



# Newsletter of the Zilker Neighborhood Association

MAY 2020

Austin, Texas  
Established 1981

## A Message from ZNA President Dave Piper Suspended Animation Edition

LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, the Zilker Neighborhood Association has been affected by the new coronavirus. The Executive Committee didn't meet in April, and our Spring quarterly general meeting at Zilker Elementary has been canceled. Even this newsletter is appearing online instead of being hand-delivered to more than 2500 households in the neighborhood.

### Public Hearings by Phone

The virus also closed down public hearings for the rezoning of the Schlotzsky's site at 218 South Lamar, where a large office building is proposed. The case has been postponed multiple times over the last two years, and now it is on the Planning Commission's May 12 agenda. Under the stay-at-home rules, neighbors who wish to speak at the hearing must literally phone it in. Speakers must register the day before and be available to deliver their comments over the phone. That's why ZNA is urging all neighbors who are concerned about this case to write up their comments and email them (by 1 pm the day of the hearing) to the Planning Commission and City Council. (The new procedures are posted on the ZNA web site.) The Schlotzsky's case is scheduled to go to City Council for its final hearing in June. See the "Development Projects" section of the ZNA web site, at zilkerneighborhood.org, for more information.

### Schlotzsky's PUD with Zero Housing

ZNA vigorously opposes this Planned Unit Development (PUD) and other rezonings that violate the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance. In ZNA's boundaries, the overlay covers Butler Shores, which includes Barton Springs Road, north to the river, between the railroad tracks and Barton Creek. Another PUD, for a hotel and condos at 211 S. Lamar, won approval last year after the owners coughed up a \$2.5 million contribution to an affordable housing project to be built next to Planet K on South Lamar. Even though we lost that rezoning case, we were glad to have been a catalyst for *(Continued on page 2)*

**GOOD NEWS FROM PATHWAYS AT GOODRICH PLACE**, the Housing Authority's new 120-unit apartment building on Bluebonnet at Rabb Glen: Returning residents are moving in, one at a time, throughout May. The rest of the property is almost fully leased, but there are a few apartments remaining. Call the leasing office at 512-912-7838 to apply (street address is 2126 Goodrich). The grand opening celebration has been put off because of the coronavirus, but Ann Gass with the City's Housing Authority has promised to let us know when it's rescheduled. Till then, we'll just wave "Welcome home" to all our returning and new neighbors.

### APPLY NOW TO VOTE BY MAIL IN THE JULY 14 SPECIAL ELECTION

Voting by mail has been recommended to protect poll workers and voters from covid-19. Look for "Ballot by Mail" on the Elections page at



COUNTYCLERK.TRAVISCOUNTYTX.GOV.

### DIDN'T VOTE IN THE PRIMARIES?

If you did not vote in March, you can still vote in the July 14 runoffs. Just be sure that you are registered to vote in precinct 332, 340, or 342, 30 days before you vote. Check your registration at

traviscountyelections.org  
or 512-238-VOTE.

**Early voting begins July 6.**

See page 4 for March election results and more runoff information.

funds toward a worthy housing project within the neighborhood.

ZNA opposition to PUDs on the waterfront stems from the size and uses of the proposed projects. The Butler Shores subdistrict is designated in City ordinances to encourage redevelopment with higher-density residential buildings, as long as they are compatible with nearby public recreational and cultural assets. The existing zoning already includes an affordability component for new residential construction. Commercial space is discouraged, especially downtown-style office buildings with excessive parking. The projects ZNA opposes fall into that latter category, with too much commercial space and little or no housing.

