

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

Call your coordinator for SRCC questions, to volunteer or to help deliver newsletters.

**Area Coordinators**

- Area 1** Claudette Lowe 447-1514
- Area 1** Helen Dey Valdez 634-3740
- Area 2** **VOLUNTEER NEEDED!**
- Area 2** **VOLUNTEER NEEDED!**
- Area 3a** Kathleen Littlepage 773-1149
- Area 3b** Brooks Kasson 444-8100
- Area 3b** Tim Boswell 589-5593
- Area 4a** Sam Martin 441-5222
- Area 4a** Mary Friedman 619-5773
- Area 4b** Kris Asthalter 443-4963
- Area 5** Neal Nuwash 462-9093
- Area 5** Elloa Mathews 442-6986
- Area 6** Dawn Cizmar 443-4231
- Area 7** Tune Sounthaly 518-3666
- Area 7** Kelvin Glover 415-2027
- Area 8** Maria Martinez 443-9784
- Area 8** Kim Lanzillotti 658-8565

**Committees and Representatives**

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Parks, Schools & Environment**
  - David Todd (Parks) 512-416-0400
  - Sherri Ancipink (Sch) 512-707-2627
  - Marty Christman (Env) 512-912-0724
- Planning & Zoning**
  - Jean Mather 512-444-4153
  - Ken Anschutz kent@kentanschutz.com
  - Russell Fraser russell\_fraser@msn.com
- Transportation & Public Safety**
  - Marty Peck 512-656-7663
  - Jeff Kessel jeff@impactpro.com
  - Raymond Sinatra, Jr. 512-853-0512
- Membership; Communications**
  - Carol Martin 512-441-5222
- Newsletter**
  - Gloria Lee gloria@buds-buck.com
- Financial**
  - Sam Martin 512-441-5222
- AD HOC COMMITTEES**
- Web Guy** Garret Nick communications@srccatx.org
- Norwood House**
  - Wolf Sittler 512-447-2150
- TH-FP Historic Dist**
  - Michele Webre 512-422-1262
- REPRESENTATIVES**
- Austin Neighborhoods Council**
  - Wallace Henderson 512-442-8908

**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

- East Riverside (EROCC)**
  - Toni House 512-447-8090
- St. Edward's**
  - Elloa Mathews 512-442-6986
- South Central Coalition**
  - Danette Chimenti 512-912-8290
- Save Town Lake**
  - Dennis Cudd 917 568-3147
- TH Arts Trail**
  - Margaret Adie 512-440-8579
- Travis Park Apt/Austin Interfaith**
  - Terry Franz 512-447-8786

- SRCC Officers**
- President** Marc Davis president@srccatx.org
- Vice President** Carol Martin vicepresident@srccatx.org
- Treasurer** Nancy Byrd treasurer@srccatx.org
- Secretary** Garret Nick secretary@srccatx.org

# SRCC newsletter

THE WINTER 2014  
AN OCCASIONAL PRINTED PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH RIVER CITY CITIZENS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
ESTABLISHED 1973 | ONLINE AT WWW.SRCCATX.ORG

**Planning for South Central Waterfront Starts**

Garret Nick, SRCC Secretary, secretary@srccatx.org

THE NEW SOUTH CENTRAL WATERFRONT PLAN initiative will establish a vision and provide a cohesive set of recommendations to guide public and private development over the next 20-plus years. You are encouraged to participate this process!

This plan will help ensure that privately developed properties and publicly financed amenities will work in tandem to create a beautiful public realm that supports a lively, attractive pedestrian environment, creates great public spaces, and enhances connections to and along the waterfront. One could argue that this is THE most important underdeveloped tract of land in central Austin and that it has historically provided very few public benefits.

To start the process, the city organized a WALK-about on January 11th to familiarize everyone with the properties in question and the scope of the project. Additionally, they held a TALK-about with

*Continued on page 5*

THE SRCC

## Annual Potluck + Election Meeting

**Tuesday March 4** Potluck 6pm  
Grace United Methodist Church Elections 7:30pm  
205 East Monroe

**IT HAS BEEN A BUSY YEAR:** The City of Austin has been reorganized into a 10-1 district representation. The State of Texas has a new transportation mobility plan that involves the City (and its neighborhoods—including us). South Congress continues to see growth in traffic and development. And through this all, our great neighborhood association has been involved.

