

# Z-News

Austin, Texas

Your Neighborhood Newsletter

July, 1999

## The President's Message

### Let's Go! Calming Traffic and Using Mass Transit

Robin Cravey

Neighbors, the opportunities to cultivate our little patch of Austin continue to grow. We face challenges to reach consensus among ourselves and to connect our common goals to the city at large. Two meetings this month exemplify these opportunities and challenges. At the meeting sponsored by the City Public Works Department on Thursday, July 8, we began a process for calming traffic in our neighborhood. At our next Zilker Neighborhood Association meeting on Monday, July 26, Capital Metro representatives will give us information regarding their upcoming plans for expanding the mass transit system in Austin. To include all citizens in the decisions, Capital Metro is seeking citizen input through their "Your Opinion Counts" outreach program. Come to the neighborhood meeting, and let Capital Metro know what you want *and* don't want in the mass transit system in the next millennium.

#### Traffic Calming

At the July 8 meeting, folks showed a good deal of confusion about what the traffic calming program is. It isn't a sidewalk program or a stop sign program or a speed limit program or a police patrol program. All these programs continue on their own terms. The bonds we passed last year did contain new money for sidewalks, but that's a separate program.

The traffic calming program is one of the dividends to neighborhoods of our humming economy. Developed over a dozen years ago, it was put on the shelf when the land speculation bubble burst and the economy deflated. Now that business is booming and tax revenues are up, the city council has budgeted money to this program.

As more people move into our city, vehicular traffic on our streets has increased. We've seen that on South Lamar, Barton Springs Road and the inner streets as drivers cut through our neighborhood. This additional traffic, compounded by speeding cars, has become a danger to our children, our friends, our pets, our wildlife and our peace of mind. They make us fear to walk or ride our bikes. So we've complained. We've asked the city to protect our neighborhood, and the City Council has responded. The goals of the traffic calming program are very simple: to slow down traffic inside the neighborhood *and* to

*continued on page 7*

### JOIN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 1999 IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

In this day of air conditioning and closed doors, we often do not know the neighbors living on our own block. Is the moving van that just pulled up at your neighbor's front door there to load up the furniture and appliances for the family's move to Maine, or to give the family a *big* surprise of an empty house when they arrive home later tonight?



Crooks count on people *not* knowing what is going on around them. It makes it easier for them to make a clean getaway. Therefore, getting to know your neighbors and being observant to the activities happening on your street can be a small step to deterring crime.

On **Tuesday, August 3 from 7 - 10 p.m.**, neighborhoods throughout Austin are invited to join with thousands of communities nationwide for **National Night Out 1999**. This year, as each year since 1983, all Zilker residents are asked to spread the message of community support and crime prevention by turning on their porch lights and spending the evening outdoors meeting their neighbors. Hosting a block party or potluck, or walking the neighborhood and introducing yourself are some easy ways to do this.

Friends; for just one night forget the air conditioning. Turn off your television and turn on your porch lights! Sit on the porch, or walk your block and meet your neighbors. It could be a small price to pay to fight crime!



### JUST A REMINDER, NEIGHBOR!

The July Zilker Neighborhood Association meeting will be held  
**Monday, July 26 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Zilker Elementary School**  
in the School Cafetorium  
1900 Bluebonnet

**"Your Opinion Counts!"**

A representative from Capital Metro will ask us  
about our vision of Austin's transportation future.

## TOWN LAKE PARK MOVING FORWARD

Jeff Jack

ZNA Austin Neighborhoods Council Delegate

The Town Lake Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the City of Austin in 1989, called for the creation of a "cultural park" at Auditorium Shores in the area surrounding Palmer Auditorium. Ten years later, due in large measure to the efforts of many neighborhood and community volunteers, we are beginning to see our vision become reality. The bond propositions passed last November authorized the City of Austin to lease Palmer Auditorium to performing arts groups, build a new community events center and parking garage, and make needed park improvements. Since then, stakeholders representing the arts community, the users of Palmer Auditorium and the Coliseum, park advocates and neighborhood representatives have worked together to develop a comprehensive master plan for Town Lake Park.

