

## Elections 2008: Join Us March 3<sup>rd</sup>

By Helen Dey Valdez

While most people have been tracking the outcomes of the various caucuses, state primaries and looking towards the Texas primaries, there is another important local election that requires your attention. 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.

The March meeting will kick-off with one of the best-kept secrets in town - some of the best food in the city will be served at 6 PM at Grace United Methodist Church, 205 East Monroe. Following the potluck dinner, President Jean Mather will call for nominations for each office and position and general elections will be held. Anyone wishing to run for office is encouraged to contact Jean or the other officers prior to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

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. Annual dues must be received 28 days prior to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> election. Payments may be made at the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting or by mailing a check to Terry Franz, SRCC Treasurer at 1904 Kenwood, Austin 78704.

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

## Sunnymeade Proposal

By Neal Nuwash & Ellen Ward

At a well-attended January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, SRCC voted to support the redevelopment of the Sunnymeade Apartments with several stipulations, including requiring that all the SRCC-approved stipulations/developer concessions be recorded in order to be legally binding. The apartments, located on Oltorf in the Sherwood Oaks neighborhood, were built in the 1960's. The developers offered SRCC many concessions in exchange for an increase in height on a portion of the property.

The following concessions were accepted in a 24-1 vote. Sunnymeade residents will receive assistance from the new owners who are currently researching locations for the tenants to locate new apartments. They are offering six months' advance notice to vacate, and will pay for tenants' moving costs. Once the new apartments are built, 10 percent of the units will be rented to families earning 60 percent of the median family income (MFI). Residents that are in good standing on their rents will have priority in applying for those units. Tenants that return will also have their deposits waived, their moving expenses paid to return, and their first three months' rent free. Section 8 vouchers will also be accepted if appropriate. This assistance has an estimated value of at least \$3000 to each returning resident. And a resident will be appointed to work with the developer throughout the process.

Other SRCC stipulations include asking the city to spend some of its affordable housing bond money on the project as well, bringing the rent on the affordable apartments within the range of families earning 50 percent of the median family income. The developer agreed to support this request to the city, which would bring the rent for one person earning half of the median family income to \$581/month. The developer also agreed to give the city the option of buying down another 5 percent of the units to be affordable. Together these measures actually allow for up to 15 percent of the units to be available at 50 percent MFI, which would hopefully allow for all of the longer-term residents to stay if they choose.

The new apartments will also retain all runoff on-site to pre-development standards. Currently all runoff from the apartments and parking lot goes directly into a storm drain on Oltorf and then into Blunn Creek. And, on-site water quality

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## Sunnymeade Proposal Continued . . .

improvements will prevent all oil and other chemicals from the parking lots from entering the creek. Jeff Kessel will monitor the implementation of these improvements for SRCC.

Lots of hard work by SRCC members went into getting these concessions from the developer. Great work everyone. 🌀

## Travis Heights-Fairview Park Historic District Survey

By *Melanie Martinez*

The Project began its reconnaissance survey of the neighborhood this month, with a quick, drive-by study by Preservation Central (architectural historians) to identify the formal boundaries for both a Local and National Register Historic Districts. The current proposed boundaries are South Congress Avenue, Riverside Drive, Kenwood Avenue and Live Oak Street.

A more intensive survey to follow this one includes photography, historical research and architectural identification. Volunteers will be especially needed during this phase. Survey experiences shared by other neighborhoods suggest this is one of the most fun and interesting aspects of the project.

Thank you all for your generous support to date. Our calendars sold out quickly, and we are very grateful to our neighborhood business sponsors. Visit our website and check them out on the Sponsor link, as well as our new online donation option, a Flickr Photo Group, a MySpace page and a Google Group to share articles, stories, thoughts and images. Our web addresses are: [www.HistoricTravisHeights.org](http://www.HistoricTravisHeights.org) or [www.MySpace.com/historictravisheights](http://www.MySpace.com/historictravisheights).