SRCC has had great leadership, and it is time to thank those who are helped keep our neighbor update and engaged with these important issues. You can do just that—all while eating dinner and electing new officials. The new slate is:

- President: Eric Rangel
- Vice President: TBD
- Treasurer: Nancy Byrd
- Secretary: Garret Nick

Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Anyone wishing to run for the office is encouraged to contact Marc Davis, our current President, or any of the other officers prior to the Tuesday March 4th meeting (see back page for contact information).

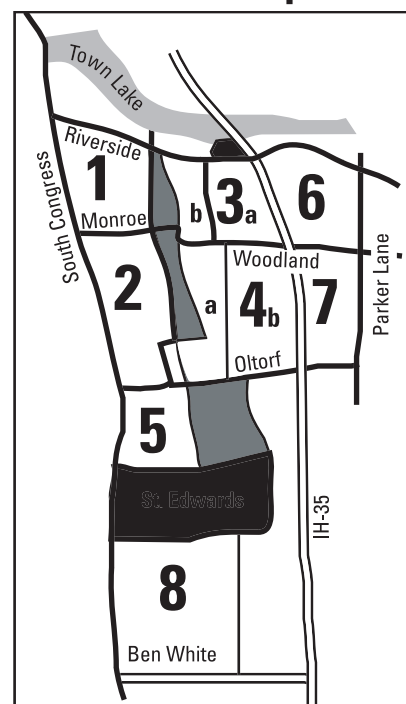
Please also take a moment to read the article "SRCC Recognizes..." which honors the contributions of some of your outstanding neighbors, who have been helping keep your neighborhood the great place it is.

Hope to see you at the potluck!☘

**ELECTION NOTE**

Feb. 4th was the deadline to become a new member and vote at the general membership meeting, BUT if your membership has not lapsed more than two years, you can pay your dues on the floor and vote. And of course, we encourage your membership in the neighborhood association at any time. And come in any event! Meet your neighbors!

**SRCC Areas map**



**Join your Neighbors in SRCC!**

**SOUTH RIVER CITY CITIZENS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

To pay via PayPal (and where you can also sign-up for a yearly subscription), 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		
NO. OF YEARS	INDIVIDUAL	FAMILY
1	\$20	\$35
2	\$35	\$65
3	\$50	\$95

Membership: = \_\_\_\_\_  
circle type: FAMILY / INDIVIDUAL  
no. of years: \_\_\_\_\_

Add'l donation to SRCC General Fund = \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL(S) \_\_\_\_\_

**SRCC Recognizes...**

**OUR ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

We want to express our thanks to these committee members who commit extra time to meet with every applicant requesting support from SRCC for a variety of issues related to zoning or variances or code compliance. These SRCC members bring recommendations to the general membership, explaining the complexities, history and expertise.

**MARC DAVIS, OUTGOING PRESIDENT**

We also wish to recognize and thanks Marc Davis for his stellar performance as SRCC President during 2012 and 2013. Marc's talents for quickly assessing complex situations, diplomatically acknowledging various points of views, and guiding the membership toward best possible positions, have benefited SRCC enormously. He had committed hours and hours toward meeting with residents, businesses, and speaking at city hearings on behalf of our neighborhood. In addition to bringing his wisdom and solution-oriented style

*Continued on page 4*

## SRCC Briefs

■ **Norwood House fence has been repositioned, thanks to a great group of volunteers.** The fence, in place for about fifteen years, needed to be expanded to allow for contractors' vehicles. The fenced area now fully encloses the space for a new porch. Extra fence parts were donated by local fence company, Metalink Corporation. Both Guerro's and Norwood Park Foundation provided snacks. 2014 is the year of real change... look for more opportunities at [www.norwoodparkfoundation.com](http://www.norwoodparkfoundation.com) or email [restorenorwood@yahoo.com](mailto:restorenorwood@yahoo.com) for more information.

