



# The Owana Owl

*Watching over Old West Austin since 1983*

*Old West Austin Neighborhood Association: Town Lake to Enfield and Lamar to Mopac*

## Letter from the Chair

By Richard McCown, 2005 OWANA Chair

In the last three months pressure on our neighborhood has increased from speculators and developers. Numerous zoning, demolition and removal projects have been initiated. Numerous other projects have been continuing through the city board and commission development structure.

All of these projects require (1) that OWANA members do research on the details of the project; (2) discuss the project with responsible city staff; (3) discuss the project with the applicant(s); (4) report findings to the OWANA Steering Committee and General Membership; (5) attend board and commission meetings and hearings to present OWANA approved positions; (6) inform and organize OWANA members for meetings and hearings; and (7) consider what other actions might be required.

Several of these projects require additional actions such as; (1) negotiate with applicant and/or developer(s) to try to reach an acceptable compromise for all interests; (2) lobby board and commission members to explain our positions and issues; (3) research our NRHD properties to determine their historic status and designation; (4) research the OWA Neighborhood Plan to determine whether or not the project complies with the plan; (5) lobby City Council Members to explain our positions and issues; consult with and/or hire outside experts; (6) explain our position to and organize support from the ANC and other neighborhood organizations; (7) obtain signatures on petitions; and (8) discuss our concerns, issues and positions with representatives of the press.

All of these activities are very time consuming for our volunteer OWANA members. Speculators and developers have numerous well paid and full time owners, executives, lawyers, consultants, and

lobbyists to do these activities with large profits as their goal. OWANA Zoning and Land Use Committee Chair and members, Steering Committee members, and other volunteer members have responded with amazing dedication and done a tremendous job representing our interests.

Because of the large number of cases we are at times overwhelmed with these activities and we continue to need volunteers to help us achieve our goals. Please help !

## Rash of car break-ins reported

Several neighbors on Baylor Street have reported that their cars have had windows smashed during the last few months. Please be sure to remove all valuables from your car so it's not such an attractive target. Also, keep front porch lights on. If your car is broken in to something is stolen from your porch or property, please report it to the Austin Police. While they may not be able to do anything to catch the culprits, they do keep tabs and if they see a trend, they will increase patrols in the neighborhood.

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# The Zoning Report

Prepared by Steve Colburn, OWANA Zoning Chair  
Email: [scolburn@austin.rr.com](mailto:scolburn@austin.rr.com)  
Submitted August 22, 2005

1. 6th & Lamar (Old Whole Foods at Northeast Corner) PUD Request Pulled: David Vitanza has pulled his request to develop this property as a PUD (Planned Unit Development). Many neighbors and OWANA had objected to this zoning change. We have not yet seen an alternative zoning proposal or site plan.

2. 1208 W. 9th St., Shelley Park Flats Variances: The City has sent us a letter that purports to detail their reasons (with supporting cases) for granting the variance that allows 40 height OR 4 stories. We do not believe that their arguments and the cases they refer to actually support their ruling so we are writing a letter detailing our objections.

There was a small structure on the side of the house that contained the HVAC units and was in violation of side setback requirements. It requires a variance to remain. The alternative is a fence. If nearby neighbors concur which alternative is best for them, we will support them.

3. Encinal Condos Unit 301, 1106 West 6th St.: Following our objections to the city's delays in enforcing their previous rulings that the rooftop addition to this condo was illegal, the City sent us a letter with the following information. The "owner" named below is a bank.

*"As noted, the property is in violation of multiple City regulations. The City is taking immediate action to bring this issue to resolution. As of July 21, 2005, the gas and electric services in unit 301 were shut off. Additionally, a "Notice of Violation" was sent to the property owner on July 29, 2005. The notice gives the owner 30 days to obtain a demolition permit and 45 days to complete the demolition. Failure to comply with the requirements of the notice will result in legal action."*

3. 1201 & 1203 Baylor: City Case #s: C14-05-0012 & C14-05-0013 Requesting Zoning Change from MF-4 (Multifamily Residence) to LO (Limited Office). This zoning change requires an amendment to the Old West Austin Neighborhood Plan. While our Neighborhood Plan team is in place, the city has not

yet formalized a new amendment process. Consequently, the City has postponed this Zoning Change request to the Planning Commission until November 11th; it may be later depending on how long the City takes to formalize the new process. OWANA is on record opposing such conversions to office, so we must monitor this.

4. 1300 Block of Woodlawn @ Palma Plaza: City case #5201-0504 Request to purchase the right-of-way from the city to add to 1631 Palma Plaza. This right-of-way is currently unused by the city. Just north of this section, the street widens into a large boulevard with a grassy divider. Some of the nearby property owners have objected to the city selling this land. The City has not made any determination as yet. City Staff is Alex Papavasiliou, Property Agent, Real Estate Services Division, Dept. of Public Works, 974-7087.

