

Z-NEWS

Austin, Texas

The Quarterly Newsletter of the ***Zilker Neighborhood Association***
July 2004

Austin City Limits Music Festival Update

By *Deborah Bice-Broussard*

The 3rd annual Austin City Limits Music Festival is slated for September 17-19, 2004, in Zilker Park. The producers of the festival, Capital Sports & Entertainment (CSE), and the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) will have representatives at a table set up at our ZNA Watermelon Social on July 26th (see meeting announcement this page). Please stop by. They'll be happy to hear your comments and answer your questions.

On April 20th, CSE hosted a meeting with PARD staff to update Zilker, Barton Hills, Bouldin, and Rollingwood representatives on plans and preparation for the 2004 ACL Music Festival. Information we received from the CSE team members indicates that preparations are going well, and I believe they continue to pay appropriate attention to areas of particular interest to the surrounding neighborhoods (e.g., transportation and parking, sound control, care for the park grounds). PARD Director Warren Struss spoke highly of CSE's efforts, and their working relationship. We expect to have another pre-festival meeting in July. If you have comments or questions about the impact of the ACL Festival on the Zilker neighborhood, you are welcome to let me know (dbb@austin.rr.com, 443-8755).

The Zilker Neighborhood Association needs Officers! Needs Reps! NEEDS YOU!

The new officer election is in October and we are recruiting now. We have several positions that need to be filled. The positions that are open for next year are: 1st and 2nd vice presidents, the APD Commander's Forum rep, assisting with web duties, and the Zoning and Codes Committee chair (all starred below*). If you would like to serve in one of the vacant positions, please contact any of the current officers. Do it today! What follows are brief descriptions of each of the executive committee positions, as described by the current office holders. At a minimum, each position requires attendance at monthly Executive Committee meetings (first Mondays of the month), and

Next Meeting

Watermelon Social!
Monday, July 26, 2004

6:30 p.m. - Meet & Greet
7:00 p.m. - Socializing and
Watermelon Eating

Note Location:

Behind Zilker Elementary
1900 Bluebonnet
Rain location: Inside Zilker
Elementary

Homeowners, renters, and
business owners are welcome!
Z-News Deliverers Honored!

Out-of-Door prizes!

Including a pair of Austin City
Limits Festival tix!

attendance at the quarterly Zilker Neighborhood Association meetings.

If you are thinking about participating in this dynamic group, but want to know more, please feel free to call the current incumbent and ask away. All of our phone numbers are on page 8 (the back page) of this Z-news.

President—Robin Cravey

The president's chief duties are to provide a vision and direction for the association, to coordinate the efforts of the other officers, and to work as ombudsman for the members. He does this by defining goals, setting the agenda and presiding over the meetings, attempting to keep efforts focused, and ensuring that each officer and member is heard on the issues and decisions important to the neighborhood. The president also represents the neighborhood to the larger community, and brings the perspectives of the larger community to the neighborhood.

***1st Vice President—Elizabeth Yevich**

Officially the First Vice-President "shall fulfill the duties of the

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President's Message

Watermelon Social Recalls the Good Old Days!

By Robin Cravey

Our annual Watermelon Social this month will bring neighbors together for an evening of fun. It's an evening that recalls the heat and grace of the south. We've largely

abandoned the heat—and the grace—for the comfort of air conditioning. But for one night, we'll brave the heat and relive the grace.

The Social will be Monday night, July 26, at 6:30 pm, in the back yard of Zilker Elementary. Bring your kids. Besides lots of watermelon, there'll be fun and games. We'll keep association business to a minimum.

The watermelon social was one of the south's great defenses

against summer heat. Back before homes were air condi-



tioned, getting together to cut up some watermelon could make any day a celebration! We did it often during the summer, and it helped make the summer bearable.

Watermelon is the quintessential outdoor fruit, eaten in great red wedges and half rounds bursting with crisp juicy succulence. For a kid, the sticky, overflowing sweetness of watermelon was a total body experience that usually ended up in a dance under the hose. For the grownups, it was a very affordable revel in the bounty of the earth.

