

# SRCC newsletter

AN OCCASIONAL PRINTED PUBLICATION OF THE  
SOUTH RIVER CITY CITIZENS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
ESTABLISHED 1973 | ONLINE AT WWW.SRCCATX.ORG  
**THE FEBRUARY / MARCH 2012 ISSUE**

## The SRCC Annual

# POTLUCK AND ELECTION

**Tuesday, March 6th 6pm**

**Grace United Methodist Church 205 East Munroe**

**KIDS WELCOME!**

WHILE COURTS UP AND DOWN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM continue to debate the voting maps in Texas, we are happy to say that our neighborhood zones have not yet been part of the gerrymandering. So come on down! Join your neighbors in the 'hood for the annual potluck and elections for the executive board.

The 2011 SRCC executive team has been excellent. They have advanced the organization's administration to more efficient ways of communicating, record keeping and collaboration by creating a new website and using online calendars, postings, archives, etc. This is the time to come by and give thanks for all of their work. A special thank you goes to Sarah Campbell, who after three years as a forward thinking and democratic president, is stepping down. We are fortunate that several current members have agreed to serve again, if elected, in 2012. The nominee slate is:

President: Marc Davis (*VP since 2009*)

Vice President: Carol Martin (*Communications Chair since 2010; Membership Chair as long as she can remember*)

Secretary: Garret Nick (*Secretary since 2007*)

Treasurer: Les Case (*Treasurer since July 2011*)

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 Tuesday March 6th 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 2 years or less can pay at the meeting and still be eligible to vote.

*This means Feb. 7th was the deadline to become a new member and vote at the general membership meeting. Of course, we encourage your membership in the neighborhood association at any time. And come in any event! Meet your neighbors!*

## Annual Meeting

Grace United Methodist Church  
205 East Munroe

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

## Thank you Sarah!

In October 2008, I met with Sarah Campbell, then Vice President of SRCC, about the recent string of burglaries we had experienced. New to the neighborhood,

I was hoping to get SRCC's support in fighting this crime wave. Over the coming months, Sarah skillfully turned my enthusiasm for fighting the crime problem into a general desire to become more involved in my new neighborhood. When Sarah took on the President role, she had me right next to her as Vice President.

Sarah was perfectly cut out for the role as President. Her background working for the City of Austin gave her enormous insight into how to accomplish amazing things in the face of seemingly impenetrable bureaucracy. As a long-time Travis Heights resident, she has an extensive network of friends and supporters throughout the SRCC neighborhoods. Sarah ran meetings with an uncanny level of skill—effortlessly moving from issue to issue with all the context and understanding required to bring resolution and peace amongst the neighbors.

And, perhaps more importantly, Sarah was able to accomplish some large over-arching goals that will have lasting impacts on our Neighborhood Associations. From creating a Finance Committee, which has brought new levels of financial rigor and responsibility to our organization, to creating a Communications Committee, which has made dramatic improvements in the ways that information is sourced and communicated to our membership, Sarah has left her mark in countless ways.

Sarah will be stepping down as SRCC President next month and we will all miss her in this role. Fortunately, she will still be a resident and active member of our neighborhood association and we will continue to benefit from her expertise and perspective. I am tremendously thankful for all the time that I got to spend with Sarah and I'm happy to have her as a friend, neighbor, and mentor.

—Marc Davis, 2010–2011 SRCC Vice President



## SRCC Briefs

■ **Travis Heights Arts Trail Has Changed its Date! Applications and Sponsorships for the Travis Heights Art Trail are available!** Join an annual neighborhood tradition with local creative artists for the TENTH Travis Heights Art Trail, November 3 & 4. Neighborhood artists: Every year we welcome applications from all Travis Heights Artists! The artist application deadline is June 1, 2011. Businesses: 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](http://www.travisheightsart.com).

■ **It's My Park Day!** Heads up! Together with the Austin Parks Foundation, we will have an It's My Park Day event in Blunn Creek Nature Preserve on Saturday morning, March 3, 2012. We are still working on the details, but most likely it will involve some sawing, some clipping, some clearing, some trail work, some trash-pickup—and some guaranteed fun. Please pencil in the date.

There should be a registration page available in mid February at [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org). In the meantime, please if you have any questions, email David Todd, [dtodd@wt.org](mailto:dtodd@wt.org), <http://blunncreekpartnership.ning.com/>.