5. 1101 West Lynn (the old Crofts) / Eason: City case #SP-05-0384EX. The owner paved the back of this lot which is a Single Family (SF-3) zone property on Eason for parking associated with the remodel of the old Crofts building on West Lynn. Neighbors and OWANA objected. Subsequently the City stopped work to do a complete site plan review, which was recently completed. As I read it, it denies approval of the site plan due to specific drainage, environmental (parking too close to a tree), transportation, water quality, and other issues, subject to the owners taking a number of remediation steps by Dec. 27th.

6. 902 Blanco: City Case: C14H-05-0012. Owner requests Historic Zoning change from SF-3-NP to SF-3H-NP. Approved by Historic Landmark Commission.

**Please contact Steve Colburn at [scolburn@austin.rr.com](mailto:scolburn@austin.rr.com) if you have additional questions, corrections or would like to volunteer some time to help with neighborhood zoning**



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# General Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, September 6, 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM**  
 Mathews School Cafeteria - West Lynn @ 9th

## Agenda

Registration and Social Gathering 6:30 - 7:00 PM

I. Call to Order 7:00 PM

II. Approval of Minutes 7:05 PM

III. Police Downtown Area Command (DTAC) Presentation 7:10 - 7:30 PM Discussion of recent neighborhood issues and police programs.

IV. Discussion of Recent Legislative Sessions with State Representative Elliott Naishtat 7:30 - 7:50 PM Presentation and Q & A on the results of recent Legislative Sessions including issues supported by Texas Neighborhoods Together (TNT) and Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) and Eminent Domain.

V. OWA Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Report - Laura Morrison 7:50 - 8:00 PM Update OWANA members on the status and activities of the Contact Team.

VI. WEAA Meeting Report - Laura Morrison 8:00-8:10 PM

VII. Austin Neighborhoods Council Report - Linda MacNeillage 8:10 - 8:20 PM

VIII. Special Committee Reports 8:20 - 9:10 PM

A. Zoning & Land Use Committee - Steve Colburn, et al  
 1. 1603-1605 Enfield Rd 2. 1106 West 6th St, #301  
 3. Shelley Park Condos 4. 1706 - 1708 W 6th St  
 5. Other Zoning Cases NOTE: Only Zoning case changes/updates of OWL Report are discussed

B. Membership and Fund-raising Committee - S. Stewart  
 1. 2006 OWANA Calendar Fund Raising Project  
 2. Fund-raising status 3. Membership status

C. Public Safety & Transportation Committee - R. McCown  
 1. Police Chief's Forum 2. DTAC Police Commander's Forum 3. Neighborhood Safety Issues 4. Neighborhood Traffic Issues

D. Historic Preservation Committee - Rosemary Merriam  
 1. National Register Historic District Application status report on the West Line NRHD  
 2. Other Historic Preservation Issues

IX. Administrative & Organizational Issues 9:10-9:25 PM  
 A. Status of the OWANA app for IRS 501C3 status  
 B. Treasurers Report - Jean Stevens  
 C. Update on OWANA Web Site - Laura Morrison, Red Wassenich  
 D. Election to fill one vacancy on the SC

X. Other Business 9:25 - 9:30 PM

XI. Adjourn 9:30 PM

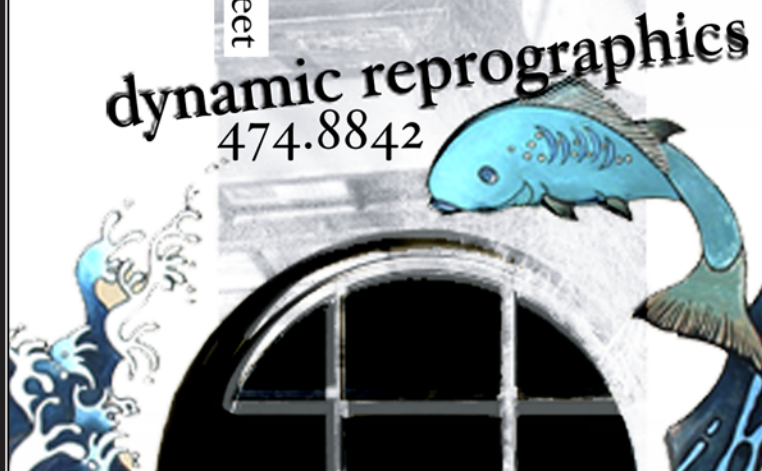
Note: Votes may be taken on any scheduled agenda items.



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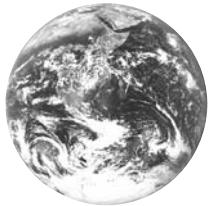


## City of Austin Population

1940.....	87,930
1950.....	132,459
1960.....	186,545
1970.....	251,808
1980.....	345,890
1990.....	465,622
2000.....	656,652
<b>2005.....</b>	<b>700,407</b>
2010.....	753,787
2020.....	918,862
2030.....	1,106,428

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## Pressures of Development

By Steve Colburn, OWANA Zoning Chair

As Austin grows into a large metropolitan city, we face a number of pressures that other large cities throughout the country are dealing with. These include the demolition of smaller, older homes to be replaced by “McMansions” and condos or just newer, larger single family homes. In addition, the city’s growth is taking the form of high rise office buildings and condos within the central city area that our neighborhood abuts.

