

## Welcome to Zilker



*A Message from the President*

*by Jeff Jack, President, ZNA*

**H**ave you noticed that on almost every street in our neighborhood there is some kind of construction project going on? Whether it is an addition on Collier, a garage apartment on Goodrich, a brand-new house on Margaret, or the condominiums on Kinney, there are big changes going on in the neighborhood! With these physical changes come other changes as well. Zilker is no longer one of those sleepy south Austin neighborhoods. We have become one of the choice inner-city neighborhoods, the place to be, close to downtown, Zilker Park, and Restaurant Row. New folks are moving in who are just now learning what many of us have known for years: Zilker is a great neighborhood to live in.

So I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new neighbors and best wishes for a wonderful time living here in Zilker. It is a wonderful place. But we have to remember that some of the consequences that come with this growth in Zilker could make our neighborhood a less desirable place to live. Added traffic on our neighborhood streets and on South Lamar Boulevard makes traffic congestion a bigger problem, intrusive buildings impair the privacy of neighbors, and noise from our commercial corridors can become a nuisance. So how do we keep Zilker a fantastic neighborhood? Like the old expression, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance," the price for maintaining Zilker as a livable neighborhood is continued oversight of what affects our neighborhood.

That is one of the primary roles of your Zilker Neighborhood Association, which has been working to preserve and improve the neighborhood in a more or less organized fashion for at least 25 years (more on page 8). As an example, just in the last few months, your association has been involved in almost a dozen zoning or variance requests right here in the neighborhood. The City's neighborhood planning effort continues to be a major focus of the association. We have



**Do you know the story behind this neighborhood landmark? Come share this story and many others at the ZNA**

### **Watermelon Social and 25th Anniversary Celebration**



**Monday, July 31, 2006**

**Outdoor Learning Center  
Zilker Elementary School  
1900 Bluebonnet**

**6:30-8:30 P.M.** Meet and Greet Social, Watermelon eating and seed spitting  
Share stories and photos of the way it used to be and the way it still is in Zilker neighborhood.

Newcomers, old-timers, homeowners, renters, and business owners all welcome.



also been involved in various issues concerning all of the neighborhoods south of the river. Working with seven other neighborhood associations in the South Central Coalition (think 78704!), we have participated in the Town Lake Park construction oversight, the recent effort

## 2 «Z•NEWS» JULY 2006

to support neighborhood schools and prevent school closures in the central city, planning for the new Twin Oaks Library (more on page 11), and review of the many developments proposed along the south shore of Town Lake. As a member of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, the umbrella group for Austin neighborhood associations, ZNA has kept up with several citywide issues that will affect our neighborhood, such as the McMansion and commercial design standards ordinances, planning for the Austin City Limits festival, and Capital Metro's proposals for increased transit service.

### Volunteer for Fun and Nonprofits

It has been a busy time indeed for the association, and I would like to thank the ZNA Executive Committee and all the many volunteers who have spent so many hours working to keep Zilker such a great place. Like so many other volunteer organizations, we can always use some help. So if you are new to the neighborhood, or just have some interest in helping to keep Zilker great, please join the neighborhood association and volunteer to participate in the many activities of the association.

Being a part of ZNA is not all hard work; we also like to have fun. This month's Watermelon Social is a great time for all of our friends and families to get together to enjoy a Texas summer evening with cold watermelon, iced tea, a nice breeze (attracting plenty of

local historians and other breeze-shooters), and of course the famous (or is it infamous?) seed-spitting contest. Please join us on July 31, the last Monday of the month, at the Outdoor Learning Center behind Zilker Elementary School for a great event and fundraiser for ZNA.

We will not have a regular business meeting at the social, but there will be some exhibits and visitors that may be of interest to you. SafePlace will have a table to explain their important work protecting families from the devastation of domestic violence. Zilker neighbors have always been strong supporters of and even leaders in Austin's large community of charitable and nonprofit organizations, and SafePlace has been one of our favorite causes for decades (more on page 10).

Another cause close to Zilker's heart is Barton Springs and the Save Our Springs Alliance. The folks at SOS have offered to organize a Barton Springs walking tour especially for Zilker neighbors. It "would include a fun hands-on look at this local treasure, including information on historical landmarks at the Springs and the ecology and biology of the Springs." There will be neighbors at the Watermelon Social prepared to sign you up for this tour and introduce you to the SOS Alliance (more about the springs on pages 4 and 5).

