

# Z-News

Austin, Texas

Your Neighborhood Newsletter

April, 1999

## The President's Message

### Milestones and Landmarks in the life of the Neighborhood

Robin Cravey

The Zilker Elementary School Cafetorium filled with music, laughter and talk the evening of March 26 for the annual Zilker Coffee House. Kids of all ages, parents, teachers and friends entertained each other with songs, dancing, stories, skits and poetry. I was there to read a few of my poems for the crowd, and had a great time. It may have my first time back at the Coffee House since my daughters, Emma and Molly, finished Zilker and went on to Kealing.

At the Coffee House, Zilker Principal Ramona Trevino mentioned that the school will soon celebrate its 50th anniversary. The teachers and kids are doing historical research, and want help from the neighborhood in research and the upcoming celebration.

The fire station at Kinney and Collier will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Saturday, May 8. We invite you to attend the celebration. See page 6 for more information.

As the work on Robert E. Lee Road goes on, the flood of detoured cars into our neighborhood continues. The executive committee delivered letters to the City Council requesting stricter speed enforcement in Zilker. The Public Works Department has released a proposed traffic calming list that includes our neighborhood. We ask you to call Public Works to thank them for putting Zilker on the list and City Council to urge them to approve the proposal.

Public Works will begin construction on Barton Springs Road by December. This will include landscaped medians that will turn Barton Springs Road into a pleasant boulevard. Since the Council approved the plan last year, Good Eats has bitten the dust, and the property is now for sale. The executive committee is urging the City Council to buy the property to put in a roundabout at Kinney and Barton Springs Road with metered parking spaces on the rest of the tract.

The RaceTrac developer who is intent on locating a megagas station on South Lamar next to Genie Car Wash is close to obtaining city approval. This coming blight on the landscape and generator of traffic is unwelcome. Our efforts to stop RaceTrac from being built may be too late, but we are determined to give it a try.

*continued on page 6*

**Look!**  
**New meeting location!**



### JUST A REMINDER!

**The April Zilker Neighborhood  
Association meeting will be held**

**Monday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Zilker Elementary School**

**1900 Bluebonnet Lane**

**Building C2 (On the right side of the school)**

**Our Guest Speakers will be:**

Kay Plavidal, Sierra Club  
Officer Fred Rodriguez, Austin Police Dept.  
Ramona Trevino, Principal of Zilker School

### A Wag 'n a Lick? Or a Bark 'n a Bite?

Ah, Spring! Lost in the moment, you walk, jog or bike along the quiet streets of our beautiful neighborhood. You feel the warmth of the sun on your face, admire the beauty of the colorful flower gardens and hear the laughter of children at play. But what is that ahead?



A dog--a big dog--and he is coming right at you. Will he give you a friendly wag of his tail as he passes, or something more?

Of course, no responsible dog owner would ever believe that *his* dog would bite, hurt or attack anyone unprovoked. However, there have been recent reports of dogs attacking other dogs and biting one person in the Zilker neighborhood. Although it is not our purpose to frighten anyone unnecessarily, we do feel it is important to inform our residents of the dangers of loose dogs roaming the area.

Loose dogs can be intimidating and frightening to young children and even some adults who have been injured by dogs in the past. Since many people walk their dogs on leashes, a roaming dog can present a possible danger to the leashed dog or owner, if he decides to attack. Diane Zeidler,

*continued on page 2*

*A Wag...continued from page 1*

Animal Control Supervisor at the City of Austin, said, "It's against the law for any dog to be off the leash or outside a fenced area."

Dog owners, please let's give our walkers, bikers and runners some peace of mind by not having them wonder if your dog is going to give them a wag and lick, or a bark and a bite. Please keep Rover in his yard or on a leash. *He* will be safer, too, especially now since more traffic is being detoured into our neighborhood.

### What to Do if You Are Approached by a Dog

- 1. Cover your hands.** If an unknown dog approaches, put your hands in your pockets or wrap your hands under your shirt and out of sight until you have passed the dog. Don't pet, or encourage your children to pet, an unfamiliar dog no matter how friendly he appears..
- 2. Don't make eye contact with the dog.** This is not a contest, so let him win this one. Direct eye contact may be an indication that you want to challenge him. Keep your eyes on the dog so you will know where he is at all times, but don't look directly at him.
- 3. Walk slowly.** If the dog believes you are on his turf, he may do anything he can to get you off by taking an aggressive stance. Walk slowly away from the dog. **Do not run.** Walk closer to the other side of the street to show him that you are not interested in his domain.
- 4. Try not to panic.** Ms. Zeidler advises, "If a dog is being aggressive (barking at you or growling, baring his teeth, etc.), don't turn your back on him. Don't yell at him. Do not run from him. If you are carrying a backpack, purse or even a walking stick, put the object between you and the dog."
- 5. If all else fails, yell for help.** In this neighborhood, calls for help are taken very seriously, so don't cry "wolf" unless it is necessary. However, if you *do* feel your life is in danger, let someone know. If the dog's owner comes to take the dog away, explain to the owner what behavior the dog exhibited and why you were frightened.
- 6. If you are bitten by a dog, call Animal Control at 708-6060 or 911 immediately.** "When Animal Control is called, there is a 15 to 30 minute response time," said Ms. Zeidler. If some one is standing near by, ask him or her to take down the description of the dog (markings, color, breed) and the direction the dog was

headed. Get the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses. You want to have as many details of the event as possible for reporting purposes. Wait for Animal Control to come to treat your bite.

