



The Owana Owl

September 2006

Watching over Old West Austin since 1983
Old West Austin Neighborhood Association: Town Lake to Enfield and Lamar to Mopac

Letter from the Chair

Paul Seals, OWANA Co-Chair

On April 10, 2006, a group of neighborhood residents executed a statement of intent with the developers of the proposed mixed-use development at 507 Pressler. This agreement raises some fundamental questions for OWANA and the other neighborhoods surrounding Downtown. Although the "agreement" was reached in the context of the Board of Adjustment's consideration of certain variances requested by the developers, it might set a precedent for a potential source of funding to assist affordable housing in our neighborhood.



In an effort to provide affordable housing in the OWANA neighborhood, the Developer agrees to pay an amount equal to \$300,000 into a fund/entity designated to provide affordable housing with the OWANA boundaries. The actual fund/entity is yet to be determined. The membership of OWANA will approve the fund/entity for receipt and use of these funds for affordable housing prior to the project's date of Certificate of Occupancy at which time the Developer will transfer the funds into the designated instrument. The payment will be made prior to the project receiving the Certificate of Occupancy.

Fundamental to the Old West Austin Neighborhood Plan is maintaining the neighborhood's diversity of residents, income, and housing types. Providing affordable housing and neighborhood amenities that support such housing is critical to this vision.

The Pressler agreement included provisions relating to affordable housing. Although the residents of the neighborhood who were involved in the negotiations would have preferred the incorporation of "affordable" residential units into the residential/commercial mixed use project, a financial alternative was accepted. The agreement reads as follows:

Recognizing that \$300,000 does not go very far with today's real estate and construction prices, this funding alternative may serve as the basis for similar agreements for the expected intense residential developments in the Downtown area. Additional projects on the periphery of our neighborhood may provide significant funding in the future.

In the coming months, membership of OWANA must decide if this is a viable means of accomplishing one of the critical elements of our neighborhood plan. If so, a mechanism to accept and use these funds needs to be approved by the membership.

Finally, it is not just housing. As we have seen with the closing of the laundromat on West Lynn, for the neighborhood to be affordable it must also include services that meet the needs of the neighborhood's diverse residents.

See you at the September Membership Meeting,

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 6:30-8:30
Mathews School Cafeteria

Agenda on page 11

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Magazine Praises Neighborhood

The July/August 2006 of Cottage Living Magazine reported the results of their search among hundreds of cottage communities around the entire country for what they determined to be the nation's top ten standout cottage communities - "places with porches and gardens, parks and playgrounds, streets where you can stroll to locally owned shops and restaurants, areas with architecture that makes your heart skip a beat: places where neighbors know your name" The magazine sold out almost immediately at Bookpeople, and efforts to get more have not been very successful so we are including some of the report for those who missed it.

The magazine's survey ranked the OWANA neighborhood, including Clarksville, the fourth most notable neighborhood, based on the following criteria. (Percentages refer to the weight given each criterion.)

Homes (30 percent): vernacular architecture, cottage-y scale (not sprawling; in line with original neighborhood design)

People (30 percent): diverse and caring neighbors; well-organized community network; social events for fun and good causes;

Shops and Hangouts (20 percent): colorful independent retail stores and eateries within walking distance

Greenspace (10 percent): parks, playgrounds, and so on.

Cottage Twist (10 percent): "signature characteristic that brings a smile."

Here is how the magazine described our neighborhood in each of the categories above.

Homes: "The oldest cottages are in Clarksville, a three-block section named for Charles Clark, who led a group of emancipated slaves to settle here in 1871. Starting in 1910, wood-frame homes grew up around the tiny community - Craftsman bungalows, and a few Tudor Revival houses - most of them less than 1,500 square feet. Along streets like Theresa and Patterson, where homes are almost intact, says Terri Myers, there's an 'uninterrupted rhythm to the streets.'"

People: "What was originally a working-class

neighborhood is now a healthy mix of professionals clock-punchers, at-home entrepreneurs, and artists. Throughout the year, they gather for association meetings and host various events, including fundraising socials at restaurants and Clean Sweep, a communal cleanup coinciding with Keep Austin Beautiful month."

