

Bouldin Bulletin

President’s Message

– Jesse Moore

In spite of the risk of sounding like a real estate promoter, I would like to take a few minutes to express how grateful I am for our neighborhood.

To me, two categories of residents make Bouldin great - people and trees. Our leafy friends line our streets (and all-too-rare sidewalks) with vital shade, provide our winged and four-legged friends with food and homes, and create the natural beauty that still defines central Austin neighborhoods. Our urban canopy is worth preserving.

The people of Bouldin are the neighborhood’s other great resource. Bouldin still retains a relatively diverse and Bohemian cast of characters and provides some welcome respite from the seemingly ever-accelerating rat race. Our population of artists, librarians, teachers, public servants, and the like is also worth preserving.

Growing up here was not ideal, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. Some changes are good - we have fewer train horns and police sirens. Some changes are less desirable - we have fewer trees and declining diversity. We all know that this neighborhood is much more than just cheap-ish dirt close to downtown, and I am hopeful that the right balance for addressing change while preserving what is worth saving can be found.

On February 21, our city council unanimously voted to move forward with a plan called “Affordability Unlocked” that may - or may not - significantly change development plans in this neighborhood. The details of this plan are currently being drafted. Unlike CodeNext, this drafting proceeds behind closed doors. Very little information about the projected impact has been provided, and public input has not been solicited. Whatever is proposed will likely be enacted, good or bad.

Neither trees nor South Austin middle and working class have much political or economic clout these days, but their current mistreatment under existing land use laws shows that as well. Hopefully “Affordability Unlocked” is not just more slick political hokum. Hopefully....

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Parks Update

Spring 2019

The 28th Annual Creek Cleaning on March 3 was a rousing success! More than 110 neighbors and community volunteers showed up to collect trash from both East and West Boudin Creek, as well as the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt. With this many people, we were able to reach portions of East Bouldin Creek that had not been cleaned in quite a while, from Barton Springs Road all the way up to Oltorf. We also weeded beds in Nicholas Dawson Park and are now waiting for the Parks and Recreation Department to deliver mulch for those beds and the trails.

The weather forecast had predicted rain, but we were lucky; it was overcast and just cool enough to keep those long-sleeved shirts on that protect against exposure to poison ivy. We started the morning off with coffee and granola bars courtesy of donations to the Austin Parks Foundation, then worked for about three hours until we met again for delicious tacos donated by El Mercado. El Mercado has supported our annual creek cleanings since the very first year in 1991, so please thank them the next time you visit.

Going forward, we plan to schedule a maintenance day in Nicholas Dawson to get it ready for the annual

Easter Egg Hunt. We also need to work on removing cats claw in the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt; it has spread in large areas and removal is labor intensive. At this point, we are considering reinstituting our monthly workdays on the second Saturday of each month from April to June and then again from October through the end of the year. Please check the BCNA Listserv and our website for more details.

Brown Sector – *Stephanie Scholten*

Correction: The previous Bulletin (February-March) reported on Brown Sector crime statistics in 2018. By mistake Oak Knoll Condos was included on the Timbercreek Apartments crime list. Oak Knoll had no notable crime in 2018 and was the safest multifamily community in Brown Sector last year. My apologies to the residents for the error.

Bouldin Creek Easter Egg Hunt in Nicholas Dawson Park

— Melynda Nuss – VP Neighborhood

It's time once again for the Bouldin Creek Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday! Neighbors will gather at Nicholas Dawson Park, at the corner of James St. and South 3rd, at 10 am for coffee and goodies. The egg hunt will start at 10:30am. Neighbors should bring a coffee mug for some french press Ruta Maya coffee, and brunch treats to add to the table.

The Egg Hunt is coordinated by Dan and Ginny Barrett on West Live Oak and their kiddos Genevieve, Roman, Sabine and Vienne. They'd love to hear from volunteers who are interested in helping the Easter Bunny fill plastic eggs with trinkets a few days before the hunt. If you're interested, please contact Ginny at 512.923.2628.

Pink Sector – *Scottee Downing*

There are some changes on the horizon for the Austin Floodplain. The National Weather Service, along with a number of other federal, state, and local agencies are in the process of a large study called Atlas 14 which is analyzing the historic rainfall intensities for Texas (including Hurricane Harvey).

