

### **M**ESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *Lorraine Atherton, ZNA President*

#### **Election Day, May 7**

This year's Austin City Council election is especially important to our neighborhoods along South Lamar, because voters must choose replacements for Jackie Goodman and Daryl Slusher, the two council members who are the most familiar with South Austin and sympathetic to our peculiar—well, let's just call it the South Austin mystique. On page 2, Election Judge Sissy Shugrue confirms what we have long suspected: Everybody votes in Zilker. A good turnout at just one of our precincts can deliver more than 2,000 votes, enough to make the difference in a close city council race like the Place 3 contest. Please pay careful attention to the city council campaigns this month, visit the candidate Web sites, take advantage of the numerous candidate forums and other opportunities to hear and meet the candidates, and vote. Early voting is April 20 through May 3. Election Day is May 7.

#### **ANC Endorsements**

At a candidate forum on March 23, 2005, the Austin Neighborhoods Council voted on its first formal endorsements of Austin City Council candidates under its recent bylaws revisions. ZNA is an active member of ANC and a strong supporter of this new endorsement process. Formal endorsements give the member associations a chance to develop their own public-policy goals, present them to candidates in an effective way, and measure the performance of elected politicians.

Before the ANC forum, candidates responded to a questionnaire covering eight areas of concern for Austin's neighborhoods: neighborhood planning, zoning, code and ordinance enforcement, environment, social equity, growth management, transportation, and city administration and budget. ANC then compared the written responses and shared the results with the ANC membership. The complete questionnaire and candidate responses may be viewed at [www.ancweb.org](http://www.ancweb.org). Since ZNA will not be hosting our own candidate forum this month, I urge you to study the ANC questionnaire and to attend any of the many other forums before you vote.

In the endorsement process, ANC tried to gauge the candidates' knowledge of the issues as well as their commitment to particular policies, and candidates were evaluated both on their written responses and their remarks at the forum. On April 2, ANC announced its endorsement of Lee Leffingwell in Place 1

*(Continued on page 10)*

#### **Next Quarterly ZNA Meeting**

**Monday, April 25, 2005**

**Zilker Elementary School  
1900 Bluebonnet**

Homeowners, renters, and  
business owners are welcome.

Meet your neighbors.

Learn about issues affecting you and  
the neighborhood you live in.

**6:30 P.M.** Meet and Greet Social  
Member sign-in

**7:00** Call to order, announcements

**7:15** Guest Presentation  
Public Health Preparedness and  
Response to Bioterrorism  
Peter Freeman, Austin-Travis County  
Health and Human Services

**7:45** ZNA Planning Background  
Affordability and Housing  
Heather Way

**8:15** ZNA Parks Report  
Austin City Limits Festival and  
Barton Springs Road  
David Ward

**ACC Proposition.** On the May 7 ballot, Austin voters will be asked to annex three areas of the city into the Austin Community College taxing district. These areas are within the Eanes, Pflugerville, or Round Rock school districts, rather than Austin ISD, and so do not now contribute to the ACC tax base. A yes vote would help to distribute some of the property tax burden to areas that stand to benefit from the new South Austin campus. For more information, visit the Friends of ACC Web site, [accyes.org](http://accyes.org).

### Before You Vote, Check This

✓ Just in time for the start of early voting (April 20 through May 3), the **South Austin Civic Club** (est. 1935!) will host a City Council candidate forum on Monday, April 18, at Covington Middle School, 3700 Convict Hill Road, two blocks southwest of William Cannon at Brodie Lane. Place 1 starts at 6 PM, Place 3 at 6:40 PM, and Place 4 about 7:30 PM. This Student Review of the Candidates is consistently one of the best forums in Austin. Seniors from five South Austin high schools serve as panelists, researching and developing their own questions. The Civic Club moderates. Three celebrity judges evaluate the students' questions and presentation and award a traveling trophy to the winning high school.