We face the additional burden of containing a number of the major arteries into and out of the central city such as Mopac, 5th & 6th St, 1st St, Enfield, & Lamar, so we can’t help but be impacted by the increased traffic (of all types) inner city high density brings or the government’s attempts to deal with it. At the same time we benefit from the increased opportunities and vitality such a vibrant central city offers.

Despite Austin’s current boom and the city’s broad and successful efforts to foster economic growth, city government still has not recovered from its post-2000 financial problems, so city departments are overwhelmed with work. It should come as no surprise that development problems fall through the cracks or that the city lacks enough enforcement personnel to catch them before they go too far. It should also come as no surprise that developers will try to take advantage of every opportunity they can.

The result is that we end up with projects incompatible with our neighborhood that the city allows to exit.

Since we can’t count on city government to monitor

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN...

development and enforce its own codes, it falls on each of us individually and as a group to be vigilant. It takes some time, but consider it the price we must pay to keep our neighborhood such a wonderful place to live.

Thanks to all of you who have helped in this ongoing effort. To those who haven’t yet, please join us by emailing me at [scolburn@austin.rr.com](mailto:scolburn@austin.rr.com) or calling **844-1483**.



## Attention Old West Austin business owners.

Join the other local businesses in this issue who have joined OWANA. Memberships start at \$50 for a Standard Business Listing and only \$44 per issue for a 1/8 page ad in all 4 issues.

The Owl is distributed to more than 300 neighbors who live within 1 mile of your business!

Contact [Chris.Schorre@gmail.com](mailto:Chris.Schorre@gmail.com)  
for more information.

Membership is limited to businesses within OWANA boundaries .

# Brief History of Austin

Austin hasn't always been the bustling city that it is today. This gentle bend in the Colorado River had many residents and visitors long before the first cornerstone was laid.

For hundreds of years, nomadic tribes of Tonkawas, Comanches, and Lipan Apaches camped and hunted along the creeks, including what is now known as Barton Springs. In the late 1700s, the Spanish set up temporary missions in the area. In the 1830s the first permanent Anglo settlers arrived and called their village Waterloo.

In 1839, tiny Waterloo was chosen to be the capital of the new Republic of Texas. A new city was built quickly in the wilderness, and was named after Stephen F. Austin, "the father of Texas." Judge Edwin Waller, who was later to become the city's first mayor, surveyed the site and laid out a street plan that has survived largely intact to this day. In October 1839, the entire government of the Republic arrived from Houston in oxcarts. By the next January, the town's population had swollen to 856 people.

The new town plan included a hilltop site for a capitol building looking down toward the Colorado River from the head of a broad Congress Avenue. "The Avenue" and Pecan Street (now 6th Street) have remained Austin's principal business streets for the 150 years since. After Texas was annexed by the United States in 1845, it took two statewide elections to keep Austin the capital city.

By the 1880s, Austin was becoming a city. In 1888, a grand capitol building, advertised as the "7th largest building in the world," was completed on the site originally chosen in the 1839 plan. Funded by very creative financing involving the famous XIT Ranch, the building remains a central landmark on the Austin skyline. It has also, of course, remained the center of one of the city's most prominent industries—government.

In September of 1881, the Austin City Public Schools admitted their first classes. In that same year, the Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute, predecessor of Huston-Tillotson College, opened its doors. Efforts to place the new University of Texas in Austin faced some opposition, however. Parents were warned that sending their sons to school so close to lawmakers would be a terrible influence on their morals.

In 1893, the construction of the Great Granite Dam  
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on the Colorado River was another milestone in the city's growth. The dam stabilized the river and provided hydraulic power to generate electricity, which in turn attracted manufacturers. By 1938, the dam had been replaced by a series of seven U.S. government-funded dams. One official who helped shape these public works was the young congressman Lyndon Baines Johnson, who got his start in government work in Austin.

As Austin emerged from the Depression, the seeds of the city's future as a center of high technology were being carefully planted. By the 1950s, several research laboratories and think tanks had been founded, and began to draw innovative thinkers and high-tech companies to the area—a trend that has continued to this day. As Austin's economy prospered, the area attracted even more modern amenities. Several movie theaters arrived, along with more public swimming pools, a branch library system, and a professional baseball team.

Rapid growth in the 1970s contributed to more political activity, this time at the local level. Strong neighborhood, environmental, and historic preservation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

## Sweetish Hill Austin's Famous Bakery

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Sun. 6:30am - 5:00pm

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# Thank you OWANA Business Members!



