

Z-News

Austin, Texas

The Newsletter of the Zilker Neighborhood Association

February 2001

Zilker Neighborhood Association



February General Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m.

**Kinney Ave. Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
1801 Kinney Avenue**

6:30 - 7:00 MEET & GREET SOCIAL
Come meet your neighbors!
Light refreshments will be served.

7:00 - 7:10 Call to order
Introductions & Announcements

7:10 - 7:45 Issue Updates

1. Barton Springs Road
2. South Lamar Blvd. and CAMPO
2025 Year Roadway Plan
3. November Voting Results
4. Report on Traffic Calming Project
5. Town Lake Park
6. Lost Canyon
7. Historical District
8. Neighborhood Planning

7:45 - 8:30 Austin's New City Hall
The architectural team hired by the City of Austin will present the design of our new Town Hall

8:30 - 8:45 Old Business
Membership Report
Treasurer's Report

8:45 - 9:00 New Business
9:00 Adjourn



Don't forget! Please bring a can of food for the Capital Area Food Bank donation box.

A Message from the ZNA President

By Jeff Jack

November Election Results

The elections last November were very interesting indeed! It was no surprise that the \$150 million road bonds passed or even the \$13.4 million for environmental land purchases. Both of these ballot items were in response to clear community priorities. But it was somewhat of a surprise that the light rail referendum went down in defeat. However, the forum the ZNA held at our general meeting on October 30 might have given a clue to the outcome. At the forum, the mood was very mixed with no clear winner one way or the other.

The final votes in Zilker reflected this lack of a strong consensus. In precinct 332, the vote was 57% for light rail, while in precinct 462 it was 60% in favor. In elections like this, it usually takes the center city neighborhood precincts to turn out in the 65%-75% range to carry the vote over the strength of the surrounding areas. This did not happen in Zilker, and it seems to have been the pattern throughout the core city neighborhoods voting for light rail but not in sufficient numbers to overcome the "No" vote from the suburbs. The final tally showed that light rail went down by a little over 2,000 votes. With such a small margin of defeat, it is likely that Capital Metro will try again in a few years. Maybe next time, they will work with neighborhoods earlier in the process and develop a plan that all neighborhoods can fully support.



There is one result of the election that is still undecided. No, we didn't have any pregnant chads left to count, but a recount of sorts is still in process as to which neighborhood in the South Central Coalition had the best voter turnout. It appears that Zilker and Barton Hills are still in the running for the best-voting neighborhood. While all the votes have been cast and counted, the precinct lines and neighborhood boundaries are not the same, and some "adjusting" has to be done to the final vote count to reflect true neighborhood percentages. Stay tuned for the final results. Hopefully, we won't have to go to the Supreme Court for a tie-breaker!

Proud of Zilker

The holiday season for most people is a special time of joy and happiness, a time to be with family and friends, and a time to be grateful for all that we have. Unfortunately, not everyone in our community is blessed with the bounty our country can provide. Throughout our affluent society, there are those in real need of just the basics of life. For those less fortunate families with children, the inequities are especially painful during the holidays as stores and the media display every imaginable childhood delight.

Realizing that even within our own neighborhood there are families that need help at holidays, the ZNA executive committee began a project to reach out to those families. In December 1999,

Proud of Zilker....continued on page 10

THE 'SURVIVORS' OF THE ZNA

That "Survivor" show certainly has gotten a lot of press, hasn't it? Who could have imagined that watching people comb their hair with a palm frond and flossing their teeth with seaweed would be considered prime-time viewing?

But right here in Zilker we seem to have our own list of survivors who wouldn't think of leaving "the island." These are the folks on the 2000 ZNA executive committee who decided to sign up to serve for another term. On October 30, the 2000 ZNA executive committee was *not* voted out of Zilker, but instead was re-elected through a unanimous vote of the attending membership to serve through 2001. Thank goodness the election *didn't* include the nominees doing anything silly, dangerous, or physical. (Although that is an idea for next year's election!) Most of the faces may look familiar, but one new person has joined the ranks this year. (There always has to be a young upstart to mix things up a bit in any group!)

