

Elections 2009: Join Us March 2nd

By Helen Dey Valdez

No matter who you supported in 2008, it was an incredible and historic election cycle we just went through; the first woman candidate, the first Black candidate, and more Republicans filing to run than the Democrats – also a first. Now, it's time to focus on another important slate of candidates, those running for the 2009 SRCC Board. Yes, it's time to elect the officers and executive committee members that will govern the South River City Citizens Neighborhood association for the next year. And there are lots of developments (no pun intended) that make this another critical year for diligence on the part of SRCC and its Board.

The March meeting will kick-off with our annual potluck meal. So join us at Grace United Methodist Church, 205 East Monroe for some of the best food in the city. The potluck dinner starts at 6:30PM. Following our social gathering, we will elect our new officers. The slate includes Sarah Campbell, President; Marc Davis, Vice President; Bob Drew, Treasurer; and Nick Garrett & Dawn Cizmar, Co-Secretaries. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Anyone wishing to run for office is encouraged to contact Jean Mather, our current President, or any of the other officers prior to the March 2nd meeting (see back page for contact numbers).

All residents within the SRCC neighborhood boundaries (see map on back page) are eligible to vote, provided that they are current on their membership dues. New members must pay dues 28 days prior to the March 2nd election. Existing SRCC members must pay their dues prior to the vote at the March 2nd meeting. Checks may be mailed to, SRCC Treasurer at P O Box 40632, Austin 78704.

So come meet your neighbors, bring your favorite dish and vote. ♫



Travis Heights-Fairview Park Historic District Update

By Michele Webre

The Travis Heights/Fairview Park Historic District has completed a comprehensive survey of approximately 1,200 houses. Volunteers learned about architectural details and many neighbors came out to talk to us about the history of their houses. The research at the History Center is being concluded as well. We have accomplished a lot, but we still need to raise \$20,000 for the last part of our preservation consultant's work. Fundraising efforts are being focused on a Homes Tour in the spring. We hope to have on the tour houses ranging from 1880's Fairview Park Victorians to 1920's and '30's Travis Heights bungalows. One proposed house on the tour is 500 Monroe that was saved from demolition by neighbors because it qualified for Landmark Status. The house is under renovation and is now being called "the first historic house to be rated 'Green' by the City of Austin." Two similar houses on Monroe were not so lucky. Although tear downs have been fewer since the slow-down in the economy, our architectural history is still vulnerable to demolition house-by-house without a local historic district designation. If you would like to learn more and help in our fundraising efforts and Homes Tour, please go to www.HistoricTravisHeights.org or come to our general meeting which is held the third Tuesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at Grace Methodist Church, 205 E. Monroe St. For more information contact Michele Webre at michele@HistoricTravisHeights.org. ♫

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Committee Reports

Austin Neighborhood Council

By Jean Warneke

The Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC) is the umbrella group of neighborhood associations in Austin that strives to protect and represent the interests of our many vibrant Austin neighborhoods. They are a vocal and respected proponent on issues that effect neighborhoods and frequent speak on these issues before the city of Austin. The current ANC President is Danette Chimenti, former co-president of SRCC. The past president is Laura Morrison, who now sits on City Council.

For the last year or so SRCC has been represented by Jean Warneke, who is willing to continue in this capacity, but who also welcomes the opportunity to open it up to others. While we don't have an alternate representative, it would be good to establish one. Participating at these meetings is a good way to be involved and gain knowledge without having to make major time commitments. Regular duties include attending monthly meetings, voting, and reporting to the SRCC board. If anyone is interested, please contact Jean at jwarneke@austin.rr.com. Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday at 7pm, January through October at the Austin Energy Building across from Palmer Event Center. They usually host city officials and key administrators, such as Mark Ott, the new city manager and Chief Acevedo, who speak on current city activities and policies, as well as hosting city council candidate forums. There is no cost for serving; SRCC pays the annual association dues. ❧

East Riverside Report (Areas 6 & 7)

by Toni House & Gayle Goff

Grayco South Shore PUD (Lakeshore Blvd., Riverside Dr. and Tinnin Ford)

Although just east of the SRCC boundary, this PUD project seriously impacts Area 6 and is within the Waterfront Overlay. It conflicts with many of the Neighborhood Plan guidelines and is opposed by the EROC NPCT in its current form. EROC team members feel the increases in height and density entitlements, as well as the lack of improvement in the amount of impervious cover, are not offset by sufficient community benefits in the current design.