These local businesses generously support OWANA. Please return the favor by supporting them. By doing so you will help maintain the character of our neighborhood. It makes a difference!

- Anthony's Dry Cleaning** > 1113 West Lynn > 472-1616
- Aralyn and Company** > 1825B Waterston > 476-0682
- Art on 5th Gallery** > 1501 5th, Suite A > 481-1111
- Artworks** > 1214 6th, Suite 105 > 472-1550
- Avalon Hair Salon** > 1012A 6th > 474-2585
- Austin Java** > 1206 Parkway > 476-1829
- Bella Home** > 1221 6th > 474-1157
- Ben & Jerry's/Lifeworks** > 500 N Lamar > 735-2345
- Bond's TV & Electronics** > 1010 West Lynn > 476-3551
- Book People** > 603 North Lamar > 472-5050
- Brava House Bed & Breakfast** > 1108 Blanco > 478-5034
- By George** > 524 North Lamar > 472-5951
- Cafe Caprice** > 900 10th > 477-5576
- Cippolina Italian Bistro** > 1213 West Lynn > 477-5211
- Dynamic Reprographics** > 1002 12th > 474-8842
- El Interior** > 1009 West Lynn > 474-8680
- f8 Fine Art Gallery** > 1137 6th > 480-0242
- Jeffrey's Restaurant** > 1204 West Lynn > 477-5584
- Joseph & Williams** > 524 N Lamar > 477-1277
- Land Rover Austin** > 1515 5th > 236-0000
- Landers Studio** > 404-B Baylor > 472-9663
- Lotus Asian Art** > 1201-B 6th > 474-1700
- Mean Eyed Cat** > 1621 5th > 636-6188
- Nau's Enfield Drug** > 1115 West Lynn > 476-1221
- Olde English Imports** > 1310 5th > 478-5001
- Prime Lending** > 1717 West 6th, Suite 420 > 478-1200
- Red Door Art School** > 1607 6th > 469-2999
- Robert Leeper Landscapes** > 1501D 9th > 542-0070
- Rounders Pizzeria** > 1203 6th > 477-0404
- Seattle's Best Coffee** > 500 North Lamar > 481-0296
- Sledd Nursery** > 1211 West Lynn > 478-9977
- Steven Griffith** > 1206 6th > 474-7784
- St. Francis Episcopal Church** > 1408 9th > 499-3961
- Sweetish Hill Bakery** > 1120 6th > 472-1347
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- Thundercloud Subs** > 903 12th > 322-0154
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- Wink Restaurant** > 1014 North Lamar > 482-8868
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- Zanzibar** > 1009 6th > 472-9234
- Z Tejas** > 1110 6th > 478-5355

## View from Ecks Heights on the West Line

Paul Seals, Vice-Chair OWANA Steering Committee

From our little enclave on Francis Avenue, near the intersection of W. 6th and MoPac, we have seen some amazing transitions in the neighborhood over the past 18 years. Since our arrival in 1987, we have witnessed a tremendous investment in owner-occupied residences. The convenient location has created significant demand for single-family homes. Each year, new restoration and remodeling projects put new life and young families into our post-World War I subdivisions on the old rail line.

Now that our young daughters have left for college, it is wonderful to see all the young children taking their places at Mathews Elementary. I doubt that many city planners would have thought in 1980 that such residential vibrancy would exist. Instead, continued commercial encroachment along and north of 6th Street was a more likely projected image.

In my second tour of duty on the Steering Committee, I am strengthened by the commitment and resolve of my fellow members and the many volunteers who remain vigilant in our fight to preserve and enhance the historic integrity and vibrancy of our residential community.

Zoning, development and building codes, and neighborhood plans are meaningless without aggressive and visible enforcement by the City. The Neighborhood Plan must not be allowed to gather dust. The City staff must provide the resources to keep the Plan alive through an effective implementation process. The City must realize that not every decision should be based on the perceived highest and best use of a residential property, recently acquired by someone who does not want to maintain its residential use.

In the evenings, when my wife and I sit on our front porch, often in the company of our neighbors, I realize how lucky we are to live in this neighborhood, a neighborhood worth fighting for.

New OWANA website!

**[www.owana.org](http://www.owana.org)**

Your suggestions are arewelcome. Send them to  
[redwassenich@gmail.com](mailto:redwassenich@gmail.com)

# How Jeffrey's Got It Start, and Continues to Prosper

By Kay Hart

Before 1970, when Austinites wanted to celebrate a special occasion by dining out, their choices were limited to a bacon-wrapped filet mignon (well-done), a baked potato (accompanied by sour cream, grated American cheese, and bacon bits), an iceberg lettuce salad (drenched with orange French dressing), and a complimentary glass of rose wine. Remember Irving's? the Hitching Post? the Villa Capri? the Barn? Then, in 1975, a little neighborhood bistro opened, introducing to Austin the New American Cuisine that had originated in California with the likes of Alice Waters's Chez Panisse.

