

Z-NEWS

Austin, Texas

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Zilker Neighborhood Association

Next Meeting

Monday February 24, 2003
6:30 p.m. - Meet & greet
7:00 p.m. - Meeting
Kinney Ave. Baptist Church
1801 Kinney Avenue

Homeowners, renters,
and business owners are
welcome!

MEET YOUR
NEIGHBORS, LEARN
ABOUT ISSUES
AFFECTING YOU AND
THE NEIGHBORHOOD
YOU LIVE IN...

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Festival is Music to Zilker's Ears

by Wendy Papasan

The Austin City Limits Music Festival held last fall was a success, thanks to the cooperative efforts of the promoter, the City Parks department, Capital Metro, and surrounding neighborhood associations.

"Everyone worked together to prevent or manage many of the problems that have occurred at earlier events in Zilker park," said Jeff Jack, former president of the Zilker Neighborhood Association (ZNA). "In general, the neighborhoods were pleased with the efforts made to address neighborhood concerns."

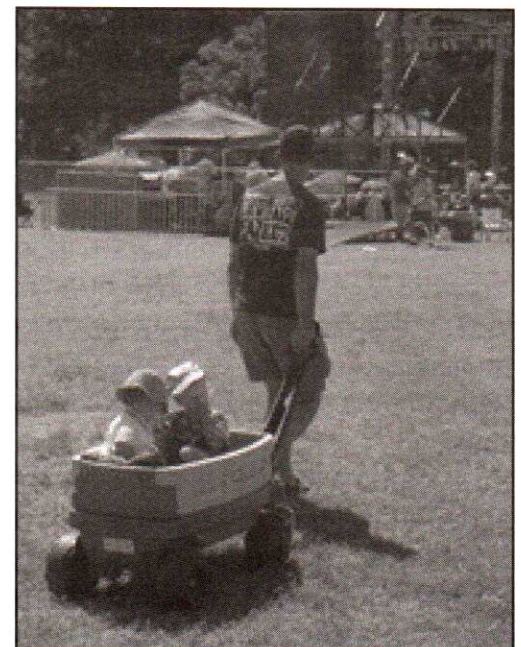
The ZNA executive committee recommendations presented by Jeff Jack at follow-up meetings in November were positively received and appreciated. The list of ZNA suggestions for improvement dealt mostly with traffic management. For a complete report and list of suggestions, check messages 224-227 for Sept. 27 and Oct. 2 on the Zilker email group at zilker@yahoo.com.

"We are hopeful that the promoter's and City's response to neighborhood concerns can be extended to other venues and larger events," said Jack.

At follow-up meetings with the promoter and City Parks staff, Jack learned that:

ACL festival will cover only one weekend. The next ACL festival is planned for September 19-21.

Though they believe the event could grow, they do not intend to build it to the level of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.



Continued on page 3...

From the President



A "real neighborhood" feel; nice yards; lots of trees; friendly people outside working, walking, talking; a mix of older and young residents; politically aware folks who vote; variety in the style of houses; the "South Austin" culture;

and proximity to Zilker Park, Town Lake and the trails, Auditorium Shores, Palmer Auditorium, U.T. campus, and downtown.

These are some of the things that drew Allen and me to this area when we were looking for a place to settle in Austin. What is it you love about living here? What's missing for you? Are you concerned with protecting what we have in our changing city? Interested in enhancing our neighborhood community? Maybe it's time for you to get more involved in your neighborhood.

How can YOU participate?

Join the ZNA, or renew your membership.

The more residents who join the neighborhood association, the better the neighborhood gets. Your annual dues of \$7 per person help support special projects and cover the organization's minimal operating costs.

Share your ideas and opinions, and stay informed. Participate in the Zilker e-mail list, at zilker@yahoogroups.com. Check the website, at <http://members.tripod.com/znaweb/>. Attend the ZNA quarterly meetings and/or the monthly executive committee meetings. Email or call executive committee members when you have comments or questions.

Volunteer for a standing committee or a special project. If you can commit to 4-6 hours a month, join a committee focused on S. Lamar development planning, zoning and code compliance, the website, neighborhood social activities, or membership.

Also consider joining with others

focused on the pedestrian safety/sidewalk problem on Kinney, help with fundraising for the historic Barton Springs Baptist Church cemetery, organize the *Zestival*, or propose a new project (for example: organize a babysitting co-op, an emergency telephone tree, Neighborhood Watch, a project with a neighborhood school, a gardener's group, or Neighborhood Academy classes for Zilker residents). We also need more help delivering the quarterly *Z-News*.