With the upcoming zoning changes, neighborhood planning, and traffic calming on the horizon, the ZNA executive committee will work hard to make sure *our* neighborhood survives. But eat a rat? Sleep on the ground? Walk around without the benefit of clothes in the neighborhood? Will our new ZNA executive committee do that? No way! Let's meet them, and find out what they *will* do!



"El Presidente"

JEFF JACK President

If you don't hear Jeff speaking at the Planning Commission or eating breakfast at Polvo's on Sunday morning, then you will certainly see him presiding over our ZNA general meetings. This is Jeff's second term as the ZNA president. He has lived in Zilker since 1984, and is currently the aide for Council Member Beverly Griffith. His survival tip for 2001 is: "Stay in cash."



"Mama Pig"

MARY ANN SIDES Co-Secretary

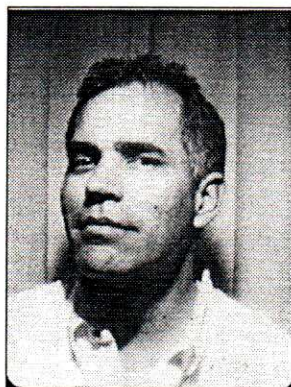
Just so everyone knows, the Sides chose their own nicknames. The pig refers to each of their births in the Chinese Year of the Pig. (We'd never dream of calling them such a thing!) But like a barnyard critter returning to the trough, Mary Ann is back for another term as Co-Secretary. Her survival tip is one we should all remember: "Keep on laughin'."



"The Hawk"

KAYE TRYBUS Vice President

This is Kaye's fourth consecutive term as vice president. If there were a prize for tenacity, Kaye would get it! "The Hawk" is a good name for her, as her motto is: "Forever vigilant." She understands that, like the hawk, we all need to stay alert to the changes around us. Like the hawk, too, she enjoys a good meal. Her best survival tips is: "Always get enough Tex-Mex!"



"Papa Pig"

STEVE SIDES Co-Secretary

Along with his wife, Steve is serving another term as Co-Secretary for the ZNA. Though he was born in Germany and has lived all over the world, Steve and his family have called the Zilker area home for the past three years. Speaking of homes, he's an innovative builder who moonlights as an abstract painter in his spare time. His survival tip? "Love is all you need."



"Lola"

LORRAINE ATHERTON Vice President

Lorraine is another "zepeat" on the ZNA executive committee, and this is her third year as vice president. She has lived in the Zilker since 1980 and is a free-lance copy editor. When she is not sitting at her computer, you will find her sitting on her bike, riding around town. Her survival tip reflects her philosophy on life: "Walk whenever possible, and shop close to home."



"Otter"

FONTAINE MAVERICK Treasurer

Keeping the ZNA mindful of its money is just a small part of what Fontaine does. She also has her own bookkeeping business, enjoys making jewelry, and loves spending time with her grandson, Manny. Her survival tip for everyone is: "When there is any kind of discomfort, immerse yourself in Barton Springs Pool." (Probably how she got the name Otter.)



"The Swamp Rabbit"

BOBBY RIGNEY
ANC Representative

This is Bobby's first term on the ZNA executive committee. As the Austin Neighborhood Council representative, he will keep us updated on neighborhood issues. Bobby has lived in Zilker since 1988, and is a drafting technician at UT. Here is his thoughtful survival tip: "In order to become the surviving member of a flock of sheep, one must, above all, be a sheep." Huh?



"Tree Climber"

CARLENE SOUTH
Social Co-Chairperson

Carlene enjoys the social whirl of Zilker so much, she is continuing on for a *second* term as the Social Chairperson. She has lived in the neighborhood for 13 years, and is a free-lance copy editor and basket weaver. Carlene is also the vice president of Tree Folks. She says her survival tip is "Watch out for the bushes". Hum...what do you think *that* means?



"Wolf"

LAURA ALBRECHT
Social Co-Chairperson

Laura gave up her position as the ANC Representative to join Carlene as the social co-chairperson. She has lived in the Zilker neighborhood for 9 years and works for the Austin Police Department. Laura's personal survival tip is taken from columnist Deb Price: "Keep your desires simple and expectations realistic. There are perfectly wonderful moments to savor."