### Parking and Park Events

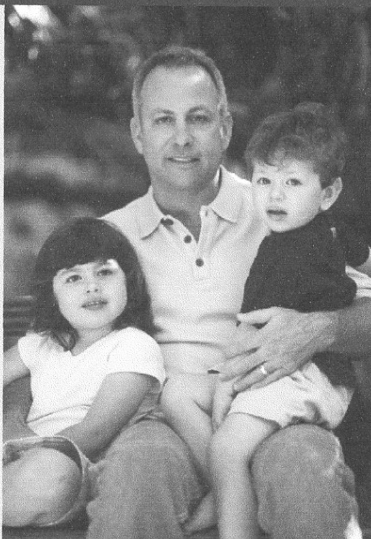
Also, the Austin Parks Department will have information and staff at the Watermelon Social to visit with neighbors about the Austin City Limits Festival planned for Zilker Park in September. The ACL Fest is a great event, but it does bring noise, traffic, and parking problems to the surrounding neighborhoods. Each year of the festival, your association has worked with the city and the promoter of the festival, Capital Sports and Entertainment, to try to address these issues. We have had the cooperation of both the city and the promoter, but we still have not eliminated the problem of event patrons parking in the neighborhood and blocking streets. We have tried signs, then bigger signs, then bigger and brighter signs, traffic cones, and police patrols; all have helped, but overflow parking still

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reached deep into the neighborhood during last year's event. This year the city is proposing to take one more step by actually closing some streets off Barton Springs Road and Robert E. Lee. When cars are parked there, these streets are too narrow for emergency vehicle access. The proposed closures would be similar to measures taken in the heyday of the Austin Aqua Festival to protect the Bouldin Creek neighborhood. This proposal has merit and is probably the most likely to prevent unwanted parking in the area, but it also means some inconvenience to our neighbors. So please come to the social and talk with the City staff about what is

being proposed; see if you think it would improve the parking and safety situation without undue hardship on the folks who live in the north part of our neighborhood (more on page 6).

Again, welcome to all the new folks in the neighborhood. We hope you can join us on July 31 at the Watermelon Social, become a member of your neighborhood association, and help keep Zilker a wonderful and unique neighborhood.

*Your Neighbor,  
Jeff Jack, President,  
Zilker Neighborhood Association*



**Call 311 for Code Enforcement**

*by Matthew Christianson,  
Code Enforcement District Manager for South Austin*

The City of Austin is making significant changes to code enforcement that should improve service and help us in the fight against urban blight. We have begun by dividing the city into four districts that correspond to Austin Police Department Command Districts. Investigators within each district will handle zoning, housing, and property maintenance complaints.

**In addition, you can now report all code violations by calling 311.** This change to a single number is designed to make reporting code violations easier for our citizens. However, please don't hesitate to contact me at 974-6470 if your concerns have not been addressed to your satisfaction.

**Other Helpful Numbers:**

- Abandoned and Junk Vehicles, 280-0075
- Zoning Violations, 974-6576
- Dangerous Buildings, 974-1855
- Pollution Spills, 974-2550
- Keep Austin Beautiful, 974-3577
- Graffiti Removal, 854-4125
- Solid Waste Services, 494-9400

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## Barton Springs Cleaning Boils Up

by Robin Cravey

"Hey, swimmers, want the pool cleaned? Do it yourself!" With that simple message, the Friends of Barton Springs Pool has set in motion a wave of service projects and public involvement that promises to restore the pool to its rightful glory.

The Friends sprang from nothing last January to grow into a burgeoning organization with five volunteer pool cleaning sessions behind it and a growing complement of volunteers that numbers in the dozens at each

cleaning. Ahead is the August 3 Council Cleans the Pool Day that will bring members of the Austin City Council down to take their turns at the brooms and skimmers! Along the way, the Friends have sought strong working relationships with the city staff, elected a hard-working board of directors, and advocated renewed efforts by the city to keep the pool clear of algae and for the early removal of the gravel bar at the deep end of the pool.

Recently the board set an ambitious fundraising and capital projects agenda that includes removing all overhead wiring from the pool area, replacing the chain link fence with wrought iron, building a bath house at the south gate, and renovating the existing bath house. The board plans to develop consensus about priorities and funding for these long-term improvements.

