

SRCC newsletter

AN OCCASIONAL PRINTED PUBLICATION OF THE
SOUTH RIVER CITY CITIZEN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
THE FEBRUARY | MARCH 2011 ISSUE

SRCC Elections +

ANNUAL POTLUCK

Tuesday, March 8th 6pm

YES, IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR to reconnect as a neighborhood and elect the team that will govern the South River City Citizen neighborhood association!

Our meeting will kick-off with our annual potluck. After our social gathering, we will elect our new officers. These are the people who will work diligently for our neighborhood during the next year. We have been so fortunate to have an excellent team this past year: Sarah Campbell, President; Marc Davis, Vice President; Garret Nick, Secretary; and Bob Drew, Treasurer. This is the time to come by and give thanks for all of their work, and a special thank you for Bob, who after three years as treasurer, is stepping aside to make way for another neighbor. Thus the slate, as of printing:

President: Sarah Campbell
Vice President: Marc Davis
Secretary: Garret Nick
Treasurer: OPEN

Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Anyone wishing to run for the office is encouraged to contact Sarah Campbell, our current President or any of the other officers prior to the March 8th meeting (see back page for contact information). ❀

ELECTION NOTE

Per SRCC bylaws, first-time members must have paid dues 28 days prior to the election of officers. Members who have lapsed two years or less can pay at the meeting and still be eligible to vote. *This means Feb. 8th was the deadline to become a new member and vote at the general membership meeting on March 8th. Of course, we encourage your membership in the neighborhood association at any time.*

SRCC Community Potluck—

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

TIME SCHEDULE FOR Annual Meeting

Potluck starts at 6pm
Entertainment at 7:15 pm
Elections at 7:30 pm

WHILE COGITATING ON HOW TO ENCOURAGE MORE FAMILIES to come to SRCC's annual potluck dinner and elections, I consulted my neighbor and Ph.D. in Psychology, Dr. Joellen Peters. Here is what she suggested, and I think it's brilliant. Please contact Dr. Peters to find out exactly how it's done:

EVERY ADULT WHO BRINGS THE WHOLE FAMILY TO THE ANNUAL SRCC MEETING AUTOMATICALLY WILL FIND TWO EXTRA HOURS IN HIS/HER DAYS.

Okay, now that I might have your attention, here are some more reasons to bring the whole family:

- You won't have to cook. Just pick up something at the grocery and come see what others have brought for you to eat.
- Kids enjoy something different for a change.
- Business at the annual meeting is kept to a minimum, because we want you to visit with your neighbors.
- Last year we had a string quartet from Fulmore Middle School play for us (excellent beyond my wildest dreams). This year: A Classical Guitar group from Fulmore!
- Kids are exposed to community and all it stands for.
- Kids also see a bit of democracy at work.
- You parents get to see other parents who are just as wrung out as you; you learn you are not alone; you find a moment of relief and of letting go.
- Finally, you get to see older folks who have successfully launched their kids into the big, wide world and are still alive and smiling!

Hope to see you there! My best to you all!

— Sarah Campbell, *President* ❀

SRCC Briefs

■ Neighbors meet with St. Ed's on Noise Issues

Sherwood Oaks residents Robert Kazenel, David Swann, and Elloa Mathews, as well as our SRCC President Sarah Campbell, met with St. Edwards University officials in January to discuss campus noise issues.

For several years, neighbors have expressed their dismay at the level of amplified music at campus events that has prevented residents from enjoying their homes. The meeting was the result of neighbors tiring of addressing the noise on an ad hoc basis and sought assistance from Cristina Bordin in the SEU President's office as well as the Director of Athletics, Debbie Taylor. Ms. Bordin agreed to work with neighbors to resolve the issue and has reported that SEU does have a noise policy.

■ Centennial Celebration of Fulmore Middle School Being Planned

Fulmore invites the community to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their academic building and the 125th anniversary of the school! Save the date: September 24, 2011 from 11am to 3pm.

