

# Z NEWS

JANUARY 2019

Newsletter of the  
Zilker Neighborhood  
Association  
Austin, Texas  
Established 1981

## Crossroads for Zilker Growth by ZNA President Dave Piper

IT'S OBVIOUS that Zilker neighborhood continues to undergo rapid change. The number of apartments and condos has more than doubled in the last 10 years. Small houses are being replaced by large houses. Rush-hour traffic on South Lamar is bad and the interior streets are absorbing the overflow.

I don't intend this message to be pessimistic; I'm just identifying a few things that could use a course correction or at least mitigation. For starters, we need reliable demographic data, such as job growth areas, access to jobs, housing costs vs. income, car ownership and population density. The City Council has directed our new City Manager to come up with a process for land development code changes. The zoning regulations and maps will dictate the size of all new and remodeled buildings, their use, and their compatibility to nearby residents.

Even with Cap Metro's long range plans and South Lamar's reconstruction (starting in a year or so), that boulevard's capacity to absorb growth is limited. It's the same for interior streets; most don't have sidewalks, and ongoing construction has left some of them a congested mess. The streets are the walkways in most of the neighborhood, and if excessive "dwelling units" are built in these areas, especially with inadequate parking, the narrow streets will become lined with cars. Pedestrians and vehicles will compete for the single travel lane. Insufficient retail parking also spills cars onto residential streets. That's why parking requirements are one of the most critical components of a zoning code.

In the 80's when the Hyatt Hotel went up on the riverbank, Austin created zoning to prevent more buildings from crowding the waterfront (the canyon effect) and to promote balance between urban development, park uses, and the shoreline. Today, that balance is in jeopardy on Butler Shores (an area that includes Zach Scott, Restaurant Row on Barton Springs Road, ball fields, Butler Pitch & Putt golf, and more than 1,300 multifamily residential units. It is also the primary gateway to Zilker Park, which needs a Mas-

Registered voters in Zilker precincts 332 and 340 increased 70%, from 4,274 in 2010 to 7,274 in 2018. With an estimated total population of 9,835, ZNA's density is now over 13 persons per acre.

ter Plan to manage access and parking, without cannibalizing parkland. There is also a proposal to construct a new Dougherty Arts Center to the west of Zach Scott theater. One building taller than 100 feet was approved in the area in 2013 (the Taco PUD), but never built. Another, an office tower, is proposed at the Schlotzsky's site. In my opinion, it's critical to keep buildings in Butler Shores no higher than the current limit of 60 feet. This would help retain the character of the area and create less congestion in an already bad stretch of South Lamar and Toomey Road.

The canyon effect applies to more than the river. Barton Springs Road and South Lamar could be hemmed in in the same way. Tall buildings not only obstruct open vistas, they adversely impact neighbors who live on the residential streets behind them. Whether you agree or disagree with this message, you should let the Mayor and our Council Member Ann Kitchen know what broad concepts you think should be incorporated into Austin's new

## ZNA General Meeting January 28

Monday 6:30-8:30 PM  
at Zilker Elementary School  
1900 Bluebonnet Lane



Meet Officer Shawn Rougeou,  
our new APD district representative  
Butler Shores PUD  
invasion updates

Zilker Park Working Group  
reports on traffic and parking

Mobility bond and other  
transportation project updates



Newcomers, homeowners, renters,  
business neighbors

❖ ❖ **All Welcome** ❖ ❖

zoning regulations. The new effort is ramping up now. Communicating is easy to do via the internet or, better yet, by a phone call. It's a worthwhile adjunct to voting.

The officers of ZNA are always looking for ways to keep neighbors informed of and engaged in proposals that could have major effects on the neighborhood's future. That includes the latest plans for parking cars in Zilker Park, building office and hotel towers on Butler Shores, and improving

## New on the web at zilkerneighborhood.org

Under Parks & Environment, check out the Zilker Park Working Group, created by the City Council to look at traffic and parking, Stratford Drive, the Polo Fields, and a Zilker Park Master Plan.