How lucky we are to have this acclaimed restaurant in the heart of our neighborhood! This year marks Jeffrey's 30th anniversary, a milestone of which its owners, Peggy and Ron Weiss and Jeffrey Weinberger, are very proud.

It's not accidental that everything about Jeffrey's has a neighborhood feel. Soon after graduating from the University of Texas, Peggy and Ron lived in London for a while. At night, for entertainment, they would eat at small neighborhood bistros. Perhaps these experiences planted the idea of one day opening just such a place in Austin. After returning to Austin, they were visiting with their friend Jeff Weinberger when possibility of opening a restaurant crept into their conversation. Says Peggy, "We looked at each other and said, 'Why not?' I was from Louisiana and grew up eating my mother's wonderful cooking. Ron knew wine. Jeff had just finished helping friends open a restaurant in Dallas." So the decision was made. Jeff found the perfect location: the corner of W. 12th and West Lynn streets, next door to Lou-Jay's liquor store. They opened with only ten tables but expanded over the years, one room at a time, taking care never to lose the intimate atmosphere they so valued.

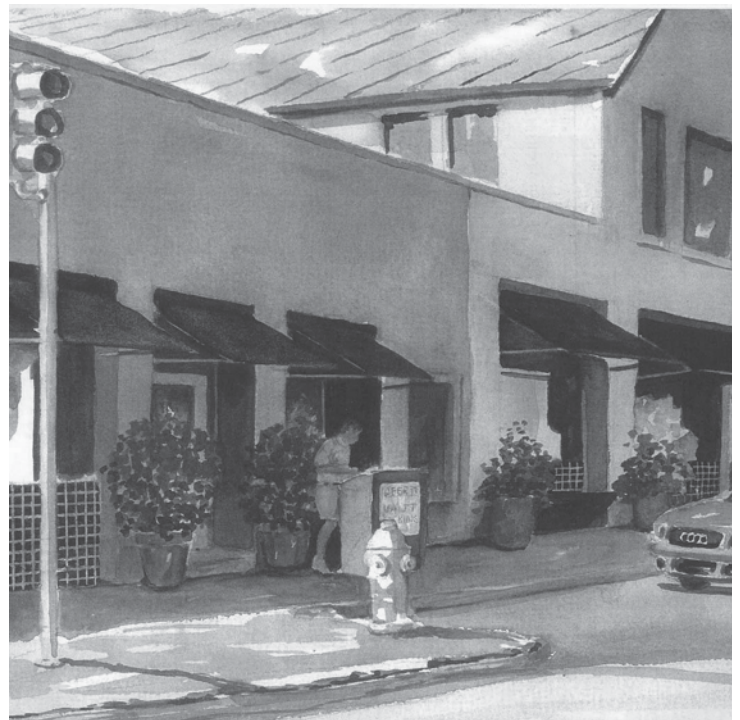
The restaurant's understated exterior reflects the owners' desire to fit in with the neighborhood, which is anchored by such long-established businesses as Nau's Enfield Drug, Sledd's Nursery, Anthony's Cleaners, Fresh Plus, and Bond's Television and Electronics. A small plaque near Jeffrey's entrance is hungry patrons' only clue that they have arrived at the correct place. The restaurant's interior is just as unpretentious. "The interior is designed to be a catalyst for conversation," says Ron, "people feeling comfortable and having a good time."

Jeffrey's is famous for its consistently excellent food and warm, friendly service. For a restaurant to survive, it must have a good chef, and in the thirty years it has been open, Jeffrey's has had only three. David Garrido, the executive chef for the past fourteen years, is nationally known for his unique culinary style, which is based on a blend of

Southwest and Latin cuisines. Peggy, Ron, and Jeff also acknowledge the importance of their wait staff, some of whom have been with them for over fifteen years. One waiter, Johnny Guffey, has been at Jeffrey's for twenty-five years and has built an avid following. Neighbors who frequent the local dog park might recognize Johnny as the owner of Max and Sophie, two standard poodles, who occasionally play there. Johnny also lives in our neighborhood and rides his bike to work every day.

The owners of Jeffrey's have always been good neighbors. The Weisses' involvement in Old West Austin has gone far beyond running a business. They live here. Ron attends OWANA meetings, representing the important viewpoint of businesses in our area as well as the concerns of a resident. Both of the Weiss children attended Mathews, and Peggy was involved in the school's PTA for twelve years. Jeffrey's has been a long-time neighborhood partner of Mathews and hosts events to honor its teachers. The restaurant has also opened its doors to the neighborhood for special events, most recently for a silent auction to raise money for the dog park.

The Old West Austin Neighborhood Association thanks Peggy, Ron, Jeffrey, and David for their support of the neighborhood and its concerns. Congratulations on the 30th anniversary of Jeffrey's—Austin's fine-dining pioneer.



This watercolor of Jeffrey's (original in color) was painted by Austin artist Billie Harkrider and will be one of many images featured in the 2006 OWANA calendar on sale next month. Thank you Billie!