"The Drone"

BARBARA COSSIE
Z-News Editor

Barbara never seems to learn her lesson. She just keeps signing on as the editor of Z-News! This is her third year as editor. Unfortunately, there is no money in it for her, but she has fun. She has lived in Zilker since 1979 and works at a non-profit counseling agency. (No money there, either!) Her best survival tip? "Never underestimate the value of an afternoon nap."



"Baby Pig"

GRANT SIDES with Mom
Mascot

At 5 years of age, Grant has been given the job as the mascot for the ZNA. An awesome responsibility to be sure. Fortunately, he doesn't have to do much but just make us laugh during our committee meetings with his high jinks. He enjoys going to kindergarten and riding his new bike. Grant has a survival tip we all could share: "Everybody should cooperate."

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CAMPO 2025 Year Roadway Plan

The process that the Federal Highway Administration uses to allocate federal funding for highway and road construction requires that a local Metropolitan Planning Organization review and make recommendations on all proposed projects. In Central Texas, this authority is delegated to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). CAMPO's board is comprised of 20 elected officials and one representative from the Texas Department of Transportation. This 21-member board has only four City of Austin officials, but has the power to dictate how federal funding is spent in and around the city, which has a drastic impact on Austin's neighborhoods.

For years, the Austin Neighborhood Council has been concerned that CAMPO's projections of future population and employment are based on a typical "sprawl" model, and if used as the basis for determining future road construction, would indeed result in fostering more sprawl. One consequence of such projections is the resulting demand to widen existing roads into downtown, such as South Lamar Blvd. South Lamar Blvd. is currently designated as a Major Arterial Divided roadway with four lanes of traffic, or MAD-4 for short. South Lamar Blvd. has two lanes of traffic flowing in both directions, and a center turn lane many refer to as a "chicken lane." The average width of the right of way (ROW) is about 106 feet with 12-foot wide travel lanes.

In CAMPO's 2025 Year Roadway Plan, it is proposed that South Lamar Blvd. be designated as a MAD-6. This would add an extra travel lane in both directions and a divided median with left turn lanes. This would increase the needed ROW to 130 feet. While this plan to change South Lamar from a Boulevard to a Highway may relieve some rush hour congestion on South Lamar Blvd. for suburban commuters, it will have a drastic impact on our local businesses and residential areas forever. If this plan were implemented, it would require the removal of approximately 35 buildings along South Lamar Blvd. in the Zilker area alone. Our neighborhood would surely lose most of these businesses outright. In addition, approximately 97 businesses would lose most of their front parking, making their survival difficult. If these remaining businesses were to outlast the construction, they would need to find replacement parking that was lost to the road widening. Patrons, upon not finding adequate parking, might be tempted to take their business elsewhere or park further into the neighborhood or in residential lots converted to parking. This would promote additional "commercial creep" and is simply a bad idea for the Zilker neighborhood.



The ZNA executive committee has met with City and State officials to alert them to our concerns about this MAD-6 designation. The committee has been advised that the funding for such a widening project is not a high priority, and if the project happens at all, it could be many years away. While it is a comfort to know the bulldozers will not be starting to roll next week, the ZNA executive committee believes it would be best that the designation for South Lamar remain a MAD-4 to preclude any further attempts to widen it. The CAMPO 2025 Year Roadway Plan will be amended this summer based on input from all the jurisdictional authorities in the area, such as the City of Austin. The City Planning Commission has been charged by the Austin City Council to review the plan and

CAMPO....continued on page 8



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By Zilker Neighborhood Resident Jan Ziegler

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Zestival 2000: A Rezounding Success!

Zilker neighbors and friends of all ages celebrated in grand ol' "04" style at the 2nd annual ZNA Zestival in November. Local artisans sold their wares, which included jewelry, photographs, books, baskets, handmade cards, crystals, plants, and hubcap art. Children were treated to face painting by "The Fabulous Fontaine," and participated in arts and crafts activities while neighbor and "car artist" Daniel Skolnick invited the kids to paint the outside and inside of his car. Meanwhile, Hydro the fire safety pooch -- and neighborhood favorite -- from the Austin Fire Department dropped in for a visit to the delight of the children. He entertained as well as informed the kids with his catchy tunes about fire safety.

