



Newsletter of the
Zilker Neighborhood
Association

JANUARY 2018

Austin, Texas
Established 1981

A Message from ZNA President Dave Piper
CodeNext 3 due in February

AS WE GO INTO 2018, the looming issue for the Zilker Neighborhood is CodeNext, the wholesale rewrite of Austin's land development code. City staff has spent the last four years and more than \$8 million (that's just on the consulting firm Opticos) developing a new code. The first draft was released in January 2017, and the second draft (at 1388 pages) came out in September. Both drafts were received poorly. Usually for a project of this nature at least one constituency is somewhat satisfied. Not so for CodeNext.

Most unsettling is that the second version did not really use the first version as a foundation. It more or less took off in a different direction. Therefore, I and others who closely follow land-use policies are unsure what will emerge in the third (and final) draft, which is due on February 12. The Planning and Zoning and Platting commissions will have a short time to review it before public

(Continued on page 6)

LAST CALL FOR CODENEXT PETITION

IF YOU MEANT TO SIGN THE LET US VOTE petition but somehow never got around to it, now is the time to get it done. The petition, distributed with the October ZNews, supports a waiting period and voter approval before CodeNext becomes effective.

Before the end of January, fill out and sign the petition that came with the October ZNews and mail it to the Let Us Vote Austin address on the petition. Or download and print out a copy of the petition at CommunityNotCommodity.com. Or contact ZNA at zilkerneighborhood@gmail.com and a neighbor will get a petition to you.

ZNA General Meeting

January 29

Monday 6:30-8:30 PM

at Zilker Elementary School
1900 Bluebonnet



Council Member Ann Kitchen on the
soccer stadium proposal

Curbside composting training

Capital Metro on Project Connect
and high-capacity transit

Trail of Lights feedback

Updates on CodeNext,
special event ordinance, and
parking permit program

Holiday Families Program thank you



Newcomers, homeowners, renters,
business neighbors

❖ ❖ **All Welcome** ❖ ❖



**Joint Primary
Elections**

(Democratic and
Republican parties)

Tuesday, March 6

Last day to register to vote in the
primaries is **February 5**

Early voting begins February 20.

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

Get Ready for Spring on It's My Park Day, March 3
Grants magnify the value of parks volunteers

SINCE 2007, after the Austin City Limits Music Festival made its first large donations to Austin's parks, ZNA and the Zilker Elementary PTA have been working together through the Friends of **Little Zilker Park** (FLZP) to make the most of those grants to improve the park and the school's outdoor campus. This year's spring workday is scheduled for March 3, the citywide It's My Park Day, when the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) helps parks groups organize volunteer projects.

But right now, FLZP needs volunteers to help prepare for the workday. The plan is to continue last year's work on the new Bluebonnet entrance to the park and playscape, pulling T-post supports, pruning, weeding, mulching trees and other plants, and planting ground cover along the new channel. At the same time, the school's Sustainability Committee will be replanting two large beds near the library, among other Campus Beautification projects.

In November, APF awarded \$7,500 to the all-volunteer Friends of **South Zilker Park** through the ACL grant program. The funds support ongoing restoration of two small waterways along Robert E. Lee Road so that they can naturally filter and treat stormwater before it reaches Barton Creek. At workdays planned for this winter and spring, including It's My Park Day, volunteers will plant more native grasses, shrubs, and trees to diversify the riparian vegetation and increase bank stability; remove invasive species; clean up trash; and improve the areas along the sidewalk.

In early January, the parks department also removed some



Zilker South entrance. Photo G. Rothe

large non-native invasive trees, aerated and mulched the heritage pecan tree shown above, and extended a nearby split-rail fence to prevent parking on the tree's vulnerable root zone.

If you would like to volunteer in Zilker's neighborhood parks, contact the **Friends of Little Zilker Park** at FLZP@yahoo.com or littlezilker@gmail.com. Or contact Gail Rothe, ZNA's parks chair, at grothe@austin.rr.com.

