



Newsletter of the  
Zilker Neighborhood  
Association

JANUARY 2016

Austin, Texas  
Established 1981

## Meet the Candidates for Zilker's Next State Representative



THE CANDIDATES IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY for District 49 State Representative (the seat previously held by Elliott Naishtat) have been invited to introduce themselves to Zilker neighbors at the ZNA quarterly meeting on January 25.

The big issues in the District 49 race are public school funding and economic justice, both of which are dependent on efforts to reform the state's regressive tax policies. The top candidates, including affordable housing advocate (and Zilker resident) Heather Way, AISD at-large trustee Gina Hinojosa, and Huey Rey Fischer, all have impressive credentials and experience in these areas, along with significant endorsements.

The seven candidates in the Democratic primary are Aspen Dunaway ([dunawayfortexas.com](http://dunawayfortexas.com)), Huey Rey

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ZNA Meeting January 25

Monday 6:30-8:30 PM

at

Zilker Elementary School

1900 Bluebonnet



**Council Member Ann Kitchen on  
CodeNext, TNCs, and funding for  
mobility projects**

**Meet the candidates in the Texas  
House District 49 primary  
Coyote management update**



Newcomers, homeowners, renters,  
business neighbors

❖ ❖ **All Welcome** ❖ ❖

## Connecting with City Hall

TO KICK OFF THE SECOND YEAR of the 10-One City Council, the Zilker Neighborhood Association will visit with District 5 Council Member Ann Kitchen at our first quarterly meeting of 2016, on Monday, January 25.

Ann will update us on the disbursement of \$21 million in Quarter-Cent Funds for infrastructure projects that improve mobility (see the October 2015 *ZNews*, page 10). As chair of the City Council's Mobility Committee, Ann may also bring us up to speed on the new regulations for taxi cabs and other transportation companies (TNCs).

Ann will also report on the progress of CodeNext and the process of rewriting the City's Land Development Code. (See Code-related articles on page 3 and page 4.)

Interested in the next District 5 Town Hall meeting? See page 5 for Ann's District 5 office contact information.

## Inside this issue:

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*(Continued from page 1)*

Fischer (hueyfischer.com), Gina Hinojosa (ginaforaustin.com), Kenton D. Johnson, Blake Rocab, Matthew Shrum, and Heather Way (voteheatherway.com).

No candidates have filed for this place in the Republican primary, and Rick Perkins is unopposed in the Libertarian primary.

**Other Local Races of Interest to Zilker Voters in the March 1 Primaries**

**Democratic primaries**

*427th District Court*

Jim Coronado and Tamara Needles

*450th District Court*

Brad Urrutia and Chantal Eldridge

*District Attorney*

Gary Cobb, Margaret Moore, and Rick Reed

*Sheriff*

Sally Hernandez, Don X. Rios,

Todd Radford, and John Sisson

*Constable Precinct 3*

Stacy Suits and Anthony "AJ" Johnson

**Republican primary**

*County Commissioner Precinct 3*

Gerald Daugherty and Jason Nassour

**Where were we the day the courthouse bonds failed?**

LAST NOVEMBER, LESS THAN 17% of the registered voters in Zilker and Barton Hills showed up for the general election. Sure, we did better than the county-wide average of 12% turnout, and we voted about 60% in favor of the new Travis County civil and family courts, but because so few of us voted, the bonds lost by only 1,048 votes.

The three precincts in Zilker and Barton Hills (332, 340, and 342) have about 10,000 registered voters. Only 1,639 showed up in November. If turnout in those precincts had been just 40%, the family court building would have been approved.

Gone are the days when a Zilker voter can skip a local election, confident that everyone else in the neighborhood is registered and committed to voting. The primary election is March 1. Don't just plan to vote yourself, start reminding your friends and neighbors to vote. If you know neighbors who aren't registered, help them get registered.

And bring them with you to the ZNA quarterly meeting on January 25 to meet the Democratic candidates who want to represent us in the next State Legislature.