Under Planning & Zoning, review developments in the Butler Shores area and along South Lamar, including the Taco and Schlotzsky's PUDs and the Enchanted Forest market-office project.

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## 2019 ZNA Executive Committee

President: Dave Piper  
Executive VP: Gary Hamilton  
Secretary: James Russell  
Treasurer: Bruce Wiland  
VP Communications: Open  
VP Parks and Environment:  
Gail Rothe  
VP Social: Pat Cramer  
VP Zoning: Bill Neale  
ANC Delegate: Bobby Rigney  
Email ZNA@zilkerneighborhood.org

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The Executive Committee meets at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, 605 Azie Morton, 6:30 PM, the first Monday of most months. Watch the web site zilkerneighborhood.org for updates.

transit and hike and bike connections on South Lamar. ZNA's activities encompass supporting Zilker Elementary and the PTA, affordable housing (especially for families with children), implementation of ZNA's vertical mixed use overlay on South Lamar with appropriate multifamily residential projects and commercial design standards, neighborhood participation in the South Lamar Corridor Plan and the design of Mobility Bond projects, traffic and parking management during park events, environmental protection of Barton Springs Pool and Zilker Park, creation of new parks and greenbelts, the City's Zero Waste program, water conservation, energy conservation, preservation of the urban forest, reform of the state's school funding system and property taxes, and more. The ZNA calendar for all of 2019 can be found at [zilkerneighborhood.org](http://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 2019, from the ZNA Executive Committee. Happy New Year.*

**Connect with Your Neighbors**

THE ZILKER NEIGHBORHOOD attracts people who want to be good stewards of the natural and built environment. A good introduction to that frame of mind is the New Year letter from Save Our Springs Alliance ([www.sosalliance.org](http://www.sosalliance.org)). Zilker residents have a wealth of options for local environmental action close to home, thanks to SOS's Bill Bunch and all the other Zilker neighbors who help to maintain and protect Zilker Park and Barton Springs all year long. Besides the SOS Alliance, Zilker neighbors are active in the pool cleanups organized by the Friends of Barton Springs Pool (see [friendsofbartonspringspool.org](http://friendsofbartonspringspool.org)), led by Steve Barnick, who also delivers *ZNews* on his street. Gina Diehl heads up tree planting and watering at Little Zilker Park, next to the school. And Saturday workdays in South Zilker Park are led by Gail Rothe, ZNA's VP for Parks & Environment (next is Feb. 9, at 9-11 AM). Thank you, Bill, Steve, Gina, and Gail for creating so many opportunities for us to come together around the springs and the park.

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

In 1999, Richard Gravois tried out a fancy new social media tool called Yahoo groups. His intentions were to create a space online where Zilker residents could speak out on neighborhood environmental action, activities like Save Barton Creek Assoc. and SOS, and share tips about water and energy conservation, tree protection, animal rescue, best practice in mosquito control, good food, fun times, and all the wholesome things that everyone in the 'hood wanted to know and enjoyed hearing about. Twenty years later, [zilker@yahoo.com](mailto:zilker@yahoo.com) has more than a thousand subscribers. If you aren't signed up already, check it out at [Yahogroups.com](http://Yahogroups.com).

To volunteer in nearby parks, email Gail at [grothe@austin.rr.com](mailto:grothe@austin.rr.com), or the Friends of Little Zilker Park at [littlezilker@gmail.com](mailto:littlezilker@gmail.com). Greenbelts in the Bouldin Creek and Barton Hills neighborhoods also need volunteers; see [bartonhills.org](http://bartonhills.org) and [bouldincreek.org](http://bouldincreek.org). For info on Zilker campus garden projects, visit the school's web site at [zilkerelem.org](http://zilkerelem.org).