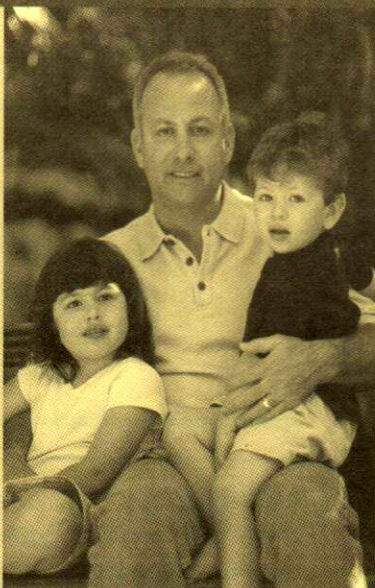
✓ The Ethics Review Commission is sponsoring a City Council Candidate Forum (moderated by the **League of Women Voters**) at 6 PM Sunday, April 24, at City Hall. It will be broadcast live on Channel 6. Candidate responses to the League of Women Voters questionnaire should be published in a printed guide and on the City of Austin Web site by April 15 ([ci.austin.tx.us/election](http://ci.austin.tx.us/election)).

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Memo to Precinct 332:

### *Everybody Votes in Zilker*

Hello, Zilker neighbors and voters.

I'm Sissy Shugrue, and as many of you know, I'm the election judge for Precinct 332. I thought you would like to know the breakdown for voting in our precinct for the 2004 presidential election.

Last November, Precinct 332 had 3024 registered voters, and 2439 of them voted in that election. Of those who voted, 1504 voted early, 907 voted on election day, and 28 voted by mail, for a total turnout of 80.65%. That left 585 registered voters who didn't vote.

I spent most of one day researching what the no-shows have in common. The results were interesting. Of the 585 who did not vote, 443 were on the suspension list, which usually means they have moved out of the precinct. So that leaves 142 likely residents who actually didn't vote. The adjusted numbers are: 2581 people in the precinct who could have voted, 2439 (94%) who did vote, and 142 (5.5%) who did not vote.

The most interesting thing to me was that most of the voting was over by 3 PM. We hardly had anyone after 3, and no one in line at 7 PM. This is incredible. I'm very proud to be your election judge in Precinct 332.

*Thanks, Sissy*

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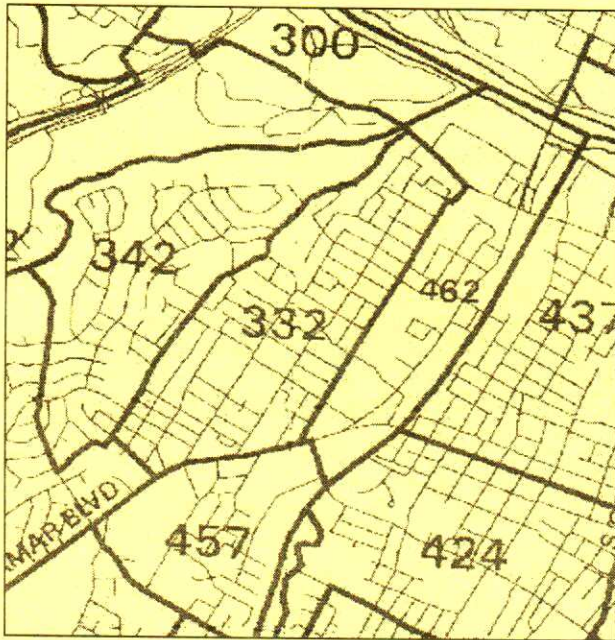
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### Where Does Your Precinct Vote?

- ✓ Precinct **332** votes at Zilker Elementary School, on Bluebonnet at Hether.
- ✓ Precinct **462** should vote at the MHMR




office at 1700 South Lamar, Suite 101, off Collier, but check shortly before the election to make sure it hasn't been moved.

✓ Precinct **325**, including the south side of La Casa and the area of ZNA off Barton Skyway, votes at St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 2128 Barton Hills Drive.

✓ Precinct **342**, the Barton Hills precinct west of Rabb Road, votes at Barton Hills Elementary School, at 2108 Barton Hills Drive.