Air conditioning changed all that. Gradually we've abandoned our front porches and turned our back on the outdoors, preferring to remain sealed inside the controlled environments of our air conditioned houses. There we remain oblivious to the heat, to the songs of birds, and to the passing of our neighbor in the street. Besides, now our neighbor in the street is passing not on foot but in an air-conditioned car. And now we daintily eat watermelon in thin slices to avoid dripping on the floor.

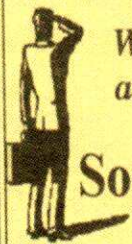
Air conditioning has been a foundation technology for the growth of the south. It allowed the migration of all those too-polite-to-perspire yankees to the steamy bottomlands. It has also been a foundation technology for many of the modern inventions that require controlled environments for their development and production.

On a broad scale, my generation is the last to remember the south without air conditioning in the home. On a family level, Jane and I gave that gift of knowledge to our kids. We refused to buy air conditioning for our home for over two decades, until a recent summer when the mercury topped 100 for a dozen or more days.

It's a positive feedback loop. The energy burned in cooling all our homes and offices and cars and shopping malls is heating up the atmosphere of our cities, and indeed of the planet. That makes it harder for people to bear the natural outdoor climate. So more people need air conditioning.

Even setting aside global warming, which is a pretty big cost, the price of air conditioning has been high. It has fueled the growth of the oil and coal industries, which have wreaked havoc social, political, and environmental across the globe. From the oil-soaked shorebirds of Alaska, to the farmers with poisoned wells, to the dispossessed peasants of distant lands, to the soldiers on the outposts of empire, many pay the price for our air conditioning.

But the watermelon social will not be a night for ruing the costs of air conditioning. No. It will be a night for celebrating this great fruit, this great tradition, and this great neighborhood. For one night, we'll relive the heat and the grace. See you there!



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

The official printer of Z-News, your Zilker neighborhood newsletter

Parking rules? What parking rules?

By Deborah Bice-Broussard

I'm thinking of this as a neighborhood "public service announcement." A primary purpose of efforts to control event-related parking in the neighborhood is public safety, including the need to allow emergency vehicles to travel freely. Because we have extra Police presence, and thus higher frequency of enforcement of parking laws, during high volume events in the nearby parks, here's a refresher from state code (courtesy of my fellow ZNA Executive Committee member, Bobby Rigney).

SUBCHAPTER G. STOPPING, STANDING, AND PARKING -
Sec. 545.302

An operator may not stop, stand, or park a vehicle:
on a sidewalk;
in an intersection;
on a crosswalk;
alongside or opposite a street excavation if obstructing traffic
in front of a public or private driveway;
within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
within 30 feet on the approach side to a flashing light, stop sign, yield sign,
or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway;
within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to a fire station and on the side of
the street opposite the entrance to a fire station within 75 feet of the
entrance.

It's been a long time since my Driver's Education classes, and I had forgotten how much distance we are supposed to allow from stop signs and fire hydrants. Hope this info helps you, too.

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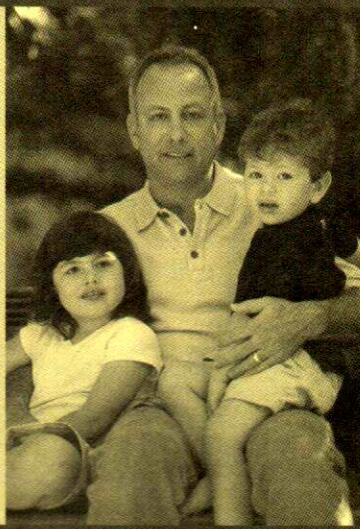
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continued from page 1

President in the President's absence, shall chair the Membership Committee and shall serve as the parliamentarian of the Association." The parliamentarian role is slim to none. The Membership Committee has 3-4 members thus the various and typical duties associated with membership (meeting, sign-in/welcome letters/dues) are shared by the Committee members, with the Committee meeting on an as-needed basis.