Planning for the event has begun and Fulmore Principal Lisa Bush encourages the community to be involved. The Planning Committee meets on March 10, April 14, and May 12 at approximately 4:45 in the Fulmore library. For information contact Lucy Rodriguez at 414-3437 or lucy.rodriguez2@austinisd.org

■ Applications and Sponsorships for the Travis Heights Art Trail are available!

Join an annual neighborhood tradition with forty plus creative artists for the ninth annual Travis Heights Art Trail, December 3 & 4. Each year we welcome new applications from all Travis Heights Artists! The Art Trail is a cost-effective way to advertise your business.

Become a sponsor of the trail and your business name will appear on thousands of brochures and the website. For information, applications and sponsorships please visit www.travisheightsart.com. Note: The artist application deadline is July 1, 2011.

■ It's My Park Day! Heads up! We will have an It's My Park Day event in Blunn on Saturday March 5, 2011. We are still working on the details, but most likely it will involve some clearing, some planting, some trash-pickup—and some guaranteed fun. Please pencil in the date.

There should be a registration page available in early February. In the meantime, please feel free to email me if you have any questions. David Todd, dtodd@wt.org, <http://blunncreekpartnership.ning.com>

■ SRCC's website, www.srccaustin.com, is run by Travis Heights resident Jane Kellogg. If you wish to post something important on our site, Jane's email address is: odoublegood@usa.net. Our own newsgroup site: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthRiverAustin, is a message board to which anyone can post a message, but you must subscribe prior to posting. You may subscribe by sending an email to: SouthRiverAustin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or by visiting the newsgroup website.

Imagine Austin

by Jean Mather, jeanmather3@gmail.com

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THE COUNCIL HAS HIRED a consulting firm to develop a new masterplan for the City called "Imagine Austin." Despite valiant attempts by the consultant and city staff the majority of citizens are unaware of the work in process. After urging by neighborhood representatives, the Council has finally started televising the thirty member task force's meetings on Channel 6 and during the last two meetings members have had microphones and their comments were recorded.

A major element of the plan is the transportation layout. What is missing is the required increased density. The transit corridors, including light rail, would require a 7,500 population increase for every two miles. Although the map shows a slender blue line for the rail adjacent to the existing residential, the intention is to replace blocks of single family with commercial and multi-family about one half mile wide along the corridors to provide the necessary ridership.

Riverside (from 183 to the Long Center) and South Congress (from Downtown south to IH-35 at Route 45) and parts of Lamar are designated for light rail.

South Congress from Academy to Live Oak currently has only a half of block width of commercial zoning in both SRCC and Bouldin. Current compatibility rules limit height to mostly 30 feet.

If Council approves this plan, they would have to approve amendments to the affected existing neighborhood plans to implement these proposals. If the recent ruling on the Park PUD is any indication, six out of seven Council Members would feel free to do so. Our neighborhood will be heavily impacted. I will bring the latest map to our next meeting. **We will have to respond individually and as an organization to this proposal.** ☼

Norwood Update

Wolf Sittler, restorenorwood@yahoo.com, www.restorenorwood.org, 447-2150

JANUARY 2011 MARKS A NEW CHAPTER for the Norwood House. Casabella Architects, local consultants hired by PARD, are now studying the entire property with the goal of proposing three future uses of the property in June. Jaime Beaman, the president of Casabella Architects, met with me to "download" all relevant information assembled by the Posse. Since the Norwood property is, in fact, a city park, its future will be tied to a larger vision of what is best for our neighborhood as well as the city. Beaman appreciates the great potential of the property and appears intent on crafting proposals that honor the history of the site, while transforming it into an asset to our park system.

As to the future of the house itself, the historic zoning does not guarantee its survival. Well aware of long-term SRCC interest in the Norwood House and wishing to complete a thorough, comprehensive study, Casabella plans on at least three community meetings to solicit input. Once community input meetings have been scheduled, details will be posted on the SRCC list serve.

