

SRCC newsletter

AN OCCASIONAL PRINTED PUBLICATION OF THE
SOUTH RIVER CITY CITIZENS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
THE SUMMER 2011 ISSUE

SRCC Neighborhood Watch Update

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

SINCE FEBRUARY, THOSE OF US INVOLVED in the SRCC Neighborhood Watch program have been working on a new approach to fighting crime in our neighborhoods. You may remember from our last update that our new efforts have been centered around three major points:

Assistance—*Reach out to neighbors who have been hit by criminal activity and support their efforts to protect themselves against future incidents.*

Awareness—*Effectively communicate to neighbors when crime has occurred in their immediate area to heighten awareness and encourage preventative measures.*

Deterrence—*With a combination of 911 reporting, citizen patrols, and visible signage, show criminals that they are being watched and that our neighborhood is no longer an easy target.*

Since taking this new direction, we have analyzed the crime hotspots throughout the SRCC neighborhoods. We have decided to start a pilot program for the neighborhood watch and focus on a select area of the neighborhood. By starting with a smaller area, we believe we can build our network of patrols and use the initial volunteers more effectively. Due to the the frequency of auto and home burglaries, combined with the number of existing neighborhood watch volunteers, the areas we've selected for the initial pilot program are Area 4A and 4B, as shown on the SRCC map (see page 3).

The pilot program for Areas 4A and 4B will launch this summer using the tactics listed below. The goal is to make these areas a hostile environment for criminals and drastically decrease the number of committed crimes. *continued page 3*

JULY 4TH PARADE AND PICNIC **CANCELLED!**

DEAR RESIDENTS: For numerous years past, the same small group of volunteers has rallied the troops to make SRCC's very popular parade and picnic happen. Their children who enjoyed the event while growing up are now grown, and these volunteers are tired. Numerous requests have been sent out for the past three years for new blood, but none has materialized. So, this year SRCC will not in any way be associated with a July 4th celebration.

What this means to you is that there will be no official parade, no parade permit, no police escort, no event insurance in case someone is hurt, no park reservations; and no food, drink, vendors, shade structures, politicians or entertainment at the park.

I sincerely hope that all of you enjoy your July 4th, wherever you may be, and that the SRCC event is revived in the future. Even if it isn't, though, so many enjoyed the event for so many years that the memory will live on for a long time. Thank all of you volunteers so very much for keeping the event going as long as you did. You deserve a big round of applause.

— Sarah Campbell, *President* ☼

A New Way to Receive Official SRCC News

IN MAY SRCC INTRODUCED a new website for official SRCC business: www.srccatx.org. Approved by the executive committee in February, this new tool enables our officers and committee chairs the ability to send news to the list and publish in this website simultaneously. Those interested in staying current on SRCC business, events, meetings and announcements now have several

options to view this information, including RSS, Facebook or Twitter. The website is intended as a supplement to the invaluable Yahoo list serv and the printed SRCC newsletter.

The website itself offers new functions such as the SRCC calendar, keyword searching, and soon, online payment of dues. Visitors will find valuable resources, including a "Zoning 101" document, useful for bet-

ter understanding issues presented by the Planning & Zoning committee on SRCC agendas.

Visit www.srccatx.org and let us know what you think! Use the contact form on the website to submit comments directly to the SRCC executive committee.

Thanks to Garret Nick, Marc Davis, Gloria Lee, Helen Valdez and Carol Martin for their many hours in making this happen. ☼

SRCC Briefs

- **Participate in the Travis Heights Art Trail** which is held on December 3 & 4 2011. Now is the time to get your applications in to participate in the Travis Heights Art Trail 2011. Application deadline is **July 1, 2011**. If you have any questions, please email or call

Margaret Adie, margaretadie@austin.rr.com, 512 440 8579 or Charlotte Bell, charwolf100@yahoo.com, 512 447 2150. Come join the fun!

- **The liquor store at 343 S. Congress wishes to change to a cocktail lounge.** This is at the intersection of East Riverside and South Congress, at the light.

- **SRCC's listserv www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthRiverAustin**, run by Travis Heights resident Jane Kellogg, is open to anyone to post a message. However, you must subscribe prior to posting. To subscribe send an email to: SouthRiverAustin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or visit the newsgroup website.

Norwood Update

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

THE SECOND NORWOOD COMMUNITY meeting took place on May 17, with good attendance by restoration and dog park advocates. PARD Project Manager Marty Stump opened by acknowledging that inaction and lack of funding created the twin problems of a totally neglected house and the long lifespan of a "temporary" dog park. Jaime Beaman, principal of Casabella Architects, reviewed the previous meeting and presented redevelopment options. Off-leash area advocates pressed their case for retention of the dog park. Stump acknowledged the history of the dog park and said PARD has decided that it will be relocated once a suitable, nearby, replacement is ready.

