



December 2014

## Letter from the Chair

As another year comes to an end, I would like to wish holiday greetings to one and all in the neighborhood. We all have so much for which we should be thankful. We are fortunate to live in a very livable neighborhood and be surrounded by such wonderful neighbors. I feel so lucky when I see how our community will pull together for each other. I guess it all starts with knowing your neighbors. Our old city lots on narrow streets provides us opportunities to bring us together. Many of us have taken advantage of those opportunities and have come to know and love our neighbors. We have chosen to live in a community that has not only a diverse and distinctive architectural fabric but is filled good people who are good neighbors.

Please take advantage of another opportunity to learn about your community and meet your neighbors by attending the OWANA general membership meeting on Tuesday, December 2nd. The agenda is filled with information regarding proposed projects affecting the neighborhood. Specific items to be discussed include improvements at West Austin Park, the proposed mixed-use development at the former AT&T service center on W. 5th Street, and updates on zoning and transportation projects.

One critical item of the December agenda is the election of a new Steering Committee. We thank those who have served this year and offer support to those who have volunteered to serve next year. Our neighborhood is so distinctive and special because of the volunteers who have stepped up in the past and those who continue that line of service to us. We are fortunate to have neighbors willing to do their part no matter how large or small.

Hug your neighbor!

See you on the 2nd!

Paul Seals, Chair

# December 2014 General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 - 6:45pm to 9:00pm

Mathews School Cafeteria (906 West Lynn at West 9th)

- I. Registration and Social Gathering (6:45 – 7:00)
- II. Call to Order (7:00)
- III. Approval of Minutes (7:05)
- IV. Discussion of improvements to West Austin Park – Patrick Beyer, PARD (7:05)
- V. Discussion of rezoning request for 1301 W. 5th Street Project (AT&T Property) (7:20)
- VI. Nominations and election of 2015 Steering Committee (7:40)
- VII. Committee Reports
  - A. Zoning Committee Report
    - Note: Only zoning case changes and updates of the OWL report are discussed*
  - B. Parks and Greenspaces
  - C. Historic Preservation
  - D. Public Safety and Transportation
  - E. Affordable Housing
  - F. Membership
  - G. Community Events
- VIII. Administrative and Organization Issues
  - A. Treasurer's Report
  - B. OWANA Website Update
  - C. Other Administrative and Organizational Business
- IX. Other Business and Announcements
- X. Adjourn

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



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## 2015 OWANA Steering Committee Nominations

The Nominating Committee met November 20 to approve the candidates for 2015 Steering Committee. The below slate of nominees will be presented at the December General Membership meeting. The nominees will all be in attendance to introduce themselves.

The OWANA Nominating Committee recommends the following members for 2015 Steering Committee.

Returning after serving 2013 and 2014

- Daniel Armendariz
- Paul Seals
- Tom Person

Returning after serving 2014

- Judy Alexander
- Janice Burckhardt
- Kevin O'Hanlon
- Chris Rankin

New Nominees or returning from earlier service

- Christy Butler
- Liz Fischer
- Joey Kazzoun
- Jason Laturner
- Kevin Sims
- Terry Snider

## Around the Neighborhood

### National Night Out







*Firefighter Alex Paranagua kneels to help kids aim the fire hose while Firefighter Tron Green (left), and Fire Specialist Chris Lafferre (right) watch some future firefighters in action.*

On Tuesday, October 7, more than 130 neighbors gathered at West Austin Park for an event planned by Kathleen Deaver and Vryan Thompson to celebrate National Night Out. Neighbors enjoyed a delicious potluck while meeting new neighbors which was the main reason many stopped by. It was a chance to meet neighbors and thus help everyone feel safer by just knowing more of the families in the neighborhood.

The hit of the evening was a visit by the Austin Fire Department. The children were able to tour Engine 4 and got instruction on how to handle the fire hose. The firemen even joined the fun and had dinner with everyone.

After the success of this year, the neighborhood-wide event will be an annual celebration of National Night Out. Mark your calendars now! In Austin it is always the first Tuesday of October. Events at the park will start at 6pm (instead of 7pm) to allow younger children to participate.

And as Kathleen said, "We put 'everyone is invited' on our notice — we'd like to clarify and say that **everyone is invited** — this includes Non-OWANA members!"