*Lorraine Atherton, ZNews Editor*



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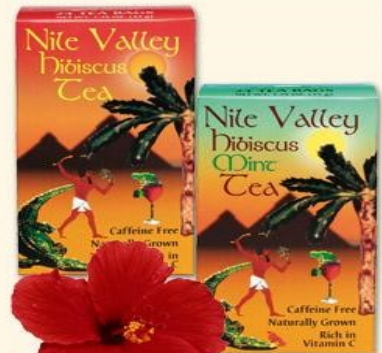


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**Joint Primary Elections**  
 (Democratic and  
 Republican parties) will be  
**Tuesday, March 1**  
**Early voting begins February 16.**  
**Precincts 332 and 340** vote at  
 Zilker School (1900 Bluebonnet)  
**Precinct 342** votes at  
 Barton Hills School (2108 Barton  
 Hills Dr.)  
 Check election info at  
 traviscountyelections.org or  
 call 512-238-VOTE.

**The Case of the Missing  
 Street: 2106 Allwood  
 Rezoning**

A REQUEST TO REZONE 2106 ALLWOOD goes to the Planning Commission on January 12 (as this newsletter goes to the printer). The owner is proposing to build six new condo units behind an existing house on Bluebonnet. The new houses will be limited to access on Allwood.

Allwood Drive is a dead-end that should have been completed through to Hether when the block east of Bluebonnet was first subdivided. The absence of a street or alley leaves several large but narrow lots with little or no access to city services such as storm sewers and fire protection. Over the years, much of the ZNA Zoning Committee's time has been spent working with developers to fit a few more housing units on sites like this, with inadequate infrastructure. Most are built out as flag lots. Without access to Bluebonnet, the site at 2106 Allwood has even fewer options than the other lots.

The Zoning Committee believes that the best *(Continued on page 4)*

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(Continued from page 3) option is to extend Allwood as a public street into the property so that pavement, curb and gutter, on-street parking, sidewalks, emergency and utility access, garbage and recycling pickup, storm sewer, water and waste water, and any other connections to city services on Bluecrest can be provided as required by existing code.

Most developers would not be willing to bear the full cost of providing that infrastructure, and so we have offered a compromise of SF6 zoning limited to 45% impervious cover (the SF3 limit) and four residences, along with a 70-foot buffer that includes the area that would normally be occupied by a public street. Within that buffer, the developer and the City would have the flexibility to locate most of the missing infrastructure as effectively as possible.

In short, this property needs a public street, or new construction should be limited to four houses.

*For updates, contact  
Zoning Committee Chair Bill Neale*

### ZNA Tracks Erosion Controls

IF YOU SEE significant amounts of dirt, sand, and mud washed into the street, it's a good bet that the builder at a nearby construction site has not installed the erosion controls required by City codes or is not maintaining them. This



A photo gallery of construction sites without adequate erosion controls (like this one on Oxford) has been posted on the ZNA Web site at [www.zilkerneighborhood.org/construction/](http://www.zilkerneighborhood.org/construction/).

*Photo by Bruce Wiland*

type of pollution is now so pervasive in the neighborhood that the ZNA Zoning Committee is asking neighbors to report these sites to 311 or, for a rapid response after normal business hours, to the 24-Hour Pollution Hotline (512-974-2550) operated by the Pollution Prevention and Reduction Section of the Watershed Protection Department. Don't wait for it to rain; if the site has no silt fences installed or if they are not maintained, report it before the rain starts.

Meanwhile, the Zoning Committee is working with City staff to find ways to ensure that these erosion/sedimentation controls are properly installed and that the code is enforced so that neighbors do not have to police the problem themselves.

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## Happy Birthday, Shudde

SHUDDE FATH'S 100TH birthday is this month.

A Zilker resident, ZNA member, and longtime advocate for Barton Springs and other environmental causes, Shudde has served the City of Austin as a member of the Electric Utility Commission since 1977. Her current term on the commission expires in February 2017. For almost forty years, she has been guiding (sometimes pushing) the commission and Austin toward a cleaner, more efficient, more progressive future.

ZNA is deeply grateful to Shudde for all her contributions to Austin and to Zilker.

Call or e-mail Ann Kitchen's City Council office if you would like to be notified of future District 5 Town Hall meetings or other opportunities to participate in City government.

ANN KITCHEN  
District 5 Council Member;  
district5@austintexas.gov

*Responsive Office*

www.austintexas.gov/government,  
512-978-2105

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## The Zilker Elves Deliver Again!

*by Harmony Grogan, ZNA Holiday Families Program Coordinator*

LAST MONTH THE ZILKER HOLIDAY Families Program provided gifts to ten families with children who attend Zilker Elementary School. As in past years, Zilker neighbors have been most generous in providing financial donations and gifts to those who need assistance for the holidays. The

program also received a big help from our Zilker Elves, volunteers who give their time and energy to shop, wrap, and deliver presents to the families themselves. Thank you all for making this a very special holiday for so many families!