The master plan calls for the new buildings clustered around Palmer Auditorium to maximize access to the parking garage. This allows the western portion of the site to be left as green space spreading from Barton Springs Road to the lake front, with Riverside Drive removed. The park will include picnic facilities, sculpture areas, concessions, fountains and water features, educational exhibits, and open play areas. This plan has been endorsed by all the involved stakeholder groups.

The master plan has much community support, but there are several issues in question. The closing of Riverside Drive, the amount of concessions to be allowed in the park and the funding schedule for park improvements will be decided by the Austin City Council on Thursday, July 29. The Zilker Neighborhood Association executive committee urges all interested Zilker residents to attend the City Council meeting to give their opinions when the master plan of Town Lake Park will be presented.

The ZNA executive committee would like to thank the many neighborhood volunteers who participated in the park design process, particularly Kaye Trybus, ZNA vice president. She has given many hours of service as a member of the stakeholder's committee.

"There is still much to be done, but I believe Town Lake Park will be 'the crown jewel' of Austin", states Kaye. "The park will be enjoyed by Austin citizens and its visitors for many years to come."

If you would like more information regarding plans for Town Lake Park, call Kaye at 447-4437.

**The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it *back* in your wallet.**

## Buying or selling your house?



## Tom Amiss

Zilker resident and specialist

See why he is Austin's  
"Realtor of the Year"

442-8581

860-8855 (pager)

tomamiss@aol.com

**Austin  
Yoga  
Center**  
916-4499

"Yoga for the Heart of Austin"

*Dance  
Meditation  
Contact Improvisation  
Public & Private  
Hatha Yoga Classes  
7 days a week*

1122-C South Lamar (Lamar Plaza)

Leave your name & phone number  
when calling for our schedule of classes.



## Angels Along the Way

"From Vintage to Velvet"

Clothing 40's to the 90's

*Women, Men & Children's Clothing Consignments*

Gifts

Collectibles

Ty Beanie Babies®

1050-H South Lamar.

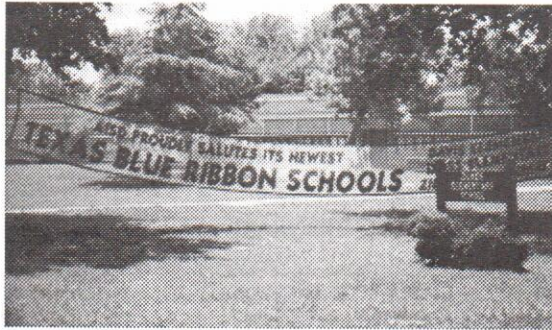
(Lamar Plaza)

442-4147

**10% off with this ad!**

## Zilker Elementary School Wins National Blue Ribbon

As an enthusiastic crowd of children, parents, teachers, and neighbors gathered on the lawn of Zilker Elementary on May 21, when several dignitaries honored Zilker and three other Austin schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for educational excellence. The ceremony, led by U. S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett, included school district trustees, city and county officials, and Texas Board of Education member Will Davis who recognized the school. School principal Ramona Treviño praised the Zilker students, teachers and parents for earning this outstanding award. Former principal Gilbert Cantu was also on hand to enjoy the festivities. The occasion was filled with hugs and handshakes as parents of kids who have gone on to high school, college and beyond greeted each other and the dedicated teachers who have given so many youngsters their educational start on the road to scholastic achievement.



*Congressman Lloyd Doggett was among the dignitaries honoring Zilker Elementary and other area schools for academic excellence.*



## Your Key to the Zilker Neighborhood

**Specializing in Central Austin since 1982.**



**Call me before you list your home  
for an accurate market analysis.**

**Your Zilker neighbor**

**Virginia Ivey, Realtor**

**tel 447-3336 fax 447-6680 email vrivey@earthlink.com**

## HAVE YOU HEARD Z-NEWS?

**Smile for the camera!** If you and your family attended the **50th Anniversary Celebration at the Zilker Neighborhood Fire Station** on Sunday, May 13, you or your children may be in the pictures taken at the event. We have some really cute photos of the kids and Hydro! If you would like to see the pictures or want copies, call Barbara at 326-1222.