Throughout the day, the sounds of talented local musicians surrounded Zestival with music and song. Many thanks go to our neighborhood musician, Janet Haily, for organizing the lineup. Performers included Tim Lyons, Peter Mazzetti, Newland Moorefield, Steve Hopkins, and Brian MacLeod. Brian also very graciously provided the sound system for the musicians. Later in the day, Zilker resident and performance comedienne Connie Leaverton entertained and amazed the crowd with her juggling and humor.

All this activity made for hungry folks -- and, fortunately, there was plenty of food and drink to satisfy any appetite. Thanks to Whole Foods Market at 6th and Lamar for donating the many tasty pastries, and to our neighborhood City Market for providing sodas, juice, and water for our Zestival-goers. All proceeds from the sale of the food, drinks, and booth space went directly to the Zilker Neighborhood Association general fund.

Zestival had some special volunteers to get it started and keep it going throughout the day. The ZNA wishes to thank Cindy Corkell, Chris Dudley, Margi Magness, and Chris and Trisha Yost for lending their assistance in setting up and decorating the Zestival area as well as selling the refreshments. Thanks to Ruth at Robin's Party Shop on South Lamar Blvd. for providing the colorful balloons that decorated the site.

"A big thank you has to go out to the folks at the Kinney Avenue Baptist Church for letting us use their parking lots for Zestival. It's the perfect space for a family festival," said Kaye Trybus, ZNA vice president.

Stated Carlene South, ZNA Social Co-Chairperson, "Zestival is *the* quintessential Zilker event -- people getting to know their neighbors as they celebrate the neighborhood and share their talents--oh, yeah--and eating! We hope to see everyone next fall at Zestival 2001: A Neighborhood Odyssey!"



Everyone was in the mood to shop at the ZNA Zestival in the parking lot of the Kinney Avenue Baptist Church in November. And, why not? With the holidays just six weeks away, Zestival-goers were looking for the perfect gift at bargain prices.

Juggler! Unicyclist! Family Entertainer!



Juggler! Unicyclist! Family Entertainer!

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Zilker Neighborhood Association
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City Market #10

and

Whole Foods Market

for their generous support

of the

**2nd Annual
ZNA Zestival**

The Zilker Neighborhood: It's All Here!

If you were asked if you knew the folks living next door to you, you would probably reply, "Sure. I know my neighbors."

When we think of the Zilker neighborhood, we may automatically think of our parks, residential areas, businesses, churches, and even our local school. But how many of us are aware of the many social service agencies we have in the neighborhood? These providers range from non-profit caregivers such as the Mary Lee Foundation to the offices of Austin/Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation. These businesses and organizations are an important part of the fabric of our community and help define what we call the Zilker neighborhood. In preparing our neighborhood planning process, it is important to recognize what already exists in the area so we can plan for the future.

Here is a list of the various agencies, civic service organizations, government-subsidized housing units, and related private businesses located in our neighborhood. The map on page 7 is keyed to this list and shows the location of these facilities. Although we have certainly made an attempt to include all the neighborhood facilities and services, sometimes even we make mistakes. If you are aware of a service organization in the Zilker neighborhood that is not listed here, please call Jeff Jack at 447-5877 so we may include it in our data.

In our April edition of Z-News, we will focus on Zilker businesses.

Schools & Educational Opportunities

- 1. Zilker Elementary School**
Austin Independent School District
Grades Kindergarten to 6th grade
1900 Bluebonnet Lane

- 2. Parkside Community School**
Private Montessori School
1701 Toomey Road

Churches

- 3. Kinney Avenue Baptist Church**
1801 Kinney Avenue
- 4. Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**
2132 Bluebonnet Lane
- 5. Church of Christ**
1500 Bluebonnet Lane

- 6. Barton Springs Baptist Church and Cemetery**
2101 Goodrich Avenue

Parks & Playgrounds

- 7. Zilker Park & Barton Springs Pool**
City of Austin
- 8. Wright and Reed Fields**
1700 Toomey Road
- 9. Butler Shores**
City of Austin
- 10. Zilker Elementary School Playground**
1900 Bluebonnet
- 11. City of Austin Pitch and Putt**
Butler Park
201 Lee Barton Drive