Take a leadership role by serving on the Executive Committee. It generally takes about 8-10 hours a month to fulfill the basic responsibilities of an executive committee member, including the regular monthly meeting. There is always more to be done, of course, when we have more time to give.

Right now these positions are open: Second Vice President, Co-Secretary, and Co-Chair of the Social Committee. We also need someone to represent our neighborhood at the Austin Police Department's Commander's Forum, a quarterly meeting.

If you are ready to volunteer, or would like more information, please contact me or any other member of the Executive Committee (check the back page for contact information).

What about those ZNA Quarterly Meetings? I'm interested in hearing what you think should happen at our general quarterly meetings. What do you think about the format and content of recent meetings? What would you suggest for future meetings? Please e-mail me (dbb@austin.rr.com), drop a note in the mail (1500 Oxford Ave), or give me a call (443-8755) if you have suggestions.

Your Neighbor,

Deborah Bice-Broussard

Feb 24 Meeting Agenda

7:00-7:05 Introductions & Announcements

7:05-7:35 Barton Springs Pool Status

7:35-8:20 Updates & News

1. Barton Springs Road Construction
2. Kinney Avenue Sidewalk
3. CAMPO Plan for S. Lamar
4. S. Lamar sidewalks & bike lane
5. H.E. Brodie Tract proposal
6. Neighborhood Plan Amendment
7. Austin Police Department news
8. Zoning & BOA cases
9. Membership
10. Volunteer Opportunities

8:20-8:50 What do you want from ZNA?

8:50-9:00 New Business

ACL Festival *Continued from the front page*



The City may explore alternative sites for large events, to avoid closing Barton Springs Road so often. Many events formerly held in Zilker Park, such as the Bun Run, have been moved.

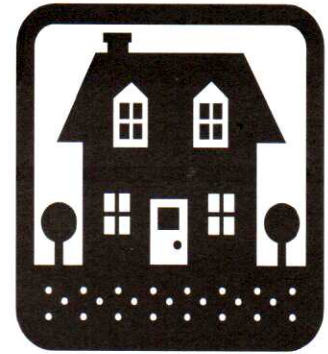
A different solution for the taxis will be implemented. Police issued 121 traffic tickets to taxis, mainly for stopping in front of the east entry and dropping off passengers.

Planners will consider rerouting cars back to Lamar by way of Barton Springs Road instead of through the neighborhood.

They agreed to most of our requests for additional signs, indicating that larger signs would

continued on page 9

Make your neighborhood a better place by becoming a ZNA member today!
All residents of Zilker are welcome, not just homeowners.



2003 Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Date _____

Annual Dues: \$7 per person or \$25 Sustaining member

Circle One: New Member Renewal

Please make checks payable to Zilker Neighborhood Association and mail with this form to Zilker Neighborhood Association, Memberships, PO Box 33546 Austin TX 78764-0546.

Making Ourselves Heard

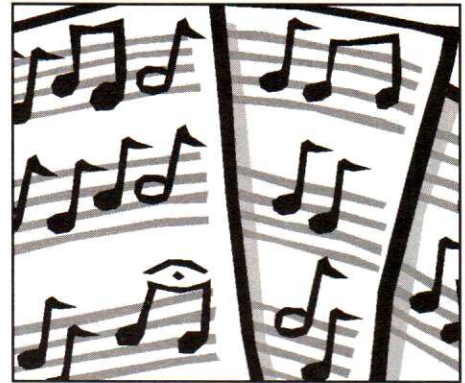
(But Not Too Loudly)

by Lorraine Atherton

Last year the City of Austin formed an advisory committee to come up with a new noise ordinance, motivated primarily by the desire to resolve problems with live music venues in the downtown entertainment districts. Those problems received quite a bit of publicity, and most Austin residents would probably assume that the resulting ordinance applied only to a few streets downtown.

In fact, the city council has approved revisions that apply to the entire city. The provisions that regulate amplified sound in neighborhoods like Zilker and most of South Central Austin, where small houses and apartment buildings are right next to or behind some of the best live music venues in town (at least we like them a lot), received very little attention as the ordinance was being drafted.

In January the South Central Coalition of neighborhoods, with the support of Austin Neighborhoods Council and the ZNA executive committee, asked the city manager to make changes to the proposed ordinance that restricts the use of sound equipment in residential areas.