Shops and Hangouts: "The pace of change has made Austinites especially touchy about the influx of chain stores. That's one reason Old West Austin's so special. Residents shop for food at Fresh Plus, an icon for decades that's been called the 'neighborhood's pantry,' then buy Latin American textiles, ceramics and jewelry at El Interior; they sip coffee at Sweetish Hill Cafe and Bakery; and they eat a fine meal at Jeffrey's Restaurant and Bar. Each is locally owned, and each is more than a quarter-century old."

Greenspace: "West Austin Park is a beloved gathering spot for people and dogs. There's an interesting round swimming pool built in the 1930s, a Tudoresque bathhouse, and nice limestone retaining walls"

Cottage Twist: "Nau's Enfield Drug, on West Lynn Street in the heart of Old West Austin's shopping district, opened in 1951 with wooden booths, mint-green tabletops, a curved soda bar, and swivel stools. Hardly a thing has changed, inspiring one Austinite to call Nau's 'the time machine perfected.' Wait for your prescriptions to be filled while sipping a malted milk shake whipped up in a vintage mixer."

The article goes on to say, "Thanks to a booming high-tech job market and growing reputation among hipsters as the place to live east of Seattle, Austin is about to hit the big time. So it's nice that there's a neighborhood like Old West Austin, not far from the University of Texas, to help people feel grounded. Known to many people as 'the Clarksville area' because of a tiny freedmen's colony that grew up here, Old West Austin is a remarkably intact community of 1,500 or so homes, local businesses, schools and parks. What's remarkable is that Austin has no local ordinance protecting such historic districts, meaning that residents must maintain the high quality of life. 'Everyone trots down to the City Council whenever there's a threat to neighborhood integrity,' says historic preservation consultant Terri Myers. 'It's a great neighborhood for people of all walks of life.'"

(FYI, they ranked the First Addition neighborhood in Portland, Oregon number 1 in their survey, the Bungalow Heaven neighborhood in Pasadena, California number 2, and the Willo neighborhood in Phoenix, Arizona number 3.) For more information: cottageliving.com.

Thanks go out to SC Member Brooke Bailey for hosting the magazine during its visit here.

thanks also to Linda MacNeilage



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The Zoning Report

Jean Stevens

OWANA Zoning Committee Chair

1100 and 1102 Baylor Street

The two structures have been purchased with the intent to demolish the homes and build condominium units in their place. Members of the Zoning Committee met with the owner's agent in April to discuss the historic value of the structures and the possible issue of instability of the land (the property is located to the north of the vacant "foundation" lot). The agent informed the committee that the owner will be conducting soil engineering tests and will meet with the committee once the results are obtained.

1201 and 1203 Baylor Street

After several meetings and hearings related to the rezoning of these properties from MF-4 to NO (Neighborhood Office), this case was "passed on consent" by City Council on 8/9/06 and the properties will be zoned NO.

1111 West 11th Street (The Castle)

Many neighbors have complained to OWANA and to the police department about the ongoing vandalism occurring at this property. Unfortunately, the police have not been successful in apprehending the trespassers yet. However, Councilmember Leffingwell and members of his staff are working towards a possible solution regarding demolition by neglect which would allow the City to take action in preserving this historic landmark. In the meantime, I ask that all neighbors contact the police each time they witness suspicious activities at this site.

1205 Elm Street (Brownstone Elms Condominiums)

The owner's agent has filed a site plan for the second phase of construction at this site. The applicant is proposing construction of 2 three-story multi-family buildings with other associated improvements. A neighbor to the north of the property is concerned about the height of the new structures. This issue was discussed with the agent, who implied that this concern would be addressed by the architects. Members of the Zoning Committee will meet with the agent on 8/19/06 to review the plans.

Galaxy Restaurant (1000 West Lynn)

Construction continues. The owner's contractor believes they will receive their occupancy certificate in the first week of September.

1101 West Lynn (Medici's Coffee House)

On 6/8/06, City Council "passed on consent" an amendment to our Neighborhood Plan that provides for a minor adjustment of zoning boundaries for commercial properties along the east side of West Lynn that back to residential property along Eason just to the east. This amendment will protect the residential uses on Eason and allow for productive uses of the West Lynn properties. Construction is complete and the City will inspect the property in late August. The operators of the coffee house hope to open the business in the first week of September.