### **Cars on Top of Cars**

Butler Shores contains one of the most congested stretches of road in the city—South Lamar between Barton Springs Road and the river. After looking at the traffic impact studies, the ZNA Zoning Committee thinks the office project, with more than 600 parking spaces, will do more harm than good by inducing demand for car trips into that congested area. We believe the existing 2000+ nearby residents, along with park visitors and restaurant or theater patrons, whose only vehicle access is Toomey Road, will be highly impacted in their attempts to get onto South Lamar or Barton Springs Road. The Schlotzsky's PUD could be a tipping point for the area, including Restaurant Row. Will Butler Shores continue to evolve into a higher intensity pedestrian-oriented

residential area compatible with surrounding parks resources, or will it become an extension of downtown with 100-foot-tall hotels and office buildings dependent on exclusive parking garages?

### **Zoning Code Rewrite on Hold**

The other major news that affects the neighborhood is the never-ending Land Development Code (LDC) rewrite. This 1500-page document encompasses what is allowed to be built, where those structures may be built, and what uses they may serve. The LDC process at City Council was recently stopped by District Judge Jan Soifer, who ruled that Council violated state laws regarding proper notification of proposed zoning changes and by denying citizens the right to protest those changes. The 10 City Council members and the Mayor have been split 7-4 on the major zoning components of the LDC. Our District 5 Councilmember, Ann Kitchen, is one of the 4 members who opposed much of the draft LDC and supported corrective changes. Judge Soifer's ruling upholding the protest rights means that zoning changes would require the approval of at least 9 councilmembers. The City Council has the final vote; there will be no public election.

Rather than accept the ruling and work toward a compromise, the Council majority last month decided to appeal Judge Soifer's ruling. City Attorney Anne Morgan estimated that the City's appeal to the state court might not be heard for up to one year. Four council



**PUPPY PARTIES!**

**for puppies 8-16 weeks old**

**Monday nights at Southpaws Playschool**

**[southpawsplayschool@gmail.com](mailto:southpawsplayschool@gmail.com)**

members have called it “an ill-timed expenditure of resources amid our current crisis.” Negotiations will continue during the interim, in the hopes that a court decision won't be what determines the final outcome of the LDC. There isn't enough space in this newsletter to enumerate the major flaws in the proposed LDC, so I'll list a handful of things that I think must be included if it's going to be successful:

1. A realistic target for needed dwelling units.
2. A plan to save smaller homes from destruction.
3. A plan to save existing affordable apartment buildings like those on Kinney Ave.
4. A realistic parking policy tied to sidewalks.
5. Tree protections for properties that front South Lamar such as Matt's El Rancho.
6. A sensible alcohol sales policy that won't incentivize replacement of businesses on South Lamar.
7. Equitable and planned distribution of new density with a realistic affordability component, including a closer look at activity/commerce centers, along with compatibility protections for nearby residences.
8. Planning that incorporates what's actually on/in the ground (including infrastructure capacity and environmental needs) with input from those who live in that area.

Once the court case is resolved, the City Council will take up the very important LDC

again. By then, the general election, new Census data, and the coronavirus may have changed Austin's outlook profoundly. Here's hoping that the LDC revisions will move forward in a spirit of cooperation and actual planning, as proposed by Council Members Kitchen, Alter, Pool, and Tovo in their response to the Council's 7-4 vote to appeal Judge Soifer's ruling:

“It will be several months before the community is able to focus on the LDC revision. When the effort is re-initiated, we strongly urge that the Council respond collaboratively. We have long advocated for finding common ground. Especially now, we firmly believe that the true measure of this effort is how well we build consensus, foster mutual respect, and listen to the community. That is how the city will be successful in achieving our adopted goals.”

Find a link to the entire statement on [CommunityNotCommodity.com](http://CommunityNotCommodity.com). The CNC web site remains a good source of citywide perspectives on the LDC rewrite, such as the recent Eastern Crescent response to the court ruling. It is also home to [FileYourProtest.com](http://FileYourProtest.com), the easiest way to file your own rezoning protest.

Another good source of local government news and comment is [theaustinindependent.org](http://theaustinindependent.org), Daryl Slusher's new outlet. And the ZNA Zoning Committee continues to update the ZNA web site with LDC news at [zilkerneighborhood.org/ldc.shtml](http://zilkerneighborhood.org/ldc.shtml).