What this means for Austin is that there will be changes to the city floodplain map, and some houses that were not previously required to carry flood insurance

will be required to do so in the near future. The last time the information was updated was in 1994, and we are long overdue.

In addition to an updated floodplain map, a code amendment process has been initiated to incorporate the new information to guide safer redevelopment for the future.

Here are some basic pieces of information that were shared by the Watershed Protection Department:

- 100 year floodplain = 1% annual chance of flooding
- 25 year floodplain = 4% annual chance of flooding
- In Austin, many houses currently in a 500 year floodplain will soon be considered to be in a 100 year floodplain
- In Austin, many houses currently in a 100 year floodplain will soon be considered to be in a 25 year floodplain
- FEMA flood insurance map will not be immediately affected (therefore there may not be immediate changes to your flood insurance requirements)

For more information, and to check to see if your house is going to be affected, please visit:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/Atlas14>

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Rally Around the Hood @ the South 1st St. Food Court

— Melynda Nuss – VP Neighborhood

May 4, 2019 10am-noon

Saturday, May 4th will be a special day at the corner of 1st Street and Live Oak, where Bouldin Creek residents John and Lisa Weinberger are coordinating a trifecta: getting the neighbors together, supporting our local food court and raising awareness about a featured charity – Swan Songs. Swan Songs is dedicated to fulfilling musical last wishes for people near the end of life and paying musicians to perform for them.

The neighborhood is invited to share the festivities. The local chapters of the Ferrari Club of America and the Alfa Romeo Owners Club will display a selection of exotic Italian cars while local musicians perform. The bill will include Christine Albert, the founder of Swan Songs, who also plays at El Mercado on Mondays, and Chris Gage, her husband and musical partner. Former S. 2nd St. resident Andy Garsea and Cody Jo Hodges will also perform. They've warned us to be on the lookout for special musical guests.

Come to the event to learn more about Swan Songs' programs, such as the "Gift of Song" program, where friends and relatives can commission a song written by a professional songwriter based on someone's life, customized to reflect their personal story and unique contribution to the world. You can get in touch with them through their website: www.swansongs.org.

The event is likely to be crowded, so bring lawn chairs if you want a seat!

Sector Information

View a neighborhood sector map at:
<http://www.bouldincreek.org/sector-map/>

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BOULDIN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
www.BouldinCreek.org

General Association Meeting: 2nd Tuesday, every other month
Steering Committee Meeting: 1st Monday, each month
Zoning Committee Meeting: 3rd Monday each month
Newsletter Publication: 2 weekends before General Meeting

OFFICERS

President – Jesse Moore jtmooore624@yahoo.com
VP Neighborhood – Melynda Nuss mellynuss@yahoo.com
VP External – Paul Strange strange20@msn.com
Communications – Pierre Nguyen - communications@bouldincreek.org
Treasury – Jeff Seiden treasurer@bouldincreek.org
Secretary – Ari Gernaat - ageraat@gmail.com
Zoning Chair – Paul Strange strange20@msn.com
Parks Chair – Ingrid Weigand parkscommittee@bouldincreek.org
Traffic Chair– Thom Parker tnkparker@aol.com

SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

Blue – Ryan Gullahorn ryan@gullahorn.com
Brown – Stephanie Scholten stephanielscholten@gmail.com
Green – Currently Vacant
Lavender – Kate Francis kmfrancis@gmail.com
Orange – Sue Mercado Vincent - sue@mercadovincent.com
Pink – Scottee Downing - scottee.downing@gmail.com
Yellow – Elizabeth Howard callmetiboo@icloud.com

NEWSLETTER

Ads – Kristie Sorenson-Hyatt kris@evastreetproperties.com
Bulletin Coordinator – Ronnie Dittmar rdittmar@gmail.com
Publisher – John Shobe jshobe2400@gmail.com

The Bouldin Bulletin, published every two months, is hand-delivered by your neighbors to approximately 2500 households. Please reach out if you would like to contribute to the distribution effort or if you would like to place an ad. (Ads are due one month prior to the GA Meeting.)

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to join the Neighborhood Association to be able to vote or pledge a candidacy, please send your name, address, phone, and email to:

Jeff Seiden treasurer@bouldincreek.org
 BCNA Treasurer
 PO Box 3683
 Austin TX 78764-3683

If you would like to make the optional dues payment, please include \$25 payable to BCNA.

BOULDINFORUM LISTSERV

To Subscribe, please email:
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