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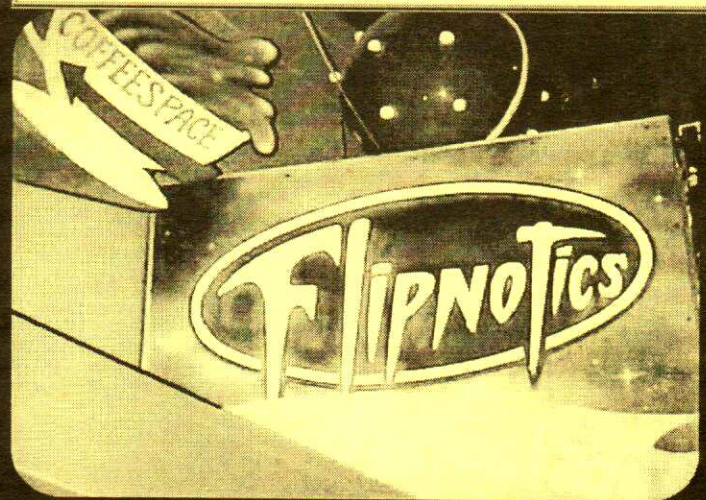
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## NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING REPORT

Dave Piper, ZNA Neighborhood Planning chair

The tentative starting date for the neighborhood planning process with the City of Austin is still August for the planning area including the Zilker, South Lamar, Galindo Elementary, and Barton Hills neighborhood associations. All four neighborhoods will be going through the process at the same time, but each neighborhood will develop its own plan. The process is evolving for the City, but our current understanding is that over the course of many months the City will sponsor meetings or workshops where various stakeholders may make their opinions known to all. The three main topics addressed will probably be land use, transportation, and design standards. At a meeting at Mexico Lindo Restaurant on March 20, ZNA's own Zilker Neighborhood Planning Committee discussed those broad topics and listed some subtopics that we may wish to consider this summer, before the formal planning process begins.

### Land Use

1. Preserving residential zoning: How much and where?
2. Should zoning be changed to reflect current use? How good is our knowledge of current use at this time?
3. Should some areas be upzoned to multifamily to encourage change?
4. Should we try to make distinctions among commercial properties, based on whether the business use is likely to serve the neighborhood rather than a larger population base?
5. Affordability: Is there anything we can do to influence the cost of housing?
6. How do existing Town Lake plans affect the future of areas within our neighborhood?

### Transportation

1. Keeping South Lamar Boulevard four lanes.
2. Improving pedestrian and bike safety and ease of use for South Lamar and other areas.
3. How should the railroad tracks and adjacent land be used and integrated into the neighborhood if Union Pacific stops running freight trains on the tracks?

4. How would Barton Springs Road be affected if land use changes along Town Lake or if Mopac is expanded to carry more traffic?

### Design Standards

1. Should there be restrictions on the size of houses in the neighborhood other than current zoning requirements for height and impervious cover?
2. How will Councilmember McCracken's proposed design standards affect us and should we address them in the plan?

Undoubtedly other questions and concerns will arise as the plan develops. If you would like to get involved, please contact me, Dave Piper, at 916-9636.

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## Faith United Brings Alzheimer's Respite Care to South Lamar

One of the few respite care programs in Austin is at one of our neighboring churches, **Faith United Methodist Church** (south of Matt's El Rancho on South Lamar Boulevard).

The Sanctuary is an Alzheimer's Respite Care program operated by a coalition of south Austin churches. Its mission statement says: "The Sanctuary, a respite care program, exists to provide family members a break from the continuous care of those who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and

any of the various forms of dementia. This program serves persons without regard to race, religious affiliation, sex or nationality." The once per week program for persons in the early stages of these diseases operates out of Willenberg Fellowship Hall at Faith United Methodist Church each Thursday from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. There are currently openings for new clients.