■ **AIA/SDAT invites you to an Upcoming Design charrette!** This group is looking to develop a plan to beautify and direct the development of the tracts of land from the outflow of Blunn Creek to Hooters and the lake to Barton Springs Blvd. On February 27th at Dougherty Arts Center there will be an open house with the team from city planning. The three-day design charrette will be held during the first week in June. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, contact Wendy Todd, 477-0811.

■ **Sunnymeade Apartment Update** Minor changes to the development plan for The District at SoCo (the former Sunnymeade Apartments at 501 E. Oltorf) were proposed by the developer and approved by the SRCC Executive Committee. The changes were requested by the developer to allow the achieve energy efficiency goals, and included a lighter color roofing material.

■ **SRCC's listserv [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthRiverAustin](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthRiverAustin)**, run by Travis Heights resident Jane Kellogg, is open to anyone to post a message. To subscribe send an email to: [SouthRiverAustin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SouthRiverAustin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or visit the newsgroup website.

■ **SRCC's official website** enables you to stay current on official SRCC events, meetings and announcements through RSS, Facebook or Twitter. The website is intended as a supplement to the invaluable Yahoo list serv and the printed SRCC newsletter.

The website also offers functions such as the SRCC calendar, keyword searching, useful documents such as "Zoning 101," and online payment of dues. Visit [www.srccatx.org](http://www.srccatx.org) and let us know what you think! [subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or by visiting the newsgroup website.

## Norwood Update

*Wolf Sittler, [restorenorwood@yahoo.com](mailto:restorenorwood@yahoo.com), [www.restorenorwood.org](http://www.restorenorwood.org), 447-2150*

ON DECEMBER 6, 2011, PARD PRESENTED their "Preferred Alternative" for redevelopment of Norwood Park to the Parks Board. It included restoration of the Norwood House and partnering with the Norwood Posse to make it happen. The Parks Board unanimously approved the PARD recommendation.

This month the Norwood Posse will be transformed into a 501(C)(3) known as the Norwood Park Foundation. Later this month we will present our initial proposal for a Parkland Improvement Agreement to PARD. This is the first step in negotiating a legal contract for our volunteer group to make improvements to the property. Our private investor has agreed to donate \$50,000 and provide an interest free loan of \$250,000 to get the process going. Once a contract is signed we will officially begin fundraising to secure additional financing. Our plan is to hire an experienced project manager to lead our innovative, donation-based restoration effort.

We now have a variety of professionals ready to assist us on a *pro bono* or discounted fee basis. Loans provided to make this long needed rehabilitation happen will be repaid from revenue generated by rental of the house for private events. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this years long effort. While it has taken longer than expected, change is happening!

To see the PARD proposal go to [www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=161108](http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=161108). For more information check out the Norwood blog: [www.restorenorwood.posterous.com](http://www.restorenorwood.posterous.com) ☼

## Blunn Creek / Stacy Park Spraying Follow-up

*by Garret Nick and Gloria Lee*

CITY BIOLOGISTS MATEO SCOGGIN AND TODD JACKSON made a presentation at the February 6th general SRCC meeting. Scoggin reported that City workers have walked the park/creek to assess the damage done by Daniel White's herbicide spraying\* which occurred last year, and they have identified a few areas that were potentially affected. Scoggin believes most of the damage will be undone and grow back, including the poison ivy.

The City workers did spread some wildflower and grass seeds through the area surveyed. A resident requested PARD to plant some trees/saplings and was told that was doable. Mateo offered to come back in the spring with a follow-up review of the area after which we will produce a request for mitigation.