**Come on out and show your stuff...** at the **Zilker Fall Zestival**, that is! If you are an artist, craftsperson, card or palm reader, face painter or entertainer, the Zilker Neighborhood Association wants you! Our Zilker Fall Zestival, tentatively scheduled for a weekend in October, is now in the planning stages. This event will be a fundraiser for the ZNA and a great way for Zilker artisans to display their wares before the holidays head into high gear. If you are interested in having a table or booth at the Zilker Fall Zestival, or want to help in the planning, call Fontaine at 443-3290 or Barbara at 326-1222.

**A big welcome goes out to Bob** who moved over from the **Bouldin** neighborhood to **Wright Street** this month. **Hope we see you at our neighborhood meeting, Bob!**

We are very sad to report that **Miss Allie Mae LaFrentz**, who celebrated her 100th birthday on May 3 surrounded by family and friends, passed away just eight days later due to heart failure. We send our condolences to her loved ones.

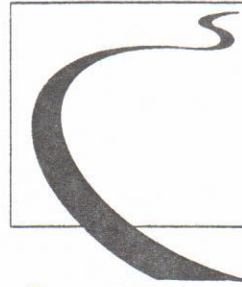
If you have had, or are having, a birthday, wedding, baby or anniversary let us know about your good news.

We'd love to tell Z-Neighbors!

*Z-News*

P. O. Box 33546

Austin, Texas 78764-0546



Eleanor H. McKinney  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, INC.

OFFICE MANAGER  
For A  
Landscape Architecture Firm

30 hrs./week  
Flexible Hours  
Experience Necessary

Eleanor H. McKinney  
445-5202

## KENNY HILL'S AUTOWERKS

*Professional Service For Import Cars  
Specializing in Volkswagen & Audi*

445-0101 GOODRICH @ S. LAMAR  
MasterCard, VISA, American Express, Discover accepted

## KALEIDOPROPERTIES



ZILKER NEIGHBORHOOD  
REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

*We Love Spreading GOOD NEWS!*

Peach and Cynthia Reynolds  
1709 Bluebonnet Ln.



## LOVE's Story

Last summer, my neighbor and I planted a flower garden in a plot of dirt that sets between our two driveways. It's a struggling little garden filled with salvia, columbines, shasta daisies and a plant my mother calls "lives forever". Among the plants, I placed two stones. They weren't those "tumbled 'til they're smooth" river rocks with loving messages etched into them like the ones you find in those fancy gardening catalogues. They were just two common yard rocks. On one rock I wrote JOY & PEACE in block letters using some blue paint left over from a past unfinished project. I placed that rock in the back area of our tiny garden. On the second stone, which I set in front, I wrote LOVE. As primitive as they looked, the garden seemed to like those two rocks as well as my neighbor and I did.

It was not too long after that, I found myself sitting near my open window enjoying the twilight of the day. It was one of those days where time wasn't going anywhere and neither was I. Seemingly engrossed in their conversation, I noticed three teenagers walk pass my view. Seconds later I heard a sharp thud, but my mind was elsewhere, so I thought little of the reason for the sound. Later that evening, when I went to my garden, I found LOVE had been broken in two. Split right in half. My guess is, due to the timing of the teens walking pass my yard, and the sound I heard at that time, one of the boys took it upon himself to break the rock in two.

I find myself often thinking about that young man. I wonder what message registered in his brain when he saw that simple little rock with the simple word LOVE crudely written on it. Whatever message it was, he had to make an immediate decision to reject the image, the memories and feelings appearing before him. Picking up another rock and raising it over his head, he threw that stone down with such a force that it snapped his target in half. I wonder, too, what his two friends thought of his deed. Were they, too, in silent agreement?

Surprisingly, I'm not angry with the young man. In truth, it was *only* a rock. But I do feel sorry for the lad. I would like to ask him why. Why was he so afraid of LOVE? So afraid that he had to destroy the very evidence of its existence. I would like to ask him, had I written on that stone in block letters with blue paint the words, HATE or FEAR, would he have taken the *same* action?