At the weekly Sanctuary meetings clients participate in music, worship, games, recreation, exercise, art, singing, and mind-stimulating activities, and they share lunch

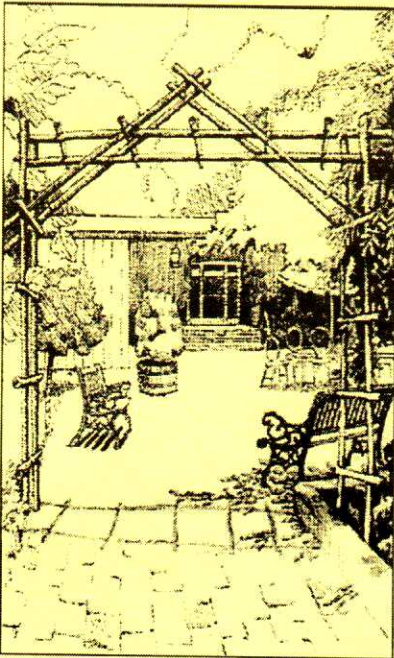
together in a stimulating and safe environment. A large number of volunteers work directly with the clients, and behind the scenes, to make The Sanctuary a comfortable and fun environment for the clients.

The Sanctuary operates under the governance of a task force consisting of representatives from five Austin churches. Rev. Larry Shores of Faith United Methodist Church convenes the task force, and the Alzheimer's Association provides guidance and support for the developing program.

To volunteer, make donations, or get more information, contact Rev. Larry Shores at 444-6781, Linda Chambers at 442-0996, or the Alzheimer's Association at 241-0420.

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## MIXING MUSIC, KITES, AND BIKES

Dave Ward, ZNA Parks Committee Chair

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department convened a meeting on January 28, 2005, to discuss the 2004 Austin City Limits Music Festival in Zilker Park. In attendance were representatives from the Parks Department, Capital Sports and Entertainment (the company that organizes the ACL Festival), and the neighborhoods in the Zilker Park area. The ZNA report emphasized four major issues: parking problems, no-parking signs in the neighborhood, size of the festival (65,000 attendees has been proposed as a cap), and the financial relationship of Capital Sports and Entertainment, Austin City Limits, and the Parks Department. A complete report will be presented at the April ZNA meeting. The next ACL Festival is scheduled for September 23-25, 2005.

### Road Closures on Barton Springs Road

In March, some close calls for children trying to cross Barton Springs Road during the Zilker Kite Festival prompted the Parks Department to ask a neighborhood representative about the possibility of closing Barton Springs Road for future kite festi-

vals, similar to the road closings for the Austin City Limits Festival and the Trail of Lights. ZNA member Jeff Jack has suggested some alternative traffic patterns for large events at Zilker Park, shown at the right. The idea is to maintain some east-west vehicle traffic through the park while separating park users from car traffic. It would also eliminate the problem of detouring westbound traffic up Robert E. Lee and into the neighborhood. The Parks Department is studying the options.

### Bike Lanes Through Zilker Park

Once again, a proposal to widen Barton Springs Road through Zilker Park is making its way through the city's approval process. The current proposal would add pavement width for shoulders and bike lanes. In the past, the Parks Board has rejected any proposal that would reduce green space in the park. It has been suggested that the configuration of Barton Springs Road east of the Barton Creek bridge (with car lanes 10 feet wide instead of 12 feet) be continued through the park so that bike lanes can be added without widening the pavement.

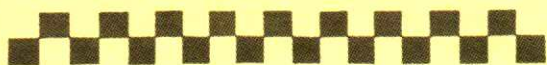
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# ALL ZONED OUT IN ZNA

*Compiled from the ongoing reports of Michael Heffernan and Bobby Rigney, ZNA Zoning Committee co-chairs*

The ZNA Zoning Committee has handled seven rezoning and variance cases since October 2004.