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Other Garden Projects at Zilker Elementary

Fifth-graders at Zilker Elementary are looking for someone to build a small trellis for the new **monarch butterfly garden** that they planted last fall. The garden was funded by a grant from the National Wildlife Federation to their teacher Madison Phillips (see Oct. 2017 ZNews, page 3). On March 31, they'll have a spring workday to plant more flowers and milkweed, paint picnic tables, and do general clean up. "It has been so great seeing the authentic learning that has taken place with this project," Phillips said. "This is a legacy that these students will leave here at Zilker for years to come. So, March 31 we will be looking for anyone who wants to get in on the monarch action!"

Jabo's Garden is an organic edible garden at Zilker Elementary. Family volunteer hours are scheduled for January 20 and March 10, starting at 9 am.

For updates on Zilker campus garden projects, visit the school's web site at zilkerelem.org.



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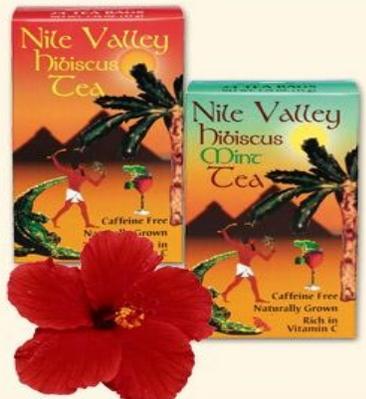
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It is the 20th Anniversary of Barton Hills Assisted Living this year! We would like to welcome the Zilker Neighborhood to come check out our recent upgrades and enjoy lunch on us, prepared by our own chef! Please call or email us to make an appointment.

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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 en-

ergy to shop, wrap, and deliver presents to the families themselves. Thank you all for making this a very special holiday for so many families!

Thank you to these neighbors for their support as donors or volunteers for the Zilker Holiday Families Program in 2017. Please know your donations were received with smiles and delight.



Elves Sidney Beaty, Kali Adams, Helen Barrera, Elizabeth Yevich, and Cate Tracz gather at the Housing Resource Center (HRC) division of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. This is the fifth year in a row that the HRC team has taken on a ZNA Holiday Family. Some shop, some wrap, all deliver! This rewarding activity for all has become a highly anticipated annual team event.

Photo courtesy of E. Yevich

- Kali Adams
- Laura Agnew & Hill Abell
- Tom Amiss
- Lenore Avant
- Mary Bailey
- Brandie Baker
- Helen Barrera
- Paula Beaird
- Sidney Beaty
- Chuck & Luan Borgeson
- Linda Boxberger
- Pamela & Nick Bradley
- Emily Bubolz
- Bobbi Bulmer
- Dorsey Cartwright & Neil Meili
- Robert Corbin
- Jan Castleberry
- Barbara Cossie & Kaye Trybus
- Pat Cramer

- Jill Daiber
- Michelle Dante
- John T. Davis
- Judy Davis
- Michelle Eager
- Shelly Eager
- Rachel Elder & family
- Martine Fedyszyn
- Josh Freeman
- Paulette Gravois
- Luis Guerra & David King
- Gary Hamilton
- Greg Hirsh
- Adam Honhera
- David Hough & Eleanor McKinney
- Aletha Huston
- Jeff Jack
- Karen Jones & Clinton Welch
- Barbara Karia-Marton
- Jill Kempf

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- Mary Christine Reed & Robert Read
- Jill Rhoden & family
- Bobby Rigney
- David & Mary Frances Rogerson
- Gail Rothe & Myron Hess
- Joan & David Saidel
- Jordan Sale
- Rose Schneider
- Steven Schrom & Cristina Parker
- Jamie Shimkus & Mike Kintner
- Todd Sides
- Santhosa Srinath
- Diane & Bob Stonecipher
- Dana Swanson Switzer
- Susan & Ross Tedter
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(Continued from page 1)

hearings in March. Staff expects it to go to City Council in late April. That means the Council will be considering final approval in the middle of an election year. This compressed schedule risks implementation of bad policy, and there is a petition circulating to put the final product to a public vote (see CommunityNotCommodity.com). Much more information about CodeNext, including two special editions of *ZNews*, can be found on the ZNA website at www.ZilkerNeighborhood.org.

