



December 2010  
*The*  
**Owana Owl**

*Watching over Old West Austin since 1983*

Old West Austin Neighborhood Association: Town Lake to Enfield and Lamar to Mopac • [www.owana.org](http://www.owana.org)

## Letter From the Chair

**MoPac Improvement Project.** State and local officials are moving toward decisions relating to the MoPac corridor that have the potential to adversely impact our neighborhood. We must get involved if we want our voices heard. With the backing of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the City of Austin and Capitol Metro, the proposed MoPac Improvement Project will include adding on Express Lane (toll, public transit buses, registered vanpools) in each direction between Cesar Chavez and Parmer Lane. The purpose of the managed lanes is to improve mobility and transit reliability in the corridor. Although the Project includes the construction of sound walls to reduce noise in nearby neighborhoods, the ancillary "direct connection" of these express lanes to Downtown may have significant adverse impacts on our neighborhood.

Alternatives for the direct connection include 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. The conversion of these streets into extended high-speed entrance and exit ramps will unquestionably have a negative impact on the neighborhood and on-going neighborhood efforts to develop a long-term plan for the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor. For months, stakeholders have been meeting to develop a neighborhood vision for this corridor. Direct Connect would be inconsistent to say the least.

The other alternative is Cesar Chavez, which would have significantly less impact to our neighborhood. We must get engaged and stay engaged to make sure our views are well represented and articulated.

The second round of TxDOT open houses are being held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 in the O. Henry Middle School Cafeteria located at 2610 West 10th Street; and Thursday, December 2, 2010 in the Murchison Middle School Cafeteria located at 3700 North Hills Drive.

If this issue is important to you, get involved. Remember, if we all think that someone else will do it, no one will – "Someone else is no one!"

**December Meeting.** Please attend our December Meeting. Several important issues are on the agenda including the election of Steering Committee Members. Your participation is important and sincerely appreciated.

See you at Mathews on December 7.

Paul Seals, Chair

# December General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, December 7, 2010 - 6:45 PM to 9:00 PM

Mathews School Cafeteria (906 West Lynn at West 9<sup>th</sup>)

- I. Registration and Social Gathering (6:45 – 7:00)
- II. Call to Order -- Paul Seals (7:00)
- III. Approval of Minutes (7:05)
- IV. Discussion of 2011 Capital 10K and course route – Christopher Thibert, Austin Statesman (7:05 – 7:15)
- V. Discussion of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> St. Corridor Initiative – Laura Porcaro (7:15 – 7:30)
- VI. Consideration for Approval Items Related to Neighborhood Plan – Restricted Front/Side Yard Parking, Mobile Food Establishments – Jean Stevens (7:30 – 7:40)
- VII. Election of 2011 Steering Committee – Mike Sullivan (7:40 – 7:55)
- VIII. Committee Reports
  - A. Zoning Committee Report - Larry Halford  
Note: Only zoning case changes and updates of the OWL report are discussed
  - B. Parks and Greenspaces – Marion Cimbala
  - C. Historic Preservation – Maureen Matteauer
  - D. Public Safety and Transportation – Mike Sullivan
  - E. Affordable Housing – Christine Buendel
  - F. Membership – George Warmington
  - G. Community Events – Christine Buendel
  - H. Bylaws
- IX. Administrative and Organization Issues
  - A. Treasure’s Report – Maureen Matteauer
  - B. OWANA Website Update – Christopher Rankin
  - C. Other Administrative and Organizational Business
- X. Other Business and Announcements
- XI. Adjourn

*NOTE: Votes may be taken on any scheduled agenda items.*

# Steering Committee Nominees

## Nominees for 2011, returning from 2010.

Members cannot serve more than three consecutive years on Steering Committee, noted if applicable.

- PAUL SEALS (3rd year) Frances St near W 6th
- JOHN TEINERT Windsor/Enfield, North of W 12th
- CHRISTOPHER RANKIN (3rd year) Pressler St near W 6th
- CHRISTINE BUENDEL 3rd year Elm St, North of W12th
- VERYAN THOMPSON Oakland St
- MIKE SULLIVAN W 9 1/2 behind Mathew's

## Nominees for 2011, who are not now on Steering Committee.

- BROOKE BAILEY 10th West of West Lynn
- MARION CIMBALA Patterson St.
- KURT SAUER 10th West of Blanco
- LARRY HALFORD W. 14th St near St. Luke's
- SCOTT MARKS Oakland St
- GEORGE WARMINGHAM 8th West of West Lynn
- JOHN MICHAEL SEEBER Windsor/Blanco, near W13th

# Mathews Grocery Cards

Cards can be used to purchase groceries, prescriptions or gas at either HEB or Randalls. The purchaser gets full value. For every \$100 you purchase in cards, Mathews gets \$5. These funds will support the school's Technology Teacher.