The organizers would like to thank OWANA for the contribution of bottled waters and George Warmingham and Rosemary Merriam for setting up the OWANA membership table.

A special thank you to neighbor and Austin Firefighter Lisa Millman for helping with the event. Also, thank you to all the neighbors to helped set up and clean up! We could not have done it without you.

## Haunted Haskell House

On Halloween, CCDC held their first Haunted House event for the neighborhood at Haskell House on Waterson Street. There was a great deal of planning that went into the event. They created a blacked out tunnel in the back of the house where children entered. It was only lit by small lights and skulls. For \$2 children were able to tour the house that had several stations to be scared at, but not too scared! There were many thanks and appreciation emails that were sent after the event. It will definitely be a yearly event now.

The Haunted House was a fund raiser for Haskell House to make repairs to the windows and make them secure. It was the brainchild of Aubrey Carter. Mary Reed and Rose Gabrielle helped organize the event with help from other volunteers including Brooke Bailey and Brooke Gassiott.

## Francis Alley Talent Show

The Francis Alley Talent Show was held on November 1. The talent show is a yearly event in the neighborhood that includes a pot luck and various talents by neighbors on Francis Ave., Patterson, and other streets. Children perform their talents as well as dogs! There are always musical numbers and singalongs. OWANA Chair, Paul Seals, talked about the origins of Halloween this year.

Tom Barbour wrote a poem titled "Coyotes" that was influenced by the presence of coyotes in our neighborhood. His family lost a cat, perhaps, to coyotes as have other neighbors.

### The Neighbors

*by Tom Barbour*

It's quiet in the neighborhood, and nothing makes a sound  
When it's three hours after midnight and coyotes come around.  
For they never howl or bark or growl as they trot on silent feet.  
They're just searching, searching, searching  
For whatever's in the street.  
For whatever they can find or catch  
For whatever they can eat.

They've got pups back in the den that they know they have to feed,  
And the hunger in their bellies is a burning gnawing need.  
That keeps driving them through shadows as they trot on silent feet  
Always searching, searching, searching  
For a little piece of meat,  
For whatever they can find or catch,  
For whatever they can eat.

Inside our darkened houses we snore softly in our dreams  
Secure, well fed, and safe in bed; at least that's how it seems.  
But the wildness just outside our door was never really tame tame,

And coyotes searching, searching  
Will continue all the same  
To seek what can be found or caught  
To seize what they can claim.

## Caroling at Haskell House

We are also in the planning stages of the yearly caroling evening at Haskell House. We do not have a set date yet but we will by the general membership meeting.

**The Rogue community is excited to join yours!**



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## Trail of Lights Free Tickets

Here is your chance to see the Austin Trail of Lights before it opens to the general public. The Trail of Lights is providing OWANA free and discounted tickets to the Preview Party on Friday, December 5. The Preview Party, from 7:30 – 10:00 pm, will feature Santa, the unveiling of new displays, special holiday entertainment including ice carving and a performance by Quiet Company.



Children six and under will be admitted free with an adult. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The polo field will be open for free parking.

Tickets are regularly priced at \$25 each but **coupon codes for free tickets will be given away to OWANA members who attend the December 2 General Membership meeting.** The number of free tickets will be limited, so attend the meeting to get the code.



## Pressler Street Extension Update

The City of Austin Transportation and Public Works Departments held a drop-in open house Monday, November 17 in order to present more information about and allow input on the Pressler Street Extension Project. This project includes proposed improvements to the roadways near West 5th Street and Stephen F. Austin High School. Input gathered during the drop-in open house will be included in evaluation of the proposal in order to determine the final project design.

The Pressler Street Extension Project is intended to improve connectivity and safety along the MoPac Corridor by providing an extension of Pressler Street south of 5th Street to West Cesar Chavez Street, creating a north-south connection



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between 5th Street and West Cesar Chavez Street. Improvements proposed include upgrading the existing Union Pacific Railroad crossing to accommodate vehicles, upgrades to multi-modal connectivity to serve all roadway users, and other improvements to address mobility and safety in the area.

The City of Austin is currently conducting a traffic study to evaluate any potential impacts of the project as well as proposed improvements to the area. Results from that traffic study are anticipated by the end of the year and will include recommendations for the proposal and potential additional improvements to the area.

