

Z NEWS

JANUARY 2020

Newsletter of the
**Zilker Neighborhood
 Association**
 Austin, Texas
 Established 1981

Mark These Dates

by ZNA President Dave Piper

THINGS ARE IN FLUX. More than 900 new apartments are slated for construction along South Lamar, and improvements to the street itself are now in what the City calls "Full Design Phase." At the same time, City staff are promoting Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning loopholes that will allow a wall of downtown office towers to be built in the Waterfront Overlay and along South Lamar, in spite of the City Council's attempts to promote housing in the rewrite of the Land Development Code (LDC). Here are a few important dates to help you keep up with Zilker events over the first three months of 2020.

March 3 and April 1, Be Counted

This is a Census year and a national election year. If Zilker's population hasn't already doubled since the 2010 Census, it certainly will as new projects are completed. To be sure that all of us are counted and represented in next year's redistricting, Zilker residents need to be engaged. If we don't vote this year, we will regret it for the next ten years. Vote, and talk to your neighbors about voting. **Voter registration deadline is February 3 for the March 3 primary election.** Neighbor and local artist Sono Osato has volunteered to help people register to vote at the ZNA meeting January 27. You can register your immediate family, Sono says, and those who are 17 can register as long as they turn 18 by election day.

To help get information out about the Census, visit the Austin-Travis County Complete Count Committee online, email census@traviscountytexas.gov, or call 512-854-6185. The Census Bureau mails out questionnaires in mid-March. April 1, 2020, is Census Day!

January 30, Celebrate Science

Teacher Kali Parsons tells us that Zilker Elementary's Science Fair needs judges from 8 AM to noon on January 30. If you are interested in judging please contact Ms. Brosko (colleen.brosko@austinisd.org) or Ms. Avant (jodi.avant@austinisd.org). Judges get free coffee and tacos and the pleasure of talking with sweet, excited Zilker students. Past judges say that the Science Fair is one of the happiest volunteer events in the neighborhood.

January 28, Oppose PUDs

The worst example of the PUD loophole is the 115-foot office tower proposed at 218 South Lamar (Schlotzsky's), to be heard by the Planning Commission on January 28. Updates will be presented at our ZNA meeting on January 27. Hundreds of neighbors are already organizing to oppose the rezoning; if you would like to join them, please contact ZNA. For more info, see the ZNA website, zilkerneighborhood.org, Ongoing Development Projects.

January 27, Support Affordability

Across the street, a new hotel is under construction on the old Taco Cabana site (aka the Taco PUD). Because of ZNA's opposition to that PUD and insistence on significant housing benefits within the neighborhood, the developer coughed up \$2.5 million for a 90-unit affordable housing project at 1508 S. Lamar, near Planet K. Walter Moreau of the nonprofit Foundation Communities will describe the project at the ZNA meeting on January 27 and ask for our support of an application for State Housing Tax Credits.

January 23, Bike Bluebonnet

A preliminary design for changes to Bluebonnet Lane, from Melridge to Del Curto including the intersection at S. Lamar, will be available at a project open house Thursday,

ZNA General Meeting

Monday, January 27

Zilker Elementary School
 1900 Bluebonnet Lane

6:30 PM, Meet and Greet

7-8:30 PM, ZNA Business

Foundation Communities Project

at 1508 S. Lamar

Oak Wilt Prevention

West Bouldin Creek Flood Survey

Schlotzsky's PUD update

Land Development Code update

❖ ❖ ❖

Newcomers, homeowners, renters,
 business neighbors

❖ ❖ **All Welcome** ❖ ❖

January 23, 6-7 pm, at Zilker Elementary. The City's project team will be there to answer questions and to collect feedback.

January 31, Report Drainage Problems

Undoubtedly the most controversial part of the new LDC is its "transition" zones, on the streets near South Lamar. If your property is zoned RM1 or R4 in the new LDC, you are in the Zone. As it turns out, most such zones mapped in Zilker also have drainage issues in the West Bouldin Creek watershed. To help develop a strategic plan to reduce the risk of flooding in those areas, the Watershed Protection Department needs to hear from Zilker neighbors about our experiences with flooding, erosion, and drainage. The City Council needs to hear about it, too, before the new transition zones and impervious cover regulations are finalized. Stephanie Lott with the Watershed Department will tell us more at the ZNA meeting on January 27.

If you haven't already taken the survey at WestBouldinSurvey.metroquest.com, please do it before January 31.

February 1, File Your Protest

After six years of trying to rewrite the LDC, Austin's City Council is mulling over a fourth draft of the 1300-page document (aka CodeNext4). The dates to circle here are February 1-2, the File Your Protest Week-end organized by Community Not Commodity.

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ty in one last push to help neighbors protect their right to be notified and to protest zoning changes. The related lawsuit against the City will be heard in Travis County district court on February 18. If the plaintiffs are successful, City officials will not be able to rezone protested properties without a supermajority of the Austin City Council (9 of 11 votes).