- 7. If you see dogs fighting, don't intervene!** The last thing *you* want to do is get between fighting dogs. Be safe, be smart and stay away from the fray. If possible, find the owners of the dogs to separate them, or call Animal Control at 708-6060.



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## HAVE YOU HEARD Z-NEWS?

### You Can Eat As Much Cake As You Want When You're 100!

We want to wish Miss Allie Mae LaFrentz a very happy 100th birthday! She was born May 3, 1899 and lived in the Zilker area for many years. Miss LaFrentz worked as a saleslady (that's what they called a woman salesperson in the old days) and designer in the hat department at the downtown Scarborough's store. Her friend, Mrs. Wallin, said of Miss LaFrentz, "I remember her wearing her hat and gloves everywhere she went. She was a neat lady." Miss LaFrentz now lives in the Retirement and Nursing Center. Although she has lost her ability to hear, she can see quite well and still loves to read. We would like to encourage all our Z-neighbors to send Miss LaFrentz a card on her very special centennial birthday. Send your cards and good wishes to:



Miss Allie Mae LaFrentz  
Room 218  
Retirement and Nursing Center  
6909 Burnet Lane  
Austin, Texas 78757

### We Have More Birthdays in Zilker Than You Can Shake a Candle At!

Okay, we've heard of "baby boomers", but can there be "building boomers"? If so, Zilker Elementary School and the Kinney Avenue Fire House would have to be two of them. Both buildings are 50 years old this year! Look for celebration activities to be announced for Zilker Elementary School.

Everyone is invited to attend the 50th anniversary celebration of the **Kinney Avenue Fire House** on **Saturday, May 8** between **1:00 - 5:00 p.m.** Bring the kids, 'cause there will be tons of fun! But watch it. If the party gets *too* wild, the firehose may have to be turned on you party-goers!

**Forget Martha Stewart.** If anyone knows how to throw a good party, it would be Ruth Petty, owner of Robin's Party and Bridal Shop at 2149 South Lamar. She's got everything you need to celebrate any occasion, plus gift items galore. A hardy congratulations on your 35th year in business, Ruth.

**The trouble with good advice is that you often learn how good it is after *not* taking it!**



Buying or selling your house?

## Tom Amiss

Zilker resident and specialist

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tomamiss@aol.com

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## Robin Theobald Cravey

General Practice of Law

Vaughn Building

807 Brazos Street Suite 910

Austin, Texas 78701

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## On January 1, Will You Be Y2 OK?

The old saying, "You can run, but you can't hide", will certainly ring true for the upcoming year. As the clock races closer to January 1, 2000, the possibility of widespread interruptions to some services dependent on computers may become a reality. Referred to as "the Y2K problem", the question of how deeply this breakdown in technology will affect us has been discussed, studied and predicted for years. What no one can really tell us, however, is what will happen, or not happen as the case may be, and how long the problem will last. With eight months left in the calendar year, people are starting to ask basic questions regarding the Y2K problem: "On January 1, will the traffic lights be working? Will my grocery store have enough food? Should I book that airline ticket to Europe for January 1?" The answer to those questions are: "Probably, more than likely and I wouldn't"

Talking about the Y2K and how it will affect us will get various responses. Everyone seems to have an opinion on how to prepare, how seriously to take Y2K or where to find the latest information. Some folks want to lie low until the problem is solved by separating themselves from as much dependency on technology as possible. They are starting now to buy and store food, water and supplies in large quantities. Other folks may feel that there is no need to worry. Believing that "Everything will be taken care of by the year 2000" can be a comfort for some folks in the confusing world of technology.

Then there is the "middle ground" approach to Y2K. These "middle grounders" feel that something will happen. They are more apt to believe that whatever problems arise will not result in a technological ongoing nightmare of computer breakdowns. Nor will they deny the fact that some computer problems will create a certain amount of havoc individually and around the world. Whatever happens, the transition from December 31, 1999 to January 1, 2000 will be much more dramatic than just hanging a new calendar on the wall.

Federal, state and local officials have advised us to prepare for January 1, 2000 in a way that we would for a hurricane. (Remember, however, no matter how far north you go, it will still be 2000 when you get there! See the first sentence of this article, if you need a reminder.) So just what should you do, besides making December 31, 1999 the biggest celebration you've ever seen?