*Your neighbor, Dave Piper*

**STAY FIT,  
STAY HEALTHY,  
STAY SANE.**

**BICYCLE  
SPORT SHOP**

517 South Lamar  
open for curbside service  
& sales, Wed-Sun, 11-5 PM.  
[bicyclesportshop.com](http://bicyclesportshop.com) open 24/7

jo, firework  
longcut, \$49

**IT'S YOUR  
BIRDS DAY**

**BIRDS  
BARBERSHOP**

*Birds Booking App now available in the iTunes + GooglePlay stores.*



## About that Record Turnout

BEFORE THE MARCH PRIMARIES, there was talk of a big voter turnout, surpassing the 2008 primaries, when Travis County polls were packed and the number of Democratic delegates from Zilker Precinct 332 jumped to 72 from the usual 38. As Precinct Chair Richard Gravois said in the April 2008 *ZNews*, “Your vote really does count, and it is foolish to throw it away or not use it.” This year, compared with the statewide turnout (13%), Zilker’s 45% in Precinct 332 was great, but it was well below the 2008 turnout of 52%. Though voter registration was up, the number of Democrats who voted actually dropped by 101.

On the east side of Kinney, voter registration in Precinct 340 has grown more than 200% since 2008, reflecting added multifamily residents along South Lamar. But only 32% of those neighbors cast ballots this time. (Overall turnout in Travis County was 28%.) It’s not clear why new voters didn’t show. Was it voter suppression or apathy, or both? With runoffs for the U.S. Senate and Travis County offices and a special election for our State Senator on the July 14 ballot, we all need to prepare now to make sure everybody can vote safely. Learn how to vote by mail at <https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/elections/ballot-by-mail.html>. If you didn’t vote in the March primaries, you can still vote in the runoffs—just be sure your voter registration is up to date.

### March Results

The top presidential candidate in Travis County was Bernie Sanders, with 37% of the vote. Joe

Biden and Elizabeth Warren ended up with less than 24% each. Averaging 43%, Sanders had the most votes in every 78704 precinct except Zilker 332, where Warren took 30% of the vote.

### July 14 Runoffs

**U.S. SENATE, HEGAR VS WEST:** Although MJ Hegar and Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez were the top candidates in Travis County (in 78704, they tied with 28% each), Royce West made the runoff with 14.66% of the statewide vote. Tzintzun Ramirez has endorsed West.

**RAILROAD COMMISSIONER, CASTANEDA VS ALONZO:** Chrysta Castaneda (34% statewide) faces Roberto Alonzo (29%). Castaneda won more than 60% of the vote in Zilker precincts.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY (53RD), GARZA VS MOORE:** Countywide, Jose Garza led incumbent Margaret Moore by 3% of the votes cast.

**JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW 4, MALHOTRA VS CHEN KERCHER:** Dimple Malhotra ended up with a 4-vote lead over Margaret Chen Kercher in this three-way race, but she won more than 50% of the votes in Zilker precincts.

**TRAVIS COUNTY ATTORNEY, EISERLOH VS GARZA:** The winner of the runoff between Laurie Eiserloh (34.5% countywide) and Delia Garza (31.8%) will likely be unopposed in November. Eiserloh was the favorite in Zilker (49.8% in Precinct 332).

**TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3, HOWARD VS BOLTON:** Voter turnout in this race was low (20%). With 48% of the March vote (60% in Zilker 332), Ann Howard appears to have an insurmountable lead over Valinda Bolton.



This is what a big turnout looks like. More than 600 Precinct 332 Democrats make good use of the newly expanded cafeteria at Zilker Elementary on caucus night, March 4, 2008. *Photo by Bratten Thomason*



### About Those Fire Station 11 Upgrades

FIRE STATION 11, built in 1949 at Kinney and Collier, will be renovated this summer. This month the Austin Fire Department and the City of Austin Project Team are presenting plans for the 588 sf addition, including the station upgrades, project timeline, and service plan for the area during renovations. See renderings of the project on the web page at <https://data.austintexas.gov/stories/s/6kwr-ugyc>.