For more information or to purchase cards online go to [www.mathews360.com/donations-funding/](http://www.mathews360.com/donations-funding/) or contact Marcia Tugendhat at [mtugendhat@austin.rr.com](mailto:mtugendhat@austin.rr.com) if you have any questions.

Remember, for all Mathews Elementary current news and upcoming events, visit [www.mathews360.com](http://www.mathews360.com).

# Update Your E-mail

In order to save costs and communicate better, OWANA is relying on e-mail more than ever. Please contact George Warmington, OWANA Membership Chair, at [gw@austin.rr.com](mailto:gw@austin.rr.com) if you have a new or updated e-mail address.



## West Austin Pool News

Work continues on the swimming area at West Austin Park. Construction crews poured concrete for the new pool in late November.

Photo by Mike Purdy.

## Renew Today!

Don't miss out on the OWANA Owl or your chance to vote on issues concerning the neighborhood. **Renew your membership today.** Simply complete the membership form at [www.owana.org](http://www.owana.org)

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Austin, TX 78703  
[austinfineproperties.com](http://austinfineproperties.com)

*Austinbikes*



*service station*

512.468.9557  
[www.austinbikes.com](http://www.austinbikes.com)

## Your Neighborhood Pros!

1213 W. 5th St. @ Orchard  
(5 blocks west of Lamar)

**Pro Bike Fitting Services**  
**Fast, Professional Repairs**  
**Custom Builds & Conversions**

Orbea • Scott • Storck • KirkLee • Moots  
mention this ad & get a free cup of AB coffee!

## November Zoning Report

1315 W. 6th Street – Notice of Application for Conditional Use Permit was mailed out on Oct 27th where the applicant is proposing to construct a restaurant and food prep use and proposed offsite parking with associated improvements. Evan Williams leased her 8 offsite spots next door. It has to go before the Planning Commission this month. Owner hired a contractor and is moving forward and is shooting for a March/April opening.

1501 and 1503 Enfield – New owner, has requested a zoning change on both properties to allow an office use for 1501 Enfield and Multi-family on 1503. Project would consist of renovation of the existing contributing structure for office use for a residential real estate firm. 1501 Enfield will also submit Historic Zoning application. 1503 would become residential zoning SF3 and stated intent is to demolish the ranch style home and construct two to three residential condo units. Applicant requested and received non-opposition letters from OWANA, CCDC and WEEA to support their zoning request. Planning Commission voted in favor 7-0 and City Staff is recommending the zoning changes to City Council as well. Council postponed hearing at request of applicant and neighborhood and is rescheduled for Nov 4. Applicant is expected to present at Nov 1 SC meeting.

1211 Lorrain St – Applicant went before BOA Oct 11th for the three variance requests; 1) decrease minimum front street setback from 20 to 15 feet in order to construct a covered porch, 2) decrease minimum side street setback from 15 to 10 feet in order to construct a second story addition to a single family residence, and 3) from 15 to 11'-9 in order to construct an accessory building

(carport with guest house deck above). BOA requested the applicant come back to the Nov 8th hearing with additional views of the current and proposed structure.

804 Pressler – Case was presented before HLC Sept 27th for a building permit for new construction of single family home with pool and pool house. Passed on consent with no comments from the HLC. – case is closed

1204 W. 9th – Case was presented before HLC Sept 27th for a building permit for an addition to a historic structure. No vote taken just advisory comments since they are building within Austin City Code. – case is closed.

## Holiday Crime Reminder


The holidays are always a time for increased property crime. Please remember to lock your house and car and be aware of any suspicious activities.

AustinBikes on the southeast corner of W. 5th and Orchard has been broken into four times over the last month. They have an alarm system, but the thieves have been able to target stealing the high end bikes before the APD arrives. AustinBikes is insured, but have to pay the deductible each incident.

Also, two car break-ins on Harthan have been reported over the past few weeks. The investigating APD officer reported that she had responded to several recent car break-ins on Blanco too.

## Take a Walk on The West Side

The 5th/6th Streets Visions Committee—composed of residents, business owners, and developers devoted to envisioning the appearance of West 5th and 6th Streets as Austin's downtown skyline and population grows—has launched the "Take a Walk on The West Side" campaign. Visit [takeawalkonthewestside.weebly.com](http://takeawalkonthewestside.weebly.com) for information.