With a sense of sadness, I took the two rocks, turned them over and put them in the back in the garden to hide behind the bushy growth of blooming columbines. The shame of their destruction would be seen only by my eyes. But then, just as suddenly, I changed my mind. I set the rocks back in their original position. So now, in this small garden, there are two stones which were once one. Broken apart by some unknown hand, now placed side by side, they still spell an even greater message. It is this: *Yes, LOVE can be broken, but it can never truly be destroyed.*

## What's Good in the 'Hood

I'll start off this article by paraphrasing Will Rogers by saying, "I never met a pastry I didn't like." Oh, sure some are better than others. But who can resist the taste of that flaky crust, the feel of real butter staining the fingers and the smell of fresh baked goods? Not me. So when I am in the mood for a taste of France (where *real* pastries are made), I head over to **La French Bakery & Cafe**.

Finding La French Bakery may be a little difficult at first. Up to a month ago, you could have easily passed this sweet (no pun intended) little pastry shop by. It sits back from the street right on the corner of Bluebonnet and South Lamar. But recently the owners put a sign (LARGE, orange) right in front, and it reads "French Bakery". How much easier can it get?

The first time I entered La French, I was impressed with the light airy feeling that filled the dining room. With windows across one wall and the sunshine splashing across the lovely wood tables and chairs, the room had the warmth of a charming tea room. I found the service to be quick, friendly and delightful. I had a chance to practice my French, too, as the owners are from Cannes, France.

Then, of course, there are the cases filled with treats to delight the eye and tastebuds. Creamy cheese cakes, flaky croissants, beautiful hand-decorated cakes, cookies, Neapolitans (my favorite) and other yummy desserts line up side-by-side to tempt the tongue. If you want coffee with your pastry, there is cappuccino, cafe au lait and espresso available.

So you don't want to start off your day on a sweet note? La French also serves breakfast--and lunch. Two scrambled eggs on a croissant (remember this *is* a French bakery) with ham and cheese *and* coffee runs \$3.95. The owners have recently added omelets to their breakfast menu. For you late risers, breakfast is served until 10:30 a.m. Lunch offers a fine selection of sandwiches, quiches, salads, and soups.

Drop in to La French Bakery & Cafe some morning, say "Bon jour!", and taste a bit of heaven. What a way to start a day!

*"What's Good in the Hood" focuses on businesses and services in the Zilker neighborhood. Your business keeps these businesses--and our neighborhood--thriving.*

## UNBOUND FEET

EMPOWERING CHILDREN THROUGH  
CREATIVE DANCE

ongoing enrollment for  
ages 6-12

moving to the beat of our feet, and  
music from around the world!

classes held at 1122 S. Lamar  
FOR MORE INFO. CALL 288-6656



## IN SEARCH OF...

Looking for a fun, easygoing, energetic person to show the Zilker Neighborhood Association a good time. If you enjoy being the life of the party as well as *hosting* the party, you might be the Social Chairperson the ZNA needs! Call Robin at 447-8014.

Like to walk? Enjoy being outdoors? Have dreams of getting your own paper route someday? Then it sounds like you might be the right person for... the ZNA! Get your own copy of *Z-News* hot off the press, and then deliver the rest to your neighbors. Call Barbara at 326-1222.

You know who you *are*, but are you the kind of person that likes to know *where you are*? If so, you may be the perfect person to help the ZNA Neighborhood Planning Committee define the geographical boundaries of our neighborhood for data collecting purposes. Must have a good pair of walking shoes, and a strong desire to make a difference. Call Lorraine at 447-7681.

Are you the outdoor type? Enjoy the smell of grass? (fresh-mowed, that is!) Then the ZNA would like your help in maintaining the church grounds on Goodrich Ave. If you have a few extra hours to spare one Saturday a month, want a good physical workout and like doing yard work (think *big yard!*), call Kaye at 447-4437.

Want to have a good time? Want to see that everyone else has a good time, too? Then we need your help in planning Zilker's Fall Zestival! You'll have the time of your life. Call Fontaine at 443-3290.

