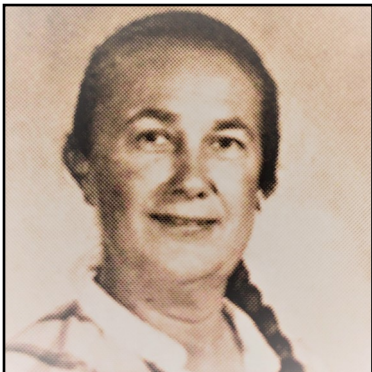
voted, and made recommendations to the board.

The new names had to follow criteria set by the district, and could include naming the school after a person, the school's curriculum, or after a geographic feature. The top three choices submitted to the board by the Fulmore naming committee are:

- Sarah Beth Lively (a teacher and volunteer at Fulmore for 40 years)
- South Congress (the street where the school is located)
- Moon Tower (iconic lights throughout Austin; one is located near the school at Leland and Eastside)

The school board is scheduled to vote on the finalists on October 29, after this newsletter has been printed. Please check [www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org) for information on the final vote.

—Gretchen Otto, SRCC Schools Chair





## Proposition J

You may recall that early last October, SRCC wrote a letter to Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, and Council members to request time extensions for the then Current Draft 2 of CodeNext, and the Proposed Draft 3. We requested a time extension of at least 6 months in order to have time for “adequate feedback, answering of questions, and revisions.” Later that month, we wrote to Greg Guernsey, Director of the Planning and Zoning Department about the second draft. A detailed “position paper” was attached, touching on many issues that we felt would be harmful to our neighborhood:

- Preservation/Demolition
- Flooding and Environmental
- Affordability
- Compatibility: Bars (proposed zoning restrictions for alcohol far too permissive), Stealth Dorms and occupancy limits, drive-through uses, and compatibility with existing residential (asking to keep existing McMansion Residential Design standards intact)
- Public access to decision making.

Then, in May 2018, SRCC wrote again to the Austin City Council, as above, regarding our position on CodeNEXT draft 3. To briefly recap, (all these letters are available on the SRCC website):

- Draft 3, a complete rewrite, but not a revision, is “rife with errors, omissions, and contradictions.”
- Consultants have confirmed that CodeNEXT does NOT provide for affordable housing, which has been a rationale for the project from the beginning.
- Makeup of Planning Commission resulting in an imbalance of development interests has not been addressed and is now the subject of litigation.

Contrary to popular belief, CodeNEXT is not dead. Special interests will, if not stopped, attempt to repackage the same pro-developer policies and force them onto our community again. However, we do have a choice: In November, vote for Proposition J. This will call for a waiting period and a public vote, before the next “CodeNEXT.”

—Russell Fraser,  
SRCC Area 2 Co-Coordinator

## Empty Bowls in Central Texas

This year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, volunteers will be stocking tables at the Central Texas Food Bank with thousands of handmade and/or hand-decorated ceramic bowls. Chefs will be heating up gallons of delicious soup, and bakers will be slicing up dozens of loaves of bread. Musicians will be tuning up their guitars, and people from all over Austin (and beyond!) will be lining up to attend the 22nd Austin Empty Bowl Project. This all-volunteer effort to fight hunger has been embraced by the Austin community, as have similar events in communities all over the US, Canada, and Europe, following the original “Empty Bowls” in Michigan twenty-eight years ago. The Austin Empty Bowl Project, sponsored by several local businesses, is able to donate every penny raised from the event to the children’s programs of Central Texas Food Bank, and Meals on Wheels Central Texas. Over the last 21 years AEBP has raised more than \$1,104,000!!

You are invited to join us on Sunday, November 18th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Central Texas Food Bank at 6500 Metropolis

Drive. Find that perfect bowl, enjoy some gourmet soup and bread, and hear some great live music. Bid on celebrity signed bowls and special ceramic art in the silent auction.

Have your photo taken in the giant soup pot, and most important of all, take your empty bowl home with you to remind you that others less fortunate have empty bowls.

For more information please visit our website at [www.austinemptybowl.org](http://www.austinemptybowl.org) or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Austin-Empty-Bowl-Project-80741149547/>



—Kris Asthalter,  
SRCC Area 4b Coordinator

## 4th Annual SoCo Pumpkin Patch at Christ Lutheran Church

Backyard of Christ's Workshop  
212 East Monroe Street, 78704

Hours of Operation from October 13<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>  
(or until we sell out)

Monday-Friday 11am - 7pm

Saturday 10 am - 7pm

Sunday Noon - 7 pm



For more information about the patch, please contact Jordan at the Christ Lutheran Church office, 512-442-5844, contact him by email at [jordan@christaustin.org](mailto:jordan@christaustin.org), or visit [www.christaustin.org](http://www.christaustin.org)

## Austin Historic Landmark Commission Delays St. Edwards Demolition Permit

On July 23 the Austin Historic Landmark Commission heard a request from St. Edwards University to demolish Andre Hall near the campus' historic Main Building. Andre Hall is a few feet outside the National Historic Register District which was created in 1979.