**1209 Kinney.** The rezoning of 1209 Kinney received the most attention. At the October meeting, the ZNA membership voted to oppose the initial proposal to change the one-acre site from single-family 3 zoning to multifamily 3. At a special meeting on January 10, the membership passed a resolution opposing multifamily 2 zoning:

"Be it resolved that the Zilker Neighborhood Association recommends to the City Council that the applicant's request for MF-2 zoning be denied, and be it further resolved that if the applicant should submit for a resubdivision to create legal SF-3 flag lots to facilitate the development of lots over 7,000 square feet (suitable for duplexes) the Association would support such a proposal."

A compromise was eventually reached with the developer to retain SF-3 zoning on the front of the

property (for 8,642 square feet) and to rezone the remainder MF-2 (which requires a 25-foot setback along the south boundary of the lot). The agreement includes a conditional overlay (the maximum number of residential units is 13, the structure on Kinney may not exceed a height of 30 feet from ground level and may not exceed two stories, and the off-street parking requirement is increased by 7 spaces) and several landscaping, lighting, screening, and other items approved by the Ashton Green association. By preserving single-family zoning on the east side of Kinney, the compromise gives residents on the west side of Kinney a buffer and a degree of protection from further upzoning pressures.

On April 7, 2005, the Austin City Council approved the revised rezoning ordinance.

**2108 Kinney.** Also in October, the membership of ZNA voted unanimously to oppose the rezoning of 2108 Kinney from SF-3 to neighborhood office (NO). City staff recommended against the rezoning as well, and in January eight neighbors filed a valid petition opposing it.

Backed up by ZNA's neighborhood planning survey in October, ZNA successfully argued that remov-

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A basic annual individual, \$7.00 dues

B sustaining annual individual, \$25.00 dues

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ing this property from the housing market and adding it to the glut of business space on South Lamar was not in the neighborhood's or the city's best interests. The owner of an adjacent commercial property also provided convincing photographs demonstrating that Kinney is too narrow for office zoning, which needs a minimum of 40 feet of pavement width. ZNA took the opportunity to correct the city's listing of Kinney Avenue's width (the right-of-way is 60 feet wide, not 70 feet, and the pavement is 30 feet wide, not "variable").

At the March 3 hearing, the City Council voted 5-2 to deny the rezoning, with Councilmembers Betty Dunkerley and Danny Thomas voting against the neighborhood position.

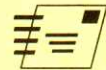
**Evergreen block.** In January, a rezoning case that had been filed almost a year ago was finally resolved. City Council approved general retail and mixed use zoning for two small single-family properties surrounded by commercial zoning in the block between South Lamar and Evergreen. Thanks to council members Daryl Slusher and Jackie Goodman, automotive uses are prohibited on those lots as requested by ZNA. The council's decision preserves the other mixed-use rezonings and conditional overlays that ZNA has negotiated in this block over the years.

**Variances**

The Board of Adjustment heard three cases within ZNA's boundaries in November. Two variances from setbacks were granted to the Friends Meeting of Austin at **2105 Goodrich**. (The ZNA executive committee appreciates the Friends' efforts to place all their required parking on their site, without asking for parking variances.) A setback variance to allow the addition of a second story to a nonconforming duplex at **1700 Kinney** was denied, and a request for a set-

back variance to allow a carport at **1505 Rabb Road** was postponed and later withdrawn.

In December, the City Council granted an exemption from a moratorium on two-family construction to a property at Arpdale and Rae Dell. As the property is on the western boundary of ZNA, the ZNA executive committee deferred to the judgment of the Barton Hills NA in this case.

