

Z-News

Austin, Texas

Your Neighborhood Newsletter

February, 1999

A Word from the President Robin Cravey

Neighborhood Power in a Changing World

Just about twenty years ago, with a new baby in arms, my wife Jane and I moved into our little house at the southern edge of the Zilker neighborhood. We could afford our house, with parental help, in part because it had a little rent house in the back yard that provided some income. We chose this neighborhood for a lot of reasons, including mature shade trees, a connected street layout, and easy walking distance to downtown and to Zilker Park. As we raised our children, and got to know the neighborhood, we learned to appreciate other aspects. Its natural integration meant our children could walk to the neighborhood school and still attend a racially mixed school. We felt at home among the broad-minded citizens living here.

Today the neighborhood still possesses all the qualities that brought us here. But it is facing a flood of challenges. Whether we wish it or not, population pressure on the neighborhood keeps mounting. Population growth worldwide and nationwide continues, and Austin's allure means that the area, and the neighborhood, will have to accommodate new residents. This places a strain on services and facilities. Worse, if every new resident must drive solitary in a car, our streets will be choked and dangerous, and our air will be fouled. Too, as new residents move in to work in lucrative new industries, folks working in the city's traditional sectors of government and higher education worry about being priced out of the neighborhood. And things could be even grimmer for people working at the lower margin of the wage scale. All these people live in our neighborhood.

What can the Zilker Neighborhood Association do about all these challenges? With your effort and good will, the association can do a lot. As Austin grows, the city government will find it sensible to delegate authority to neighborhoods. In a city where neighborhoods have always wielded political power, this developing authority will be welcome. And with authority comes responsibility. We can take control of our destiny, if we work together to develop a common vision of our neighborhood and then work even harder to realize it..

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REMINDER



**Don't Forget,
Neighbor!**

The February Zilker Neighborhood Association meeting will be held **Monday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Kinney Ave. Baptist Church Fellowship Hall (1801 Kinney Ave.)

Toby Futrell, Assistant City Manager, will speak on "Smart Growth: What Is It? How Will It Affect Us?"

Good-bye, Friends... But We Hope Not For Long

It is with gratitude that we wish our outgoing ZNA officers "adieu" as they pass the torch of leadership to the newly elected executive officers for 1999. Charles Whitford served as our Zilker Neighborhood Association president for over two years. His tireless energy and commitment to his office made us proud, and his good humor kept our spirits light during some difficult times. Charles decided not to run for office again, as he wished to spend more time with his wife, Marilyn, and their business. We wish him well in whatever he does.

Paulette and Richard Gravois have been the "heart and soul" of the Zilker Neighborhood Association for almost 20 years. They have given so much of their time and energy to the ZNA that we cannot imagine how we will get along without them! They are a wonderful team, and have been terrific role models for our officers to follow. Paulette and Richard decided to take some well-deserved time off. They have promised to remain members of the Zilker Neighborhood Association, but on a less active basis. We are holding them to that promise!

The newly elected executive officers of the ZNA wish to thank Paulette, Richard and Charles for all they have done to make the Zilker Neighborhood Association what it is today!

Meet the New ZNA Officers!

On Monday, November 23, 1998, the new Zilker Neighborhood Association officers were elected by an unanimous vote of the attending membership. Let us introduce you to them!



Robin Cravey

President

Robin and his family have lived in the neighborhood for 20 years. He and Jane were active in the Zilker PTA when kids Emma and Molly were younger. He likes to walk in the neighborhood and around town and swim at Barton Springs every morning.



Jeff Jack

Austin Neighborhoods Council

Jeff has been a Zilker resident since 1984, and a ZNA member since 1980. He represents neighborhood interests in six groups and committees in Austin, but in his *spare* time, he is also a single parent and an architect in private practice.



Kaye Trybus

Vice President

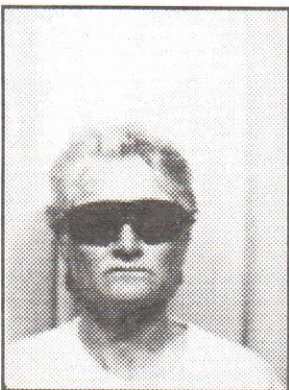
This is Kaye's second term as the ZNA vice president. She has lived in the Zilker area for almost 20 years, and is an avid Lady Longhorns basketball fan. As a neighborhood activist for many years, Kaye's mantra is: "Forever vigilant!"



Harriet Gonzales

By-Laws Chairwoman

Harriet and her husband, Ed, have lived on Kinney Ave. since 1972. She is the mother of three sons, and works as a teaching assistant for A.I.S.D. Harriet says, "I love this neighborhood so much, when the time comes, they will have to carry me out!"



Lorraine Atherton

Secretary

Lorraine has been a Zilker resident since 1980. Since bicycling is her primary mode of transportation, you may have already seen her pedaling around the neighborhood. "What do you think about the traffic calming on Bouldin?", Lorraine asks her neighbors.



Nadine Eckhart

Neighborhood Services

After spending most of her life in the political arena, Nadine continues her work with the neighborhood she loves as the ZNA coordinator of neighborhood services. She says, "I love South Austin. It's worth the effort to maintain what we have here!"