Please share any neighborhood history and photos, as they are essential to creating our historic district and recognizing the historical value of the neighborhood. For more information contact Melanie Martinez (see back page). 🌀

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## Committee Reports

### Blunn Stream Bank Restoration

By *David Todd*



Kristin Kasper, Ginny Rohlich and John Gleason from the City's Watershed Protection and Development Review Department, spoke at the SRCC general



meeting on January 7. They had good news to report. The City's in-house construction crew has completed restoration of 800 feet of eroded stream banks along Blunn Creek, replacing crumbling cliffs full of invasive plants with hardened slopes spotted with reintroduced native plants. This initial seven-month period of work has focused on the Creek's segment in Stacy Park, from Woodland south to

Travis Heights Elementary School. Further work this spring will include installation of three rain gardens with curb cuts along East Side, to capture and filter stormwater in Stacy Park from about six acres of uphill watershed.

Looking forward about two years, Blunn Creek bank restoration will begin in the eroded areas between Woodland and Monroe. Together, these projects should help protect the stream from erosion and pollution for many years to come. For more information, contact Ms. Rohlich at 974-2758 or [virginia.rohlich@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:virginia.rohlich@ci.austin.tx.us). 🌀

### Long Bow Storm Drain Project Update

By *Elloa Mathews*

The City of Austin will hold an informational meeting on the City's project to reduce flooding in the Sherwood Oaks neighborhood at 6:30 p.m Monday, January 28, 2008 in the Travis High School cafeteria, 1211 E. Oltorf Street.

Voters approved over \$3 million in bonds in November 2006 to improve the storm drain system in Sherwood Oaks. New, larger stormwater runoff pipes will be built under Carnarvon, Long Bow, Sherwood, Friar Tuck and St. Edwards Drive as well as new storm drain inlets on St. Edwards Drive. The project is scheduled to begin in 2009 and take almost a year to complete.

(continued on pg. 3)

For more information on the project go the city's website at [www.cityofaustin.org/watershed](http://www.cityofaustin.org/watershed). Under the *Hot Topics* menu view *Projects at Flood Solutions*. or call Joan Esquivel in the city's Watershed Protection Department at 974-3357 or Elloa Mathews at 442-6986. ❧

## East Riverside Report (Areas 6 & 7)

by Toni House & Gayle Goff

### Area 6: Time Ins. I & II (properties above the SE corner of I-35 & E. Riverside)

The City Council removed certain conditions imposed by the Planning Commission and adopted by the council on 1st reading (1/11/07) during its 2nd reading in December at Applicant's request. The council approved the "up-zonings" in a 7-0 vote at the 3rd and final reading January 10<sup>th</sup>. The Limited Office and Single-Family tracts were "up-zoned" to General Retail Mixed Use (GR-MU) w/conditions. The industrial zoning application on the existing GR-MU tracts was withdrawn, but the change in conditions removed the existing zoning site plan for a two-story hotel. A private restrictive covenant between SRCC and Applicant requires that a minimum of 10% of any development be commercial and that a minimum of 10% of any development be residential and that the residential units be for sale, not rentals.

The present city council chose to ignore the 2004 Council's directive (12/2/04) to reduce the density and intensity of this project. In granting these "up-zonings", the council has **required** that the bluff above TxDOT's staging area at the SE corner of I-35 & Riverside, running east to Summit St., be excavated down to street level. Council has given tacit approval to Applicant's proposal for a larger project--a conceptual plan--that if built will flood Summit St. with approximately 5,000 additional trips per day and replace the current retaining wall with a monolithic building wall that will run west from Summit and wrap around south along I-35 for several hundred feet.

Although he voted for the Applicant, Council Member Martinez noted that this is an up-zoning without a project, something that should concern council members more in future decisions. It is unfortunate that this council refused to acknowledge that the existing zoning of SF, LO and GR-MU actually required a true mix of uses.

### **WARNING! WATCH OUT FOR BULLDOZERS!!**

- Town Creek Apts: 1000-1200 Town Creek--Demolition has begun on this part of the Cypress 50-acre development
- Radio Shack must close by the end of January for the AMLI development.

### Area 7: 2100 Parker Ln. (fka Andrewartha Mansion)

The property owner had until the middle of January to address deficiencies remaining in his proposed site plan. Area 7 welcomes its new Co-Coordinator, Helen Fleming, who will assist Fred Krebs following Mary Jo Osgood's relocation to Galveston. Thank you for your willingness to serve your neighbors and community. ❧

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## Neighborhood Announcements

### Travis Heights Art Trail a great success!

By Margaret Adie

A big thank you to all those who helped make this such a successful and fun neighborhood event.