The Project Team has also scheduled a virtual public meeting for Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 pm, on the Microsoft Teams platform. To join in online or call in to hear the 45-minute presentation, email [ZNA@zilkerneighborhood.org](mailto:ZNA@zilkerneighborhood.org) and ask for the Fire Station 11 virtual meeting instructions. Thanks to Elizabeth Ferrer, Public Information Specialist, Public Works Department, for making this information available online.

### About that Long Branch Sewage

The ZNA Executive Committee has adopted a resolution opposing the wastewater discharge permit application as currently proposed by the Sawyer-Cleveland Partnership, to discharge wastewater effluent into Long Branch, a tributary of Barton Creek. The City of Austin has released a modeling study showing that the discharge would damage Barton Creek, indicating that the sensitive Barton Springs recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer would also be affected. A copy of the resolution will be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Look for it on the ZNA web site, [zilkerneighborhood.org](http://zilkerneighborhood.org).

**BARTON SPRINGS**

**REFRIGERATION**

and

**Reliable Appliance Repair**

[www.ReliableApplianceRepairs.com](http://www.ReliableApplianceRepairs.com)

**(512) 587-5394**

**MAUDIE'S**  
**TEX-MEX**

The South Lamar location will remain closed for now, but check our other locations for hours and menus. As we pivot from curbside and takeout operation, we really appreciate your continued support and understanding. This is a new world for all of us and we are working hard to deliver the Maudie's Tex-Mex experience you love. Thank you!

[www.maudies.com](http://www.maudies.com)

Your Neighborhood Garage Since 1973

**KENNY HILL**  
**AUTOWORKS**

**512-445-0101**

2127 Goodrich Ave, 78704

Volkswagen | Audi | Toyota | Lexus | Honda | Acura  
BMW | Mercedes | Mini Cooper | Subaru | Mazda



## About the Medians on Barton Springs Road

THE ZILKER PARK GATEWAY PROJECT (ZPGP) was founded in 2009 by Laura Joseph and Mary Ann Neely, bringing together neighbors in Barton Hills and Zilker with local businesses to plant and maintain the medians along Barton Springs Road from the bridge to South Lamar, transforming the road into a beautiful gateway to Zilker Park. Thanks to their efforts and the support of the donors listed here, the Gateway medians have a resident gardener, Darla Evans, who keeps the flowers blooming, the grass mowed, and things looking good.

Utilizing proceeds from Austin City Limits ticket sales, the Austin Parks Foundation matches all donations. Every dollar counts and stays 100% in our neighborhood. To learn more or to donate, visit <http://zilkerneighborhood.org/zpgp.shtml>.

### Thanks, Neighbors, for keeping the Zilker Gateway medians beautiful.

**Businesses**

Austin Eastciders  
 Barton Springs Bike Rental/  
 Mark Mitchell  
 Bicycle Sport Shop/Hill Abell  
 The Great Outdoors  
 Green Mesquite BBQ  
 Juliet Italian Kitchen  
 Ski Shores Cafe  
 SquareRut Kava Bar  
 Thom's Market  
 Zilkr on the Park Condominiums

**Groups**

The Garden Club of Austin  
 Barton Hills Garden Club  
 Zilker Garden Club  
 Barton Hills Neighborhood  
 Association  
 Zilker Neighborhood Association

**Individuals**

Deanna Worden Serra  
 Scott Stewart  
 Robert Perkins  
 Cynthia Allen Perkins  
 Jerry Harris  
 Laura Joseph  
 Leitza Brass and Tim Curran  
 Delora Logan-Hodnett and  
 Johnie Hodnett  
 Cheryl Speaker  
 James and Katherine Ray  
 Daniel McCracken and Ally Killian  
 Teresa and Mark Picone  
 Kyle Day  
 Sarah Barrick  
 Celia and Doug Johnston  
 Diane and Ron Riehs  
 Amy Constant  
 Travis Nokes  
 Bill Norris