Fontaine Maverick

Treasurer

Fontaine has her own book-keeping business, aptly named, *Taking Care of Business*. She has lived in the Zilker area for 23 years, and stays busy *trying* to keep up with her two year old grandson, Manny! Says Fontaine, "This is the best neighborhood to live in!"



Barbara Cossie

Z-News Editor

Barbara has lived happily in the Zilker neighborhood since leaving Kansas City, Mo. (and its *horrible* winter weather) over 19 years ago. She is pleased to be the new editor of *Z-News*. Barbara says with a sly grin, "Today, *Z-News*. Tomorrow, the *Statesman*!"



Susan Salyor & Jack Davis Social Co-Chairs

Social chair is a new office for the ZNA, and since there is just too much fun to go around, the ZNA had to have two of them! Jack has been a Zilker resident for 5 years. Susan, a nurse, has lived in the area for 3 years. If their picture is any evidence, we will be in for a good time!

Z-News Wants to Know!

Now that we are six weeks into 1999, *Z-News* asked Z-neighbors these important questions:

What was your New Year's resolution? Have you kept it?

"Our resolution was to bathe the dog twice a week. And, no, we haven't."

Jan, Garner Ave.

"I quit doing that (making resolutions) a long time ago. I didn't hold to them anyway."

Curtis, Kerr Ave.

"To stop saying 'No problem' which implies there is a problem, and to say instead, 'My pleasure'. I've been pretty good at remembering."

Joy, Dexter St.

"To exercise and be on time. I haven't kept either one of them. My husband, Dennis, made the being on time resolution for me, so I wasn't really committed to that one."

Amy, Holland Ave.

"I promised myself that I would stop staying up until midnight just so I could watch *The Jerry Springer Show*. I broke that resolution about January 6. Please don't use my name. I'm not proud of this."

Anonymous, near Kinney Ave.

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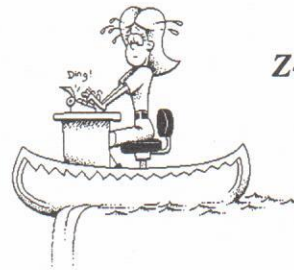
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If you have a business or service you would like to advertise in *Z-News*, call Barbara at 326-1222 for our ad rates. The next issue of *Z-News* will be published **April 6**.

Neighborhood Power....continued from page 1

We can't allow ourselves to dream that we will keep our little neighborhood unaffected while the currents of change swirl around us. Rather, we must mount the currents of change and ride them.

If we join together, we can make this neighborhood association a powerful force for the kind of change we want. It will take time and patience to agree on what we want. So when we disagree, let's work it out here in the neighborhood. There's a meeting February 22. Come see what you can do.

WHAT WILL Z-NEIGHBORS SAY?



Nothing... if you don't tell them about it!

Z-News wants to know what is happening in your life. Send your notices of



birthdays
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Rush jobs welcome!

A Note from Zilker School

"School's out, school's out. Teacher let the monk..." well, you know the rest.

Be aware, parents! Zilker School will be closed for **Spring Break** from **March 15 -23**.

Hey, everybody needs a break!

Zilker PTA Parents, you get a night off. There will be no General PTA Meeting in March. Mark your calendars for the following month though. The next meeting is **Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.**

Coffee anyone?

Did you know that the Zilker Elementary School PTA has its own coffeehouse?



Neither did we. Now that you know, you are invited to drop by the school cafeteria on **Friday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.**, have a cuppa joe and see what the fun is all about. Everyone is welcome. In addition to the fine coffee, there will be some excellent entertainment to boot!

ZilkerAid

Want to hear some great music *and* help Zilker Elementary School at the same time? Well, folks, head on out to the **Continental Club on Saturday, February 20 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** for the "Zilker Arts in Education" benefit concert. There will be some mighty fine musicians ready to pull out the stops for this benefit! You'll be tappin' your toes to the snappy tunes **LeaAnne Atherton, Will Sexton, Reckless Kelly, Hair of the Dog, Zilker Underground Conjunto Band, Jan Evans and Alejandro Escovedo**. The money raised from this event will be used to help build the Zilker Elementary School Outdoor Theater & Learning Center. Tickets are only \$8.00. That's a small price to pay for something that will really benefit our kids over the years, wouldn't you say?

The important thing about your lot in life is whether you use it for building *or* parking!

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9:30 am - 3:00 p.m.

Stephen F. Austin School Cafeteria

1715 W. Cesar Chavez Street

Free!--Door prizes!--Entertainment!

Thank You--Merci--Gracias

In December, you may have noticed that the church at 2109 Goodrich was defaced with red graffiti. Within a few days, however, a fresh coat of white paint covered the blight that marred the front of the church. We have no idea who our "neighborhood angel" was, but the ZNA officers want to thank the person who took the time to make sure the graffiti did not stay in sight for long. It is nice to know that we have good Zilker folks who, not only are watching over our neighborhood, but are taking care of it as well!

Please help keep Zilker graffiti-free. If you see any graffiti in our neighborhood, call the City of Austin Graffiti Abatement Program (GAP) at 473-4125 and the Austin Police Department at 480-5001.

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It's easy! Annual dues are only \$5.00 per person.

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Send this completed form and your check (payable to ZNA) to:

Fontaine Maverick, Treasurer
Zilker Neighborhood Association
1006 Kinney Ave.
Austin, Texas 78704
(Told you it was easy!)

Z-News Newsletter

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