Mid-February, Test the LDC

Another concern is the LDC's strange plan to increase housing on transportation corridors such as South Lamar. The formula is frustratingly complicated and produced poor affordability projections (about half the density Zilker is seeing in existing mixed-use projects, with fewer affordable units). Last year, in response to the City's call for input, the ZNA Zoning Committee and some other volunteers tortured ourselves for several weeks to test the new zoning and to produce an alternative plan (see zilkerneighborhood.org/lcd.shtml). Sticking to the LDC's methodology as much as possible, our plan eliminated the Transition Zone and building heights above 60 feet but produced more housing capacity and more price-restricted units. I'm pretty sure our plan informed a few of the LDC amendments pro-

Second Sundays, Do Art

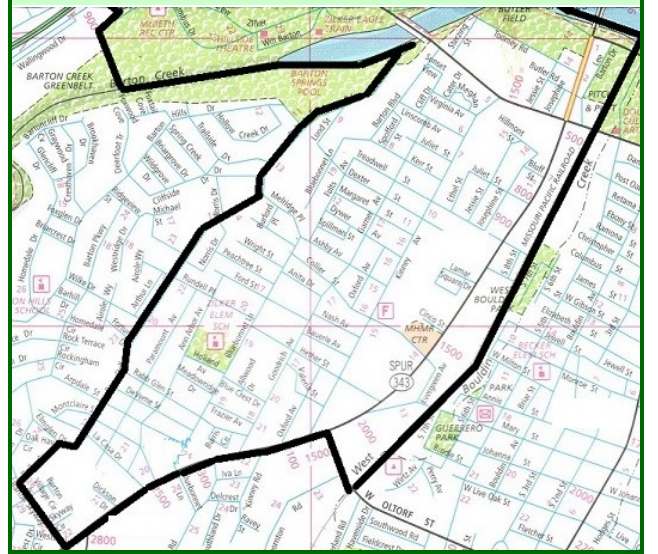
Set aside noon-4 PM on the second Sunday of each month for Family Day at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, 605 Azie Morton. Free and open to the public, Family Days feature activities for families and friends to enjoy together.

posed in December, but the process has been so confused that it's impossible to tell. We will have to wait for City staff to present an updated version of the LDC to the City Council for second reading in mid-February.

The officers of ZNA are always looking for ways to keep neighbors informed of and engaged in proposals that affect the neighborhood's future. Updates on these and other issues, along with the ZNA calendar for all of 2020, can be found at zilkerneighborhood.org. If you are new to Zilker, please visit the web site today and become a member. If you were a member last year, please renew your membership now.

Best wishes for 2020, from the ZNA Executive Committee. Happy New Year.

ZNA boundaries include Zilker Park and Rabb Road on the west, from Lady Bird Lake to Barton Skyway, and the railroad on the east to Oltorf and then South Lamar.



Thanks, Neighbors, for 20 Years of the ZNA Holiday Families Program

TWENTY YEARS AGO, Laura Albrecht was the first contact person for ZNA's Holiday Families Program. Laura passed away last year, but her generous spirit survives among her Zilker neighbors. In 2019, we donated \$5,200 worth of gifts to ten families with children who attend Zilker Elementary School. Each year our team of Zilker Elves, coordinated now by Harmony Grogan, give their time and energy to shop, wrap, and deliver presents to the families themselves. Thank you to these neighbors for their support as donors or volunteers.

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Laura Agnew & Hill Abell | Patricia Elias | Michelle Martin | Gail Rothe & Myron Hess |
| Kinan Beck | Andrew Gilligan | Crispin Martinez | Joan Saidel |
| Bo Beier | Ed & Harriet Gonzales | Dee Mazio | Jennifer Schaefer |
| Brandie Baker | Paulette Gravois | Mike Meier & | Danny Shea |
| Carter & Karen Blackburn | Harmony Grogan | Lorraine Atherton | Cheryl Speaker |
| Joan & David Boikess | Luis Guerra & David King | Suzanne Nagle | Ingrid Spencer |
| Chuck & Luan Borgeson | Adam Honhera | Craig Parker | Jeremy Stremler |
| Linda Boxberger | David Hough & | Amelie Truetting Parks | Jane Sumner |
| Emily Bubolz | Eleanor McKinney | Tim Prickette | Ross & Susan Tedter |
| Dorsey Cartwright & | Bobbi Jayasuriya | Alex Pustlenyk | Toni Teel |
| Neil Meili | Karen Jones & | Jay Ray | Bratten Thomason |
| Jan Castleberry | Clinton Welch | Robert Read & | Sarah Tower |
| Barbara Cossie & | Jill Kempf | Mary Christine Reed | Mair (Mary) Walker |
| Kaye Trybus | Ann Kennedy | Peach & Cynthia Reynolds | & Mark Interrante |
| Pat Cramer | John Killough | Sharyn Reynolds | David Ward |
| Judith Davis | Keith & Becky Kreitman | Jill Rhoden | Susan Whyne |
| Gina Diehl & | Rebecca Lang | Bobby Rigney | Jennifer Wuamett |
| Steve Donohue | Lassospace/ | Lynn Robbins | Elizabeth Yevich |
| Tom Doyal | Foster Enterprises | Mary Rogerson | Bondell Zeugin |
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2020 ZNA Executive Committee

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Executive: Gary Hamilton
Communications: Open Parks and Environment: Gail Rothe
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Secretary: James Russell
Treasurer: Bruce Wiland
ANC Delegate: Bobby Rigney

The Executive Committee meets the first Monday of most months at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, 6:30 PM.

Email ZNA@zilkerneighborhood.org
For ZNA bylaws and to join online, visit www.zilkerneighborhood.org

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ZNA is in District 5, represented by Council Member ANN KITCHEN, at district5@austintexas.gov or 512-978-2105.

Our Austin Police District Rep is Officer Shawn Rougeou, at 512-974-5490 or Shawn.Rougeou@austintexas.gov

BECOME A ZNA MEMBER TODAY

Membership is open to Zilker residents (renters or homeowners) 18 years old or older. 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 _____ Email _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Dues amount: _____ Donation: _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to Zilker Neighborhood Association and mail with this form to: ZNA Memberships, 1510 Oxford St, Austin, TX 78704 or bring this form with you to the next ZNA meeting, or join online.

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