**Have Third Base plan YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY!**

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Three Locations: Southpark Meadows • Round Rock • Downtown

## 1720 W. 11th Repairs & Renovation

The Clarksville Community Development Corporation (Clarksville CDC) owns about 15 houses in Old West Austin and provides below market rate housing for a wide-need population. Clarksville CDC has partnered with members of the Austin Housing Repair Coalition, a consortium of organizations that provides free to low cost housing repairs, for the much needed renovations and repairs on the two unoccupied homes on 1720 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. American Youthworks is dedicated to transforming the lives of at-risk youth through education, service and green jobs training and is a member of the Housing Repair Coalition. In about two hours, a corps of American Youthworks students cleaned out trash and ripped out old carpet from the two houses on 1720 W. 11th in preparation for renovations. These students did amazing work as evidenced by the before and after pictures below. Next step for the W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street is re-construction of the homes.

For more information about the repairs and renovations of the Clarksville CDC homes, contact Rose Gabriel at [rosegabe@grandecom.net](mailto:rosegabe@grandecom.net).

For more information about the Housing Repair Coalition, contact Christine Buendel at [c\\_buendel@yahoo.com](mailto:c_buendel@yahoo.com).



*Photographs of the W. 11th Street renovations by Kris Burns, Casa Verde Builders*

## National Night Out & Neighborhood Safety

Many thanks to Kathleen and Nick Deaver for organizing a Night Out block party on Highland where more neighbors got to know each other. We in OWANA have a safety net in knowing most of our neighbors. So, having a block party on National Night Out (October in Crime Prevention Month), or any night during the year, to get to know *even more* of the neighbors pays off when many of us are out of town.

A block potluck party was also held 6 1/2 Street, a one block street that runs between Oakland and Highland Avenues. Neighbors from both streets ate great food, renewed acquaintances and made new friends. It was also an opportunity to add to, and update, the Neighborhood Watch e-mail list that Oakland Avenue residents use to alert neighbors of events and any local crimes.

This year, OWANA had a presence at the UT Brackenridge Apartments' National Night Out on Saturday, October 2. Thanks to Ruthann Rushing for bringing Mathews Elementary, OWANA, and the UT apartments together for a neighborhood event. There was plenty of activities (chicken dance!) and food. Sheril Smith, the manager of the UT Apartments, extended an invitation to OWANA members to join the Mom's group that meets every second and fourth Tuesday at the Brackenridge Apartments #3479B or, weather permitting, outdoors at Pecan Park to discuss and provide support for life situations. To become more involved with activities at the UT Apartments, contact Sheril Smith at [sasmith@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:sasmith@austin.utexas.edu).

## Thank You Business Members

**Anthony's Laundry & Dry Cleaning**  
1113 West Lynn

**Austin Fine Properties**  
1201 Baylor St.  
[www.austinfineproperties.com](http://www.austinfineproperties.com)

**Austin Galleries**  
1219 W 6th St.  
[www.austingalleries.com](http://www.austingalleries.com)

**Austin Properties Team**  
114 W 7th, Ste. 1250  
[www.austinpropertyteam.com](http://www.austinpropertyteam.com)

**Austinbikes**  
1213 W. 5th St.  
[www.austinbikes.com](http://www.austinbikes.com)

**BookPeople**  
603 N. Lamar Blvd.  
[www.bookpeople.com](http://www.bookpeople.com)

**Choban & Associates**  
1400 W. 6th St.  
[www.choban.com](http://www.choban.com)

**Cipollina West Austin Bistro**  
1213 West Lynn St.  
[www.cipollina-austin.com](http://www.cipollina-austin.com)

**Dynamic Reprographics**  
1002 W 12th St.  
[www.dynamicreprographics.com](http://www.dynamicreprographics.com)

**Fresh Plus**  
1221 West Lynn

**Gables 5th Street Commons**  
1611 W. 5th St.  
[www.gables.com](http://www.gables.com)

**Galaxy Café**  
1000 West Lynn St.  
[www.galaxycafeaustin.com](http://www.galaxycafeaustin.com)

**J. Pinnelli Company**  
1507 W 6th St.  
[www.pinnelli.com](http://www.pinnelli.com)

**Jeffrey's Restaurant & Bar**  
1204 W. Lynn Street  
[www.jeffreysfaustin.com](http://www.jeffreysfaustin.com)

**Joseph & Williams Management**  
524 N. Lamar #203

**Leslie Fossler Interiors (LFI)**  
404 Baylor St.  
[www.lfiaustin.com](http://www.lfiaustin.com)

**Live Oak Pharmacy**  
1611 West 5th St #160  
[www.liveoakrx.com](http://www.liveoakrx.com)

**Mean-Eyed Cat**  
1621 W. 5th St.  
[www.themeaneyecat.com](http://www.themeaneyecat.com)

**Nick Deaver, AIA**  
[nickdeaver.com](http://nickdeaver.com)

**Salon Muse**  
1013 West Lynn  
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