Todd Jackson spoke about City mowing policies that involve cutting to close to the creeks. He would like to see the development of a buffer to allow riparian habitat to recover naturally. The goal is to reduce erosion and the impacts of storm runoff to create a stable environment. Wendy Todd nominated David Todd to be a point of contact for SRCC. The member present voted to support this. ☼

*\* The fall SRCC newsletter included a short report regarding this debacle and ended with the statement that SRCC had requested a meeting with City the objectives of which included "having PARD officially acknowledge its mistakes with regard to this issue and having the City officially notify Mr. White that he will be subject to legal action if he is ever found using his applicators equipment on public lands within the City. Enforcement action (including fines) are recommended for the damage caused in executing the work he has done to date." The newsletter can be found at [www.srccatx.org](http://www.srccatx.org).*



## SRCC Neighborhood Watch Update / Meeting March 8th

by Dennis Cudd, NW chair, 917-568-3147

THE SRCC NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND PATROL PROGRAM is nearing the end of its six month trial period and we are gathering all the data and feedback to analyze and determine if the program was successful enough to continue. Although we don't have all the data yet, subjectively, we all believe that the impact of seeing patrol vehicles moving about the neighborhood streets has been felt. Neighbors wave and shout encouraging words while suspicious vehicles speed off every time we roll down the street towards them.

We know from the experience of other Austin neighborhoods that an ongoing citizen patrol presence can have a dramatic effect on crime. Like SRCC, other neighborhoods are implementing programs similar to the successful Barton Hills program and continue to see positive effects. We are hoping that, over time, SRCC's program will serve as model program as well.

Our success hinges on the active participation of our residents and, although we have a core group of active patrollers, we continue to need more coverage. We would like to encourage anyone who can devote an hour every two weeks to come to our next training session and join the patrol team. The session will be held on March 8th at 7PM, so **SAVE THE DATE!** Please contact Shelly Leibham ([shelly.leibham@gmail.com](mailto:shelly.leibham@gmail.com)) for details, or email [neighborhoodwatch@srccatx.org](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@srccatx.org). ☼

### APD DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES FOR SRCC

#### Riverside to Ben White, Congress to I-35:

Officer Robert Barboza, 512-974-8246  
[robert.barboza@austintexas.gov](mailto:robert.barboza@austintexas.gov)

#### East of I-35:

Officer Atilano Guerra, 512-974-4475  
[atilano.guerra@austintexas.gov](mailto:atilano.guerra@austintexas.gov)

## Travis Heights-Fairview Park Historic District Project

by Melanie Martinez, [www.historictravisheights.org](http://www.historictravisheights.org)

**NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS:** As our neighborhood faces continued in-fill development that detracts from our historic character, it is more important than ever to work toward creating a National Register and Local Historic District so we can have a say in what kind of developments become our neighbor.

Right now, the Travis Heights-Fairview Park Historic District Project needs volunteers for our continuing work on our application for a National Register Historic District. Architectural historian Casey Gallagher is researching historic plat maps to piece together the development of Travis Heights and Fairview Park for the narrative we need to submit, as well as continuing work on our database of historic properties.

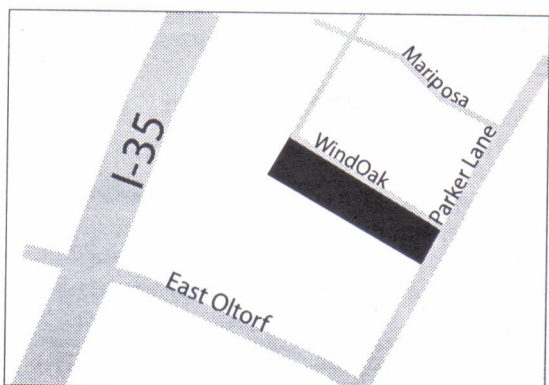
Neighborhood volunteers are currently working architectural descriptions of the properties, which will help with writing that narrative. We could also use contributions to help pay for Casey's professional services. Donations can be made online at the Austin Community Foundation ([www.austincommunityfoundation.org/?nd=donate](http://www.austincommunityfoundation.org/?nd=donate)) or by mailing check made payable to *Austin Community Foundation* with note for "THFP Historic District" to M. Martinez at 1214 Newning Ave, Austin, TX 78704.

If you would like to get involved, volunteers are needed for the following tasks:

- Re-taking photos
- Taking high-quality photos of the representative properties and street-scapes (Note: Photography jobs would be best done as soon as possible while the trees have no leaves and there are more cloudy days!)
- Researching city directories for additional demographic information.
- Helping with Filemaker database clean-up work (needed in March)

Please contact [casey@historictravisheights.org](mailto:casey@historictravisheights.org) if you can help. And thank you! ☼

## New Pocket Park!



The purchase of the 2100 Parker Lane property by the city was authorized by City Council in December, has been finalized. The city defines a pocket park as a small area, usually less than two acres, that "offers green space in a location where public green space is limited or not served by any other park." This park will be approximately 3.5 acres and contains some beautiful heritage oaks.

