



## THCA PUBLIC MEETING MARCH 11, 2012

To provide information and better communicate with our membership, your THCA Board has decided to conduct Public/Membership Meeting on a bi-monthly basis. The next Public Meeting of 2012 will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church, located at 611 E. Myrtle Street on Sunday, March 11th beginning at 4 pm. The major agenda item will be to discuss the growing amount of graffiti in our neighborhood and how to fight this challenge. We will have a guest speaker from the City of San Antonio to provide information and suggestions. In addition, there will be time for an open forum to discuss other member concerns. After the meeting, those that are interested are invited to our traditional post-meeting Social. Please save the date and look out for a follow-up e-mail the week prior to the meeting with more details.

We are trying a Sunday meeting to see how this fits into your schedule. Please let us know your thoughts. Future Public Meetings will be scheduled on a day and time what works best for the majority.

## GRAFFITI WIPEOUT - MARCH 17TH

Are you bothered by the increasing amount of graffiti that is showing up in our neighborhood? Want to do something about it? THCA wants to show the "taggers" that we care about our neighborhood, so on March 17th we are planning a Graffiti Wipe-out morning. Please donate a few hours of your time to help out. Join us at 9 AM in the parking lot of Metropolitan Community Church as we form teams to paint over the graffiti. If you know of a particular area that needs attention or if you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Kelley (carolyn25k@yahoo.com). Thanks, and see you there!

## S.T.A.R. PROJECT RETURNS TO TOBIN HILL

The S.T.A.R. Project is coming back to the Tobin Hill Historic District. In late March, architecture students from UTSA will return to the neighborhood to do repair and maintenance work on selected houses. The project is coordinated by the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation and the student workers will be supervised and assisted by professional housing industry volunteers. The work may include repairs to windows, siding, and porches. It may also include general yard maintenance and exterior painting. The idea is to assist the homeowners in rehabilitating their historic homes. The workers will try to complete the job laid out by the scope of work determined for each house, but there is no guarantee that all the work will be completed. In that case, the homeowners are responsible to finish the work. In any case, each house will have repair and maintenance worth thousands of dollars performed on it for free. Homeowners in the **Tobin Hill Historic District** interested in applying for a S.T.A.R. slot can complete the Homeowner Application form (See Page Eight) or can contact Ricki Kushner, THCA Historic Preservation Committee chair. Call her at 210-223-2814 or send an e-mail to fpkushner@sbcglobal.net. Volunteers are also needed to help with food and supplies. You can contact Ricki or George McQueen at the Office of Historic Preservation – (210) 207-0166. We did this last November and we can do it again.

### Tobin Hill Upcoming Events

#### FEBRUARY 16, 2012

THCA Monthly Board Meeting  
Location TriPoint YMCA  
Contact Martin Kushner for info  
Time: 6 pm

#### MARCH 4, 2012

City of SA Sielovia  
Location Broadway  
Contact See article - Page Four  
Time: 10am to 3 pm

#### MARCH 9, 2012

Tobin Hill Arts Alliance  
Second Friday Art Walk  
527 E.. Dewey and other sites in Tobin Hill  
Time: 6 to 10 pm

#### MARCH 11, 2012

THCA Public Meeting  
Location Metropolitan Community Church 611 E. MyrtleSt  
Contact Martin Kushner for info  
Time: 4 pm

#### MARCH 11, 2012

THCA Social  
Location: TBA (Look for E-Mail in March with information)  
Time: Following Public Meeting

#### MARCH 17, 2012

Graffiti Clean-up Sweep  
Contact: Marty Kushner  
Time: 9 am to Noon

# FROM THCA PRESIDENT MARTY KUSHNER



First of all, let me say how honored I am to be the new Tobin Hill Community Association (THCA) President. My wife, Ricki Kushner, and I have had the pleasure of living in our Tobin Hill bungalow (the site of many a Tobin Hill party) since 2001. During the past 10-1/2 years we have watched our neighborhood evolve into one of San Antonio's premier places to live, work and play. Much of the credit for this goes to the the founders of THCA and a dedicated group of individuals who have given so much of themselves. As we look to the future I have some goals that I hope will help THCA move forward, increase membership, and assure that we continue to serve as a meaningful representative of our neighborhood. Tobin Hill is so very diverse, including owners, renters, businesses, and public service organizations. To continue to meet the needs of all of our members and partners we must cooperate and listen to all of our stakeholders. My goals for the coming year are to increase membership, assure that we have better lines of communication (Web Site, Newsletter, Public Meetings), and take on meaningful projects that have a positive impact on our lives and living conditions. Take a look at page **EIGHT** of this newsletter and you will find a complete list of your THCA Board along with their contact information. Please feel free to send them an e-mail if you have concerns or suggestions. I hope you will look forward to receiving your monthly THCA Newsletter, attend our Public Meetings, and become an active participant in our Association.