504 Oakland

The Zoning Committee continues to work with the owner in creating a restrictive covenant to limit the property's square footage and height (not to exceed 40 feet). A Conditional Overlay will be applied to the property to address the use of the structure.

Encinal Condominiums (1106 W. 6th Street)

Donald Baldovin continues to correspond with Leon Barba regarding the need to address problems related to this property. An e-mail outlining the requested repairs was sent to Mr. Barba in July. A neighbor informed the Zoning Committee that the new owner had submitted a conceptual drawing of the exterior to the Condominium Board, who then conditionally approved the drawing without reviewing any formal plans. This action raises several questions regarding the owner's actual intent for the property.

611 West Lynn

The property is listed for sale at \$1.7 million. There have been a few interested parties who have made inquiries, causing the owner's real estate agent to contact the Zoning Committee regarding OWANA's position on the demolition of the structure. The agent was informed that OWANA would oppose the demolition of the house but would be willing to work with persons interested in incorporating the building into the development of the land.

1300 Block of Woodlawn

A meeting was held on 6/28/06 between concerned neighbors and the owners of 1631 Palma Plaza regarding the future use of the property should the City Council allow for the vacation of the right-of-way that abuts this property. The owners stated that they did not have

Zoning (continued from p. 3)

a "signed agreement" with any developer and that their main concern was that they would be denied the use of their driveway if they did not obtain the right-of-way. After careful consideration, the neighbors agreed to continue to oppose the sale of the right-of-way due to contradictory statements made by the owners and personal knowledge of one of the neighbors. Of great concern is that the City refuses to disclose the selling price of the 6,680 square feet of public property (the Attorney General agrees with this decision). This amount of land would add a great deal of value to a development and increase the number of units that could be constructed on the property. This issue was to be addressed by City Council on 7/27/06. However, the owners withdrew their application prior to the hearing.

1721 Palma Plaza

The owners originally contacted the Zoning Committee in March, 2006, regarding the possibility of demolishing this house and building a 2-story structure in its place. They were informed that this would be opposed due to the home's historic contributing status. The owners recently submitted plans for a remodel of the home which indicates a one-story structure and will retain the historic significance of the structure.

1614 Confederate Avenue

The Board of Adjustment heard this case again on 6/12/06. Members of the Zoning Committee met with the owner's agent and the nearby neighbors prior to the hearing and agreed that we would not oppose the reduction of impervious coverage from 68% to 54.8% (they were requesting a variance to increase the impervious coverage from 45% to 64%, but it was learned that the actual existing coverage was 68%). The Board of Adjustment voted to approve 54.8% impervious coverage and commended the neighbors and OWANA for working with the owner agreeing upon a solution to this issue.

804 Highland Avenue

The owner had applied for a building permit to remodel this contributing historic structure that would include the demolition of the rear add-on structure (which occurred in the 1980's). After reviewing the plans, members of the Zoning Committee agreed that the reduction in impervious coverage and the overall design of the home was compatible with the character of the neighborhood. There were concerns that the proposed narrowing of the front steps and the increased dormer would alter the exterior design of the front of the struc-

ture, which would render the house non-contributing. The owners are very interested in retaining the contributing historic status and will incorporate our recommendations into the design of the home. The Historic Landmark Commission heard this case on 6/26/06 and voted to recommend the approval of the building permit.

1610 West 9th Street

On 6/26/06, the Historic Landmark Commission considered the application for a building permit which would allow for the addition of a second story and the remodel of the existing structure to increase the square footage of the living quarters. Of great concern to the HLC, nearby neighbors, and the Zoning Committee is the extent of damage that will occur to the very large oak tree in the backyard should the building permit be approved. The Zoning Committee did not have an opportunity to speak with the owner (she was out of the country at that time) or to review the site plan and, therefore, respectfully withheld an opinion on this matter.