1406-1506 Parker Ln. Zoning Change (single-family to multi-family)

The neighborhood and NPCT oppose the rezoning. The Planning Commission did not support the Applicant's rezoning request to MF-3, instead recommending an up-zoning to SF-6 (condos/townhomes) with a conditional overlay. A decision will be made by City Council on Feb. 12th. ❧

Lady Bird Lake Boardwalk is Back & On Fast Track for Stimulus Funds

By Jean Warneke

There is a movement afoot within the City of Austin to complete the gap in the Hike & Bike Trail, which happens to be mostly within the SRCC area. The gap begins at the east end of the Statesman parking lot and ends at Lakeshore Park east of IH-35 (http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/boardwalk/downloads/lbl_concept_111008mtg.pdf).

We have been told that COA has requested \$15M in stimulus funds to do the work, putting the project into urgent mode, with fixed begin and end construction requirements (start-up must occur within 90 days from date of funding). These funds also have strict building requirements.

Current plans show the proposed "trail" mostly IN/OVER Lady Bird Lake. While many questions have been posed, straightforward answers have not been received. Among our concerns: environmental impact on some very sensitive areas (Bouldin, Blunn and Harper's Branch creeks), sight obstruction, lack of communication with condo owners (Riverwalk at 500 E. Riverside and Lakeshore at 1818 Lakeshore), and adherence to the Waterfront Overlay Task Force (WOTF) recommendations.

WOTF was formed due to the efforts of Save Town Lake; it is SRCC's position that those recommendations should be accepted and enforced by the City before any building of any kind along Lady Bird Lake be considered.

SRCC voted unanimously to support the concept of closing the trail gap, but opposed the current design given the reasons listed above. The PARD board voted along the same lines. You are urged to contact city council members with your views. To send a message go to <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/> and click on the bottom left 'Contact: E-mail all City Council members'. You can also contact Congressman Lloyd Doggett about this proposed spending in the stimulus package: www.house.gov/doggett.

Neighborhood Announcements

Travis Heights Art Trail a Great Success!

By Margaret Adie

The Art Trail was a great success again this year! We had 38 artists showing at 19 houses. It was really great fun to see so many of our neighbors coming by for a visit. And we were so excited to sponsor the DIY Youth group (do-it-yourself YOUTH) this year. DIY YOUTH is an after-school program through AISD that helps build academic skills while exploring self expression and creativity! For more information on this group go to <http://www.tnoys.org/youth/diy.php>

We also want to thank all our wonderful sponsors for supporting art in our neighborhood; we truly couldn't do it without you. And, as always, we welcome all support in obtaining further sponsorship from local businesses!

The application due date for the next Art Trail is August 1, 2009; the Travis Heights Art Trail is set for December 5 & 6 2009. Mark your calendars today for another wonderful, neighborhood cultural event. ❧



New Recycling Bins!

By Jean Warneke

Now that we all have our new larger-than-life big blue recycling bins, it helps to know what can and cannot be recycled. Please take a moment to check out the COA website for details as we all want our recycling efforts to really have a positive impact on our environment. ONE BIG CHANGE: these blue bins are to be put out every other week. Check with the city to be sure of your week or go to <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/singlestream.htm>. ❧

New Bus Stop in the Neighborhood

By Carol & Sam Martin

Driving down Travis Heights Blvd. you may have seen the new bus stop installed by Capital Metro. It is located at 1901 Travis Heights Blvd. where Mariposa comes up from the park. It is not your average 'pole in the ground' style bus stop with a sign. This new stop has a bench and roomy slab space to accommodate a wheel chair. And it's all due to the efforts of one of our neighbors, Merrell Foote whose efforts instigating the project, contacting Capitol Metro and bringing the neighbors together made it all possible.

So what happened to route 14 you ask? It is still here. The route south of the river used to be called 14 Travis Heights and then changed to 9 Enfield for the route north of downtown. Now the entire route is called 9 Travis Heights/Enfield and it is exactly the same route with the same stops. Try it. It is an easy way to get downtown. Other destinations along the route are: South Austin Café, Austin Museum of Art, Nau's Drug store, Zocalo on West Lynn, and on Saturdays it goes to Laguna Gloria. We recommend combining a trip to Laguna Gloria with a stop at Nau's for an old fashioned counter-style lunch and malt.

You can check out this schedule and more at: <http://www.capmetro.org/riding/schedulesandmaps.asp>. At the website you'll find a "Trip Planner" feature: enter where you want to go and what time you need to arrive, then a recommended route is provided. The fee is \$0.75/ride. There are other more convenient options besides carrying a bunch of quarters. Just go to the Capitol Metro web site for details. We like purchasing the "Stored Value" card. You pay \$12.00 and get \$15 credit, which is equivalent to \$0.60/ride.