## OUR JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> PUBLIC MEETING



Ben Fairbank - Election Teller



Gabriel Sanchez -  
Outgoing President



Carolyn Kelley -  
Board Member and  
Economic Development Chair



Councilman Diego Bernal



Luis Lopez - President  
Tobin Hill Arts Alliance



Marty Kushner -  
Incoming President

# AFTER MEETING SOCIAL A ROUSING SUCCESS!

Well over 60% of the THCA members that attended the Annual Meeting joined our hostess, Carolyn Kelley in her wonderful home for a post meeting social. A very special thanks goes to Randy Cunniff, Peter Becker (owners) and Scott Ross (General Manager) of Texas Heat Investments, and the wonderful people at **Sparky's Pub** (located on Main Avenue). They are a loyal and generous THCA Business Member and they supplied an amazing array of food, including sandwiches, soup, cheeses, deserts, and wine. We are so thankful. The unfortunate fact is that your editor/photographer was having such a great time that he failed to take near as many pictures as he should have.



Scott Ross on the Right



Peter Becker and Randy Cunniff



**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
As a way of saying thank you, I thought it appropriate to give Sparky's Pub a little "plug". If you haven't been there, give them a try

THE CAFE AT  
SPARKY'S PUB

NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH

SOUPS  
SALADS  
SANDWICHES  
SWEETS  
COFFEES

Over 50 ways  
BY THE BOTTLE OR GLASS

OPEN M-F 11AM - 2AM S-S 3PM - 2AM  
1416 N MAIN AVE 210-320-5111  
www.SPARKYSPUB.COM

## UPDATED THCA WEB SITE COMING SOON!

**Be on the lookout  
for an e-mail in the  
near future  
announcing the  
launch.**

# 2012 THCA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

To say that our 2012 Annual Meeting was a success would be an understatement. Well over 50 THCA members and friends attended the meeting, held on January 26, 2012 at the TriPoint YMCA. Upon entering the meeting room (graciously donated by the TriPoint YMCA) attendees were greeted with a slide show of THCA activities during 2011. President Gabriel Sanchez called the meeting to order at 6:10pm and a quorum was certified (with lots of room to spare). Our representative from District 1, Diego Bernal, commended THCA on the proactive nature of the way the organization does business and all of our accomplishments during 2011. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of candidates and after the ballots were counted by the tellers the election of Martin Kushner as President, Randy Cunniff, Carolyn Kelley and Gabriel Sanchez as Board members was confirmed. The 2011 year-end financial report was presented reflecting a healthy cash position. Various reports were presented on the major accomplishments of the year (Economic Development, the Tobin Hill STAR Project, and the Tobin Hill Arts Alliance's Second Friday Art Walks to name a few). President Sanchez then turned the floor over to newly elected President Kushner, who gave an overview of his goals for 2012. He highlighted membership growth, better communications with members (Web Site and Newsletter), a greater emphasis on the needs of our Tobin Hill residents, and continued cooperation with our Tobin Hill businesses. Finally, there was an open forum that gave attendees an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information on the type of issues they wanted the Board to focus on. Issues included police protection, street improvements, stray dogs and graffiti. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

See pages 2 and 3 for pictures of the Annual Meeting and Social.