1610 West 8th Street

The owner applied for a demolition permit which was heard by the Historic Landmark Commission on 6/26/06. Members of the Zoning Committee met with the owner on 6/7/06 to discuss our opposition to the request and to make recommendations regarding the restoration of the structure. We learned that the owner had the property surveyed prior to purchase and that the 1920 home straddled the property line to the east. The owner informed us that he would not have purchased the property if a certain City Staff member had not assured him that he would be able to demolish it. The HLC voted to recommend the release of the demolition permit. The owner has since applied for a variance to decrease the minimum lot size from 5,750 sq. ft. to 5,250 sq. ft.; to decrease the minimum side yard setback requirement from 5 ft. to 2.5 ft.; and to decrease the minimum rear yard setback from 10 ft. to 2 ft. in order to erect a 2-story garage/apartment unit on the property. The Board of Adjustment will hear this case on 9/14/06 and the Zoning Committee opposes this request.

1607 & 1609 West 8th Street

A member of the Zoning Committee contacted the new owner regarding his application for demolition of both structures. The owner has agreed not to demolish the structures and has submitted drawings reflecting the proposed remodeling of the houses. The Zoning Committee will meet with the owner to discuss these plans

Keeping abreast of zoning issues in our neighborhood is one of the more time-consuming and important tasks a member can perform. OWANA owes Jean Stevens a great debt of gratitude for her time in effort.

What a Shame: the Old Texas Military Institute Nowadays

Kay Hart

While walking my dog this week, I was confronted with a most shameful sight. The Texas Military Institute building and its grounds have fallen into terrible disrepair, neglected by its owner, a local real estate developer. Windows are boarded up, weeds are thigh high, outdoor lights hang loosely from their moorings. Neighbors report teen-agers and/or vagrants have broken the downstairs windows to get access to the inside.

This castle-like building has long been one of Old West Austin's finest examples of mid-19th century architecture. When viewed from downtown Austin in 1870, what a sight this imposing structure must have been, sitting upon its hill, surrounded by 30 acres of trees!

This stately building was built in 1870 to house the Texas Military Institute. As Katherine Hart mentions in an article for the newspaper in 1970, "T.M.I., as the school was called, was the first college founded in Texas on a distinctly military basis after the Civil War. A majority of the instructors were dashing young veterans of the Civil War; some of them were so impoverished that all the worldly goods they had to bring to Texas with them were a gray uniform with brass buttons and maybe the coat hangers."

The school was well-received by the folks living in Austin, and many leading citizens were educated there. The school drill team marched in every parade and festive occasion held in Austin. Cost? For a ten-weeks' semester, tuition was \$18.75 with an additional \$31.25

for board, fuel and lights. Pretty reasonable, I'd say!

Evidently, discipline was strict. Cadets were allowed to visit the city on Saturday afternoons, but other visits could be made only to relatives or homes of private citizens. A glance through the catalog published by the school explains its policies: "This institute is in no sense an asylum for vicious, depraved, or unmanageable boys and no such persons will ever be admitted knowingly. Dismissal is instant if cadets play cards, bet on games of skill, or visit the bar rooms or disreputable resorts of the city."

A cadet could be expelled if arrested, intoxicated, or absent from the school for 24 hours or absent from his room over 30 minutes after call to quarters.

The main building originally had two main towers. The building was three stories high, divided into two wings, connected with a Gothic arch, and with towers at both ends. The distinctive limestone houses located near the school supposedly were built to house the school's instructors and administrators.

The Texas Military Institute building should be rescued! How often we in this neighborhood have gone to the Planning Commission meetings and heard the story of an owner who has let his/her property fall into shambles and now wants to obtain a demolition permit! The castle won't ever be torn down because it is protected by a historical marker, but it could fall down if it isn't cared for properly.



Generally known as the Castle, this lonely structure is one of the most important houses in the OWANA neighborhood. It is protected by a historical marker but not from neglect.