Join the Friends of Barton Springs Pool by paying dues, volunteering, or both. Send a check for dues to president Robin Cravey, 807 Brazos St. Suite 807, Austin, Texas, 78701. Make the check for \$15 to APF-Friends of Barton Springs Pool. Volunteer for cleaning by sending an e-mail to Service Committee chairman Steve Barnick, [ding\\_dong\\_slb@yahoo.com](mailto:ding_dong_slb@yahoo.com). Address general questions to president Robin Cravey, [robin@robincravey.com](mailto:robin@robincravey.com).

The Web site, [www.friendsofbartonspringpool.com](http://www.friendsofbartonspringpool.com), will be up on the Web soon.



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**Turn Off Water Waste**

by Daniel Honker, City of Austin Water Conservation

Help stop water waste this season! The City of Austin has a water waste ordinance in effect year-round. If you see any of the violations below, please call the **anonymous Water Waste Hotline at 512-974-2199**.

- Failing to repair a controllable leak including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, or a leaking faucet.
- Operating a permanently installed irrigation system with a broken head, a poorly adjusted head that sprays pavement or street, or a head that is misting due to high water pressure.
- During irrigation, allowing water to run off a property causing a trail of at least 50 feet, or allowing water to pond in the street or parking lot to a depth greater than a quarter inch.

From May to September, commercial entities are prohibited from watering during the daytime, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you see a commercial property watering during these times, please call the Water Waste Hotline at 974-2199.

**Remember, you're helping, not hurting!**

Water waste calls are anonymous, and water waste fines are rare. Our ultimate goal is to save water—we want to solve the problem and prevent future waste. From our perspective, your reports give us extra "eyes" in the field to keep our treated drinking water from going down the drain. For the customer, locating and fixing water leaks can save money and help prevent water damage to their property.

It's really a good deed, after all.

For more information, please call the City of Austin Water Conservation Dept. or visit our Web site at [www.waterwiseaustin.org](http://www.waterwiseaustin.org).

**Walk Barton Springs with SOS**

by Clare O'neil Crosby

The mission of the Save Our Springs Alliance is to protect the Edwards Aquifer, its springs and contributing streams, and the natural and cultural heritage of the Hill Country region and its watersheds. Here in the Zilker neighborhood, the organization depends on concerned citizens, dedicated volunteers, and the natural sciences to protect the water quality of Barton Springs. ZNA has long valued Barton Springs as the soul of the neighborhood and has strongly supported SOS.

As part of an effort to raise awareness among the community, the SOS Alliance is offering free walking tours to neighbors. The Barton Springs walking tour would include a fun hands-on look at this local treasure, including information on historical landmarks at the Springs and the ecology and biology of the Springs.

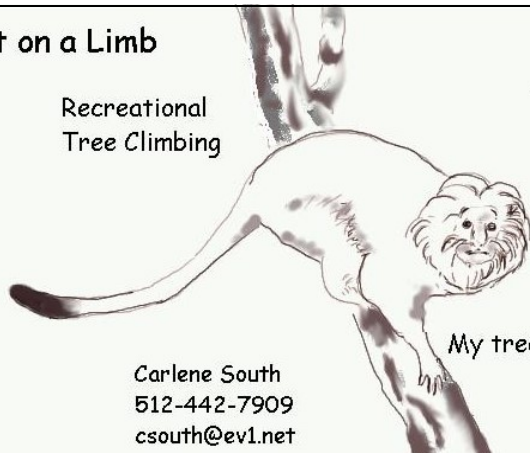
You can learn more about SOS and sign up for a tour at ZNA's Watermelon Social on July 31.

To schedule a tour or presentation, call 477-2320, or e-mail Colin Clark at [colin@sosalliance.org](mailto:colin@sosalliance.org).

For more information about the SOS Alliance, visit the Web site at [www.sosalliance.org](http://www.sosalliance.org).

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**ACL Festival: New Parking and Traffic Plan**

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department, in the person of special events manager Jay Stone, has been invited to ZNA's Watermelon Social on July 31 to visit with neighbors about the Austin City Limits Festival planned for Zilker Park in September.

The ACL Fest brings more than 50,000 people to Zilker Park for three days of great outdoor music, and like the other large events in the park, it brings its share of noise, traffic, and parking problems to the surrounding neighborhoods. Each year of the festival, the affected neighborhood associations have worked with the city and the promoter of the festival, Capital Sports and Entertainment, to address these issues. This year the city parks department has paid extra attention to the problems of overflow parking on the narrow residential streets in our neighborhood north of Margaret. To address concerns about emergency vehicle access, the city is proposing to close some streets off Barton Springs Road and Robert E. Lee. The main points of the proposal are:

◆ There will be four barricaded areas. No traffic will travel through on these streets between 10 am and 10 pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The streets that will be closed are:

- Lund at Robert E. Lee
- Barton Blvd at Barton Springs Road
- Virginia Ave at Kinney Ave
- Linscomb Ave at Kinney Ave.