## A LITTLE BIT OF TOBIN HILL HISTORY VOL. 6

by Ricki Kushner

### TOBIN HILL'S CHURCHES – PART 3

#### Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, on North St. Mary's Street, was originally formed in 1906 as a catechetical center for Latin Americans. In 1911 Rev. Ramon Prat bought the present property. In 1915 Rev. Andreas Resa built a small church. During 1926-1944, Dominican Fathers from Mexico built the rectory, school, and convent, and enlarged the church. The first teachers were Dominican Sisters. The school was closed in 1943 for repairs, and re-opened in 1946, under the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. In 1944 Our Lady of Sorrows was placed under the jurisdiction of St. Mary's parish.<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Archdiocese of San Antonio (book)

## SECOND CITY OF SAN ANTONIO SICLOVIA COMING



**GO PLAY IN  
THE STREET!**

The City of San Antonio's first Siclovía was held October 2, 2011 and it was a big success. A four miles of Broadway were closed off to motorized traffic, allowing walkers, bikers, and other forms of non-motorized traffic the right of way. There were healthy food stops, informational booths, and just plain fun events. The Second Siclovía is coming soon and we thought you would like to know:

**Date:** Sunday, March 4, 2012 from 10am to 3pm

**Location:** Broadway, from Parland to McCullough

**Event Description:** Siclovía is a 4-mile car free route on Broadway for families to bike, run, walk and enjoy outdoor activities in the street and adjacent parks.

Tobin Hill, lets get out there, exercise and have fun! For more information you can go to: [www.Siclovía.org](http://www.Siclovía.org)

# FROM DISTRICT I COUNCILMAN DIEGO BERNAL'S JANUARY NEWSLETTER

## **Did you know you can get a ticket for parking the wrong way, even in front of your house?**

Texas Transportation Code states "An operator who stops or parks on a one-way roadway shall stop or park the vehicle parallel to the curb or edge of the roadway in the direction of authorized traffic movement with the right-hand wheels within 18 inches of the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway or the left-hand wheels within 18 inches of the left-hand curb or edge of the roadway."

**Remember: To avoid a ticket, park WITH the flow of traffic!**

### **City of San Antonio Code Enforcement Division**

San Antonio Property Maintenance Code (SAPMC) and the Building Standards Board (BSB)

The San Antonio City Council approved the San Antonio Property Maintenance Code and Building Standards Board ordinances on May 5, 2011. The SAPMC governs minimum property maintenance standards in order to improve the overall quality of life for the citizens of San Antonio.

The BSB reconstitutes the Dangerous Structures Determination Board (DSDB) into a 14 member citizen's board. ten members will be appointed by City Council district. Four will be appointed at-large including the Mayor's. The four will consist of citizens from the following groups:

- Single family rental property manager
- Multi-family rental property manager
- Commercial/office/retail rental property manager
- Historic preservation-type professional

\*\*\*\*\*

District One Field Office: 1310 Vance Jackson Rd., 78201, formerly Firehouse #19

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm

Also, in an effort to be more accessible, the Councilman will have personal office hours on the 1st, 3rd & 4th Monday of every month from 5 pm - 9 pm. Please call in advance to schedule a meeting with the Councilman. To make an appointment with the Councilman, call 207-7279. Walk-in visits are always welcome.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Councilman's monthly newsletter you can send an e-mail to [district1@sanantonio.gov](mailto:district1@sanantonio.gov) and ask to be added to the mailing list.

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## **FROM CITY OF SAN ANTONIO'S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The City of San Antonio's Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) provides trash/recycle collection assistance if a resident qualifies with a medical disability. If you know of any residents that cannot physically take their cart to the curb, please have them contact SWMD employee Sandy Redmond-Martinez at (210) 207-6437 for help. Residents will need to submit a signed doctor's statement to qualify for this service.

In addition, residents may call 3-1-1 to have their cart exchanged from the 96 gallon to the 48 gallon size if they do not need or are unable to handle the larger cart.



# THE GARDEN VIEW

## by Melissa Miller, Garden Raconteur

### Rosettes and You

These rains and warm winter have brought us a lot of growth in our gardens. Despite the good press growth has in these extraordinary times when even adults are exhorted to grow up, some of you will nevertheless want to go out and “ungrow” things. If you want a clean, manicured look, more’s the pity. You are on your own. But if you are beginning to wonder what havoc you may be wreaking with your appositive thumb and pointer, gather near.



If you have a fence line on the alley, I confess to having recklessly thrown some bluebonnet (and other) seeds in some more neglected spots in hopes you wouldn’t have the heart or care enough to make your outside look as neat as your living room. (It’s ok, plants are supposed to grow outside.) Look closely to see if there are bluebonnet rosettes coming up.