City of Austin Offices & Facilities

- 12. Parks and Recreation Department Headquarters**
200 South Lamar Blvd.
- 13. Public Works & Transportation Offices**
1501 Toomey Road
- 14. City of Austin Sign Shop**
400 Jessie Street
- 15. Austin Fire Department Station # 11**
1605 Kinney Avenue

Social Services & Community Housing

- 16. Zachary Scott Theater**
1510 Toomey Road
- 17. Umlauf Gardens**
605 Robert E. Lee Road

Civil & Cultural Facilities

- 18. Austin/Travis County Mental Health-Mental Retardation (ATCMHMR) Office Annex**
1700 South Lamar Blvd.
- 19. Austin/Travis County Mental Health-Mental Retardation (ATCMHMR) Offices**
1403 Collier

- 20. Barton Court**
Mutual Housing
2110 Dickson

- 21. Barton Hills Assisted Living Center**
1606 Nash

- 22. Mary Lee Foundation Office**
1339 South Lamar Blvd.

- 23. Mary Lee Foundation Thrift Store**
1300 South Lamar Blvd.

- 24. Salvation Army Resale Shop**
1142 South Lamar Blvd.

- 25. Goodwill Thrift Store**
2800 South Lamar Blvd.

- 26. Goodrich Place**
Austin Housing Authority
2209 Bluebonnet Lane

- 27. A.A. Hill Country Intergroup Information Center**
1339 Lamar Square Drive

- 28. Al-ANON and ALATEEN Information Center**
1307 Treadwell

- 29. All God's Babies**
Birth and Women's Center
2120 Oxford

- 30. Autumn Ridge Apartments**
1422 Collier Street
1424 Collier Street

Labor Services

- 31. Association of General Contractors**
Main Office
609 South Lamar Blvd.

- 32. Labor Depot Staffing Services Office**
2108 South Lamar Blvd.

State Offices

- 33. Texas Rehabilitation Commission**
South Austin Office
2416-A South Lamar



The News on the Street

The City of Austin Public Works Department tells us that a cross-walk will finally be installed across South Lamar Blvd. near Lamar Square, beginning in April. This crossing should have a light to stop traffic on South Lamar so that pedestrians,



in particular the residents and clients of the Mary Lee Foundation, can cross safely between bus stops. The Mary Lee Foundation, ZNA Vice President Kaye Trybus, and other neighbors have been working for years to improve pedestrian access in this area. They were joined last year by folks from TransTexas Alliance, who conducted a statewide study of pedestrian a statewide study of pedestrian crossing problems, and most recently by our representative in the State Legislature, Glen Maxey. Many thanks to all of those who worked so hard to get this important improvement to the neighborhood.

Capital Metro will be improving sidewalks and bus stops along the Manchaca Rd., South Lamar Blvd., and Oltorf St. bus routes over the next six months. Capital Metro says it "will work closely with our contractors to minimize any temporary disruptions" during construction and "will be contacting residents in areas where this work might cause relocation of utilities or major landscape alteration." The projects closest to the Zilker neighborhood will be along South Lamar Blvd., including sidewalk repair and replacement at 3411 South Lamar Blvd. at Carter's Auto-Motive and Brake Check, and concrete slabs for bus accessibility at 2310 South Lamar Blvd. around ArtZ Rib House, near Heather, and near Lamar Square.

Installation of the traffic calming project we voted on last year, which was supposed to begin in January, has been delayed for another round of bidding. Public Works has moved the estimated start date back to May.

CAMPO....continued from page 4

make recommendations. The Planning Commission has had several public hearings on the matter. Jeff Jack and Lorraine Atherton, members of the ZNA executive committee, and Richard Gravois, former ZNA president, have diligently attended these meeting to present concerns about the widening of South Lamar Blvd. As a result of these efforts and the work of Planning Commissioner Robin Cravey, the Planning Commission voted to recommend to the City Council that South Lamar remain a MAD-4. This is only the first step, albeit a great one. The next steps will be to get the City Council to agree and to formally ask CAMPO to change the designation back to a MAD-4. The City Council is scheduled to have a public hearing on the CAMPO plan in March or April.