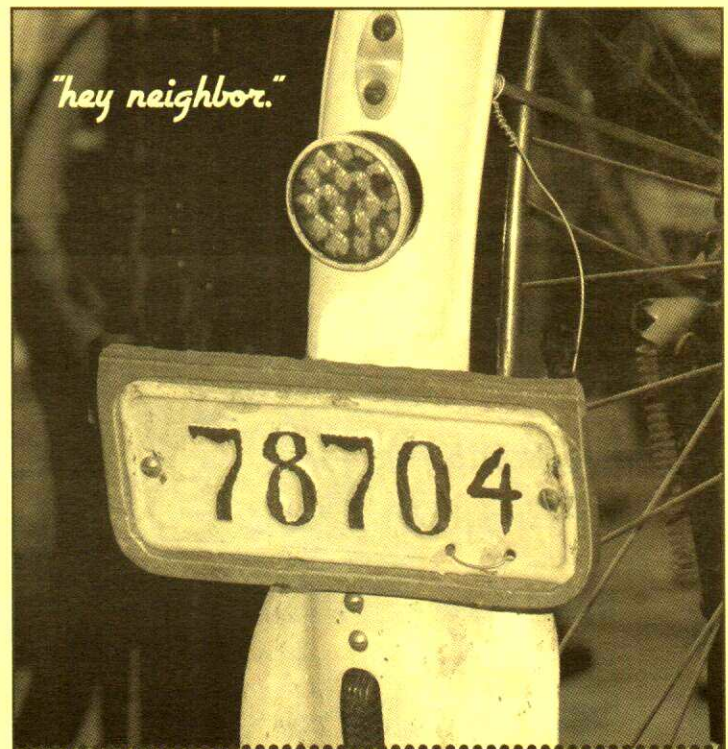


**Do You Know Where Your P.O. Box Is?**

The good news is, the city has purchased a site for the future South Austin branch library at South Fifth and Mary.

The bad news is, the Post Office at that site (the U.S. Postal Service calls it the South Austin Finance Unit) is closing on Friday, April 29. The post office box services will be moved 2.4 miles away, to the South Congress Station, at 3903 South Congress Avenue (on the northeast side of the intersection of Ben White and S. Congress).

If you are interested in finding a more convenient location for retail and P.O. box services along South Lamar Boulevard, please call Lorraine Atherton at 447-7681.



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(Continued from page 1) and Margot Clarke in Place 3, "for their demonstrated understanding and support for the concerns of our neighborhoods. . . . With increasing assaults on our quality of life—zoning infractions, lack of code enforcement, water and air quality concerns, to name a few, ANC seeks to balance neighborhood values against development and density pressures." ANC made no endorsement in the Place 4 race.

### A Question of Zoning

In the closest race, for Mayor Pro Tem Goodman's Place 3 seat, the four candidates are Margot Clarke, Mandy Dealey, Jennifer Kim, and Greg Knaupe. They expressed very similar positions in six of the eight ANC categories, so their responses in the two areas of zoning and social equity are crucial, from the neighborhood perspective.

To determine candidates' commitment to neighborhoods on zoning matters, ANC always asks about their support for valid petitions. This year the question was: "Preservation of the quality of life in our neighborhoods is founded on our zoning ordinance. The most important tool that neighborhoods can use to ensure proper zoning is the Valid Petition,

which when signed by over 20% of adjacent property owners requires a super majority of the City Council to change the zoning for a particular property. Except in the case of an individual property owner who creates a valid petition on their own to oppose a zoning change called for in a neighborhood plan, will you commit never to vote against a valid petition of the community in a zoning case?"

At the beginning of her council career, Jackie Goodman vowed not to vote against valid petitions, so this question has special importance in the choice of her replacement. All four candidates profess some degree of neighborhood commitment, but in their written responses, none answered Yes to this question. They were all asked at the ANC forum to describe a circumstance in which they would vote against a valid petition. Kim, who had answered No in her written response, displayed the best understanding of valid petitions and expressed the strongest support for them. Clarke ranked a close second on the question, Dealey third, and Knaupe a distant fourth.

On some of the other zoning issues, further questioning at the forum was required to clarify differences among the Place 3 candidates. For instance, on the questionnaire Clarke and Knaupe did not answer Yes or No to a question about protecting the base zoning and waterfront overlay along the Town Lake Corridor, but at the forum Clarke's position seemed to be very close to the ANC position in favor of protection, and Knaupe's sounded more like a No. In the zoning category, Dealey and Clarke seemed to support the neighborhood position on at least four out of five questions; Kim and Knaupe each showed firm support on only two questions.