Thanks to these neighbors for their support as donors or volunteers for the Zilker Holiday Families Program. Please know your donations were received with smiles and delight.

Jose Alcorta  
 Dave Anderson  
 Paula Beard  
 Luan & Chuck Borgeson  
 Linda Boxberger  
 Bill Bunch  
 Dorsey Cartwright  
 Jan Castleberry & Michele Martin  
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 Sarah Tower  
 Lois R. Vajgert  
 Dave Ward  
 Jean Warren  
 Susan Whyne  
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Many thanks to our Business Sponsor, Bicycle Sport Shop

### BECOME A ZNA MEMBER TODAY

Membership is open to Zilker residents (renters or homeowners) 18 years old or older. (Map on page 7.)  
 Nonresident property owners are not eligible for membership.

**Annual dues are \$7 per person. Please list each member's name and e-mail address below.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Additional contribution: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

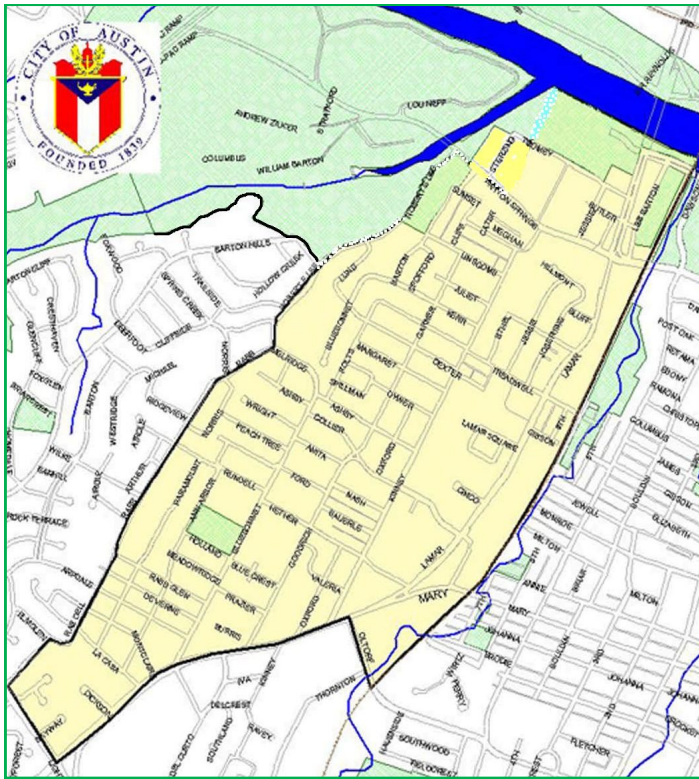
Please make checks payable to Zilker Neighborhood Association and mail with this form to:

ZNA Memberships, 2009 Arpdale St, Austin, TX 78704

or bring this form with you to the next ZNA meeting

*Or visit [zilkerneighborhood.org](http://zilkerneighborhood.org) to join online*





The boundaries of the Zilker Neighborhood Association include Zilker Park and Rabb Road on the west and extend to the railroad tracks on the east, Barton Skyway on the south, and Lady Bird Lake on the north. Residents on both sides of boundary streets are eligible for membership in ZNA.

ZNA is within City Council District 5. It contains voting precincts 332 (west of Kinney), 340 (east of Kinney), and a portion of 342.

For ZNA bylaws and other information, visit [zilkerneighborhood.org](http://zilkerneighborhood.org).

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**2016 Executive Committee of  
the Zilker Neighborhood  
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**Officers:**

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*1st Vice President:*

Richard Gravois, 512-441-3430

*2nd Vice President:* Dave Piper

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*Treasurer:* Elizabeth Yevich

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**Other executive members:**

*Parks and Environment Chair:*

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*Zoning and Code Chair:*

Bill Neale, [bneale15@yahoo.com](mailto:bneale15@yahoo.com)

The Executive Committee may be contacted by e-mail through [www.zilkerneighborhood.org](http://www.zilkerneighborhood.org)

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**About the Zilker Neighborhood Association**

ZNA holds quarterly meetings on the last Monday of January, April, July, and October, at Zilker Elementary School, 1900 Bluebonnet Lane. The Executive Committee meets at the Umlauf Museum, 605 Robert E. Lee Road, 7 PM the first Monday of most months. Watch the Web site for updates.

**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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