We also recommend that you bring a magazine and relax. Riding the bus may not be a real time-saver, but it gives you time to read that magazine or book you might not otherwise have. Thank you, Merrell for making it both an excursion and a convenience to get around town! ❧

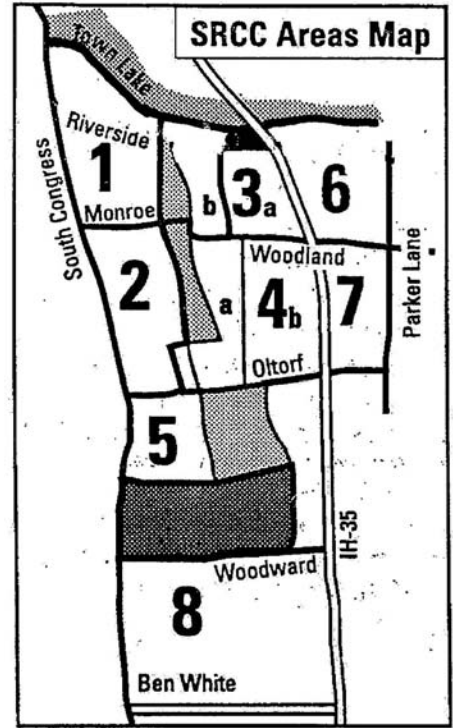
Capital MetroRail Hosts Open Houses

By John-Michael Cortez

Capital Metro is holding open houses in February for the public to see the new trains, learn how to use the ticket machines and receive information on MetroRail schedules. Stations closest to SRCC are Plaza Saltillo (412 E. Comal Street, Bus routes: 4, 320) and the Downtown Station (401 4th Street, Bus routes: most local and Dillo routes). They are scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 14 10 AM - 2PM and Feb. 27, 2PM - 7PM respectively.

New P O Box for Membership Dues

We now have a P O Box for accepting all SRCC membership dues. Please note that you can renew your membership by sending your dues to P O Box 40632, Austin TX 78704. Treasurer Bob Drew will make sure all checks are deposited and will forward all membership information on to Carol Martin, who will update the membership database. ☸



South River City Citizens Membership Form

Revised October 2008

Membership Categories:

_____ Single \$5 _____ Sustaining \$10
 _____ Family \$7 _____ Big Bubba \$20

Please mark areas of interest or amount of additional contribution:

_____ Parks _____ Schools _____ Oak Wilt
 _____ July 4 _____ Historic District _____ Newsletter
 _____ Arts Trail _____ South Congress _____ St. Eds/Woodward

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Email: _____

Make checks payable to SRCC (for membership) and mail to: SRCC, P O Box 40632, Austin TX 78704.

Area Coordinators

Area 1	Claudette Lowe	447-1514
Area 1	Helen Dey Valdez	634-3740
Area 2	Elizabeth Day	444-1759
Area 3a	Teri Hubbeling	447-8852
Area 3a	Bruce Barrick	444-0220
Area 3b	Brooks Kasson	444-8100
Area 3b	Kenny Hilbig	326-9120
Area 4a	Sam Martin	441-5222
Area 4b	Kris Asthalter	443-4963
Area 5	Neal Nuwash	462-9093
Area 5	Ellen Ward	851-0095
Area 6	Barbara Aybar	447-1135
Area 6	Dawn Cizmar	443-4231
Area 7	Fred Krebs	447-6442
Area 7	Helen Fleming	917-1935
Area 8	Maria Martinez	443-9784

Committee & Liaison Chairs

Austin Police	District Rep	974-4711
Blunn Creek	David Todd	416-0400
Membership	Carol Martin	441-5222
St. Edward's	Elloa Mathews	442-6986
Transportation & Public Safety	Toni House	447-8090
Zoning	Jean Mather	444-4153
Austin Neighborhood Council	Jean Warneke	443-5488
South Central Coalition	Danette Chimenti	565-0217
Cap Metro Rep	John-Michael Cortez	369-6201
Newsletter	Helen Dey Valdez	326-4320
Partners in Education	Paige Fillipp	637-0988
Save Town Lake	Kenny Hilbig	326-9120
TH-FP Historic Dist	Michele Webre	422-1262
	Melanie Martinez	916-8088
Austin Parks & Town		
Lake Trail Foundations	Wendy Todd	442-3130
TH Arts Trail	Margaret Adie	440-8579
Travis Park Apt & Austin Interfaith	Terry Franz	447-8768

2008 SRCC Officers

President

Jean Mather 512/444-4153

Vice President:

Sarah Campbell 512/462-2261

Treasurer:

Bob Drew bob.drew@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Garret Nick 512/326-7676

SRCC Meetings - We normally meet the 1st Monday of every month at 7 PM at the Grace United Methodist Church, 205 E. Monroe. Check the website for details. If you want to be part of the SRCC listserv send an email to:

SouthRiverAustin-subscribe@yahoo.com. ☸