Casabella will eventually present their recommendations regarding restoration, demolition, or repurposing. The Norwood Posse remains committed to either restoration or duplication of the house, and is well aware that the cost of each option will be a deciding factor. We believe there is well documented demand for facilities such as the Zilker Clubhouse, and that the Norwood House could help meet that demand, while generating enough revenue to make it financially self-sufficient. ☼

SRCC Neighborhood Watch Update

by Marc Davis, marc.davis@gmail.com, 512-656-2841

THE INCREASE IN CRIME THAT WE ALL WERE beginning to notice back in October continued to escalate through the holidays. From home burglaries, to auto burglaries, to even auto thefts, the end of 2010 was a discouraging return to familiar crime levels after a relatively mild summer. Many residents have even wondered whether the neighborhood watch efforts could actually have an effect.

Fortunately, we are blessed with some encouraging news from nearby neighborhoods that have truly embraced their neighborhood watch programs to make an enormous impact on their streets. For example, with the help of some dedicated APD officers, John Luther, chair of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch and Patrol, has built a truly impressive citizen-led watch and patrol program. Using a combination of targeted home crime protection efforts (deadbolts, lighting, etc.), traditional neighborhood watch tactics, and citizen crime patrols, BHNA has **decreased** the incidents of vehicle **burglaries by 72%** and residence burglaries **by 53%** in the 2010 holiday months (versus 2009).

On January 31st, SRCC invited John Luther, along with Officer Dwayne Kinley and Commander Ernie Pedraza, to tell us more about their program, what elements of their program have lead to success, and how we attack the burglary problem we are seeing in the SRCC neighborhoods. The meeting was eye-opening and the small group of SRCC block captains and concerned residents left with a new perspective on how we can reinvigorate our own program to have a similar impact on our continuing crime problem. In the coming weeks, the SRCC Neighborhood Watch Program will roll out new efforts to supplement our existing network of block-captain-led watch areas with a centralized approach focusing on the following three areas:

ASSISTANCE - Reach out to neighbors who have been hit by criminal activity and support their efforts to protect themselves against future incidents. Assist with physical methods of crime prevention, such as securing deadbolts or improving lighting, as well as behavioral changes such as parking habits or hiding valuables.

AWARENESS - Communicate to neighbors when crime has occurred in their area. Send out regular crime database notices on the list-serve as well as targeted fliers on cars and doorsteps in the immediate area of the incident. Increase the awareness of these crimes in the parts of our neighborhood that are hit regularly.

DETERENCE - Continue to educate block captains and watch areas about calling 911 whenever some-

thing suspicious is observed. Use the existing SRCC areas to divide up the neighborhood into more manageable sections and recruit volunteers for citizen foot and car patrols in each one. Erect neighborhood watch signs in visible areas throughout the neighborhood. Show criminals that they are being watched and that we are no longer easy targets.

This approach will require strong, centralized volunteerism and we strongly encourage anyone who is interested in contributing to contact Marc Davis, Chair of Transportation and Public Safety Committee. ☘



Help Organize the Fourth of July Parade + Picnic!

by Teri Hubbeling, terivh@sbcglobal.net, 447-8852

THE ANNUAL SRCC 4TH OF JULY PARADE and picnic is a great community event. It champions creativity, community spirit and food! It is one of the best times of the year to get out in the park and meet your neighbors! It is tons of fun.

Unfortunately, the three of us who have composed the planning committee are all planning to be out of town this year. So to make this happen this year **we really need volunteers on the organizational level.** It is pretty simple to put on—we have managed it these past couple of years with a few meetings at Curra's (during happy hour—not the kind of meetings that are known for wild productivity but nevertheless we find them worthwhile) and then a few hours worth of email and phone calls. We have a well-organized checklist with contacts who are already expecting to be called.

Don't let this event die—help create the 2011 smokin' hot, weirdly patriotic, uniquely SRCC 4th of July Parade and Picnic! Contact Teri to learn more! ☘

We thank all our officers, area coordinators, committees and representatives for their dedication to our community!