Casabella presented a variety of interesting ideas: water features, small amphitheater, noise-deadening berms between the park and IH-35. However, the images of new structures *came nowhere near to reflecting the character of the neighborhood.*

The second half of the meeting had attendees discussing three options:

- Restoration of the house and grounds
- Deconstruction of the house and replacement with a new structure and enhancement of grounds
- Redevelopment of the entire property with no structure, or perhaps with a pavilion.

Note that on July 20, Casabella/PARD will present three final options for the future, with associated costs. The costs for restoration will be based on comparable projects around the country, not on the volunteer/donation-based plan developed by the Norwood Posse. Community input is still possible by sending your thoughts to Marty Stump at norwoodfeasibility@ci.austin.tx.us Or visit the PARD website: www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/norwoodtract.htm.

While restoration is always the most expensive when using comparable cost methods, it is also the greenest/sustainable option. Not required, but desired by the Norwood Posse, is a plan to insure that the redeveloped park is financially self-sufficient. For those of us who would like to see the house look like it did in its finest days, our mission is clear: Motivate taxpayers to join us in this demonstration project about how community volunteers can cut the cost of government by helping fix what's broke. This needs to be done soon, so if you decide you can help, know that this is very short-term commitment. ☘

What's Up With EROC*

Toni House, latoniahouse@hotmail.com

► **EAST RIVERSIDE CORRIDOR REGULATING PLAN** City staff hope to schedule a public meeting sometime in July, during which attendees will be able to review and provide feedback on the draft Regulating Plan and proposed changes to the Future Land Use Maps. The draft Regulating Plan will be posted online approximately two weeks prior to the July meeting, and presentation itself will be available shortly after the meeting at www.eastriversidecorridor.com. Notice of this meeting will be mailed to properties located within 500 ft. of the Corridor boundaries and email notice will be sent to the Corridor Interest List. As of May 26th, no firm date or location has been set. The Regulating Plan is scheduled to go before the Planning Commission in September and to City Council in October 2011.

Staff is moving forward with the Corridor Regulating Plan "modification" of single-family compatibility standards which will impact properties adjacent to and near the Corridor boundaries (Area 6). Even more discouraging were the projected results of the density bonus/community benefits revealed during the March 2011 presentation.

The regulatory plan that is adopted for the E. Riverside Corridor **will be used as the base for regulatory plans** developed for other Core Transit Corridors, **such as S. Congress and Oltorf east of IH-35** (a future CTC), so **your feedback is very important.**

► **PEPPER'S BISTRO** An application has been filed to change the use from restaurant/bar to cocktail lounge/liquor sales with late night hours. The EROC NP Contact team opposes this application. Our area has more than its fair share of late-night bars and APD's public intoxication reports for this area are ridiculously high already. Due to the number of existing late night bars/nightclubs on and near E. Riverside and the additional 29,000 sq. ft. cocktail lounge/liquor sales approved for the new PUD developments, we do not need any more late night venues serving alcohol. A new hearing date is expected in the near future.

► **MANSION PROPERTY PARK (MAYBE)** PARD and the property owner of the Mansion property (2100 Parker Ln. and adjoining lots located in SRCC Area 7) have restarted negotiations and we should know by the end of summer whether the Riverside NPA will finally get a park. PARD has not identified any other properties in our area that will fulfill this critical need. ☘

*EROC: E. Riverside/Oltorf Combined Neighborhood Planning Area, encompassing SRCC Areas 6 & 7 as part of the Riverside Neighborhood Planning Area (NPA), Pleasant Valley NPA, and Parker Lane NPA.

Dual Language at TH Elementary

Sherri Ancipink, sherri@ancipink.com

Our neighborhood school's been a'changing over the past few years. Travis Heights Elementary (THE), now known across AISD as "an innovative incubator" for unique and enriching programs, is one of only four official district Dual Language campuses!

Though the school didn't make the 'official' list last year, THE administration and staff implemented the program anyway and what a success it has been! Hats off to Principal Lisa Robertson and her team who took the initiative (with no funding) and made it pay off... AISD noticed that effort early on and has been a supporter ever since! And now it's official!

While Dual Language is a great offering and one reason we have welcomed many transfers to our school this year, the real importance is what the students have learned and how our community continues to benefit! This is an academic program that enhances the development of bilingualism, biculturalism, and biliteracy. Students who participate in dual language, cultural immersion programs at an early age and continue through fifth grade have better test scores and higher achievement across the board.