We suggested areas with multifamily zoning be included to protect residents of small apartment buildings from excessive noise, that the morning hours when amplified sound is prohibited be extended from 10 a.m. to noon, and that the allowable decibel level of 75 be reduced to 65, because hearing loss begins at 70 decibels.

The coalition also recommended the section providing for special-event permits be clarified, including a public hearing with notification of all property owners within 300 feet.

Finally, the coalition recommended a buffer zone around entertainment districts (where higher sound levels are allowed), just as the Airport Overlay Ordinance provides for a half-mile buffer zone around the noisiest parts of Bergstrom.

None of the neighborhood recommendations made it into the final ordinance.

Neighborly Tip of the Week!

If you have a complaint about your insurance company, first notify the company. Still no resolution? Contact the Texas Department of Insurance,

* www.tdi.state.tx.us/consumer/complfrm.html

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Discover the Past in Your Own Backyard

by Wendy Papasan

After the Civil War ended in 1865, hundreds of former slaves from rural areas moved to Austin to join the few freed slaves already living in this part of Texas. Freed men and women came from surrounding plantations to Austin seeking work, assistance and family they'd been separated from during slavery.



Despite myriad challenges including vagrancy laws, substandard housing, and physical attacks, freedmen settled throughout Austin. They formed communities at the edges of town and developed social structures based upon churches and self-help organizations.

One such community, the Barton Springs freedmen town, existed in the neighborhood known today as Zilker. This part of Austin was the countryside then, but it didn't stop ex-slaves from beginning a town here in 1865. A historic church and cemetery on Goodrich Street are the only reminders of this important piece of Texas history.

Until recently the Barton Springs Baptist Church and Cemetery suffered from neglect and vandalism. Today, thanks to the perseverance of church member Emmett Watters and the help of some new Zilker neighbors, the Society of Friends, this special place is undergoing a facelift.

"On several occasions this winter, a group met to clear brush from the cemetery," said Lorraine Atherton, a ZNA member. "Thanks to Dave Draudt and the other Quakers who

organized the cleanup, the cemetery is a lovely open space."

Volunteers are hoping to find a way to dispose of roofing material dumped on the site over the years. Future projects may include planting flowering shrubs along the back, replacing dead trees, installing fences, and planting flowerbeds. ZNA is seeking volunteers to help mow this spring and summer or to adopt part of the grounds to maintain. Other possible volunteer projects range from historical research to reconstruction of the church building.

ZNA is seeking donations of time and money to protect this unique site right in the heart of Zilker Neighborhood. If you wish to donate money mail a check to ZNA with a note saying it's for the church fund. To help with the maintenance of the cemetery and church grounds, contact Mike Meier at 447-7681 or lolamm@ix.netcom.com."

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Maria's Taco Xpress Granted Variance

by Bobby Rigney

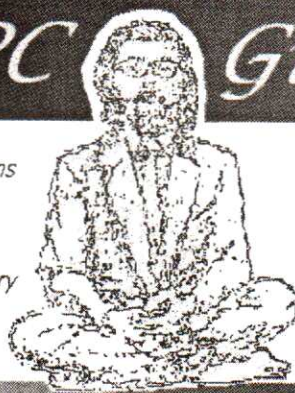
In November, Maria Corbalan, owner of Taco Xpress on South Lamar, applied to the City of Austin Board of Adjustment for a variance from a city regulation that would have required her to pave all the parking in front of her restaurant.

The ZNA Executive Committee supported the application, recognizing that although Taco Xpress has access to the required parking, it is unable to pave it because it is located within the right of way along South Lamar.

In this case, the city's retroactive application of paving requirements definitely created a hardship for the existing business. The Board of Adjustment agreed that there was a true hardship, within the Board's fairly narrow definition of the term, and granted the variance.

The Board also added that Maria is to provide additional signage and work with the neighborhood to address concerns raised on parking, noise, and litter.

ZNA Executive Committee supported this variance and is pleased the variance was granted, and will follow through on neighborhood problem solving for concerns brought up.



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for the next Quarterly
Meeting on Monday
February 24th!**

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Connect With Your Neighbors zilker@yahoogroups.com

By Wendy Papasan

Feel like you're the last one on the block to find out about local street closings? Want to get the word out about your runaway turtle?

If so, maybe you should check out Zilker's neighborhood email group.

What's an email group? you might be asking. Basically, it's an email address that allows you to send a message to everyone on a specific list without having to type in hundreds of separate addresses. It also archives messages so that you can read past messages.