Are there any more at home like you? Oh-h-h, I hope so! But then--how would we know if they aren't on our ZNA membership list? Join our Membership Committee, and help our Zilker Neighborhood Association grow. You'll be in great company! Call Kaye at 447-4437.

## Robin Theobald Cravey

*General Practice of Law*

**512-236-9655**

Vaughn Building  
807 Brazos Street Suite 910  
Austin, Texas 78701

## Art Lessons for Kids 5-12



"Rat Fink" drawn by Nik, Age 11,  
at Monart Cartoon Camp

## Monart Drawing School

708 S. Lamar, Suite E  
(512) 444-5642

Register now for the remaining  
summer mini-camps!

## Southside Printing Service

Instant Printing Rubber Stamps  
Business Cards Stationery Forms

**1050-F S. Lamar**

(Lamar Plaza)

**444-2590**

**Fax: 444-6337**

Monday-Friday  
8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Saturday  
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

*Rush jobs welcome!*

The Official Printer of *Z-News*,  
the Newsletter of the Zilker Neighborhood Association

*continued from page 1*

encourage through-traffic to stay on the arterial streets. This is done by installing a variety of structures on neighborhood streets. Some force drivers to slow down, and some restrict entry to certain streets. The process is fair and inclusive.

Recently, the city staff mailed invitations to attend a public meeting at the Kinney Avenue Baptist Church on Thursday, July 8 to every resident, property owner and business owner in the area. Included in the invitation was a survey which requested information regarding traffic problem areas in our neighborhood. Almost one hundred Zilker residents packed the room that night.. With city staff support, a working group of twenty-one people—all volunteers—was chosen to meet monthly over the next six months to develop a traffic calming plan for our neighborhood. After the group determines the needs of the neighborhood, another public meeting will allow residents to give their opinions regarding the options. The neighborhood will then vote the plan up or down.

**At our first public meeting**, people spoke up with many different views. Some people gave enthusiastic support to the program. Some argued for or against particular devices. Some complained about particular streets. Some worried about slowing down fire trucks and ambulances. Some just didn't want anything done.

Doing nothing is an option, but not one I favor. As a member of the working group, I will be intent on producing a plan that accomplishes the goals—slowing and reducing traffic in the neighborhood—and can win the support of two thirds of our neighbors. I also hope to bring some beauty to our streets. The key to the success of this project will be for everyone to proceed with open minds and good will.

#### Capital Metro

The presentation and dialogue with Capital Metro at our Monday, July 26 meeting will give us another chance to affect change. Capital Metro has been working hard to transform itself. The new board began by putting its financial house in order. Then it hired new management. Now that new management is coming out to the neighborhoods to ask us what we want in our transit system.

**The transit system has a big job.** It must improve circulation in the city, reduce auto traffic (or stop its growth) and so reduce air pollution. The city as a whole will require light rail. Unfortunately, our neighborhood is not in any of the light rail plans.

**So what can Zilker reasonably expect?** I think our neighborhood should expect the same things that Capital Metro owes the city as a whole. Capital Metro should make it easy and convenient for us to travel to any part of the city. It should take cars off South Lamar and Barton Springs Road by carrying commuters who live in the suburbs. And it should clear our air. To better connect us with the city, Capital Metro should give us more routes, frequent service and better information. We have routes connecting us to the south, the east and the northeast. We should have a route

going straight up Lamar running ten minutes or less. Schedules posted at every stop would be just a first step in providing better information to transit riders. To make travel more convenient Capital Metro should make bus stops more accessible and more comfortable. We should be able to cross South Lamar easily and safely to reach any bus stop. Maybe bus lanes should be put in the center of Lamar to reduce the crossing distance. To take traffic off the arterials, Capital Metro should establish better service to the 'burbs. It may be galling to provide service to those who moved outside the inner-city to pursue the sprawl life, but keeping them in their cars punishes us more than it does them



To clear our air, Capital Metro should buy only nonpolluting vehicles. Natural gas is a good fuel. Even better, Capital Metro could electrify the routes along South Lamar.