■ **SRCC's listserv [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthRiverAustin](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthRiverAustin)**, run by our longtime 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 news-group website.

■ **Stay current with official news with SRCC's website** and through RSS, Facebook or Twitter. Visit the site at [www.srccatx.org](http://www.srccatx.org).

## Travis Heights Elementary school students learn by doing

*Kim-Marie O'Driscoll, kmh78704@hotmail.com*

"LEARN, SERVE AND LEAD" is Travis Heights Elementary School's (THES) school motto—and the school has incorporated a new initiative to help make their motto come alive.

The educational approach of Service Learning is much more than community service. Based on the theory that students learn most effectively, and are more likely to take ownership of their own learning when learning is grounded in relevant and authentic tasks, Service Learning differs from community service (volunteering) by requiring structured and guided classroom learning. Students then apply their knowledge directly to a problem or need in the community.

Learning works when it comes alive for students. At its core, Service Learning is designed to create a personal connection to the topic of study. It removes the "why am I studying this" question many students have and replaces it with an opportunity for students to think critically and participate actively—thereby creating personal linkages to the study topic. This personal connection can deepen the learning process for a student. In turn, this deeper engagement can lead to an openness to learn a wide range of skills, as well as promote better study habits through actively interested students.

Last year THES piloted Service Learning at two grade levels; after review and refinement, we have adopted the approach across all grade levels this year. Each THES grade has developed a Service Learning concept for the year that will help unify and engage the students across their disciplines.

The projects employ the MISO research method, which uses Media, Interview, Survey and Observation to give students multiple perspectives on their topic and



DUAL LANGUAGE  
@Travis Heights Elementary

### SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

- 1st Grade is working on understanding what is involved in being responsible pet owners. Austin Pets Alive is helping connect these students with their research and providing opportunities for out-of-school learning. The project will culminate in an education campaign that the 1st graders create and take school-wide to help their fellow students enter pet ownership responsibly.
- 2nd Grade is working on water conservation, an issue that will only become more relevant. Our school's location on Blunn Creek offers a laboratory in our backyard.
- 3rd Grade is focusing on financial literacy, with students learning about micro loans, interest and how to make good financial decisions. This activity involves math, strategy and development of compassion. This project is using market days to help students understand supply, demand and the value of philanthropy as they decide whether and how to donate some of their earnings.
- 4th Grade is working to think about the world from the vantage point of a person with special needs. They are reading a remarkable book, *Wonder*, and are working on how to create a reciprocal relationship with another school that serves special needs students.
- 5th Grade is studying bullying and developing strategies based on research to reduce bullying.

requires active engagement by the students to acquire the information. Learning culminates not in an end-of-year test, but by the actions of the students in their project.

THES teachers and administration have received training and mentoring from national Service Learning expert CB Kaye ([www.cbkassociates.com](http://www.cbkassociates.com)). Her manual and blog are resources THES continues to use as we implement this program and connect our school with other Service Learning programs. The AISD curriculum office supported a portion of this training cost.

Service Learning incorporates connections to the world outside the school and engages students in projects which benefit their community. We are very excited about this project as it helps our students academically and provides a way to honor the support our community has offered and continues to offer our school. ☘

## Zoning Updates and More

*Marc Davis, SRCC President, [president@srccatx.org](mailto:president@srccatx.org)*

### LIFE TABERNACLE APOSTOLIC CHURCH'S REQUEST TO UP-ZONE TO GENERAL RETAIL

In our last newsletter, we were pleased to inform you that Life Tabernacle's request to up-zone their property from SF-2 (with Civic Use) to GR was opposed unanimously by the Planning Commission. SRCC had opposed the upzoning primarily because such a large up-zoning would have an enormous impact on the neighborhood when the church eventually sold the property and a new owner took full advantage of the GR zoning. Additionally, SRCC had offered to support the church in asking for an impervious cover variance in order to build the community room they so desired - a viable alternative to pursuing the upzoning.