Thank You, OWANA Business Members

Anthony's Laundry/Dry Cleaning, 1113 West Lynn Street, 472-1616

Art on 5th Fine Art Gallery, 1501 West 5th Street, 481-1111

Artworks, 1214 West 6th Street, 472-1500

Austin Java Cafe and Bar, 1206 Parkway, 970-5538

Avalon Hair Salon, 1012A West 6th Street, 474-2585

Bella Home Furnishings, 1221 West 6th Street, 474-1157

Ben & Jerry's, 500 North Lamar Blvd, Suite 150, 735-2345

Ben's Workshop Inc., 410 Pressler Street, 472-5555

BookPeople, 603 North Lamar Blvd, 472-5050

BravaHouse Boutique Bed and Breakfast Inn, 1108 Blanco Street, 478-5034

By George, 524 North Lamar Blvd, 472-5951

Cipollina Italian Bistro, 1213 West Lynn Street, 477-5211

Coldwell Banker --K.C. Kitchen, Realtor, 1210 Baylor, 786-2784

Dynamic Reprographics Inc, 1002 West 12th Street, 474-8842

El Interior, 1009 West Lynn Street, 474-8680

The Flower Studio, 1406 West 6th Street, 236-0916

Jeffrey's Restaurant and Bar, 1204 West Lynn Street, 477-5584

John Lewis Company, 1717 West 6th, 476-7011

Joseph and Williams, 524 North Lamar Blvd, Suite 203, 477-1277

Land Rover Austin, 1515 West 5th Street, 236-0000

Leslie Fossler Interiors, 404 Baylor Street, 474-0768

Lifeworks—Jay Scheumack, 8913 Collinfield Drive, 342-6872

Lotus Asian Art and Antiques, 1201-B West 6th Street, 474-1700

Lyon Advertising, 1317 West 6th, 480-5966

Mean-Eyed Cat, 1621 West 5th Street, 636-6188

Nau's Enfield Drug, 1115 West Lynn Street, 476-1221

Olde English Imports Inc, 1310 West 5th Street, 478-5001

Positive Images Art and Unique Gifts, 1118 West 6th Street, 472-1831

Prime Lending, 1717 West 6th Street, Suite 420, 478-1200

Robert Leeper Landscapes, 1501D West 9th Street, 542-0070

Rounders Pizzeria, 1203 West 6th Street, 477-0404

Sage Land Company, 1717 West 6th, 478-1234

Seattle's Best Coffee, 500 North Lamar Blvd, Suite 100, 481-0296

Sixth Street Apartment, 1616 West 6th Street, Suite 100, 499-8013

Sledd Landscape Nursery, 1211 West Lynn, 478-9977

Soup Peddler, 501 West Mary Street, 373-7672

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 1408 West 9th Street, 472-7514

Stephen Griffith, 1206 West 6th Street, 474-7784

Stephen L. Clark Gallery, 1101 West 6th Street, 477-0828

Sweetish Hill Inc., 1120 West 6th Street, 472-7370

Thundercloud Subs, 1102 West 6th Street, 479-8805

Whole Earth Provision Company, 1010 West 11th Street, 476-4811

Wink Restaurant, 1014 North Lamar Blvd, 482-8868

Work*Shop, 1211 West 6th Street, Suite 400, 473-2787

Z'Tejas Southwestern Grill, 1110 West 6th Street, 478-5355

Zanzibar Home and Gift, 524 North Lamar Blvd, 472-9234

Business Opportunity

Cottage industry.
Low initial cash outlay.
Work with plants.



OWANA encourages local businesses.

OWANA Obtains 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Status



OWANA has, after a very lengthy delay, finally received designation as a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit organization. A number of the original founding members of

OWANA believed that tax-exempt status had been obtained at the same time that OWANA was incorporated, but that could not be verified by the IRS so an application for 501(c)3 status was submitted to the IRS in 2004. The number of applications for tax-exempt status for non-profits was unusually high after Hurricane Katrina, so the processing time for non-disaster related applications was greatly prolonged.

Jean Stevens, functioning in her role as Treasurer, persistently worked to shepherd this application through the pipeline. She reports that the IRS examiner who reviewed our application said that all the documents sent to him with our application gave him an extraordinary appreciation for what a neighborhood organization can do.

Thanks Jean!