**Cary Reynolds**

Kathy and Gavan Goss  
 Angelita and Richard Lebovitz  
 Andrew Sitomer  
 Mary Ann Neely and Craig Smith  
 Donna Lipman and Tom Parish  
 Karen and Bill Longley  
 Carly and Trent Shepherd  
 Amber Deen-Mullikin and  
 John Mullikin  
 Kevin Bice  
 Cynthia Reynolds  
 Pat Cramer  
 Amanda Stone  
 David King  
 Pam Wissemann  
 Katherine and David Ward  
 Sharyn Reynolds  
 Christopher Jordan  
 Jon Narum  
 Mary Dorsey Cartwright

**BECOME A ZNA MEMBER TODAY**

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

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.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

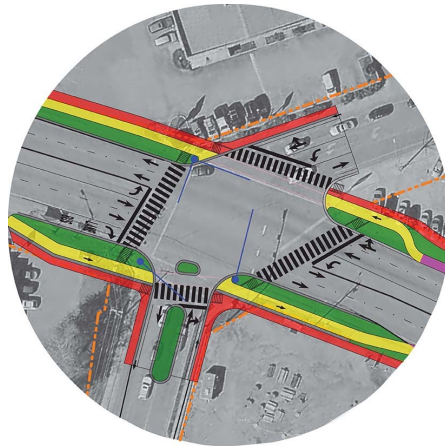
ZNA Memberships, 1510 Oxford St, Austin, TX 78704

or bring this form with you to the next ZNA meeting

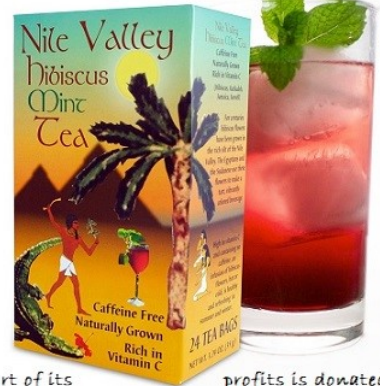
For ZNA bylaws and other information, or to pay online, visit [zilkerneighborhood.org](http://zilkerneighborhood.org).

### About those Bluebonnet Bike Lanes

IN JANUARY the Austin Transportation Department presented a preliminary design for changes to Bluebonnet Lane, including bike lanes crossing South Lamar. Last month, some of those bike lanes were installed east of the intersection. The photo below is taken from the southwest corner of South Lamar and Bluebonnet. The diagram to the right shows the intersection as proposed in the South Lamar Corridor Plan.



Nile Valley Herbs, an Austin-based, independent tea company

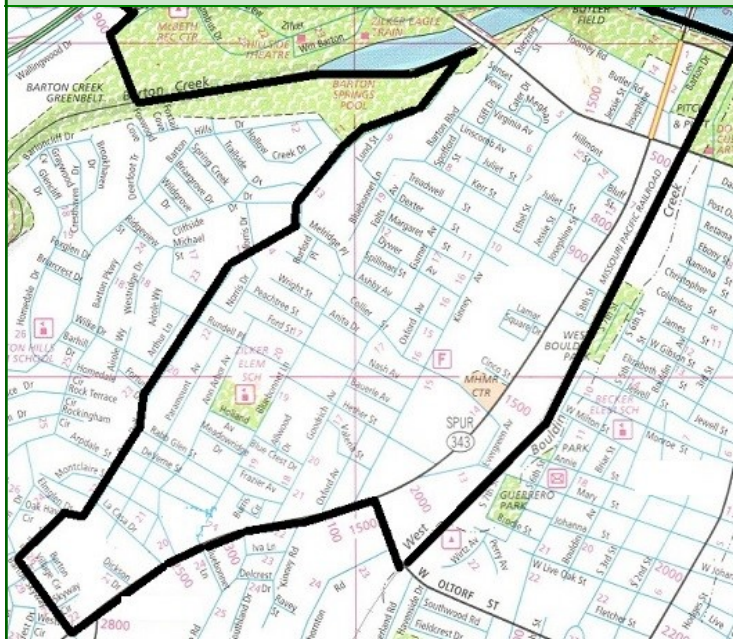


A part of its profits is donated to AZ-Zawrat, a Nubian village in northern Sudan. We appreciate your support.