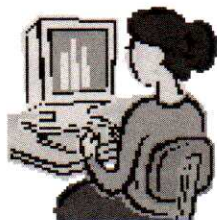
When you send a message to zilker@yahoogroups.com, everyone on the list gets your e-mail. Of course, this means you get all the mail other people send, too.

You can join the Zilker Yahoo!group by going to <http://www.yahoogroups.com> and typing "zilker" in the search box. Click on the link for our group.



Click on "Join This Group" and follow the directions. If you are already registered with Yahoo, type in your login name and password. If you are

not already registered with Yahoo, click on "Sign up now to enjoy Yahoo! Groups" and follow the directions to create your Yahoo ID, then go back to [/groups.yahoo.com/group/Zilker/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Zilker/) if necessary to join the group using your new Yahoo ID. Welcome to the group!



Making the Holidays Special For Everyone

By Lorraine Atherton

The Zilker Neighborhood Association began its holiday outreach efforts in December 1999 by gathering gifts and food for a family recommended by Ramona Trevino, the principal of Zilker Elementary.

Since then, the neighborhood's response to the program has grown so that last year, four families of Zilker Elementary students benefited from the generosity of Zilker neighbors.



"Donations came in the form of gift items, gift cards, food, household supplies, and hundreds of dollars in cash," said Barbara Cossie, program coordinator. "The checks and cash were used to purchase more gifts and food."

This year's "elves," Head Elf Barbara Cossie, Fontaine Maverick, Mike Meier, Bobby Rigney, MaryAnn Sides, and Kaye Trybus helped Barbara purchase, wrap, and deliver gifts.

Thanks to all donors, helpers, Ramona Trevino and Zilker Elementary Counselor Vicki Samuelson. Special accolades go to the South Austin Culture Club, a South Austin group that organizes benefits for local children. Their donation was very generous. Visit www.southaustincultureclub.org for more information on their upcoming special events and start socking away your extra pennies for next year's holiday family fund.

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Program Encourages Arts and Music Education

By Courtney Johnson

Passport to the Arts, a new program sponsored by the Long Center for the Performing Arts and Arts Center Stage, encourages children to get out and experience the arts for themselves. Free, easy, and fun, it also offers one lucky student a year of college tuition.

Here's how it works. Students K-12 get a free "Passport to the Arts" booklet at any Austin area library or Austin area H-E-B customer service desk. Then students must collect stamps by attending family friendly events outlined in the passport, or by participating in one of these events as an actor, dancer, usher, or volunteer. The best part? By presenting their passport students receive greatly reduced or free admission to participating events.

All passports with at least six stamps received by Arts Center Stage by May 16, 2003, will be eligible for the grand prize - a free year



of college tuition through the Texas Tomorrow Fund.

All children who participate will receive a certificate of achievement and the winning child's school will receive a grant for arts and music programs.

For more information or to mail a completed passport contact:

Long Center for the Performing Arts

P.O. Box 301449

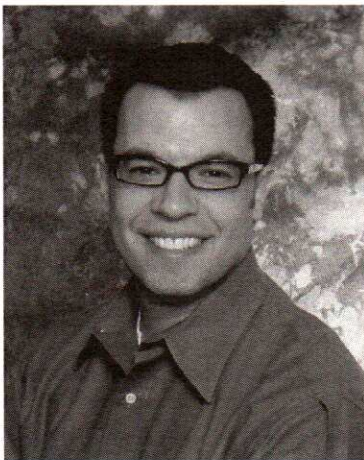
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ACL Festival *continued from page 3*

be placed in more locations in the neighborhoods.

Officials will clean up leftover trash where event patrons park in the neighborhoods.

The promoter will investigate selling tickets off site at either the state parking garages or at Waterloo Park to encourage the use of the shuttle service.

Improvements to Capital Metro's service are being addressed.

Officials estimated attendance for both days to be 70,000; actual sales of one- and two-day tickets were about 37,500.

Thanks to Jeff for serving as the neighborhood's festival monitor and for his thorough reporting on the event planning process. Also thanks to all who made their Zilker voices heard on the neighborhood email group. If you'd like to participate in future discussions, sign up at zilker@yahoogroups.com.

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Z-News is published four times a year by the Zilker Neighborhood Association in Austin, TX. Article ideas, comments and constructive ranting and raving are welcome. Write the Editor at P.O. Box 33546 Austin, TX 78764-0546 or wendy@puddle-wonderful.com.