One of the ANC zoning questions described a situation common in neighborhoods along South Lamar, where there is a glut of commercial property and a shortage of affordable housing yet we are still

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subjected to commercial creep. All the council candidates were asked: "In areas where a neighborhood opposes upzoning to convert residential use to some other commercial use, and where adequate commercially zoned property is already available, will you commit to vote against such upzoning?" Betty Dunkerley was the only candidate, in any race, to answer No on this and 16 other questions, and her record on council shows a consistent rejection of a healthy balance between commercial and residential uses. Her written responses supported the neighborhood position on only 10 of the 33 questions, which is why ANC was unable to endorse in Place 4. Here's a sampling of the other candidates' responses to commercial creep:

*Place 1, Lee Leffingwell:* Yes, I am strongly committed to preserving the integrity of our neighborhoods. I do also recognize that there may be, from time to time, laudable reasons to consider some conservative zoning changes.

*Place 3, Margot Clarke:* I will fight to protect neighborhoods from unwanted conversion to CS.

*Place 3, Mandy Dealey:* I am 100% committed to making sure Austin's neighborhoods can retain their unique character and are not run over by commercial development that is opposed by the residents and doesn't add to the quality of life for that area. This is again one of those questions where I would always work with everyone involved, but I feel it would be irresponsible to give a blanket answer without the specific details available.

*Place 3, Jennifer Kim:* I really do think it would depend on the situation. I cannot answer yes or no to this.

If you are undecided, the ANC questionnaire is an excellent introduction to the major candidates and their positions on neighborhood issues. Check it out at [www.ancweb.org](http://www.ancweb.org).

## Nomadic Notions



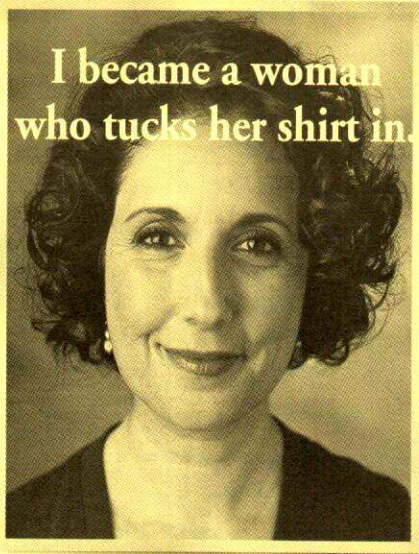
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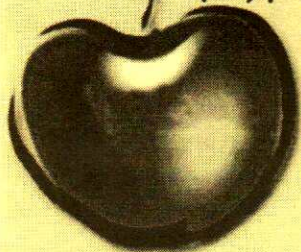
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Newsletter  
of the Zilker  
Neighborhood  
Association

[www.main.org/znaweb](http://www.main.org/znaweb)

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**Executive Committee of ZNA**

**Elected Officers:**

*President:* Lorraine Atherton, 447-7681

*Vice President:* Robin Sherwin, 462-1947

*Vice President:* Hill Abell, 462-0141

*Secretary:* Rachel Reitmeyer, 428-9180

*Treasurer:* Andrew Murphy, 442-9380

*ANC Delegate:* Elizabeth Yevich, 462-2859

*Z-News Editor:* Peggy Kelley, 440-1269

**Committee Chairs:**

*Holiday Family Program:*

Barbara Cossie, 447-4437

*Neighborhood Planning:*

Dave Piper, 916-9636

*Parks:* Dave Ward, 912-1494

*Pfluger Bridge and Barton Springs Road*

*Relations:* Robin Cravey, 447-8014

*Town Lake Park:* Kaye Trybus, 447-4437

*Web Site:* Richard Gravois, 441-3430

*Zoning:* Michael Heffernan, 448-2801,  
and Bobby Rigney, 471-3758

**About the Zilker Neighborhood Association**

ZNA holds general meetings the fourth Monday of February, April, July, and October, at Zilker Elementary School. The Executive Committee meets at 7 PM 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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