Angela Reed and Elloa Mathews presented SRCC's request to the commission that the Andre Hall demolition permit be withheld until the university releases its Master Plan which was approved last year. The university asked for neighborhood input into changes proposed on campus that would impact life in Sherwood Oaks north of campus. Since the Master Plan was approved last year, but not released to the public, the type of structure proposed to replace Andre Hall has not been disclosed. SRCC requested that the commission withhold the demolition permit until St. Edward's releases the Master Plan.

During the hearing, commissioners asked St. Edward's when the Master Plan would be released, and whether Andre Hall had any historical significance. The St. Edward's representatives stated that the building did not have historical significance despite Brother Andre Bessette being the first Holy Cross Brother to be canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church. His Wikipedia page describes Andre Hall being built in his honor.

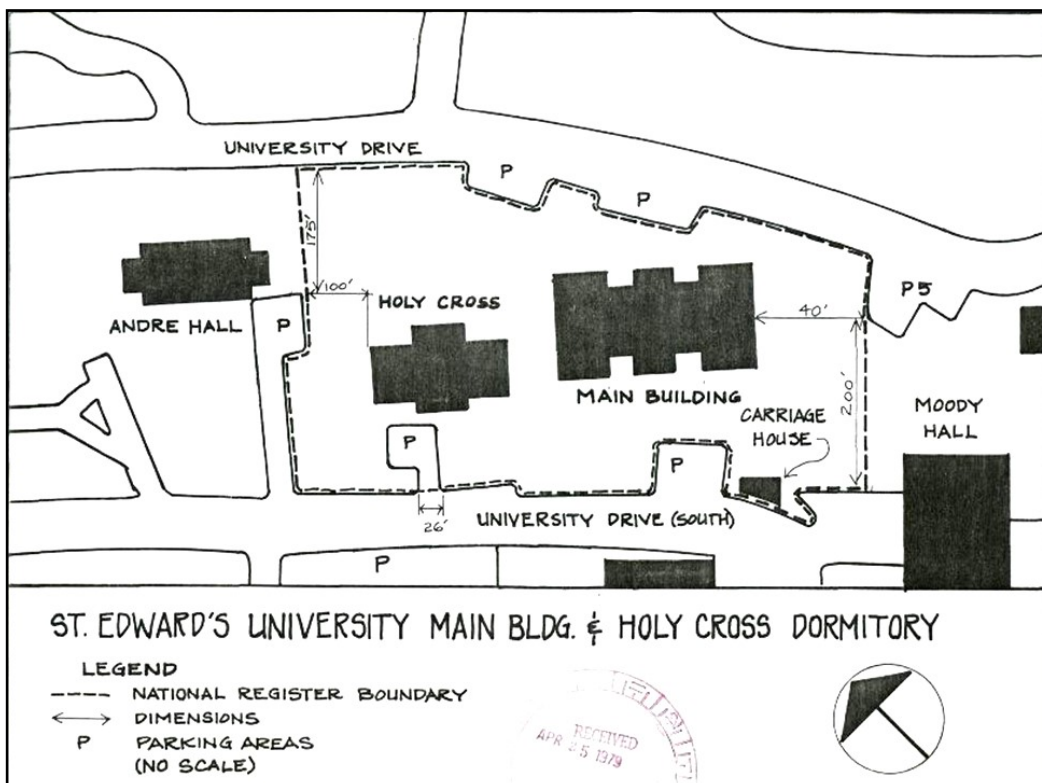
While the St. Edwards representative informed the commission that none of the university's research on Andre Hall had revealed any historical significance, Commissioner Beth Valenzuela did a quick search in the Austin American-Statesman archives and discovered that the firm that designed Andre Hall, Julian and White of San Antonio, had also designed an early kitchen and dining hall, as well as the science building and Fleck Hall, which has been restored. The Statesman archive also revealed mentions of the design firm's work in the national historic register, which could establish a need to save Andre Hall instead of demolish it. Commissioner Emily Reed said, "It's a future possibility that the (historic) district could be expanded." When the St. Edward's representatives and city staff said they were unaware of this information, the commission suggested that St. Edwards go back and complete their research and postponed the release of the demolition permit.