We invite all neighborhood artists in all media: visual art, performance art, dance, musicians, media art, literature etc. to participate in the TRAVIS HEIGHTS ART TRAIL December 6 & 7, 2008 Artist applications are due June 1, 2008. We also welcome all businesses that would like to support ART in Travis Heights. Contact Margaret Adie :

[margaretadie@austin.rr.com](mailto:margaretadie@austin.rr.com) 512-440-8579 or Charlotte Bell : [charwolf100@yahoo.com](mailto:charwolf100@yahoo.com) for more information. ❧



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## Calling All Volunteers

### Math is Power!!

By Terry Franz

And early intervention is key to long-term success. The earlier a child enjoys academic success, the more that child is invested in education and the better equipped s/he is for success throughout life. Travis Heights Elementary is one of only two sites chosen for a pilot program to bring Austin Partners in Education's successful *Partners in Math* program to

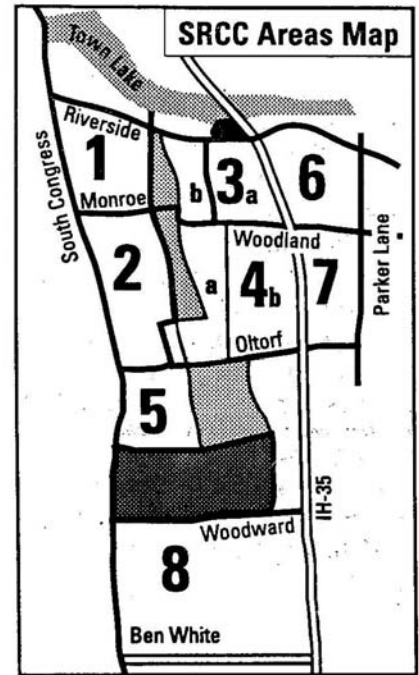
elementary school students. The program puts volunteers in a classroom for 45 minutes each week. Each volunteer works with the same small group of students each week, so everyone gets to know each other. The teacher provides the curriculum and remains in the classroom as a resource when a volunteer has a question.

Travis Heights Elementary is introducing *Partners in Math* in two 4th grade classes; between 6 and 14 volunteers are needed for each of these times:

1. Every Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
2. Every Wednesday from 12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

To learn more and/or sign up, go to the Austin Partners in Education website, [www.austinparkers.org](http://www.austinparkers.org). Click the *Our Programs* link. *Partners in Math* is 2nd on the list of programs.

This is all about tutoring math, but it is so much more. Math is a natural science; it's about life. Volunteering is about letting a child know you care enough to spend 45 minutes a week helping them learn. Students understand and appreciate that. ☺



## Area Coordinators

Area 1	Claudette Lowe	447-1514
Area 1	Helen Dey Valdez	634-3740
Area 2	Alicia Reinmund Martinez	447-0266
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 4b	Tim Mahoney	326-9944
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

## SRCC Meetings

We normally meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month at 7 PM at 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

## Committee & Liaison Chairs

Austin Police Liaison	Officer Shauna Griffin	974-8676
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	OPEN	
Newsletter	Helen Dey Valdez	326-4320
South Congress Cmte	Ellen Ward	851-0095
Save Town Lake	Kenny Hilbig	326-9120
TH-FP Historic Dist	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

## 2007 - 2008 SRCC Officers

<b>President:</b>	
Jean Mather	512/444-4153
<b>Vice President:</b>	
Toni House	512/447-8090
Gayle Goff	512/443-5041
<b>Treasurer:</b>	
Terry Franz	512/447-8768
<b>Secretary:</b>	
Garret Nick	512/326-7676
Elloa Mathews	512/442-6986

## Join SRCC!

Dues: \$5-Single \_\_\_\_\_ \$7-Family \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$10-Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ \$20-Big Bubba \_\_\_\_\_

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to join South River City Citizens neighborhood association. This will allow you not only to meet some fine neighbors, but also to vote in neighborhood meetings and have a say in what happens to your neighborhood. Our inner city neighborhoods are experiencing lots of development pressure, and the monthly meetings are where you can learn not only about specific projects proposed in the neighborhood, but also about how to solve some of the problems that result from the increased development. SRCC bylaws require new members to wait 30 days after joining before they may vote.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks payable to SRCC (memo membership) and mail to Treasurer Terry Franz, 1904 Kenwood, Austin 78704.