Oh well. It was a bit of whimsy and undying hope. The seeds were old and needed to be thrown somewhere. But maybe . . . Wait. If this gets you to thinking you might throw some new seeds out, don’t. It’s too late. Throw them in the fall, the seedlings need months to make strong roots to support the blooms.

But that’s just for starters. You may have many interesting plants coming up in your garden or yard.



Take, for instance, *Helianthus annuus*, the common sunflower. This “weed” is seen along the freeway and in byways. If you like bird watching and object to the expense of bird food, let these grow or transplant them to an area where you can see them through the window at their full height of six feet. They will attract, among others, the blackbacked lesser goldfinch, which may even nest near you if they find they will have seed available at the time their chicks hatch.



OK, so you are taking out those obnoxious grasses that spring up in spring. And there’s something that looks like a grass that you are tempted to pull up along with them. But don’t you want some free color in your garden? Save the dayflower. It will bloom for you in the mornings. Move it to where you will see it upon leaving for work.



It is not true that the pretty pink flowers that grow in cracks around here will not grow in your garden. They may be there already. Don’t pull those little leaves with splotches of pink that are greatly indented toward the base and you will have your own pink evening primroses. As it is a perennial, it will hide away after the spring or cool summer, only to form rosettes next winter.



Now be very afraid of this next one because it’s called deadly nightshade. This can be a scourge in pastures, causing illness among livestock. It can also kill a child who eats the berries. So if you have children, or they visit your garden, supervise, as you always should. I have a young neighbor who likes to visit who always asks if he can eat whatever I show him in the garden. Brave soul. At any rate, you should also not eat the leaves of your tomato plants, as they are part of the nightshade family. So, too, peppers, including chili petin, which volunteers in my yard and probably in yours. These two, let’s call them “volunteers,” are valuable wildlife food. Mockingbirds love the black berries and the tiny red peppers.



There’s so much more, but your editor might get grouchy if I go on. So also you. Curiosity really has few drawbacks, even for cats. Take a closer look at what’s growing. Saving a few rosettes each season can provide you with more birds and more color, if you know what to keep. Try these. They will please you.

P.S. Now is the time to be pruning your trees. Despite their looking so strong, they can easily be weakened by poor pruning (uglified), which can result in their eventual death. Don’t commit crepe murder, please. And learn how to prune before whacking. Learn more at: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/pdf/ProperPruningTreeCare.pdf>.

# NEW TO TOBIN HILL OR HAVEN'T RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP? COMPLETE THE APPLICATION AND MAIL IT IN. THANK YOU.



The Tobin Hill Community Association is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit association. Its mission is to facilitate implementation of the Tobin Hill Neighborhood Plan; protect the Tobin Hill Historic District and other Tobin Hill historic buildings; and improve quality of life through the collaboration of those who live, work, and contribute to the social fabric of Tobin Hill.

**Please enroll me as a member of the Tobin Hill Community Association.**

- \$15 Resident Household Member.** Limit 2 votes per Household. \$15 per voting member. (If there is one voting member in your household, your membership is \$15. If there are two, each pays \$15, for a total of \$30 per household. Must live in Tobin Hill.
- Business Memberships.** Limit - one vote, designated business representative, and alternate per business. Must have a business or nonresident property located in Tobin Hill.
  - \$29 Small business – income up to \$1 million**
  - \$99 Medium business – income from \$1 million + 1 dollar to \$5 million**
  - \$259 Large business – income more than \$5 million**
- \$25 Associate Membership.** For interested parties outside of Tobin Hill. Nonvoting.

**Membership fees:** \$\_\_\_\_\_. I wish to make a donation to THCA: \$\_\_\_\_\_. Total Check Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**(Please make your check payable to THCA and mail to: PO Box15946, San Antonio, TX 78212)**

**THIS INFORMATION IS FOR THE SOLE CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE TOBIN HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION TO COMMUNICATE WITH ITS MEMBERS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If business or associate business member, please give designated representative's information above. Please also designate an alternative representative. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive updates and news through my e-mail address.
- I would like to be included in the THCA membership directory, for members only.
- I would like to volunteer. Please contact me using information above.
- Unique skill(s) I have to offer, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for Joining the Tobin Hill Community Association!**

Please go to [tobinhill.org](http://tobinhill.org) for pictures, events and important community information



# HOMEOWNER APPLICATION

Students from the University of Texas San Antonio College of Architecture—in coordination with the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation—will participate in a service project called **S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization)** to assist homeowners living in the **Tobin Hill Historic District, March 24-25, and March 31-April 1, 2012**. The student-volunteers will perform minor repairs and maintenance to the **EXTERIOR** of qualifying homes. Work may include repairs to windows, siding, and porches as well as general exterior yard maintenance and exterior painting. Students will complete as much work as possible in order to assist the homeowner in rehabilitating their historic home.