Onion NOT Coming to Austin

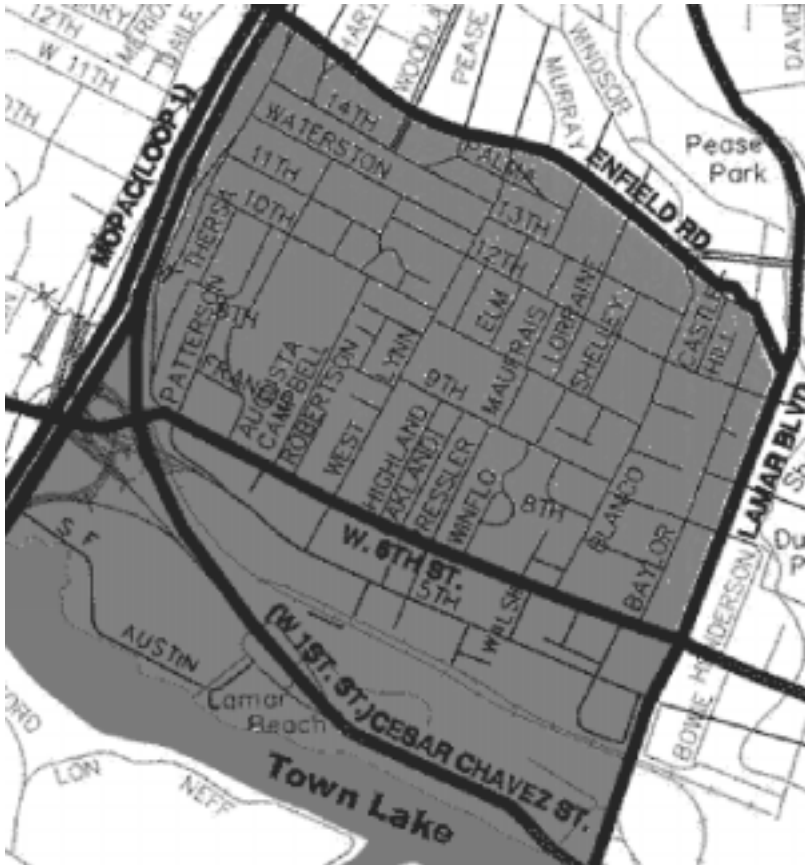
The Austin American-Statesman recently reported that the satirical, fake news magazine *The Onion* will soon be issuing a local edition of its “perplexing brand of news.” A reliable source says, however, that the story is another one of *The Onion*’s jokes.

*The Owl** called editor and publisher of the magazine, John Doe (I’m not kidding) who said, “Are you kidding? Where’d you hear that? Did you say publish an edition in Austin? That’s weird. Excuse me a minute. Who the #\$@&5 switched my screen saver? I’m tired of this %*^&^>. Yeah, anyway, so who’s this? What’s *The Owl*? Another one of those greenpeace type orgs? You guys are pathetic. We stand behind the road kill article, or at least I do, which is good enough. Get a life. What? Yeah. My real name is John Doe. It’s so not funny to ask me that question.”

Apparently, around the country in larger urban areas where most of the U.S. supply of *artistes* lives, a kind of backlash is occurring. People are doing to *The Onion* what *The Onion* does to the world.

As one local newspaper editor opined, “Once news becomes entertainment, you’ve opened yourself up to a quagmire of confusion. News can’t be entertaining. It has to be awful, depressing stuff to be believable. I for one am glad *The Onion* is getting a taste of its own medicine.”

continued elsewhere



Everything in Clarksville is in OWANA, but not everything in OWANA is in Clarksville.

Where’s OWANA?

As you can see from the map, OWANA boundaries are Town Lake to the south side of Enfield, and the east side of Mopac to the west side of Lamar.

Where’s Clarksville?

Often, any place in OWANA is called Clarksville, which is inaccurate at best. Clarksville extends from the south side of 10th St. to the south side of Waterston, and from the east side of Mopac to the west side of West Lynn.

Taggers Descended from Dogs

editorial

If you have not been hiding *in*, so to speak, during July and August, you have probably noticed an increase in graffiti around our neighborhood. So far it seems to have been confined to businesses and public signs (if you can call any graffiti confined), but what is to stop the enterprising tagger from branching out and hitting private residences?

The satisfaction of the graffiti artist is difficult to comprehend since very few people are able to read what the words say, understand what they mean, or know who wrote them. Both the hand and the deed remain relatively anonymous. It is unlikely that these miscreants willingly toil in obscurity. But the medium they've chosen for expression demands that they do so. We must hope that their obscurity does not drive them to increasingly audacious venues, such as the sides of our houses.