[www.nilevalleyherbs.com](http://www.nilevalleyherbs.com)



ZNA includes Zilker Park and Rabb Road on the west and extends to the railroad on the east, Barton Skyway on the south, and Lady Bird Lake on the north. Residents on both sides of boundary streets may join ZNA.



ZNA is in City Council District 5, represented by Council Member ANN KITCHEN, at [district5@austintexas.gov](mailto:district5@austintexas.gov) or 512-978-2105.

Email the Council at [www.austintexas.gov/email/all-council-members](http://www.austintexas.gov/email/all-council-members)

Our Austin Police District Rep is Officer Shawn Rougeou, at 512-974-5490 or [Shawn.Rougeou@austintexas.gov](mailto:Shawn.Rougeou@austintexas.gov)

*Simplify your life*  
**MARTIN'S WELLNESS PACK**  
 THE MOST CONVENIENT PRESCRIPTION AND SUPPLEMENT PACKAGING EVER

WE ORGANIZE YOUR MEDICATIONS INTO INDIVIDUAL PILL PACKETS, SORTED BY DATE AND TIME, SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU!

**LAMAR PLAZA DRUG STORE**  
 (512) 442-6777 | [WWW.MARTINSWELLNESS.COM](http://WWW.MARTINSWELLNESS.COM)  
 SERVING THE ZILKER NEIGHBORHOOD SINCE 1957





**Newsletter of the  
Zilker Neighborhood  
Association**

[www.zilkerneighborhood.org](http://www.zilkerneighborhood.org)  
2009 Arpdale St., Austin, TX 78704

*E-mail:*

ZilkerNeighborhood@gmail.com

*Editor:* Lorraine Atherton,  
512-447-7681

*Ad Sales:* Barbara Cossie,  
512-447-4437

*Distribution:* Open

*Advertisers:* ZNA reserves this newsletter's limited advertising space for businesses based within the boundaries of the association.

**2020 ZNA Executive Committee**

*President:* Dave Piper

*Vice Presidents*

*Executive:* Gary Hamilton

*Communications:* Open

*Parks and Environment:*

Gail Rothe

*Social:* Pat Cramer

*Zoning:* Bill Neale

*Secretary:* James Russell

*Treasurer:* Bruce Wiland

*ANC Delegate:* Bobby Rigney

The Executive Committee may be  
emailed at  
[ZNA@zilkerneighborhood.org](mailto:ZNA@zilkerneighborhood.org)

For ZNA bylaws and to join  
online, visit  
[www.zilkerneighborhood.org](http://www.zilkerneighborhood.org)

**UMLAUF** sculpture  
garden  
& museum

Come see what everyone  
is talking about...

Art. Framed by Nature.

[umlaufsculpture.org](http://umlaufsculpture.org)  
605 Azie Morton, Austin TX



**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, 6:30 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.

**Southside Printing Service**

**Forms • Business Stationery • Posters • Color Copies  
Stamps • Business Cards • Flyers • Envelopes  
Labels • Medical Forms • Wedding Invitations  
Brochures • Work Orders and Invoices • Scratch Pads  
All Sorts of Custom Printing  
Free Pickup and Delivery**

**(512) 444-2590**

**[southps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:southps@sbcglobal.net)**

**3005 South Lamar Blvd., # B-100**

**Open Monday to Friday 9:00 to 5:30**