Over the last fifteen years, Dr. Leo Gómez and Dr. Richard Gómez, Professors in Bilingual/Dual Language Education, have focused their research on language and academic issues that affect bilingual learners. The implementation the Gómez & Gómez 50/50 Dual Language Enrichment Model has proven effective in improving the academic and linguistic achievement (based on standardized test scores in reading, mathematics and science) for predominantly Spanish or English speaking students.

Now is the time to take advantage of this great opportunity. Let your friends and neighbors know about this exceptional program at Travis Heights Elementary. Enrollment for Dual Language for pre-K through third grade is currently open for the 2011–2012 school year. For more information visit THES78704.com, or contact the school at 414–4495.

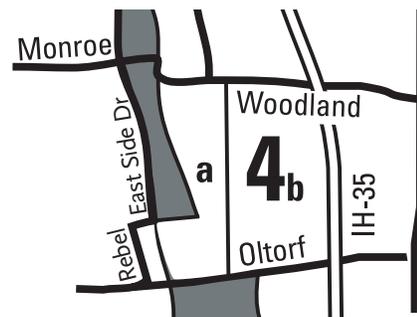
See what some THE parents are saying by visiting the complete article on www.srccatx.org.

Neighborhood Watch, continued from page 1

- ▶ Any neighbor that reports a crime that affected them personally will be offered assistance in taking preventative measures such as strengthening deadbolts, trimming foliage for visibility, and increasing lighting.
- ▶ Volunteers will monitor the APD crime reports and distribute "Crime Alert" fliers immediately to the specific blocks affected by each crime in an effort to warn other neighbors of the activity and encourage them to take precautions. A number of Neighborhood Watch signs will also be placed permanently in the most visible and most crime-affected spots within the area.
- ▶ A set of volunteers will be trained for patrol duty using APD and Barton Hills training methods and they will sign up for periodic patrol duty throughout the area with magnetic neighborhood watch signs for their cars and shirts for foot patrols. These volunteers will be the eyes and ears for APD within the area—reporting anything they see that seems suspicious or out of place.

We are very pleased to have the continued support of APD, Constable Maria Canchola's staff, and the tireless efforts of John Luther from the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association in setting up and executing this plan. These efforts will continue through the end of 2011 when the results will be evaluated. If we can show the kind of improvements that Barton Hills saw after implementing their efforts, we will attempt to expand the pilot program to the rest of the SRCC neighborhoods.

We can't do this alone—we need volunteers who are willing to be trained by APD. If you live in Area 4A or 4B and wish to get involved, please contact Dennis Cudd (denniscudd@gmail.com), Shelly Leibham (shelly.leibham@gmail.com), Marc Davis (marc.davis@gmail.com), or your Block Captain. We are very happy to find a way to use whatever time and effort you can provide. ☼



Why Join SRCC?

Wondering why we ask that you pay dues to your neighborhood association? Well, your dues and membership:

- enables you to vote on issues at SRCC meetings;
- contributes to neighborhood watch programs, neighborhood park enhancements, neighborhood street improvements, newsletters, neighborhood schools, neighborhood planning—basically SRCC efforts to maintain and improve the area we live in;

- shows involvement if you haven't time to volunteer;
- shows your support for your neighbors who are working hard on the neighborhood's behalf.

A large SRCC membership sends the message to City Hall that we care about their actions that affect us. A single membership is \$20; a family membership is \$35. You can find the membership form in this newsletter or online www.srccatx.org or in the newsletter. Coming soon: the option to pay dues via **PayPal!** ☼

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

- 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

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; 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
- East Riverside (ERO)
 - 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.

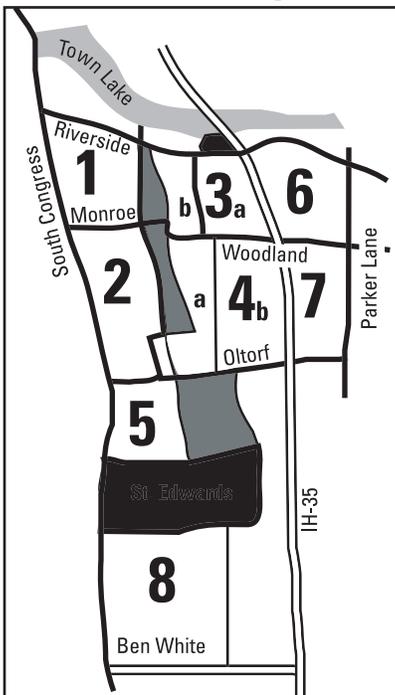
If you want to be part of the group's listserv send a **blank** email to (include hyphen): SouthRiverAustin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

- 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
 - president@srccatx.org
- Vice-President
 - Marc Davis 656-2841
 - vicepresident@srccatx.org
- Treasurer
 - John Foote 441-2849
 - 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) _____

While paying via PayPal will be coming soon to www.srccatx.org, 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.