Unfortunately, despite their defeat at Planning Commission and their refusal to pursue an impervious cover variance, Life Tabernacle has decided to have the case heard by City Council. This makes it abundantly clear that the church's primary motivation for this up-zoning is to increase the value of its property and SRCC remains vehemently opposed. The case is set to be heard by Council on February 27th. Please contact Marc Davis if you have an interest in contributing to SRCC's efforts to oppose this request.

### CONGRESS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH'S REQUEST TO UP-ZONE

As you know, SRCC has opposed Congress Avenue Baptist Church's request to up-zone the back half of their lot that faces Nickerson from SF-3 to General Retail (GR). The stated purpose of this request appeared benign - they had leased out parking spots to HomeSlice in an effort to help alleviate a parking shortage issue but had determined that this was an illegal use due to the property's base SF-3 zoning. They requested up-zoning the property to GR to allow for off-site accessory parking and commercial off-street parking uses. Unfortunately, this would also open the possibility that the church could build a commercial parking

*South Austin Waterfront Plan, continued from page 1*

two national experts in urban planning and design, John Fregonese and Harris Steinberg FAIA. Both of these highly regarded experts have completed recent studies that explore the challenges and opportunities for the future of the South Central Waterfront. They presented highlights from their studies as well as showcased award-winning examples of remarkable waterfront plans from elsewhere. After the presentation, there was a public question and answer session.

A third meeting was held on February 12th, in which citizen stakeholders were encouraged to participate on creating a plan for the impending development of an extremely important piece of Austin's core. Architect Almy and

garage or several other commercial structures allowed under GR zoning that would end up pushing commercial development further into the neighborhood. SRCC supports parking and commercial development directly along Congress Avenue and supported the up-zoning of the western half of their lot to CS in the past, but we remained opposed to up-zoning of the eastern half of the lot that faces Nickerson - an entirely residential street.

Fortunately, SRCC's position was supported by a majority of the Planning Commission and they voted to oppose the request in a 5-3 vote on January 14th. In addition, the directly affected neighbors presented a valid petition to the City against the up-zoning which would require that Congress Avenue Baptist Church have a super-majority to win at City Council. At this point, we don't know if they will continue to pursue the request and have the case heard by City Council. In the event that they do, we would appreciate continued neighborhood support. Please contact Marc Davis if you have an interest in participating in these efforts.

### SOUTH CONGRESS PARKING

The Congress Avenue Baptist Church parking lot up-zoning issue brought the ongoing parking problems in the South Congress area front and center again. In prior years, a task force made up of participants from SRCC, BCNA, South Congress merchants, and representatives from the City of Austin had found it difficult to find consensus on a solution to the parking issues that plague our streets as South Congress becomes a major destination for Austin residents and tourists. However, persistence from Council Member Chris Riley and his Policy Aide, Leah Bojo, have resulted in some genuine progress on this front. Initial proposals involving blanketing Congress Avenue and our neighborhoods with parking meters have been scrapped in favor of some incremental steps that could end up solving a majority of the issues that we all experience with parking near the ever-popular Avenue. There is no formal proposal yet, but we are awaiting something we can take back to SRCC for discussion and debate. Please contact Marc Davis if you have an interest in participating in these efforts. ☘

landscape architect Woodroffe, both past members of the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board and leaders in urban design, presented design ideas for green spaces in and along Austin's South Central Waterfront, and inspirational designs from elsewhere, to highlight how extraordinary and intimate urban waterfront parks, coupled with green infrastructure, can enrich the urban landscape. Citizens attending urged that the planners maintain the Waterfront Overlay code requirements.

For more information, visit [www.austintexas.gov/event/waterfront-talkabout-2-green-spaces-urban-places](http://www.austintexas.gov/event/waterfront-talkabout-2-green-spaces-urban-places), or contact Garret Nick at [secretary@srccatx.org](mailto:secretary@srccatx.org). ☘

## Proposed Closure of Woodland to East-West Through Traffic

Toni House, East Riverside Representative (EROC)

TXDOT'S GOAL EMPHASIS for the I-35 Mobility Plan is to shorten the time it takes I-35 travelers to get through Austin.<sup>1</sup> The initial proposal removes the Woodland Avenue east-west intersection at I-35 and provides U-turns at Riverside & I-35 and Oltorf & I-35. As highway designs that serve rural and large suburban areas are not appropriate for central city neighborhoods, the planners apparently did not consider the collateral effect on the neighborhoods abutting I-35.