The City's 2012 voter-approved bond is anticipated to fund the first phase of construction including the proposed Pressler Street extension, a roundabout on the Cesar Chavez access road, the modified railroad crossing, and Parkland Reserve Road access.

To request future email updates about the Pressler Street Extension Project, please contact Jules Parrish, Project Manager, at (512) 974-9385 or [Jules.Parrish@austintexas.gov](mailto:Jules.Parrish@austintexas.gov) (<mailto:Jules.Parrish@austintexas.gov>).

## Zoning Report

December 2014

**614 (700) Blanco St** The Stonewall Case C14H-1992-0002, Historic Case # C14H-1992-0002 – A Site Development Permit application has been submitted for a 12 unit condominium project. No variances or modifications are anticipated. Project was heard before HLC in July, and is currently going through site development review. *Case is ongoing*

**505 and 507 Oakland Ave** Case NRD-2013-0047 and 0048 – Applicant has been granted a demolition permit for the two existing historic contributing structures. Use would remain office. HLC will review proposed design prior to issuing demolition permits. *Case is ongoing*

**1401 W6th St** Case C14-2013-0138 – Applicant is requesting a change in zoning from LO-NP to GR-CO-NP to allow use of a restaurant. OWANA voted to support the zoning change with conditions at the Dec 2013 GM meeting. OWANA and applicant were able to reach agreement that resulted in a restrictive covenant. Case was approved by City Council. *Zoning Case is closed however case is ongoing pending building permit review*

**1601 W6th St Nightcap Dessert Restaurant** Case SP-2014-0271T Applicant has filed application for Administrative Approval of a Site Plan. Offsite/shared parking is associated with 1401 W 6th Street proposed restaurant. OWANA entered into a Restrictive Covenant with the applicant and supported the zoning change for the restaurant property. *Case is ongoing*

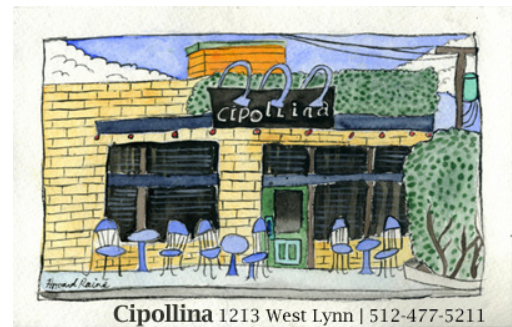
**1403 Marshall Lane** C14-2014-0076 - Applicant requested a change of zoning from MF-3-NP to SF-5-NP to allow an additional living unit and keeping the

**Thanks to Bond's for offering  
to host the OWANA crawfish boil**



**Didn't happen this fall,  
but there's always next year!**

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existing contributing SF structure. Property owner is preparing a condominium agreement for the two structures. Plans will be prepared and submitted for demo of an existing garage and construction of the new structure. Property owner is working with OWANA on a Restrictive Covenant. *Case is ongoing*

**1205+1207 Elm St SP -2014-0153C** – An application for Site Development Permit has been filed. No new variances, other than variances previously supported by OWANA, are anticipated. OWANA was party to a restrictive covenant with prior property owner and supported the change to current zoning. Contact is (Alice Glasco 512.626.4461 [alice@agconsultingcompany.com](mailto:alice@agconsultingcompany.com)). Recommended by Planning Commission on Oct 28th *Case is ongoing*

**613 Theresa Ave** Owner: Russell + Kenya tubbs, Igor Bastidas Case # C8-2013-0238.0A – An application for Resubdivision of existing single lot into two lots. Case was heard by Planning Commission on Aug 12th and was approved. *Case is ongoing*

**608 Baylor St.** Case # C8-2014-0047.0A – An application for Resubdivision of six existing lots into a two lot subdivision on 0.898 acres. Case was approved by Planning Commission on August 12th. *Case is closed*

**710 Augusta Ave Roberts Tract** Case # C14-2014-0072 – An application for Zoning Change from SF-3-NP to SF-4A. Case went before Planning Commission in Sept and OWANA GM voted to support the zoning change request. *Case is ongoing*

**806 Patterson Ave** Historic Case NRD-2014-0068 Review Case # 2014-069552-PR – An application for Demolition Permit on a ca. 1917 contributing property