◆ Parking will be prohibited on both sides of the following streets:

- Cliff Dr from Linscomb to Sunset
- Sunset from Cliff to Barton Blvd
- Barton Blvd from Linscomb to Sunset
- Virginia from Kinney to Cliff
- Cater Dr
- Meghan Ln.

The No Parking zones on those streets will be enforced and

towable 24 hours per day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

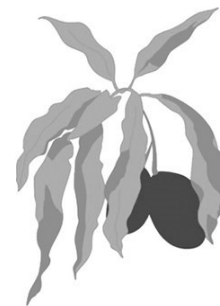
◆ "No Thru Traffic" signs will be installed for Lund at Bluebonnet, Barton Hills Dr at Robert E Lee, both ends of Hollow Creek Dr on Barton Hills Dr.

◆ "No Parking in Neighborhood" signs will be installed at Trailside Dr at Robert E Lee, Spring Creek Dr at Robert E Lee, Rabb at Melridge Pl.

◆ There will not be a turnaround at the south entrance of Barton Springs Pool on Robert E Lee, but a full detour will bring cars up Robert E Lee to Melridge to Bluebonnet to Lamar. Detour signs and signs reminding festival goers of the bus pickup at the state lots at Fourteenth and Trinity will be distributed throughout the detour route.

If you live on one of the affected streets, ZNA and the parks staff would especially like to know what you think of this proposal. If you cannot attend the Watermelon Social, please contact ZNA at [ZilkerNA@austin.rr.com](mailto:ZilkerNA@austin.rr.com) or call Dave Ward (ZNA Parks Committee chair) at 468-4944.

More information on various neighborhood concerns should be available through the Austin City Limits Festival Web site at [www.aclfestival.com/neighborhood](http://www.aclfestival.com/neighborhood) later this month.



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## Adopt a Bus Stop Today

by Lamont Ross, Capital Metro Community Outreach

### What is the Adopt-a-Stop Program?

With the highest ridership per capita in Texas, Capital Metro has more than 3,000 bus stops. Capital Metro's Adopt-a-Stop Program seeks to ensure that riders have an enjoyable experience. Capital Metro encourages local organizations and businesses to participate in the program by adopting a Capital Metro bus stop in their area with a bench or shelter. By adopting a stop you assist in keeping our community clean and safe.

### Who can participate in the program?

Anyone. Whether you represent a community organization, church, business, family, individual, or a group of friends, the Adopt-a-Stop Program is for you.

### Why participate?

It is an excellent way to demonstrate your civic pride and help keep your community looking beautiful. Your efforts will help provide a cleaner, safer and more pleasant transit experience. You can also add a unique touch to your adopted stop by incorporating elements that reflect the character of your neighborhood. Plus, a sign recognizing your work will be placed at the stop.

### What is expected of participants?

Participants agree to:



### ADOPT THIS BENCH, PLEASE

This bus stop is on Bluebonnet across the street from Zilker Elementary School. The small dead tree and the graffiti have been there for months.

- ◆ Assist in the removal of debris (at least once a week) between Capital Metro scheduled cleanings.
- ◆ Contact Capital Metro to inform us of graffiti or other concerns at the adopted stop.
- ◆ Commit to participation for one year.

### What role does Capital Metro play in the program?

Capital Metro will:

- ◆ Place a sign at your adopted stop recognizing your efforts.
  - ◆ List you as an Adopt-a-Stop Program participant in our *On the Move* Newsletter.
- For more information call Capital Metro at 389-7434 or e-mail [lamont.ross@capmetro.org](mailto:lamont.ross@capmetro.org).

Zilker has bus stops along South Lamar, Barton Springs Road, Oltorf, Bluebonnet, and Robert E. Lee. If you would like to adopt a stop or work on other transit planning issues through ZNA, please call Dave Piper (916-9636) or [ZilkerNA@austin.rr.com](mailto:ZilkerNA@austin.rr.com).