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Presenting...Z New Officers

Although there are quite a few familiar names on the new executive committee, a few new folks have joined the ZNA fold. As always, the association is committed to improving the quality of life in the neighborhood, but this year's committee is especially focused on increasing membership and creating more opportunities for social activities. This year's ZNA officers and committee chairs are (drum-roll please...)

Lorraine Atherton, Austin Neighborhoods Council representative, has lived in the neighborhood since 1981 and has been a ZNA officer since 1998. She works at home as a freelance copy editor. One of her favorite things about the neighborhood is having everything within walking distance, from food to computers.

President **Deborah Bice-Broussard** moved with her spouse, Allen, and cat, Kiko, to Austin in 1998, and to their home on Oxford Avenue two years later. She joined ZNA immediately, to

meet people and learn more about the neighborhood, so it's no surprise that she's interested in increasing communication and social activities to strengthen the community. She's also interested in "green" gardening. A social scientist, in her "day job" she is a training director for the Texas Workforce Commission

Jane Kurzawa Cravey, your treasurer, moved to Zilker with her husband Robin shortly after the birth of their first daughter, Emma, and gave birth to their second daughter, Molly, in their home on La Casa Drive. She's been active through Zilker Elementary PTA, magnet junior high and magnet high, and numerous family college careers. She rides her bike to work on Barton Springs Road and keeps a small garden in the front yard between the shade trees.

Zoning Committee Chair **Michael Heffernan** is an architect interested in zoning issues. His wife, Tina, and he both work from home and have a 12-year-old son Scott who attends

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in the Lamar Plaza Shopping Center
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O'Henry. He and his wife both love to make architectural models! Anyone with questions or issues about zoning in the 'hood can call him @ 448-2801.

Ken Marsh, your ZNA secretary, is a sustainable-bike-ped-transit-livable-community-activist. You can contact him at kennethmarsh@yahoo.com.

Fontaine Maverick grew up in Austin and has lived on Kinney Avenue since 1975. In addition to her many duties as ad sales and distribution coordinator for Z-News she is the bookkeeper for Nomadic Notions and the grandmother of Manny, age 6. She lives with her husband, Walter and Persephone an 18-year-old cat. She enjoys designing jewelry, sketching with colored pencils and traveling to Mexico.

Wendy Papasan, ZNA newsletter editor, and her husband Jay bought a house on Hether about two years ago. She is interested in historic neighborhoods and works for the Texas Historical Commission. In her spare time she enjoys travel, cooking and gardening.

Lilly Ramirez, Social Committee Chair, loves the Zilker neighborhood and so do her infamous dogs - Matrix and Buddy. She says 'All of Margaret Street knows my little Houdini's.'

Bobby Rigney co-represents ZNA at the Austin Neighborhoods Council. He originally became involved with community affairs by working on passing the S.O.S. Ordinance (Barton Springs Eternal !!!). He has since worked with the city's "Traffic Calming Program," and last year lobbied for neighborhood self-determinism regarding yard parking. "We know Zilker best."

Vice President **Elizabeth Yevich** has lived in the neighborhood since her move from Richmond, VA in 2001. Her involvement with ZNA began after attending a City Council meeting where she met other ZNA members opposing the widening of S. Lamar. This issue was important as her apartment faces the boulevard and widening it would remove her living room!

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Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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Zilker Neighborhood Association

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First Vice President

Elizabeth Yevich, 462-2859

Second Vice President

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Ken Marsh 443-8483

Co-Secretary

Open

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Jane Kurzawa Cravey, 447-8014

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Fontaine Maverick, 443-3290

Z-News Editor

Wendy Papasan, 383-1929

Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative

Lorraine Atherton, 447-7681

and

Bobby Rligny, 471-3758

Committee Chairs

Holiday Gift Drive

Barbara Cossie, 447-4437

Website/Technology

Richard Gravois, 441-3430

Social co-chair

Lilly Ramirez, 416-8180

Social co-chair

Open

Zoning and Code Compliance

Michael Heffernan, 448-2801

About the Zilker Neighborhood Association...

ZNA holds general meetings on the 4th Monday of February, April, July and October. The executive committee meets on the first Monday of each month, usually at Artz Rib House.

Our Purpose: To improve the quality of life in the neighborhood in matters of land use, environmental protection, public services, consumer protection, preservation of the historic and unique character of the community; to provide support in other matters of neighborhood concern and to promote and participate in the civic life of the city.

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