For example, in order to attend the SRCC monthly meeting west of I-35 and coming from EROC, a driver would have to turn onto the I-35 northbound access road (without any break in oncoming traffic currently provided by the Woodland Avenue stoplight), cut across an unknown number of lanes of fast-moving cars to reach a planned U-turn at Riverside & I-35, loop around onto the southbound access road, again cut across an unknown number of lanes of traffic, and then turn west onto Woodland where eastbound Woodland empties into the southbound access road. For eastbound travelers on Woodland, they would have to repeat these steps going south to reach the U-turn at Oltorf & I-35 in order to go east on Woodland or to access northbound I-35.

In response to neighborhood concerns over the proposed closure of Woodland Avenue to east-west through traffic at its intersection with I-35,<sup>2</sup> TxDOT offered two possible alternatives during the February 3rd meeting of the City Council's Committee on Comprehensive Planning & Transportation—elevating Woodland Avenue above a redesigned I-35, or lowering Woodland Avenue an additional six feet beneath.

TxDOT representatives attended SRCC's General meeting on February 3rd and reiterated that the two alternative proposals are technically feasible. They would not, however, commit to recommending either of these alternatives over TxDOT's initial proposal contained in the Mobility Plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole and Council Members Morrison, Riley and Tovo deserve our thanks for responding to our concerns. They recognize the importance of this issue to not only SRCC and EROC neighborhoods, but to other residential neighborhoods adjacent to I-35. The fact that alternative plans were proffered by TxDOT is likely due to the City's involvement.

Everything on this project is subject to change during each project phase. According to the report, Phase 3 of the Woodland Ave. to Woodward St. segment is expected to be completed by February 2014. Phase 3 is the development of environmental documents and schematic

## New SRCC Transportation Committee Chairs

Marc Davis, SRCC President, [president@srccatx.org](mailto:president@srccatx.org)

FOR YEARS THE OFFICIAL SRCC "Transportation and Public Safety" Committee has largely been focused on neighborhood watch and patrol, since transportation issues rarely presented themselves. Recently, two major transportation issues that have the potential to greatly affect the quality of life of our residents have appeared:

1. TxDOT's current proposal to shut down the Woodland underpass in an effort to flatten and straighten I-35; and
2. ProjectConnect's selection (and City Council's approval) of the East Riverside and Highland sub-corridor as the next area of public transportation (most likely rail) development.

These two issues have inspired long-time SRCC members, Marty Peck and Jeff Kessel to graciously step up to chair the "Transportation" portion of the "Transportation and Public Safety" Committee. They will work to attend public meetings and serve as a focal point for neighborhood concerns regarding these issues. The committee will make recommendations to the SRCC membership about how our influence should be used in shaping the future of these issues.

Please join me in thanking Marty and Jeff for their generous donation of time and effort on these issues. And, if you would like to participate or help in any way on these issues, please feel free to contact Marty (512-656-7663) or Jeff ([jeff@impactpro.com](mailto:jeff@impactpro.com)). ☘

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engineering. To date, no funds have been identified for development of Phase 4 or Phase 5 of this project. Phase 4 is for development prior to possible implementation of Phase 5, which is construction.

Now is the time to become involved if you have concerns about flow of traffic on Woodland and connecting under I-35. Sign up for TxDOT's project updates at [www.austin-mobility.com](http://www.austin-mobility.com). I encourage you to closely monitor this project and contact your local state officials concerning this issue. TxDOT probably will not support the proposed alternatives without pressure by state officials. ☘

### RESOURCES CITED

1 See TxDOT's Capital Area Mobility 35 report, "I-35 Capital Area Improvement Program, Corridor Implementation Plan SH 45N to SH 45SE, Travis County, Texas" ("Mobility Plan"), [www.mobility35.org/pdfs/downloads/travis%20county%20caip%20phase%202%20implementation%20plan.pdf](http://www.mobility35.org/pdfs/downloads/travis%20county%20caip%20phase%202%20implementation%20plan.pdf).

