

Neighborhood News

Est. 1972

June 2025

srccatx.org

A Message from the President

As the new president of SRCC, it is an honor to serve such a passionate, engaged community, one that truly represents the spirit of Austin.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you, learning together, and working to keep our neighborhoods unique, connected, and thriving. I'm here to listen and lead with heart. I hope to meet many of you soon, whether at meetings or just walking through the park. I sincerely hope you'll stop and say "Hello," when we meet.

I invite you to join SRCC. This enduring organization is only as strong as the people behind it—and that's where you come in. Whether you've lived here for decades or just moved in, your voice, ideas, and energy matter. If you are passionate about protecting our beautiful trees, preserving our historic nature, maintaining our safety, or just want to stay "in the know," there's a place for you here. Your

ideas or questions matter; come to our next meeting and share them! We know we have many remarkable and talented South River City Citizens, and we want to have your participation.

Joining SRCC means more than just attending meetings; it means having a say about what happens in our neighborhoods, e.g., development, traffic, parks, safety, and more. It can mean supporting a specific project in our area or advocating for local causes that benefit all of Austin. The important thing is to remain informed, connected and effective together!

Our community is strongest when everyone is involved—and that's exactly what SRCC is all about. As you'll read in this newsletter, SRCC has had real, important impacts on our community over the past 50 years. We want to continue this tradition, so become a member and contribute to the conversations and

actions that impact our neighborhoods.

Help us shape the future of SRCC together. We're all in this for the same reason: we love where we live. It is simple to join or renew your membership. See the back page for information or go to srccatx.org to join.

I'm really looking forward to working with you.

Mary Fealkoff, President
South River City Citizens (SRCC)



What's SRCC?

South River City Citizens, a neighborhood association, was formed over 50 years ago. During those years, SRCC has worked on many issues related to enhancing our neighborhoods. Those efforts include creation of the Blunn Creek Nature Preserve, protection of trees in our neighborhood from oak wilt and destruction, and development of trails throughout Stacy Park.

Our organization is a non-profit, non-partisan association open to all

residents living within our boundaries. Its goal is to address the shared concerns, interests, and activities that affect our quality of life.

SRCC has open meetings and any interested party is welcomed to attend. We would like to encourage you to meet your neighbors and attend a meeting. Information about our meetings is at srccatx.org.

Recently, we held our annual potluck and spent time getting to know each other better. Looking towards the future we'd like to hold more events,

especially those providing opportunities for our youngest neighbors to participate. We are considering hosting a pet parade through the park and a costume contest for Halloween along with a potluck picnic near Little Stacy pool. We urge you to join us. Our current membership is 260, but we hope to increase it to 300 this year. To join, please see the back of this newsletter.

Mary Friedman
membership@srccatx.org

Neighborhood News



Jean Mather

December 2, 1925–January 9, 2025

Jean Mather, co-founder of our neighborhood association, South River City Citizens (SRCC), died in January of this year. Newer residents may not realize how much Jean contributed to shaping environmental protection in Austin. She believed in the value of citizen participation and collaborated tirelessly with city officials on behalf of Austin and our area.

Jean and her husband, Bob, moved to Austin in 1958 and chose a vintage 1913 frame house on Alameda. Bob was a professor of architecture at UT Austin. Jean had degrees in political science and landscape architecture. To our advantage, they brought their expertise and their values to work for a better neighborhood and city.

Jean was a leader in showing how citizen engagement can make municipal government more transparent, responsive, and effective. Her focus was preserving the environment; protecting trees, creeks, watersheds; implementing appropriate land-use; and maintaining quality of life in neighborhoods. For the SRCC areas east and west of IH35, she was instrumental protecting creeks and greenbelts. Jean had an impact on neighborhood organizations beyond SRCC, including Austin Neighborhood Council, Save Austin Neighborhoods and Environment (SANE), Save Austin Neighborhoods East, United South Austin, West Austin Neighborhood Group, and East Riverside-Oltorf Combined Neighborhood Plan (EROC NP).

Austin Creek Ordinance: When she learned of plans to “channelize” a creek through our neighborhood, trenching to install a pipe, and cutting off nearby trees from their water source, Jean spoke up. The city said an ordinance was needed to protect the creek—so Jean

participated in drafting one.

Blunn Creek Nature Preserve: Jean, South River City Citizens, and Brother Daniel Lynch, a former biology professor at St. Ed’s university, banded together to protect Blunn Creek from condominium construction that would have polluted the land. They persuaded the city to buy the land and turn it into a preserve.

Riverside Drive: When the city had an expansion plan to widen Riverside into six lanes from Pleasant Valley to Congress through Zilker Park to Mo-Pac, Jean worked to reduce it to a four-lane boulevard with landscaped medians and no extension to Mo-Pac.