Area Coordinators

Area 1 Claudette Lowe	447-1514
Area 1 Helen Dey Valdez	634-3740
Area 2 Kenny Schulz	448-3290
Area 2 Jack Hostetter	214 435-9811
Area 3a Teri Hubbeling	447-8852
Area 3a Brian Talenti	992-0136
Area 3b Brooks Kasson	444-8100
Area 3b Kenny Hilbig	751-4306
Area 4a Sam Martin	441-5222
Area 4a Eric Andruscavage	707-1340
Area 4b Kris Asthalter	443-4963
Area 4b Cynthia Biggers	472-1772
Area 5 Neal Nuwash	462-9093
Area 5 Elloa Mathews	442-6986
Area 6 Dawn Cizmar	443-4231
Area 7 Fred Krebs	447-6442
Area 7 Rachel McClure	326-5572
Area 8 Maria Martinez	443-9784
Area 8 Kim Lanzillotti	658-8565

Call your coordinator for SRCC questions and to volunteer for co-coordinator or block captains to help deliver newsletters.

Committees and Representatives

STANDING COMMITTEES

Parks, Schools & Environment	
David Todd (Parks)	416-0400
Sherri Ancipink (Sch)	707-2627
Marty Christman (Env)	912-0724
Planning & Zoning	
Jean Mather	444-4153
Teresa Griffin	444-6914
Transportation & Public Safety	
Marc Davis	656-2841
Membership	
Carol Martin	441-5222

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Norwood House	
Wolf Sittler	632-9189
TH-FP Historic Dist	
Michele Webre	422-1262
Communications	
Carol Martin	441-5222
Newsletter	
Gloria Lee	441-5167
Financial	
Sam Martin	441-5222

REPRESENTATIVES

Austin Neighborhoods Council	
Wolf Sittler	632-9189
St. Edward's	
Elloa Mathews	442-6986

SRCC Meetings

We typically meet the first Monday of every month at 7:15 PM at the Grace United Methodist Church, 205 E. Monroe.

Check the website for details:

www.srccaustin.com.

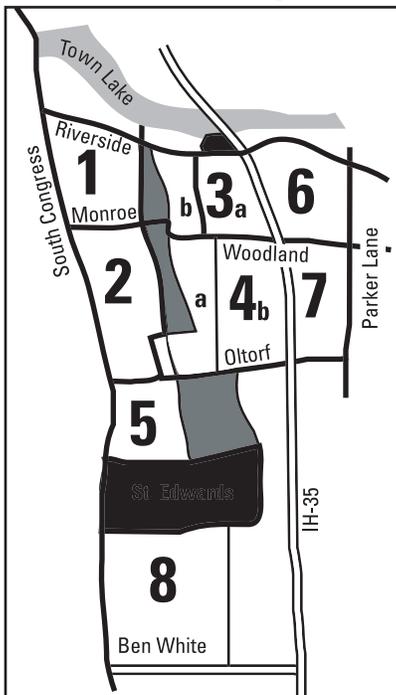
If you want to be part of the SRCC listserv send an email to: *SouthRiverAustin-subscribe@yahoo.com*.

South Central Coalition	
Danette Chimenti	912-8290
Save Town Lake	
Dennis Cudd	917 568-3147
TH Arts Trail	
Margaret Adie	440-8579
Travis Park Apt/Austin Interfaith	
Terry Franz	447-8786

SRCC Officers

President	
Sarah Campbell	462-2261
president@srccatx.org	
Vice-President	
Marc Davis	656-2841
vicepresident@srccatx.org	
Treasurer:	OPEN
treasurer@srccatx.org	
Secretary:	
Garret Nick	326-7676
secretary@srccatx.org	

SRCC Areas map



Join your Neighbors in SRCC!

SOUTH RIVER CITY CITIZENS MEMBERSHIP FORM

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS	X	NO. OF YEARS	AMOUNT
<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$20	x	=
<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35	x	=
Add'l donation to SRCC General Fund (Big Bubba/Bubbette)			=
		
TOTAL			= <u> </u>

DATE _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE(S) _____

EMAIL(S) _____

Send check made payable to SRCC, along with completed form to:
SRCC, Attention: Treasurer, P.O. Box 40632, Austin, TX 78704

Note: Dues and Contributions are not tax-deductible.