2 See Mobility Plan, p.10, Sec. 2.5 Current Projects on I-35, Subsec. 2.5.3 I-35 from Woodland Ave. to Woodward St.; pp. 45-47 Subsec. 3.9.6 Segment 6 Lady Bird Lake to Woodward St.

to all issues, Marc’s healthy sense of humor keeps communication open. Although Marc is leaving the President position, he has agreed to continue working on the larger issues (such as the zoning issues he has covered on page 5) and South Congress development. Our incoming executive team is very fortunate indeed!

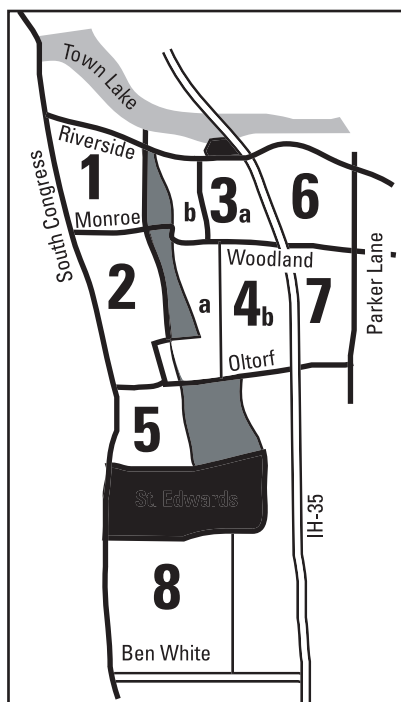
**CAROL MARTIN, OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENT**

SRCC would not be the same without Carol Martin. From chairing the communications committee, to managing our membership, to patrolling our streets, Carol was already a pillar of our organization before she agreed to take on the VP role. As VP, she ended up managing almost all of the operations of our association—systematically taking challenging problems, developing well documented processes, and creating order out of chaos—all with her characteristic charm and grace. She stayed in the role for two years and has completely transformed the way we do business. We are very fortunate that Carol will step back into her former roles within the organization and will continue to support the incoming executive team.

**Two Districts, One SRCC**

THE NEW 10-1 CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT MAP is official, and SRCC is spread across two districts: District 3 and District 9. SRCC Areas 1–7 between Lady Bird Lake and St. Edwards campus, and between Parker / I35 and Congress, are in District 9. This is a large district which includes downtown Austin northward to 51st St. and the

RIGHT: SRCC Area Map  
FAR RIGHT: With 10-1 districting, SRCC is in two districts, No. 9 and No. 3. Illustration based on <http://austinredistricting.org/Final/ab9Plan1120.kmz>



**OUR VOLUNTEER AREA COORDINATORS**

Because the SRCC neighborhood association includes such a large area—from Lady Bird Lake to Ben White Blvd; from Congress Avenue to Parker / IH35—we’re subdivided into eight areas. Volunteers from each area serve as Area Coordinators and Block Captains who deliver newsletters door-to-door on their block three times per year. Area Coordinators are also part of the SRCC Executive committee which meets three times per year. It is another way to exchange information within the whole neighborhood, gather input, and reach decisions.

Our Area Coordinators include: Kris Asthalter, Tim Boswell, Dawn Cizmar, Helen Dey Valdez, Mary Friedman, Kelvin Glove, Brooks Kasson, Kim Lanzillotti, Kathleen Littlepage, Claudette Lowe, Sam Martin, Maria Martinez, Elloa Mathews, Neal Nuwash, and Sounthaly Outhavong.

If you are interested in helping, or finding an easy way of getting involved while meeting some neighbors, contact an Area Coordinator or [membership@srccatx.org](mailto:membership@srccatx.org). We are currently seeking Area Coordinators for Area 2! ☘

Bouldin neighborhood west to Lamar. SRCC Area 8 is part of District 3, which extends through the southeast portion of Austin.

This new configuration will be interesting for SRCC. We potentially may be able to bend the ears of two council members on issues that affect our membership. In any event, now more than ever, come out and meet your neighbors at our monthly meetings. ☘