# The artist for the 2006 OWANA calendars

A native Texan, Billie Harkrider spent her childhood on a farm near Dublin, Texas. Starting at the age of six, she knew from her ability to express herself through her drawings that art would always be a passion woven into her life.

She attended Texas Tech University, studying graphic design, architecture and fine art. Billie's artist career, beginning in 1980, has included work for Texas Home Design, public relations firms, free lance advertising, art instructor for both public and private college level classes in Houston, Corpus Christi Gallery Miniature Show, several one person shows, invitational Cotillion Club Show for six years, and traveling shows of both the Watercolor Art Society of Houston and Texas Watercolor Society.

Billie's art affiliations include president of Kingwood Art Society, chair of the Lone Star Art Guild, member of the Watercolor Art Society of Houston, member

of the Texas Watercolor Society, and founder of the Northeast Houston Professional Artist Association.

Billie and her husband Larry sold their businesses in 2003 and moved to Austin to be near their children and three grandchildren. They chose the Old West Austin neighborhood as the area most desirable to live in and waited to buy the perfect house for them. "The church bells, the walking mail carrier, the local grocery store, people walking their dogs, all take me back to my home town forty years ago. Just walking distance away is all the culture and energy of Austin."

OWANA wishes to extend a huge "Thank You" to Billie for her willingness to support OWANA. To reach Billie and Larry Harkrider, call 417-2316.

## History of Austin, continued...

communities sprang up, and remain an integral part of Austin's civic life today. In particular, concern about the purity of water flowing from Barton Springs has led to this landmark becoming an icon for many of the "Austin frame of mind."

Diverse cultural groups have been attracted to Austin throughout its history, including immigrants from Europe, Africa, Mexico, and, most recently, Asia. All of these groups have enriched Austin's civic and cultural life, including its recent development as a mecca for music fans.

Austin's musical rebirth began in the 1970s, when artists such as David Rodriguez and Willie Nelson drew national attention—and more musicians—to the city. Now, on any given night, scores of artists can be heard playing countless musical styles in the city's nightclubs and concert halls.

Today, Austin is known as much for its cultural life and high-tech innovations as it is for the senators and schoolteachers who shaped its beginnings. The same success that has gained the city a national reputation has brought with it many difficult choices, as the city expands on a scale that might shock the early residents of Waterloo.

As a new century begins, and as Austin completes its transformation from town to city to metro area, the city and its people face decisions on how the city will preserve its past, and how we will allow that past to shape our future.

- Biruta Celmins Kearn, Curator Emerita, Austin History Center

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# Sweetish Hill Sponsors Contest for Artists

For 30 years, Sweetish Hill has been a meeting place for Austin. Many sweet, bizarre and entertaining events and experiences have occurred there. Art on the Hill is a chance to share your memories in the form for short stories, poems, art, and songs of events-real or imagined-that happened at Sweetish Hill.

Winners will be published and featured during their 30th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, October 30. All fees will go towards contest prizes and to Mobile Loaves & Fishes, a social outreach ministry for the homeless and indigent working poor.

For more information on how to enter, please visit their website at [www.sweetishhill.com](http://www.sweetishhill.com). Deadline for entries is midnight, September 30, 2005.

# Heritage Society of Austin Seeks Nominations for the 2005 Preservation Merit Awards

The Preservation Awards are presented annually to honor individuals and institutions for their visionary approach to preservation and commitment to maintaining Austin's architectural, cultural, and environmental heritage.

By creating more recognition for outstanding preservation projects and preservationists, the Heritage Society in turn inspires others to carry on the important work of safeguarding Austin's heritage.

Nominations of recent projects are being accepted until September 16, 2005 in the following categories:

>>>



Dinner's at our house

*"What a welcome addition to an under-represented niche in Austin: the simple but stylish American Bistro"*

- Texas Monthly

900 West 10th (at Lamar)  
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# Not an OWANA member? Give us 20 bucks and you're in!

(Cheaper than 3 months of taxes on your phone bill!)

OWANA membership is open to all residents age 18 and older. Up to 2 adults may join per household and have full voting privileges. To join, please send this form and check for **\$20** (includes up to 2 people in the same household) to:

**OWANA, P.O. Box 2724, Austin, TX 78768-2724**

Member #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Member #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Austin, TX 78703

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in getting involved with OWANA.

Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help fund OWANA's effort to establish neighborhood branding entry signs. Please mail check to address above. Thank you!

New memberships begin 30 days after receipt of payment. Members lapsed for less than 1 year may rejoin with no waiting period.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN...

Individual or Organization Awards:

1. **Craftsman**
2. **Public Service**
3. **Education**

Building Awards:

1. **Restoration**
2. **Preservation**
3. **Adaptive Use**
4. **Stabilization**

Individual or Organization Awards should be submitted in essay form, not to exceed two typewritten double-spaced pages. Building Awards must be accompanied by a completed Documentation Form and submitted to the Heritage Society of Austin office at P.O. Box 2113, Austin, TX 78768, or may be faxed to (512) 476-8687.