If you are concerned about the impact of widening South Lamar Blvd. would have on our neighborhood, e-mail or write our City Council members today. It is important that they hear from residents and business owners in the Zilker neighborhood. Also, attend the City Council meeting to voice your concern when this issue is presented. The City Council meetings are held at LCRA headquarters building at 3701 Lake Austin Blvd. each Thursday at 6:00 p.m. At this time, there is no definite date as to when the CAMPO plan will be discussed at the City Council meeting, but March or April is the best guess. For more information to the specific date this item will be placed on the City Council agenda, call Austan Librach at the City of Austin at 499-2357.

If you are interested in how the proposed widening will affect South Lamar Blvd., maps will be available at the ZNA general meeting on Monday, February 26.

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NEIGHBORHOOD PROFESSIONALS

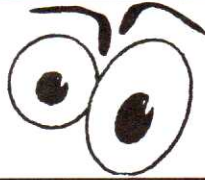
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ZILKER'S EYE ON CRIME

As reported by
APD Officer Keith Hamblin



Zilker neighbors, I want to clean up the streets, and I need your help! How? Here are a few things that will make the neighborhood look better. Let's all join in to make "Operation Spring Cleaning" a big success by sprucing up the neighborhood! An orderly, clean neighborhood shows that its residents care, and will help deter crime.

1. Always park correctly on the street. Do not park with your left wheels to the curb.
2. Remove empty garbage cans and recycling bins from the street after the trash pickup. There is a \$200 fine for leaving trash containers on the right of way.
3. Remove all trash and other rubbish from your property.
4. Remove "junk" vehicles from the property or store them where they are not visible from the street or alleyway.
5. Do not park inoperative vehicles or vehicles that are for sale on the street.
6. Do not park motor homes or trailers of any kind on the street.
7. Call 707-8401 and ask for Officer Hamblin to report missing street signs, non-working street lights, vacant or abandoned houses, or properties that need mowing.

If you have questions about "Operation Spring Cleaning", please feel free to contact me at 707-8401.

Officer Hamblin, Zilker's APD district representative, has offered to contribute articles for Z-News regarding issues in our neighborhood. He attends ZNA general meetings whenever he can. If you see him at one of our meetings or on the street, introduce yourself and tell him how much we appreciate his service to the Zilker neighborhood.

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Proud of Zilker...continued from page 1

the ZNA executive committee hurriedly made the decision to help one family with their holiday needs. We contacted Principal Ramona Trevino at Zilker Elementary School who assisted us in finding a family to sponsor.

This year, with a little more time on our hands, we were able to give advanced notice through Z-News and our October general meeting to solicit others in helping the executive committee with this holiday outreach program. Because we had so much interest in the project from our Zilker neighbors, we felt we could sponsor *two* families. Again, we asked Ms. Trevino and Debbie Sellers, school counselor, to assist us in finding the families that needed a helping hand this holiday season. When we called on our volunteers for their donations, the response was overwhelming! Toys, clothes, household items, and food came pouring in.

While these gifts made this a special Christmas for these families, the looks of wonder and delight in the eyes of the children when the presents were delivered at their doors was surely the best present that *anyone* could have ever received.

Soon after the holidays, the ZNA received a thank you letter from one of the families we sponsored. We wanted to share it with you:

Dear Zilker Neighborhood Association,

My daughter and I thank you very sincerely for your time, your good hearts, and for the lovely gifts and groceries you shared with us this Christmas.

This is surely the true meaning of the season, and you chased away the "Grinch" that tried to steal Christmas!

Peace to you all and a beloved new year!

Sincerely,

A Zilker Resident

A very special heartfelt thank you goes out to our Zilker neighbors: Robin and Jane Cravey, Allen and Deborah Broussard, Kevin Bice and Sarah Foster, Ken and Laurie Marsh, Tricia and Chris Yost, John Schmidt, Bobby Rigney, Lorraine Atherton, Mary Ann, Steve, and Grant Sides, Carlene South, Laura Albrecht, Fontaine Maverick, Molly Shannon, Catherine Hawkins, Sue Thornton, Kaye Trybus and Barbara Cossie for caring so much. Good job, Zilker!

Bouldin Planning Area Boundary

The Bouldin neighborhood, our neighbors to the east, was selected by the City to start its neighborhood planning last November. Bouldin is the fourth neighborhood selected for planning, and was chosen because it is adjacent to the proposed light rail corridor. Though the light rail referendum failed, the City is proceeding with its neighborhood planning process.