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### A Dark and Scary Night, and Other Great Moments in Zilker Neighborhood History

by Richard Gravois, VP and founding member of ZNA

Even the *Statesman* calls Danny Young the "Mayor of South Austin." I remember when Danny's Texicalli Grill opened in the abandoned Burger Chef on South Lamar. Then Kerbey Lane made a better offer and Texicalli moved into the tall building at the back of the property. We had several ZNA meetings in that restaurant while the church was being renovated, and Danny and Lu Young organized a Christmas Carol bus to drive to sev-

eral places in the neighborhood. Those were the days, long ago in the eighties.

In May ZNA turned 25 years old. I don't have a written charter or birth certificate, but the paper says that the Memorial Day flood happened 25 years ago, and that's when we got started.

It was a dark and scary night when ZNA was founded on May 30, 1981, in response to a proposal to build the Kinney Avenue Condos. Then the rains came in biblical quantities, and on the next day we had the Memorial Day Flood. The condos were built two years later, and are now the Ashton Green Condos, but we took the message of the flood as incentive to get involved in sensible planning. Since then we have worked with developers and city staff to influence designs and do what we could to keep Austin as the very livable city that it is.

Some of the changes since 1981:


Traffic light at Kinney and Barton Springs. (Cars used to line up as far back as Kerr.)

Zilker Place, Talisman, Zilker Skyline. Lamar widening, Barton Springs Road redesign, Umlauf Sculpture Gardens, footbridge over Barton Creek.

The most famous resident of our neighborhood is Barton Springs. She has two sister springs that are quiet most of the time. When it rains too much one sister comes up on Lamar Boulevard near Chateau Paris. The other sister is in Lamar Plaza near the Dexter entrance.

I think I'll go have a Philly steak sandwich at Texicalli and then sit in Danny's 54 Chevy, or go admire that covey of Edsels on Ashby.

*Happy Birthday, ZNA*



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#### BECOME A ZNA MEMBER TODAY

Membership is open to Zilker residents (renters or homeowners) 18 years old or older. Annual dues are \$7 per person. Additional contributions are welcome. (Many couples pay \$25.)

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Please make checks payable to Zilker Neighborhood Association and mail with this form to:  
ZNA Memberships, 1818 Treadwell St., Austin, TX 78704





The Pfluger office building, one of the tallest buildings in the neighborhood, stood next door to the Paggi House, one of the oldest buildings in the city. It and the Wendy's on S. Lamar were demolished in March to make way for a mixed use project (mostly residential). Meanwhile, our neighborhood plan is stuck in FLUM. If you want to know what that means, don't miss the next meeting of the Barton Creek and Zilker planning areas, **Monday, July 24**, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at Faith United Methodist Church, 2701 S. Lamar. Photo Fontaine Maverick

**Zilker's First Real Estate Speculator or, The More Things Change**

*Excerpted from the history page of the South Lamar Neighborhood Association site, [www.southlamar.org](http://www.southlamar.org).*

The first land grant that included the Zilker neighborhood was granted to Isaac Decker. Decker had listed his occupation as shoe cobbler in his first grant application, for Stephen F. Austin's colony. After that application failed, he changed his occupation to farmer when applying for land in Ben Milam's colony. He probably did that to obtain more land, as those colonists who farmed and ranched would receive a league of land, or 4228 acres, whereas those who did not would usually receive at most a labor of land, or 177 acres.

Isaac Decker was granted a league of land in Milam's colony on March 17, 1835. The league bordered the Colorado River from the mouth of Barton Creek in the west to the mouth of Blunn Creek to the east, and its southeastern border reached to Williamson Creek.

Decker and his family did not live in this area for long—problems with attacking Indians reportedly contributed to his decision to sell his land to David and Daniel Browning on June 18, 1838. The Republic of Texas granted Decker a labor of land in Montgomery County in east Texas where the city of Tomball now exists. There Decker plied his trade as tanner and shoe cobbler; during the Civil War he supplied horse harnesses and shoes to Confederate troops. He remarried three times after the death of his first wife, Deborah, and fathered 22 children, including three sets of twins. He lived there until his death in 1874.

Jerry Drake, Texas General Land Office, Archives and Records Division, and Jane Keppler, Montgomery County Genealogical and Historical Society, assisted with the original SLNA history page.

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**Help SafePlace Build a Community of Peace**

by Clarissa Moore

One woman living in our shelter said she left her nice home because she didn't want her daughter to grow up in a house where her mom was hit. In a world where 25% of intimate relationships are abusive and 1.5 million women in the U.S. are raped or assaulted by an intimate partner every year, any one of us may face this kind of difficult choice in order to be safe. We don't believe moving from one form of abuse to another is a fair trade-off, which is why SafePlace provides safety, healing and

violence prevention services for women, children and men hurt by domestic and sexual violence.