The Mission of the Heritage Society of Austin is to promote the recognition and experience of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. Visit the [www.heritagesocietyaustin.org](http://www.heritagesocietyaustin.org) for more information.

-- Jacqui Schraad, Executive Director, HSA

# Bond's TV and Electronics - Going Strong 50 Years Later

In 1954, you had few options in television sets. You could buy a nice black and white set, or you could listen to the radio. Assuming you chose the former, you also had once choice of TV repair facilities in Austin at the time: Bond's TV & Electronics.

One thing is certain, people have many choices now but for people who value neighborhood service, Bond's remains the place to go.

Robert Bond start Bond's in 1954 in the space currently occupied by T. Kennedy on West Lynn Street. Back then, Channel 7 was the only station in town and Robert was studying Electrical Engineering at UT. Robert was an entrepreneurial young man, studying by day and doing service calls until 11PM at night. In fact, he even advertised this late night service on the side of his truck!



In 1963, Bond's expanded across the street in their present location and over the years, grew into the appliance and electronics businesses.

Decades later, Bond's remains a family owned business and President (son of Robert) David Bond notes that they had withstood the test of time quite well. Today, Bond's does a booming business with TV sales, residential and commercial home theater installation and remains one of the largest TV repair facilities in the Austin area. In fact, all repairs are done on site and in a matter of days, not weeks. Bond notes that this is something the large retail chains like Best Buy cannot offer. David also likes to point out that because they belong to a nationwide buying group, their prices are very competitive. But perhaps their best secret weapon is not so secret after all - excellent customer service. Anyone who has shopped at Bond's in the last 50 years would certainly know that! Congratulations on 50 years in the neighborhood!

## We Need to Hear from you.

The OWANA Owl does not have a full time "beat" reporter to hit the streets and find stories. So we rely on readers like you to give us the scoop on what's newsworthy or noteworthy. We are always looking for people to contribute content in the areas of:

- Human interest stories
- Anniversaries (personal or business)
- Outstanding personal achievement
- Zoning issues and development concerns
- Neighborhood events and fundraisers

Ideas? Email [chris.schorre@gmail.com](mailto:chris.schorre@gmail.com). Thanks!

## How You Can Help

About a year ago, during the Lamar/Enfield construction, I was walking along the 12th Street "expressway" thinking to myself, "THEY should really do something about all this cut-through traffic". I stopped myself and thought, who is "THEY"? The overworked, undermanned neighborhood association? The City of Austin? I am THEY. The neighborhood association is ME. MY neighborhood is MY responsibility. I realized it was not someone else's responsibility to fix the traffic problem. I was complaining about it, but doing NOTHING. I decided to DO something. At that point, I volunteered to be the traffic liaison for the duration of those two construction projects.

When I walk through the neighborhood now and see issues which concern me, I am careful to keep my complaints in check with a, "what have I done about it?". Have I made a phone call or written a letter to the City? If yes, am I willing to do more? For myself, and others, I believe we are capable of doing more for the neighborhood, than we think we can. Thank you for doing what you have.

- Paige Frederick-Pape, West Austin resident

An advertisement for Aralyn &amp; Company REALTORS. It features two women, one in the foreground and one in the background, both smiling. The text reads "the art of REAL ESTATE ...serving Austin since 1979" and "Aralyn &amp; Company REALTORS®". At the bottom, it says "\$500 contribution to OWANA when members buy or sell with us 512.476.0682 www.aralyn.com sold@aralyn.com".

## Want To Be An Editor?

Now is our chance. Chris Schorre, Editor of the Owl newsletter since late 2003, is turning in his quill at the end of the year to focus on other issues for our neighborhood and downtown Austin. If you are interested in stepping in to help manage the quarterly newsletter (training included!), please contact him at 731-1520 or send an email to [chris.schorre@gmail.com](mailto:chris.schorre@gmail.com).

Even if you're already to step in as Editor, the Owl needs your help in so many other ways. Just send us an email and tell us how you would like to help!

## City of Austin Selling Rainbarrels on September 17

City of Austin Water Conservation periodically offers rainbarrels for sale at discounted rates. City water customers may purchase rainbarrels at a discounted price of \$60 per barrel.

Austin's new warehouse distribution site is located at 6014 Techni Center Drive, just off of southbound 183 near MLK. Please watch carefully for signs directing traffic flow -- previous sales have been popular, so be patient as they adjust to this new location. The location on Airport Blvd. is closed.

Rainbarrels are 75 gallons and made of sturdy dark green polyethylene. They are 3' tall and roughly 27" at the widest point. Rainbarrels come with a debris screen and outflow hose, as well as an overflow tube.