As these picture shows, it is difficult to ignore the similarity between dog and tagger.

Perhaps, however, tagging indicates that some people are descended not from the monkeys and apes but, in fact, directly from dogs, as the accompanying photographs illustrate. I do not mean to insult dogs, but the parallel seems too obvious to ignore. If true, the specific identity of the tagger is less important than the simple act itself. A dog, after all, leaves his scent, and presumably other dogs know only that it's some other dog's, not their own. I doubt that when Fido sniffs Spot's scent it invokes a mental image of Spot in his mind.

Some have defended graffiti writers on grounds of self-expression, artistic freedom, and general anti-authoritarianism. To them I say PUULEEZE. Let me direct whatever dog it is that keeps dumping in my yard to yours along with their soulmates, the graffiti writers.



Taxonomical Guide to Graffiti

- gaffiti = contains an error in spelling
- graphiti = describes mathematical problems
- graffetti = small and sprinkled all over a wall
- grassffiti = crop circles
- gratuiffiti = left on restaurant tables
- graffeeti = written with toes
- graffleeti = written with washable ink
- giraffiti = written with very tall letters
- goreffiti = (1) endorses Al Gore for President (2) uses slasher type imagery
- graffeati = completed despite great physical pain or mental torment
- gabffiti = done while talking on a cell phone
- gasffiti = (1) extremely verbose graffiti (2) graffiti decrying oil company profits
- grossffiti = profane, x-rated, dirty

New Galleries in the Neighborhood

Our neighborhood businesses include many locally owned stores, including a number of excellent art galleries. This issue we welcome two new galleries, Haven, between Old Time Teenie's and Sweetish Hill, and The Russell Collection, which replaces F8, the gallery owned by generous OWANA supporters Amy and Richard Griffiths.

The Russell Collection continues to represent many of the artists previously found at F8, but owner Lisa Russell also has works by Modern Masters, Impressionists, and Old Masters. The 6th Street gallery is actually Russell's second location. She owns another gallery in the Arboretum which has been open for four years. The West End gallery marks an expansion in Russell's inventory. In her Arboretum gallery, she has not carried contemporary art, but in deference to the Austin market, where tastes tend to favor oil on canvass, the new



Haven, a gallery specializing in once-of-kind three dimensional art works, now occupies the space where Pecan Square Emporium used to be.

venue will do so.

The Russell Collection will host an opening featuring works by the Romanian born prodigy Alexandra Nechita, who first began to show her work when she was only eight. Now just over twenty, Nechita is already considered an accomplished artist whose work has been shown throughout the world. The Opening Reception will be held Saturday, September 9, 6 - 9 p.m.

Haven has a few paintings, but owner Mindi Partee selects primarily three-dimensional work in many media. Most of the works are one of a kind and signed by artists Partee has found traveling throughout the world. It is easy to spend a good amount of time inspecting the wide array of objects Partee has brought into her gallery, and she is extremely well-informed about each piece. It is clear that she herself has spoken directly to many of the artists whose work she carries.



Lisa Russell has opened her second gallery in the former F8 Gallery space on 6th Street.

***The Owl* will be featuring other galleries in the OWANA neighborhood in future issues.**

This Old House Looks for Austin Project

This Old House will take on the "green" renovation of a historic home in the Austin area beginning this September. The project will not restore an entire house. Instead, it will be a five month project consisting of, say, a kitchen, mudroom, or powder room, some systems upgrades, a solar component, and so on.

Construction will conclude in February and the show will air on PBS in the spring of '07 in eight half-hour episodes.

As of this writing, no project has been selected, and the show is looking for a project already well underway in design and permits.

The renovations will be funded by the homeowners, not This Old House, although there might be product discounts and donations (all, of course, taxable).

By the time you receive this issue of The Owl, the project might already have been selected, but if it hasn't been, here are some things you need to know.

Email a short proposal ASAP via email to: pickmyhouse@timeinc.com

Your proposal should include the following information:

- * brief description of current owners
- * a few low-res digital pictures of house and homeowners
- * a brief description of your house - house style, year built, etc.
- * the scope of the renovation
- * how much you plan to spend
- * when you need to start (or conclude) the project, if different from TOH timeline

thanks to Tere O'Connell

JOIN OWANA

Only \$20.00 a year.