Fairview Park: This 1880s historic area of SRCC was threatened by redevelopment. Jean spent hours convincing the City Council to adopt a new zoning concept: an overlay “Neighborhood Conservation Combining District”. It was adopted by City Council and applied to Fairview Park.

In 1990, at the age of 65, Jean gave up practicing landscape architecture to devote more time to serving on city boards and commissions. She was appointed to the Planning Commission, serving 1971-1977, then again from 1993-1999, and then on the Zoning and Platting Commission from 2001-2002. She also worked on the Downtown Commission (1998-2002) and the Historic Landmark Commission (2002-2008). In other words, volunteering her time for the good of the city became a way of life for her.

Jean was known for her remarkable endurance in countless meetings. She was respected and generous in mentoring others. She was a low-profile, effective leader because she had a knack of asking a question at the right time to make people think a different way. Jean never seemed ruffled. She maintained her sense of humor and built life-long friendships along the way. We will miss Jean and remember her many contributions.

Carol Martin

Wading Pool Opened June 9th

It’s HOT HOT HOT, and in the summer Little Stacy Wading Pool (in Little Stacy Park) is the coolest place to be. The pool opened for the summer on June 9th and will remain open through August 10th. During the week, the pool is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1pm - 8pm. It is closed on Wednesdays except for July 2nd when it opens from 1pm - 8pm. On July 4th it will be open 12pm - 7pm. Bring the kids to the pool for some cool FUN TIME!

Betty Weed

Neighborhood News

Planning & Zoning Reflections

The end of the 89th legislative session is a good time to reflect on what the lawmakers accomplished. Not so much good, in my opinion. However, we should consider what could have been. Proposed SB 2519 and HB 3879 would have allowed public discourse and empower their residents to direct their own futures. Both bills required transparency on propositions put before the voters. HB 3879 required re-authorization of voter-approved projects that had deviated from their original scope, e.g., Lite Rail Prop A. SB 2519 addressed the bait & switch problem and the misuse of ad valorem tax dollars. Neither bill became law.

But here are some numbers for Austin/Travis County taxpayers to think about:

- From the passage of Prop A in 2020 through this March 2025, the City has collected over 780,000,000 million dollars from our higher post-Prop A property taxes. That means WE ALL pay more property taxes to fund Lite Rail!
- From that \$780,000,000, the federally-required Draft Environmental Impact Statement cost \$78M plus \$1M for lobbying fees.

Consider what our city could do with that money; it could pursue less expensive and less disruptive alternatives to Project Connect Lite Rail, which as currently conceived, will serve a relatively small portion of our community, has shrunk to less than 10 miles and does not even run to the airport.

Locally, Austinites will face some disturbing effects of the City's relentless march toward density and mobility.

Home 1 and Home 2: Under the goal of increasing affordable housing, the city launched those ordinances that have effectively eliminated long-established neighborhoods' relationships with city planners. Those collaborations (have now disappeared) had often led to agreements about parking and setback requirements, limits on impervious cover, and building size and heights when developers entered neighborhood areas. Residents will now face problems, such as enhanced flooding potential, greater traffic and congestion, and diminishment of historic character in established neighborhoods. And while the city touts increased housing units, most of those are not affordable.

Future Land Use Map (FLUM): Some area residents, currently in previously-adopted FLUMs, have been notified that their areas will be removed from their FLUM, but but that their zoning will not be changed; this begs the question if that is so, why remove them? The city assures residents that new developments are desirable because they will create affordable housing. Yet at the same time, Austinites watch as affordable housing such as the Acacia Apt complex is being razed to make way for modern, higher-priced units in a cherished neighborhood.

Downtown Areas: Central Austin has experienced a burst of new development; many apartment and condo projects have been recently built, causing rents to come down in some areas. Lower rents however are strictly market-driven and are not guaranteed. And, it should be noted that downtown has a vacancy rate of over 22%. Yet, new projects downtown continue to be built, including the Republic, the Waterline (Texas's tallest building at 74 stories) with 352 apartments, 700,000 sq ft of office, and a 251-room hotel. Again, there is no real affordable housing here.

In the Zilker neighborhood, the city again seems to threaten Barton Springs and the Edwards Aquifer in order to extend MOPAC. We have fought this battle before.

Our wonderful neighborhoods featuring their diversity, unique characters and affordable homes have served as Austin's crown jewels attracting residents and tourists alike. I hope our leaders will return to preserving them.

Anita Schurr

RPP: Use It or Lose It

The Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program has been the City's traditional method to manage overflow parking within residential areas. The 2011 version of its rules and regulations are up for revision.

Many of the proposed changes will be good and address parking for commercial vehicles and construction workers' personal vehicles. The changes also formalize the data methods and occupancy ratios used to conduct parking surveys. Only vehicles registered to an address may be eligible for a residential permit from that address.

Some changes may be worse, though, depending on your street specifics. The proposed changes allow the city to review parking enforcement data and modify, or remove a permit, or modify RPP from an underutilized street. A person could lose his RPP for chronically abusing the program, e.g., by selling the permits, etc.