One of the first steps in this process is to determine the boundaries for the planning effort. The Austin Neighborhood Council urged the City to respect the traditional boundaries of our neighborhood associations. However, when City staff configured the Bouldin area, they chose to extend the Bouldin planning area into the Zilker neighborhood by making South Lamar Blvd. the west boundary for Bouldin instead of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad tracks that have historically been our shared boundary.

While this may have seemed fine to those not familiar with the area, it would have created many problems for both the Bouldin and Zilker planning teams. Members of the ZNA executive committee met with the Bouldin Planning Team, and all parties agreed that the planning

area boundary should conform to the neighborhood boundaries previously established. The City staff held a meeting on January 16th with area property owners, the ZNA executive committee, and the Chair of the Bouldin Planning Team to discuss the boundary changes. It was agreed upon then that the boundary between these planning areas would remain at the railroad tracks. The ZNA executive committee appreciates the support of the property owners and the Bouldin Planning Team in ensuring the Zilker neighborhood boundaries are respected by the City's planning effort.

Hope to see you at our next ZNA general meeting on Monday, February 26. Come for refreshments before the meeting starts. I would like to meet you!

Your neighbor--

Jeff

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Hey! Who Took My Shade?

This winter's ice storm brought with it the unusual combination of beauty and inconvenience. Ice covered our trees with elaborate icicles that sparkled like a million crystals when the sun came out. While this was enchanting, the ice storm also resulted in slippery streets and power outages all over town. In most cases, these power outages were the result of tree limbs breaking under the weight of the ice and then bringing down the utility lines under them as they fell.



The Austin Electric Utility responded quickly to the crisis, and power was restored to most Austin homes and businesses within a few hours. But the outages were very extensive. As a result, Austin Energy surveyed the areas with the most damage and has started a tree trimming program to reduce the potential for future power outages due to overhanging tree limbs.

Because Zilker is one of the neighborhoods that had many outages, Austin Energy is currently working in the neighborhood to do tree trimming. While we all want to make sure that electric power is maintained in the neighborhood, we also want to protect our trees, which add so much to the beauty of this area. To ensure that the tree trimming is acceptable to the property owners and residents, Austin Energy first surveys the area and marks the trees to be trimmed. The green flagging is used for trees that will only have limbs trimmed, and the pink flagging is used to mark trees and shrubs that will be totally removed. Once this is done, if the trees are on private property, Austin Energy will contact the owner and resident directly to discuss the plan for the tree trimming or removal and get approval.

Austin Energy is very aware of how neighborhoods feel about their trees. Hopefully, these procedures will be followed, and only those limbs and trees that pose a direct threat to the power lines will be cut. If you have any questions about any proposed trimming in the neighborhood or general questions about Austin Energy's tree trimming program, contact Austin Energy's Jerry Fasel at 322-6930 or Michelle McAfee at 322-6932.

Count me in!

I want to be part of Z-Action!

ZNA annual dues are *only* \$7.00 per person.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Apt.#: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Send this completed form and your check
(payable to Zilker Neighborhood Association) to:

Fontaine Maverick, Treasurer
Zilker Neighborhood Association
P. O. Box 33546
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Which of *These* Costly Homeseller Mistakes Will You Make When You Sell Your Home?

Austin, Texas--A new report has just been released that reveals the seven costly mistakes most homeowners make when selling their homes and the 9-Step System that can help you sell your home fast -- *and* for the most amount of money.

This industry report clearly shows how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's real estate market. The fact of the matter is that fully three-quarters of today's homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, these seven deadly mistakes home sellers make will cost them literally thousands of dollars when they go to sell their homes. The good news is each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled, "*The 9-Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar.*"

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-800-278-5449 and enter ID #1086. You can call anytime 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

This report is courtesy of Thom Lemon, Broker.
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Z-News Newsletter

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Zilker Neighborhood Association (ZNA) general meetings are held four times each year in February, April, July, and October, and are held on the last Monday of these months. General membership meetings are open to all Zilker residents and others interested in the preservation of the Zilker neighborhood.