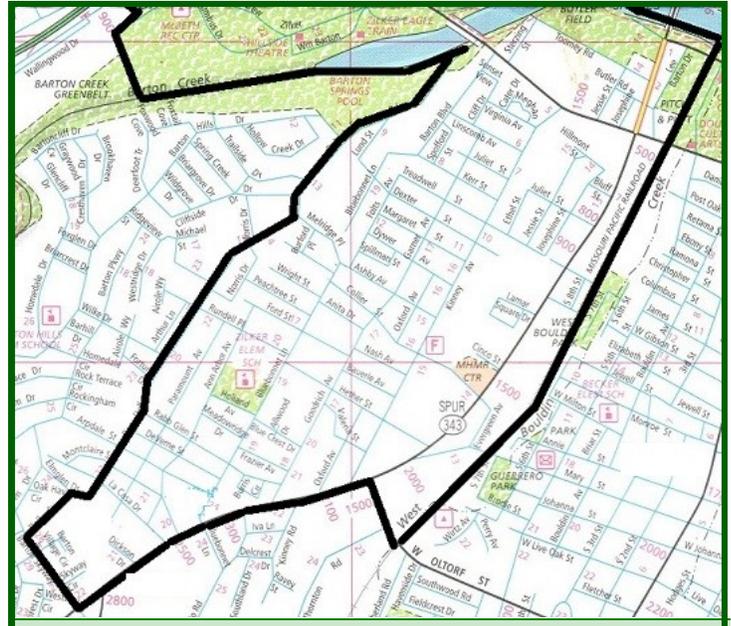
One of the goals of CodeNext is to mitigate accelerated land values, especially in the central core of the city. Coupled with the property taxes imposed by the state in lieu of a functional school finance plan, an increasing number of homeowners are forced to sell and move elsewhere. The ZNA Executive Committee's task is to inform our neighbors about CodeNext and work for sensible zoning.

There is no good reason to demolish most of the small houses in the neighborhood in the next decade or two. The Executive Committee understands that the demand for housing in the central city is acute, especially with the pressure of new arrivals to Austin. The need for multi-unit housing is real, and the challenge for ZNA, city planners, property developers, and

everyone else is to find a way to best build *and* to preserve the parts of these traditional neighborhoods such as Zilker that we love so much.

Please join us at the ZNA general meeting on January 29, and watch the ZNA website ZilkerNeighborhood.org for updates on the third draft of CodeNext.

Your neighbor, Dave Piper



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.

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.

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

For ZNA bylaws and other information, visit zilkerneighborhood.org.

ZNA is in
City Council District 5,
represented by
Council Member
ANN KITCHEN
Contact
district5@austintexas.gov

Responsive Office
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government,
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First Week Happy Hours
by Pat Cramer, ZNA Social Chair

Greetings, Zilkerites!
Join your neighbors at a different
neighborhood venue the
first Tuesday or Wednesday
of each month. Look for
February, March, and April
dates and venues on the
ZNA web site,
zilkerneighborhood.org,
and on the Yahoo group
zilker@yahoogroups.com.
Or email me at
patcramer42@yahoo.com.

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Weekday Schedule
Sundays Wednesdays
Bible Study - 9:30am Family Supper - 5:15pm
Worship - 11:00am Bible Study - 6:00pm

All Ladies are
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AUTHOR, SPEAKER & MOM
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Saturday @ 11am

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Newsletter of the
**Zilker Neighborhood
Association**

www.zilkerneighborhood.org

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**2018 Executive Committee of
the Zilker Neighborhood
Association**

Officers:

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1st Vice President: Gary Hamilton

2nd Vice President: Bobby Rigney

Secretary: James Russell

Treasurer: Bruce Wiland

Social Chair: Pat Cramer

Austin Neighborhoods Council

Delegate: Katy Fendrich

Newsletter Editor:

Lorraine Atherton

Other executive members:

Parks and Environment Chair:

Gail Rothe

Zoning and Code Chair:

Bill Neale

The Executive Committee may be contacted by e-mail through zilkerneighborhood@gmail.com

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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, 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.

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