(You probably paid three times that in late fees at the video store last year.)

OWANA membership is open to all residents within our boundaries age 18 or older. Up to two adults per household may join and have full voting privileges on issues directly affecting their property and quality of life.

Send this form in with a check for \$20.00 to:

OWANA, P.O. Box 2724, Austin, 78768

Member #1

email _____ @

Member #2

email _____ @

Address _____

Austin, TX 78703

Telephone _____

___ Call me. I'm interested in playing an active role in OWANA

___ Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to help fund OWANA's efforts.

Particularly, I'd prefer that my donation support _____ .

New Memberships begin 30 days after receipt of payment.

Members whose dues are less than six months late may rejoin immediately.

Thank you.

Mathews Celebrates 90th

Mathews Elementary will celebrate its 90th anniversary on Monday, September 25, beginning at 8 am. The street will be closed from 7:30-9:30 in front of the school for this special event featuring the unveiling of a state historical marker during a short program. A reception will follow in which former students and staff gather together to exchange stories about the Mathews experience dating back to the 1920's. Former students and staff of all ages are most welcome. For more info, please contact Julie Wade Levy @ 293-8537 or julie@toast.net



thanks to Julie Ward Levy



OWANA Thanks Z Tejas For Its Support

March General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 2006, 6:30 PM - 9:40 PM
Mathews School Cafeteria, 906 West Lynn @ West 9th

Agenda

Registration and Social Gathering 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

I Call to Order - Paul Seals 7:00 p.m.

II Approval of Minutes – David Art 7:02

III OWA Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Report –
Laura Morrison 7:05

IV WEAA Meeting Report – Laura Morrison 7:15

V Austin Neighborhoods Council Report – Linda
MacNeilage 7:20

VI Special Committee Reports 7:30 – 8:30

A. Zoning and Land Use Committee – Jean Stevens

Note: Only zoning case changes and updates of
the OWL report are discussed

B. Membership and Fund-raising Committee –
Chris Schorre, and others

C. Public Safety & Transportation Committee – Ri-
chard McCown

D. Historic Preservation Committee – Rosemary
Merriam

VII Administrative and Organization Issues 8:30 – 8:40

A. Treasurer's Report – Chris Schorre

B. Update on OWANA Web Site – Laura Morrison,
Red Wassenich

C. Other Administrative and Organizational Busi-
ness

VIII Other Business and Announcements 8:40 – 8:50

IX Adjourn 8:50

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

City of Austin Contact Phone Numbers

Animal Pickup (DOA)	530-2242
Animal Pickup (stray/injured)	972-6060
Arrogant People	455-SNOB
Austin Utility Emergency (Water)	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
Gross Stupidity	455-DUMB
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
Vulgar T-Shirts	6-6-6-6
Weed and Litter Control	494-9400
Water Waste	974-2199
Zoning Code Enforcement	974-6576



Old West Austin Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 2724

Austin, TX 78768-2724

www.owana.org

2006 OWANA Steering Committee

Richard McCown, Co-chair ...RichardSMcCown@yahoo.com
Paul Seals, Co-Chair PSeals@akingpump.com
Chris Schorre, Vice-Chair.....chris.schorre@gmail.com
David Art, Secretary.....david.art@spansion.com
Jean Stevens, Treasurer.....SJZone@sbcglobal.net
Brooke Bailey.....brooke_bailey@sbcglobal.net
Susanne Doell.....drdoell@aol.com
Beverly Dunn..... beverlyd@austin.rr.com
Dan Grappe..... deuce@superbongo.com
Rosemary Merriam.....Rosemary@austin.rr.com
Laura Morrison.....LCMorrison@prodigy.net
Karen Schwitters.....KarenS@austin.rr.com
John Tullyjtully@sbcglobal.net

Owl Editor: Richard Queen

If you'd like to contribute to the next Owl, please email me at raqueen.@austin.rr.com or phone 923-6709.



Next general membership meeting

Tuesday, September 5th

6:30-8:30

Mathews School Cafeteria

9th and West Lynn

(Please use SE entrance.)