It has been suggested that each household stockpile enough food and water to see the family members through at least 72 hours. This means doing two things: First, whatever you do, DON'T PANIC! You do not need to hoard so much food that you can start your own grocery store on January 2. Second, start stocking up on supplies now. Canned meats and fish, crackers, powdered milk, canned and dried fruits, nuts, bottled water and the like might be good to have available if there is a problem getting food. If there is no problem, these items can still be used throughout the year. In fact, on July 1, 2000, invite your friends and neighbors over for a "What Was the Fuss All

About Anyway?" Party. Serve all the food you got in anticipation of Y2K. What fun it will be to sit around the back yard, eating those cocktail weenies you bought and talking over the ol' days of January, 2000!

In addition to food and water, you will want to stock up any prescription drugs and medications that you or family members may need during the first two weeks of January. Think about what you and your family use on a daily basis, and begin purchasing these items now. Don't forget the pets! Stock up on food and litter for them. Have enough flashlights and batteries on hand for each family member. Before December 30, fill the gas tank in your vehicle. Have cash available. You may find ATM's and credit card machines are not working for a short time, so cash may be the only way to purchase goods and services. Every bank and business will say they are Y2K ready, but do you want to find out they are not on January 2?

It is safe to say that the unpredictability of Y2K will affect everyone. Some folks may be more vulnerable. The elderly, those with serious medical conditions, single parents with young children and those with other special needs cannot, and should not, be ignored. Check on your neighbors to find out if they need any assistance during the first few days of January.

If you are interested in working on the ZNA Y2K (*that's a mouthful!*) Committee or want to know more about what our community is doing to prepare, you are invited to attend ZNA General Meeting on Monday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. The committee will provide ongoing information on preparation and assistance to the community and establish a list of volunteers that will be available to see to the needs of emergency cases that may arise. Doctors, nurses, midwives and social workers will be especially needed, if there is a breakdown in medical care. However, everyone has skills that may be needed during this time.

January 1, 2000 promises us very exciting, if not unpredictable, days ahead. Of course, we will see through any problems. Our resourcefulness and ability to cope will only make us stronger. If you have any doubts about that, ask your parents or grandparents how they survived the Great Depression of the '30's or World War II. Y2K? It's a "drop in the bucket" compared to those two life-changing events. Just make sure you have a bucket!



**Remember to vote!  
Saturday, May 1**

**As an American citizen,  
it's your right *and* privilege.**

## A Note from Zilker School

**You can't forget the date, when the party is named for it!**

Thank goodness the **Cinco de Mayo Celebration** is on **Wednesday, May 5**. You know how hard it is to keep track of these things! So salsa, samba or sashay on over to the grounds of Zilker School, and enjoy the food, music and dancing. The party starts at **6:30 p.m.** It's fun *and* it's free!

**"The principal will see you now."**

Didn't you just *hate* those words when you were a kid? But now that you are grown, maybe you *want* to see the principal. Ms. Ramona Treviño, the principal at Zilker School wants to see you, too! So she is inviting you for coffee at her place--Zilker, that is. Her **Principal's Coffee Hour** is scheduled for **Friday, April 30** and **Friday, May 14** at **8:00 a.m.** It's a great opportunity to visit informally with her and other parents. If you have a child at Zilker, drop in and have a cup of coffee with Ms. Trevino. She would love to see you!



## LA FRENCH BAKERY & CAFE

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## OLD PHOTOGRAPHS... RESTORED

also...family, children and pet portraits

**Rick**

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*Your Zilker Neighborhood Photographer*

A Word...continued from page 1

Recently, some executive committee members have attended meetings regarding Austin's Smart Growth Plan. The city is sponsoring an all-day workshop for neighborhoods and the Smart Growth on the on **Saturday, April 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Austin Convention Center.** You encouraged to participate by attending and sharing your ideas for how Austin should grow.

At the general meeting on Monday, April 26, we will be discussing these issues and others of interest to the neighborhood. This meeting will also mark the halfway point for the current executive committee members who were elected in November. It maybe too early to begin reminiscing, but it's not too early to begin planning for the next term. Elections will be held at our fall meeting, and I hope many of you will consider seeking an office including the presidency. At this time, we have the Neighborhood Services position and other committee chairs open. Volunteering for a position now will give you chance to see how you like being a Zilker Neighborhood Association executive officer.

*Robin Cravey*

The City of Austin Fire Department  
and  
Zilker Neighborhood Association  
invite you and your family to join us in celebrating

### The 50th Anniversary of Fire House #11

Saturday, May 8, 1999 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

1605 Kinney Avenue



Food and Fun \* Activities for the Kids  
Open House \* Fire Safety Demonstrations

### Join your ZNA now. Get in on Z-Action!

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt.#: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Fontaine Maverick, Treasurer  
Zilker Neighborhood Association  
P. O. Box 33546  
Austin, Texas 78764-0546

## Z-News Newsletter

Z-News is published four times per year by the Zilker Neighborhood Association of Austin, Texas, P. O. Box 33546 Austin, Texas 78764-0546.

### ZNA Officers

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447-8014

Vice President  
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447-4437

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447-5877

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416-8272

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Barbara Cossie  
326-1222

ZNA meetings are held four times per year, and are on the last scheduled Monday of the month. General meetings are open to all.