As far as releasing the Master Plan, there was a bit of subterfuge by St. Edward's. The new architect reported that even though St. Edward's had approved the Master Plan update last year, they would go live with it on their website on Aug. 1. Architect Kit Johnson also reported to the commission that the university was under no obligation to do so. However, as of the publication of this newsletter, the Master Plan is now posted on St. Edward's website at <https://stedwards.app.box.com/v/SEUMasterPlanExecSummary>.

As part of the requirements of the National Historic Register District, the property owners have an obligation to maintain the views of the buildings in the district to the public. Elloa Mathews shared photos of the new Operations Building on St. Edwards Dr. with the commission as evidence that the new two story sheet metal building was blocking neighbor's views of the historic Main Building. One commissioner asked Mr. Johnson if he could "move the ugly metal building"? Mr. Johnson's response was that the view was not as bad as the photos revealed.

At the follow up hearing in August, the demolition permit was released unanimously on consent, upon completion of documentation of the building.

—Elloa Mathews,  
SRCC Area 5 Co-Coordinator



# 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.

## Area Coordinators

<b>Area 1</b>	
Claudette Lowe	512-447-1514
Marilyn Orton	512-440-7770
Lee Schneider	451-250-5936
<b>Area 2</b>	
Russell Fraser	512-771-9736
Eugene Kubelka	512-441-9262
<b>Area 3a</b>	
Jo Webber	512-441-3117
Sara Newsom	512-444-8292
<b>Area 3b</b>	
Brooks Kasson	512-444-8100
Marc Davis	512-656-2841
<b>Area 4a</b>	
Sam Martin	512-441-5222
<i>Additional Volunteer Needed</i>	
<b>Area 4b</b>	
Kris Asthalter	512-443-4963
<b>Area 5</b>	
Neal Nuwash	512-462-9093
Elloa Mathews	512-442-6986
<b>Area 6</b>	
Rachel McClure	512-326-5572
Laura Gass Weaver	
	gassweaver@sbcglobal.net
<b>Area 7</b>	
<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	
<b>Area 8</b>	
Kim Lanzillotti	512-658-8565
Vicky Moerbe	512-442-5678

## Ad Hoc Committees

<b>Norwood House</b>	
Wolf Sitler	512-447-2150
<b>CodeNext</b>	
Tom Fitzpatrick	fitz@prismnet.com

## Standing Committees

<b>Planning &amp; Zoning</b>	
Russell Fraser (Chair)	russell_fraser@msn.com
Jean Mather	
Kent Anschutz	
Marc Davis	
David Swann	
Ian Reddy	
Sarah Campbell	
<b>Historic Preservation</b>	
Michele Webre (Co-Chair)	512-422-1262
Angela Reed (Co-Chair)	reed.as@gmail.com
Melanie Martinez	
Ian Reddy	
Bob Gee	
<b>Finance</b>	
Sam Martin (Chair)	512-441-5222
Will Andrews	
<b>Mobility</b>	
J.B. Sigmon (Chair)	transportation@srccatx.org
Mike Sledge	
Jeff Kessel	
<b>Public Safety</b>	
Tom Groce (Chair)	tgroce@gmail.com
<b>Parks &amp; Environment</b>	
David Todd (Chair)	512-416-0400
<b>Schools</b>	
Gretchen Otto (Chair)	512-227-1507
<b>Communications</b>	
Betty Weed (Chair)	communications@srccatx.org
	(Newsletter Editor)
Gretchen Otto	(Newsletter Designer)
Maia Reeves	

## Representatives

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

## SRCC Officers

<b>President</b>	
Eric Cassidy	president@srccatx.org
<b>Vice President</b>	
Dan Fredine	vicepresident@srccatx.org
<b>Secretary</b>	
Mary Friedman	secretary@srccatx.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Oliver Caruso	treasurer@srccatx.org
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	
Carol Martin	membership@srccatx.org

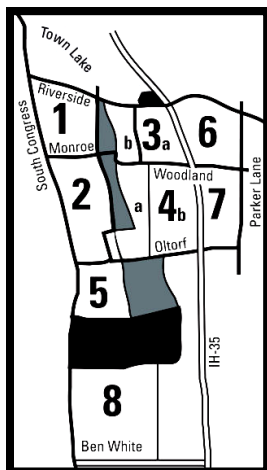
## Membership Levels

# 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](http://www.srccatx.org)) or at meetings. To pay via PayPal, go to [www.srccatx.org/membership-dues/](http://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): \_\_\_\_\_