***2nd Vice President—Deborah Bice-Boussard**

The ZNA Bylaws say, "The Second Vice President shall fulfill the duties of the President in the President's absence and shall co-chair the membership committee." The 2nd VP generally is free to work on whatever special projects most interest her or him.

Secretary—Steve Barnick

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping an accurate record of official business of the Association and for all outside correspondence of the Association. This position involves taking meeting minutes at every membership meeting and every meeting of the Executive Committee (Excom).

Treasurer—Jane Cravey

The treasurer keeps track of all funds associated with the neighborhood association, reports on the status of those funds and maintains the membership list for the association.

Z-News Editor—Peggy Kelley

The editor prepares the newsletter four times a year, working closely with the Z-News Ad Coordinator. How long this takes each time depends mostly on how familiar the editor is with the newsletter software program—anywhere from 2 to many times that many hours per issue!

Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep—Lorraine Atherton

The ANC delegate represents the ZNA at the monthly meetings of the Austin Neighborhoods Council and the South Central Coalition of neighborhoods.

***Austin Police Department Commander's Forum Rep—Bobby Rigney**

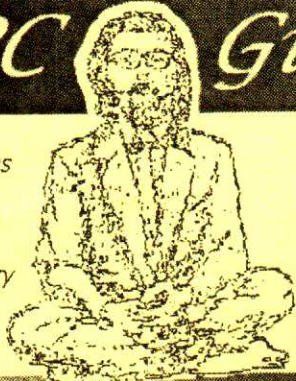
Volunteering to be the APD Commander's Forum Rep is an easy way to participate in ZNA by becoming a "go-between", keeping ZNA apprised of the latest police news/crime watch tips, while providing community feedback to our neighborhood District Rep (Officer) Dawn Leonard. You'll attend the quarterly APD Southwest Commander's Forums, which helps make "Community Policing" work, and you can always invite any of your neighbors to accompany you.

For those of you who subscribe to the Zilker Yahoo Group, you've probably seen Bobby's updates on criminal activity coming from Officer Leonard. Helps to keep us all aware of our neighborhood safety.

Holiday Family Project Coordinator—Barbara Cossie

Working with the folks at Zilker Elementary, the Holiday Family Project Coordinator solicits contributions and buys gifts for

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Newsletter Committee Chair—Andrew Murphy

The Newsletter Committee chair coordinates the distribution of the quarterly Z-News. As usual, please call Andrew at 442-9380 if you can deliver some Z-Newsletters!

***Social Chair—Open**

The Social Chair is responsible for providing beverages/snacks at the general membership meetings once a quarter. However, the duties of this position are wide open!

***Webmaster—Richard Gravois**

Be a part of jazzin' up our presence on the internet! Take a look at www.main.org/zilker and www.tripod.com/xxxxx and let us know what you want to do with it. Work with our webmaster, Richard Gravois to create a 21st century presence on the internet! We can use folks who can edit and publish web pages and/or are willing to keep the info current and up-to-date. Perhaps form a Webgroup? The main stipulation is that you use software tools that are platform independent.

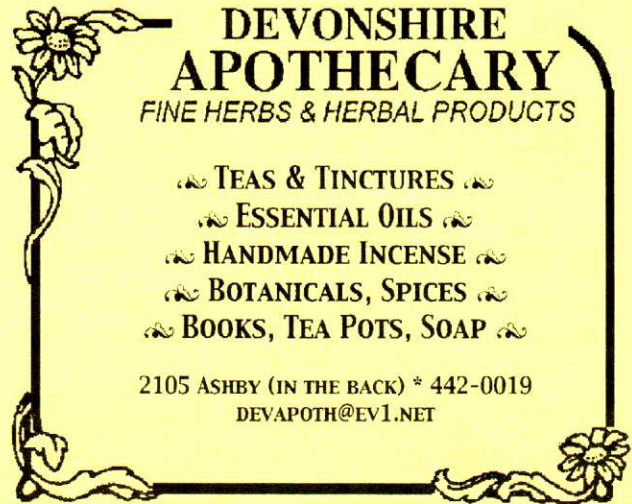
Zilker School Rep—Andrew Murphy

Zilker School rep keeps open the communication lines between the elementary school and the neighborhood association.