We thank Sara Hensley, Director of Parks and Recreation Department and Council member Laura Morrison, along with other Councilmembers, for supporting this longtime effort of both SRCC and EROC (East Riverside Oltorf Corridor). Area 7 Coordinator Fred Krebs along with Toni House will continue communication with PARD on the plans and progress of this pocket park.



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

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

### Area Coordinators

<b>Area 1</b>	Claudette Lowe	447-1514
<b>Area 1</b>	Helen Dey Valdez	634-3740
<b>Area 2</b>	Kenny Schulz	448-3290
<b>Area 2</b>	Jack Hostetter	214 435-9811
<b>Area 3a</b>	Teri Hubbeling	447-8852
<b>Area 3a</b>	Brian Talenti	992-0136
<b>Area 3b</b>	Brooks Kasson	444-8100
<b>Area 3b</b>	Tim Boswell	589-5593
<b>Area 4a</b>	Sam Martin	441-5222
<b>Area 4a</b>	Eric Andruscavage	707-1340
<b>Area 4b</b>	Kris Asthalter	443-4963
<b>Area 4b</b>	Cynthia Biggers	472-1772
<b>Area 5</b>	Neal Nuwash	462-9093
<b>Area 5</b>	Elloa Mathews	442-6986
<b>Area 6</b>	Dawn Cizmar	443-4231
<b>Area 7</b>	Fred Krebs	447-6442
<b>Area 7</b>	Rachel McClure	326-5572
<b>Area 8</b>	Maria Martinez	443-9784
<b>Area 8</b>	Kim Lanzillotti	658-8565

### 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
Transportation & Public Safety	
Marc Davis	656-2841
Membership; Communications	
Carol Martin	441-5222
Newsletter	
Gloria Lee	441-5167
Financial	
Sam Martin	441-5222

#### AD HOC COMMITTEES

Norwood House	
Wolf Sittler	632-9189
TH-FP Historic Dist	
Michele Webre	422-1262

#### REPRESENTATIVES

Austin Neighborhoods Council	
Wolf Sittler	632-9189
Charles Price	442-2065
East Riverside (EROC)	
Toni House	447-8090
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.srccatx.org](http://www.srccatx.org).

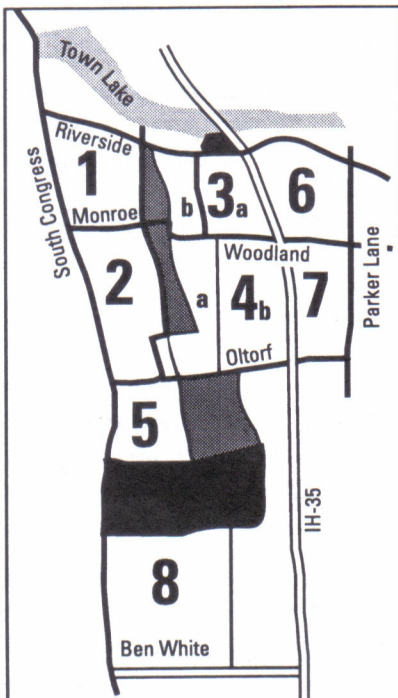
If you want to be part of the group's listserv send a **blank** email to (include hyphen): [SouthRiverAustin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SouthRiverAustin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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
<a href="mailto:president@srccatx.org">president@srccatx.org</a>	
Vice-President	
Marc Davis	656-2841
<a href="mailto:vicepresident@srccatx.org">vicepresident@srccatx.org</a>	
Treasurer	
Les Case	448-1032
<a href="mailto:treasurer@srccatx.org">treasurer@srccatx.org</a>	
Secretary	
Garret Nick	326-7676
<a href="mailto:secretary@srccatx.org">secretary@srccatx.org</a>	

### SRCC Areas map



## Join your Neighbors in SRCC!

### SOUTH RIVER CITY CITIZENS MEMBERSHIP FORM

To pay via PayPal, please go to [www.srccatx.org/membership-dues/](http://www.srccatx.org/membership-dues/)

You can also 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.*

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			=	_____

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL(S) \_\_\_\_\_