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(<http://www.galaxycafeAustin.com>)



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within a historic district. Case was scheduled to be heard by Historic Landmark Commission on August 25th but was postponed. Sept HLC agenda: Applicant: Greenbelt Homes Staff Recommendation: Either postpone to Oct 27, under the Comm's 180-day demo delay process or release the permit upon completion of a COA Documentation Pkg and upon the Comm's review of plans for a replacement structure. *Case is ongoing*

**1631 Palma Plaza OLD West Austin** Historic Case NRD-2014-0078 Review Case # 2014-080027-PR – An application for Demolition Permit on a property within a historic district. Case was scheduled to be heard by Historic Landmark Commission on August 25th but was postponed. OWANA, CCDC, and adjacent property owner have a RC that stipulates existing residential structure will remain. Sept HLC: Postponed at the applicant's (Morris Yates) request. *Case is ongoing*

**901 Theresa Ave** Historic Case NRD-2014-0085 Review Case # 2014-080038-PR – An application for Building Permit on a property within a historic district.. Case was scheduled to be heard by Historic Landmark Commission on August 25th. *Case is ongoing*

**912 Blanco St** Historic Case NRD-2014-0019 Review Case # 2014-080302-PR – An application for Certificate of Appropriateness for a building permit on a property within the Castle Hill Local Historic District. Case was scheduled to be heard by HLC on Aug 25th postponed until Sept. *Case is ongoing*

**1301 W. 5th St Southwestern Bell Tele Co** Case # CI4-2014-0134 -PR –Applicant is requesting a Zoning Change from LI-CO-NP to LI-PDA. (Applicant has indicated use would be multi-family). Planning Commission recommended approval; project will be presented in its present form at the OWANA Dec GM meeting and is anticipated to go to Council in Dec.  
*Case is ongoing*

**1208 W 8th St** Kris Owens Owner Historic Case NRD-2014-0084 Review Case # 2014-081149-PR – An application for Demolition Permit on a property within a historic district. Sept HLC: either postpone to Oct 27 under the Comm’s 180-day demo delay process or release the permit upon review of the plans for a new structure for the site. *Case is ongoing*

**1410 Woodlawn Blvd** Case SP-2014-0263C – Applicant has filed application for Administrative Approval of a Site Plan. *Case is ongoing*

**1115 W 11th St Castle Hill** Case # LHD-2014-0020 Sept HLC agenda Proposal: Construct a new house on a vacant lot. Applicant: Dick Clark Architecture, City Staff: Steve Sadowsky, Historic Preservation Off, 974-6454 , Committee Recommendation: Split decision; no recommendation. Staff Recommendation: Approve as proposed. *Case is ongoing*



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## Gas Line Changes Happening in the Neighborhood

Some neighbors have noticed that many houses are getting new gas lines. Here's how to tell the difference between the old and the new lines.

Old Gas line as it hooks up to a meter. Notice the plumbing type fitting that is at the ground level on the pipe that goes into the ground.



Newer gas line with a wire around the pipe that goes into the ground. The gas company uses the wire to help locate the gas line after it is underground. The fitting at ground level is different also. The meter is the same type in both photos.



For more information, you can contact Texas Gas Service at 1-800-700-2443 or email at <https://www.texasgasservice.com/About/Contact.aspx> (<https://www.texasgasservice.com/About/Contact.aspx>).

## December Membership Report

OWANA has 286 residential and business members, a 7% drop from last January. So please ask your neighbors and the local businesses you frequent to join OWANA. Send them to [www.owana.org/#join](http://www.owana.org/#join) (<http://www.owana.org/#join>) where residents can join online and business can download an application form.

Thanks for being an ambassador for OWANA.

George Warmingham  
Membership Chair

## Join OWANA Yahoo Discussion Group

Keep in touch with your neighbors by joining the Yahoo discussion group moderated by OWANA.

If you would like to join please go to [groups.yahoo.com/group/owana/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/owana/) (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/owana/>), click "Join This Group!" and follow the instructions.

If you have any difficulties, please contact George Warmingham at [oldwestaustin@gmail.com](mailto:oldwestaustin@gmail.com) (<mailto:oldwestaustin@gmail.com>).

## Thank you to all of OWANA's Business Members

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