Z-News Ad Coordinator—Fontaine Maverick

The advertising coordinator solicits advertising from local/neighborhood businesses and responds to queries, keeps records of

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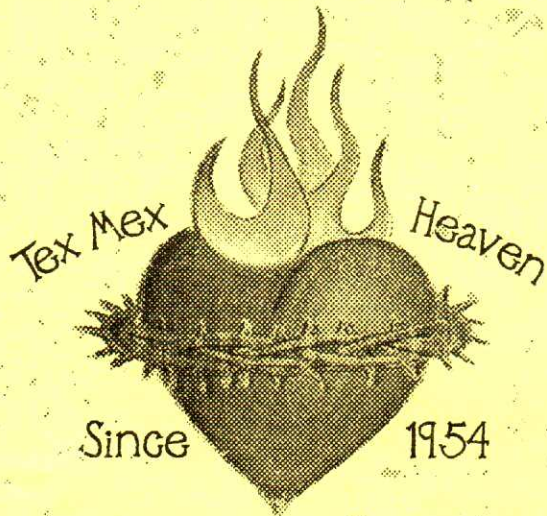
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***Zoning and Code Committee Chair--Michael Heffernan**
Seeking friendly, outgoing person with objective outlook to join the Zilker neighborhood Executive Committee and serve as Chair of the Zoning & Code Committee. The purpose of the Z&CC is to keep members informed and act in the interest of the Executive Committee regarding neighborhood zoning & planning issues.

Minimum tasks include:

- Recruit and lead Zoning & Code Committee members
- Check mail @ post office, log in notices & keep notices binder
- Send e-mails of City notices to Executive Committee when received
- Give updates at monthly Executive Committee meetings
- Present pertinent information to General members at quarterly meetings
- Meet with neighbors and developers as needed as neighborhood liaison
- Facilitate the education of neighbors regarding zoning, codes, rights, etc.
- Write letters of support / opposition to City regarding zoning issues
- Attend & occasionally present at Zoning or Board of Adjustment hearings
- Be an active member of the Neighborhood Planning Subcommittee

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B sustaining annual individual, \$25.00 dues

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Additional contribution for ZNA special project (specify: _____)		
Total Enclosed		\$

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

07/04

**Zilker
Neighborhood
Association
P.O. Box 33546
Austin, TX 78764-0546
ZNAec@yahoo.com**

Executive Committee

Officers

President

Robin Cravey, 447-8014

First Vice President

Elizabeth Yevich, 462-2859

Second Vice President

Deborah Bice-Broussard, 443-8755

Secretary

Steve Barnick, 444-0674

Treasurer

Jane Kurzawa Cravey, 447-8014

Z-News Editor

Peggy Kelley, 440-1269

**Austin Neighborhoods
Council**

Representative

Lorraine Atherton, 447-7681

Committee Chairs & Reps

**APD Commander's Forum
Rep**

Bobby Rigney, 471-3758

**Holiday Family Project Co-
ordinator**

Barbara Cossie, 447-4437

**Newsletter Committee
Chair,**

Zilker Elementary Liaison

Andrew Murphy, 442-9380

**Social Chair Position OPEN
Website**

Richard Gravois, 441-3430

Z-News Ad Sales

Fontaine Maverick, 443-3290

Zoning and Code Chair

Michael Heffernan, 448-2801

About the Zilker Neighborhood Association

ZNA holds general meetings the 4th Monday of February, April, July, and October. The executive committee meets at 7 p.m. 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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