We clamor for data driven policy and the shift to digital permitting and enforcement is generating a lot of local data. Buying a permit is part of that data and will be used as an objective grade for our neighborhood's enthusiasm to continue the RPP program.

If the RPP program has relieved your curb segment from being a long-term parking lot, show some love and use the permit program. The new rules will allow the city to eliminate RPP if there is **no or low participation** on particular segments or streets. So, please use it or risk losing it.

Mark Thompson
Mobility Committee

South River City Citizens Meetings

3rd Tuesdays of most months starting at 7:00 p.m.

See srccatx.org for details about how to attend.

We thank all of our officers, area coordinators, committees, and representatives for their dedication to our community! Contact your area coordinators for SRCC questions, volunteer opportunities, or to help out at a meeting.

Area Coordinators

Area 1

Anita Tschurr
anitatschurr@gmail.com

Area 2

Russell Fraser 512-771-9736
Theresa Consentino (Co-Chair)
theresa.m.consentino@gmail.com

Area 3a

Jo Webber 512-441-3117
Lisa Audiffred (Co-Chair)
lisa.educator@protonmail.com

Area 3b

Brooks Kassan
512-444-8100

Area 4a

Sam Martin 512-470-1494
Carol Martin csmartin4@icloud.com

Area 4b

Sarah Campbell
512-638-9255
Volunteer needed

Area 5

Neal Nuwash 512-462-9093
David Swann 512-447-6094

Area 6

Taylor Coppock
taylor.coppock@gmail.com

Area 7

Melissa Pepper
melissa.pepper@gmail.com

Area 8

Kim Lanzillotti 512-658-8565
Vicky Moerbe 512-442-5678

Standing Committees

Planning & Zoning

Anita Tschurr (Chair)
planning-zoning@srccatx.org

Historic Preservation

Cliff Ladd (Co-Chair)
cliftonladd@icloud.com

Finance

Sam Martin (Chair) 512-470-1494
financecommittee@srccatx.org

Mobility

Mark Thompson (Chair)
mobility@srcc.org

Public Safety

Tom Groce (Chair)
tgroce71@gmail.com

Parks & Environment

David Todd (Chair)
512-416-0400
Jeff Kessell (Co-Chair)
jeffstarrkessel@gmail.com

Schools

Gretchen Otto (Chair)
512-227-1507

Communications

Betty Weed (Chair)
communications@srccatx.org

Ruth Casarez (Co-Chair)

Ruth Casarez (Newsletter Editor)
newsletter@srccatx.org

Meghan Fernandes (Newsletter Designer)
newsletter@srccatx.org

Representatives

Austin Neighborhood Council

Betty Weed ancrep@srccatx.org

East Riverside (EROC)

Gayle Goff
gayle.goff@gmail.com

Greater South River City NPCT (GSRC)

South Central Coalition
Elloa Mathews 512-442-6986

South Central Waterfront

Volunteer needed

St. Edwards

Volunteer needed

Travis Heights Art Trail

Charlotte Bell 512-447-2150

Travis Park Apt/Austin Interfaith

Volunteer needed

South Central Affordable CDC

Mary Friedman
mary.friedman@icloud.com

SRCC Officers

President Mary Fealkoff

president@srccatx.org

Co-Vice President Robin Sanders

Co-Vice President Kenneth Burnett
covicepresident@srccatx.org

Secretary volunteer needed

secretary@srccatx.org

Treasurer Will Andrews

treasurer@srccatx.org

Membership Secretary Mary Friedman

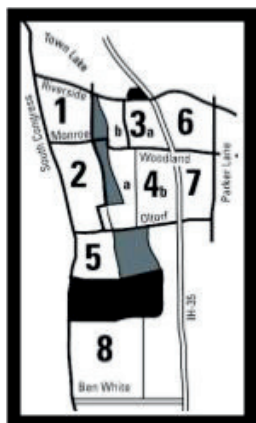
membership@srccatx.org

Membership

Become a member and be eligible to vote! Join or renew online at srccatx.org. To pay via PayPal, go to srccatx.org/membership-dues/ or send a check made payable to SRCC, along with this completed form to: **SRCC, Attention: Treasurer, P.O. Box 40632, Austin, TX. 78704**

Family memberships: provide names of each family member (adults residing at the same address). When paying via PayPal, include the names of family members in the Instructions to Merchant or Shipping Details areas.

Dues are not tax-deductible. If dues lapse, renew before a meeting and be eligible to vote. New members can vote after 28 days.



Membership Levels

# Years	Individual	Family
1	\$20	\$35
2	\$35	\$65
3	\$50	\$95

Membership Fees Due: \$ _____

Additional Donation
to SRCC General Fund: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

SRCC Area (see map): _____ Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Number of years (circle one): 1 2 3

Membership (circle one): Individual Family