You may pre-pay for rainbarrels by sending a completed application and your check payable to City of Austin at least two weeks before the sale date. You will be sent a receipt that will allow you to pick up your rainbarrels.

Payment is also accepted on the day of the sale by check, money order, credit card or exact change. To purchase a barrel from the City of Austin, bring your water/utility bill and photo ID to 6014 Techni Center Drive on the scheduled sale date.

Pickup dates are currently scheduled for:

**September 17, 2005 from 9:00am - 12:00pm**

**November 5, 2005 from 9:00am - 12:00pm**

Please do your part to conserve water!

## Ask a Neighbor to Join OWANA

As a resident of our fine neighborhood, we urge you to ask your neighbors to join the Old West Austin Neighborhood Association. Membership, at only \$20 per year, builds bridges to connect you with your community. Membership delivers direct mailings of the "Owl" to your front door with up-to-date neighborhood news and information, general meeting announcements, zoning issues, and news of neighborhood activities, plus valuable coupons from neighborhood businesses. Membership supports neighborhood initiatives to increase public awareness. Please encourage your neighbors to join!

The Membership Committee will give away a free brochure from the Austin Visitors Bureau entitled, "West Austin: Historic Austin Tours" to the first ten new members during the month of June. We wish to thank the Bureau for donating the brochures.

## OWANA Steering Committee Openings

At the September OWANA General Membership Meeting, one new steering committee member will be elected by attending members. Open nominations will be accepted at the general meeting. OWANA members can nominate themselves or another member. The term is one year, with a limit of three consecutive years.

Neighbors wishing to join or renew their membership in OWANA will have that opportunity at the General Membership Meeting. Please make your check payable to OWANA. Resident memberships are \$20 and Standard business memberships are \$50.

If you have any questions about Membership, please contact Saralyn Stewart. Her email address is [stewart@physics.utexas.edu](mailto:stewart@physics.utexas.edu).

**Have you been to Seattle's Best yet?**

**SEATTLE'S BEST COFFEE**

**5th and Lamar**  
**(512) 481-0296**  
**(Next to Jackson Ruiz)**

What's brewing at Seattle's Best:

- Free Wireless Internet
- Live Music Friday Nights
- Quack's Pastries and Desserts
- Italian Panini Sandwiches
- Plenty of Study Space



## City of Austin Contact Phone #s

Animal pickup (DOA).....	530-2242
Animal pickup (stray/injured).....	972-6060
Austin Water Utility Emergency.....	972-1000
Barking Dogs, Noise.....	3-1-1
Cars, Abandoned.....	280-0075
Child Abuse Unit.....	834-3890
City of Austin Switchboard.....	974-2000
City Clerk.....	974-2210
Code & Ordinance Research.....	974-2210
Garbage Collection.....	494-9400
Landfill.....	243-1200
Litter/Dumping in a Lot/Yard.....	494-9400
Parks Maintenance.....	440-5150
Sidewalks/Right of Way Blockage.....	974-2217
Street Signs.....	457-4850
Solid Waste Services.....	494-9400
Streetlight Problems.....	505-7617
Street Signs.....	457-4850
Traffic Markings.....	457-4889
Traffic Signals.....	974-7129
Tree Branches in Road.....	440-5150
Weed and Litter Control.....	494-9400
Water Waste.....	974-2199
Zoning Code Enforcement.....	974-6576

## Your 2005 OWANA Steering Committee members

**Richard McCown, Chair**....RichardSMcCown@yahoo.com

**Paul Seals, Vice Chair**.....PSeals@akingpump.com

**Jean Stevens, Treasurer**.....SJZone@sbcglobal.net

**Richard Queen, Secretary**.....RAQueen@austin.rr.com

**David Art**.....David.Art@amd.com

**Robin Carter**.....Lotus@bga.com

**Linda MacNeilage**.....LMacNeilage@austin.rr.com

**Laura Morrison**.....LCMorrison@prodigy.net

**Rosemary Merriam**.....Rosemary@austin.rr.com

**Chris Schorre**.....Chris.Schorre@gmail.com

**Karen Schwitters**.....KarenS@austin.rr.com

**Gene Waugh**.....HWaughSr@austin.rr.com

**Owl Editor: Chris Schorre** Have something you'd like to see in the next Owl? Give me a call at **731-1520** or email **chris.schorre@gmail.com**. We're always looking for new material! Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue.

**Interested in advertising in the Owl?** Contact **chris.schorre@gmail.com**. Ad deadline: November 5



**Old West Austin Neighborhood Association**  
Post Office Box 2724  
Austin, Texas 78768-2724  
www.owana.org

**Don't miss the next general membership meeting!**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**  
**6:30 - 9:30PM**

Mathews School Cafeteria  
9th & West Lynn  
(Use SE entrance)

## Inside this issue of the Owl:

- > Zoning Updates
- > Area business anniversaries
- > 2006 calendars on sale soon!
- > Letter from the Chair
- > Plus coupons from area businesses...