These are just a few ideas. We encourage you to bring your ideas to the ZNA general meeting on Monday, July 26. Let Capital Metro know what you think!

## Tracy Deagan,

LPC, LMSW, ACP

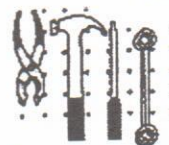
*Women's Therapy • Couples Therapy • Parenting*

**EXPERIENCED COUNSELORS**

**Tracy Deagan & Associates**

**326-3176**

## Business owners!



Are you using *all* the tools you need for your business?

**Did you know that local advertising is one of them?**

When you advertise your business or service in *Z-News*, your ad will be seen by people who live in this community and support local businesses. Call Barbara at 326-1222 for information about our ad rates. The next issue of *Z-News* will be distributed in October.

## Thank You ★ Merci ★ Gracias

Thank you to **Claire Barry** from the Sierra Club and **Ramona Trevino**, principal of Zilker Elementary School, who were our guest speakers at the general association meeting on April 26. Ms. Barry spoke on Smart Growth and neighborhood preservation. Ms. Trevino informed us of the upcoming events for Zilker Elementary School. Thank you, Ms. Trevino, for allowing us to use Zilker School for our meetings.

We know we do not say this often enough, but we wish to thank all the volunteers who deliver our neighborhood newsletter. You are reading your copy of *Z-News* today, because a ZNA volunteer brought it to your door! Thanks, volunteers! You are much appreciated.

We want to thank **Mr. Waters** for taking such good care of the church at 2109 Goodrich. Although the church is not in use at this time, the grounds still need tending. Mr. Waters, a former member of the congregation, has continued to mow the grass and keep the grounds clean. We appreciate his service to the Zilker neighborhood.

A big ol' thank you goes out to all those who helped make the 50th celebration of Fire House #11 a great success on Saturday, May 13. Our local **City Market** donated the punch supplies and paper goods and **Sweetish Hill** contributed the pastries. "Fontaine, the Fabulous" (aka **Fontaine Maverick**, our ZNA treasurer) painted faces, arms and other body parts for the enjoyment of both children and adults alike. **Lt. Jeff Folgate** of the Austin Fire Dept. Public Education Dept. provided support with the banner announcing the celebration, and educational materials at the event. Of course, the big hit of the day was the appearance of Hydro, the fire-truck-ridin', fire-safety-singin' dalmatian! Hydro not only entertained and charmed the kids and the grown-ups, but provided education around fire safety in the home as well. Our biggest thanks, however, goes to those brave men and women who are stationed at Fire House #11. In addition to putting out fires, (which is hard enough!), they are usually the first emergency team to arrive on the scene of an accident or crisis to provide assistance and support. If you ever walk past the fire station, give the fire fighters there a big hello, and let them know you appreciate their service to our neighborhood.

### Join your ZNA now!

**Get in Z-Action as a ZNA member and volunteer.**

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

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

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

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual ZNA dues are only **\$5.00** per person.

**Hey, count me in as a ZNA volunteer! I am interested in:**

- Social Planning    Membership    Fundraising  
 Community Planning    *Z-News* Distribution

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 a year by the Zilker Neighborhood Association of Austin, Texas, P. O. Box 33546 Austin, Texas 78764-0546.

### ZNA Officers

**President**  
**Robin Cravey**  
**447-8014**

**Vice President**  
**Kaye Trybus**  
**447-4437**

**Second Vice President**  
**Harriet Gonzales**  
**444-3335**

**Secretary**  
**Lorraine Atherton**  
**447-7681**

**Treasurer**  
**Fontaine Maverick**  
**443-3290**

**Austin Neighborhoods Council**  
**Jeff Jack**  
**447-5877**

**Neighborhood Services**  
**Open**

**Social Chairperson**  
**Open**

**Newsletter Editor**  
**Barbara Cossie**  
**326-1222**

Zilker Neighborhood Association meetings are held four times per year, and are scheduled on the last Monday of those months as announced. General meetings are open to all Zilker residents and others interested in the preservation of the Zilker Neighborhood.