**Zilker Elves Deliver Again!** by Harmony Grogan, ZNA Holiday Families Program Coordinator

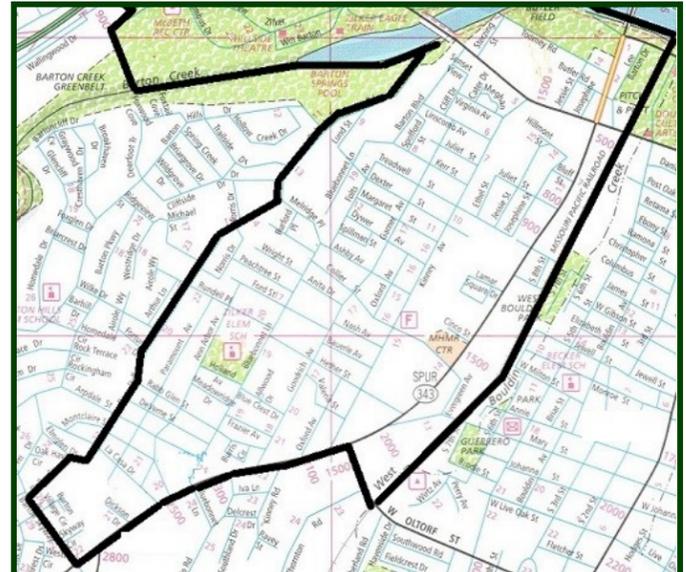
LAST MONTH THE ZILKER HOLIDAY Families Program provided gifts to ten families with children who attend Zilker Elementary School. As in past years, Zilker neighbors have been most generous in providing financial donations (more than \$4,600 this time) and gifts to those who need assistance for the holidays. 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 to these neighbors for their support as donors or volunteers for the Zilker Holiday Families Program in 2018. Please know your donations were received with smiles and delight.

- |                                |                                |                                       |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Kali Adams                     | Alexander Courtade             | Jill Kempf                            | Lynn Robbins                   |
| Laura Agnew & Hill Abell       | Pat Cramer                     | Ann Kennedy                           | David & Mary Frances Rogerson  |
| Brandie Baker                  | Jill Daiber                    | Becky Moore-Kreitman & Keith Kreitman | Gail Rothe & Myron Hess        |
| Helen Barrera                  | Randy Dalton                   | Kristin                               | Joan & David Saidel            |
| Paula Beard                    | Judy Davis                     | Michelle Martin                       | Jamie Shimkus & Mike Kintner   |
| Sidney Beaty                   | Maureen Dolan-Galaviz          | Crispin & Ricky Martinez              | Ingrid, Dash, and Todd Spencer |
| Karen Blackburn                | Shelly & Stephen Eager         | Dee Mazzio                            | Diane & Bob Stonecipher        |
| Chuck & Luan Borgeson          | Brigid Finley                  | Suzanne Nagle                         | Susan & Ross Tedter            |
| Linda Boxberger                | Paulette Gravois               | Bill Neale                            | Bratten Thomason               |
| Bobbi Bulmer                   | Luis Guerra & David King       | Mireya Orozco                         | Sarah Tower                    |
| Blake Bush                     | Adam Honhera                   | Amelie Treuting Parks                 | Cate Tracz                     |
| Liz Carmack                    | David Hough & Eleanor McKinney | Mary Christine Reed & Robert Read     | Dave & Kem Ward                |
| Dorsey Cartwright & Neil Meili | Andrea Hutson                  | Cynthia & Peach Reynolds              | Susan Whyne                    |
| Jan Castleberry                | Jeff Jack                      | Jill Rhoden & family                  | Elizabeth Yevich               |
| Barbara Cossie & Kaye Trybus   | Karen Jones & Clinton Welch    | Bobby Rigney                          | Anonymous                      |

And to Norma and the Moonlight Bakery customers who gave toys, and to the repair crew at Bicycle Sport Shop

ZNA is in 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)

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



ZNA boundaries include Zilker Park and Rabb Road on the west, east to the railroad, south to Barton Skyway, and north to Lady Bird Lake on the north.

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.