We are making an enormous difference, but we recognize that we cannot prevent violence on our own; we are only as strong as our partnerships and as effective as our ability to engage others to build healthy relationships. We are only able to continue doing this necessary work because of you. You can help by donating gently used clothing for women, children, and men and household items such as linens, dishes, silverware, and toys. Help us provide basic needs for families living in shelter by purchasing and donating new, full-sized toiletry items such as deodorants, shampoo/conditioner, and toothpaste. **Today, you can help by donating baby care items like baby wipes, which we have a tremendous need for right now.** A full listing of items SafePlace accepts as donations can be found at [www.austinsafeplace.org](http://www.austinsafeplace.org), or call 267-SAFE for more information.

"Someday soon I hope, domestic and sexual violence will be a thing of the past, because we as a community have continued to provide help and safety for anyone in need by working together to end the violence," said Julia Spann, Executive Director. "On behalf of the Board, staff, volunteers, clients and especially the children living at SafePlace, thank you for helping families build new lives and for supporting our life-saving work."



**courtney l. decker**

logicalsolutions@austin.rr.com

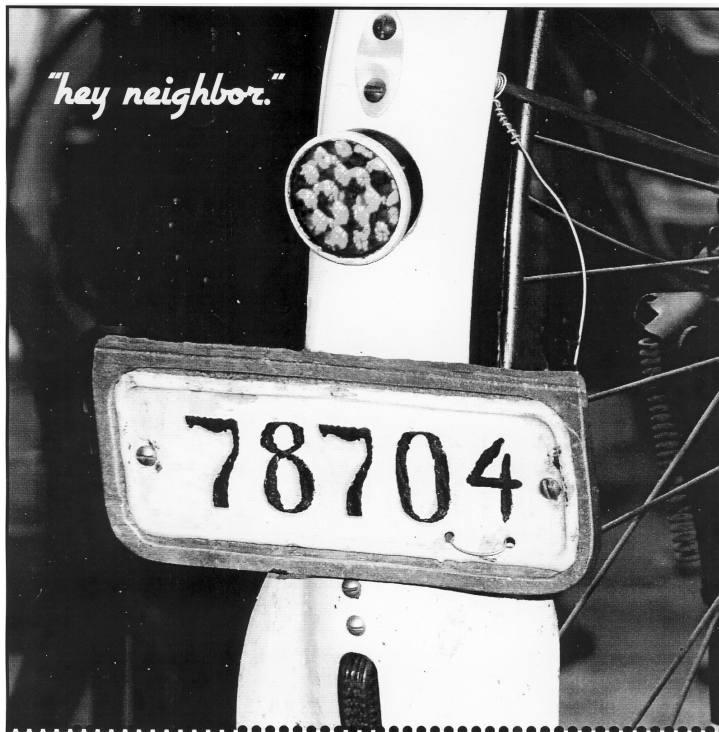
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# COME AND SEE HOW THE DESIGN OF YOUR NEW TWIN OAKS BRANCH LIBRARY IS SHAPING UP

You are invited to attend a community design review meeting for the new Twin Oaks Branch of the Austin Public Library.

**Tuesday, August 1, 2006, 6:30 p.m.**

**Friends of the Library Monster Bookstore** (former South Austin Post Office) **1800 South Fifth Street**

The Austin Public Library requests your review of the features presently included in the design of this new branch library.

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK FOR OUR ARCHITECTS**



the consultant architects for the project, and very productive design input meetings have been held with the community on November 17, 2005, and January 11, 2006. Hatch Partnership, LLP, has now completed schematic design for the new facility.

For more information contact: John W. Gillum, Library Facilities Planning Manager, 974-7495  
[www.cityofaustin.org/library](http://www.cityofaustin.org/library) 512-974-7400

In the 1998 City of Austin Bond election, voters approved the funds for land acquisition, design and construction of a new, permanent branch library facility to replace the leased-space Twin Oaks Branch Library now serving South Central Austin. By 2004, the Austin Public Library had succeeded in purchasing the former South Austin Post Office site to be the new location for the Twin Oaks Branch Library. Hatch Partnership, LLP, was subsequently hired as

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12 «Z•NEWS» JULY 2006



Newsletter  
of the Zilker  
Neighborhood  
Association

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**About the Zilker Neighborhood Association**

ZNA holds general meetings the fourth or fifth 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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