## Program Eligibility Requirements:

- Residential structure located in the **Tobin Hill Historic District** (map on back).
- Ability to **demonstrate need** that would qualify for this program (i.e. income, age, disability).
- Willingness to provide support** during the event (electricity, water, positive attitude).

If you meet **all three** requirements listed above, please complete this form:

**Property address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Property owner:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of years you have owned and lived at the property:** (owned) \_\_\_\_\_ (lived) \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your need for assistance through the S.T.A.R. Program (please include photos of the house):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Scope of Work:** (Identify the location on the exterior of the house and the type of repairs needed; check all that apply)

**Front:**  Window repairs  Exterior painting  Porch repairs  Siding repairs  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Back:**  Window repairs  Exterior painting  Porch repairs  Siding repairs  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Left:**  Window repairs  Exterior painting  Porch repairs  Siding repairs  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Right:**  Window repairs  Exterior painting  Porch repairs  Siding repairs  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Certification:** *I understand that this is only an application to be considered for the S.T.A.R. program for Spring 2012, even if I meet all of the requirements, this is not a guarantee that work will be performed on my house.*

X \_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE OF HOMEOWNER** **DATE**

If selected, please be aware that all of the work will be performed by student volunteers with the assistance of professional volunteers. We will work hard to ensure that everything possible will be completed over the four-day period, but there is no guarantee to the amount of work that will be completed. Any work not completed at the end of the four-day period will be the responsibility of the homeowner.

Please send your completed **application and photos** to  
the following address by Monday, February 27, 2012:

**Office of Historic Preservation; Attn: George McQueen; P.O. Box 839966; San Antonio, Texas 78283**

# WHAT IS THE TOBIN HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION?

The Tobin Hill Community Association (THCA) began with seven neighbors around a dining room table. Each of them held the belief that something great would begin in Tobin Hill if they could create a non-profit community association that, for the first time, would be able to bring resources into our community, operate transparently and be inclusive of all Tobin Hill's stakeholders. THCA received its status as a Texas Corporation in September 2008, approved bylaws and elected its first Board of Directors in January 2009, and received its federal nonprofit status in May, 2009.

The mission of the THCA is to facilitate implementation of the Tobin Hill Neighborhood Plan; to protect the Tobin Hill Historic District and other Tobin Hill historic buildings; and to improve quality of life through the collaboration of those who live, work, and contribute to the social fabric of Tobin Hill.

## Your THCA Board:

Martin Kushner, President	mfkushner@sbcglobal.net (210) 223-2814
Bo Brockman, Member	bbbrockman@yahoo.com
Braxton Clark, Vice –President	abrax10@sbcglobal.net
Kathy Cron, Member	klipperon@yahoo.com
Randy Cunnif, Member	randy@heatsa.com
Luis Elizondo, Member	lumax@grandecom.net
Eddie Garza, Member	garza.eddie@sbcglobal.net
Lorena Havill, Member	lorenabird@gmail.com
Carolyn Kelley	carolyn25k@yahoo.com
Gabriel Sanchez, Member	gabesanchez81@hotmail.com
Lori Yanez, Treasurer	loriyanez@yahoo.com

**Monthly THCA Board meetings are open to THCA members. They are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month at the TriPoint YMCA. Of course times and dates are subject to change, so if you have something you would like to discuss with the Board, be sure to contact Marty Kushner to confirm the meeting and make your interest known in advance. Thank you.**

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

**City of San Antonio - Office of District One Councilman Diego M. Bernal**

**City Hall Office:** 100 Military Plaza, SATX 78283 - (210) 207-7279

**Field Office:** 1310 Vance Jackson Rd. SATX 78201 - (210) 207-0900

**E-Mail:** district1@sanantonio.gov

**Code Enforcement Services:** www.sanantonio.gov/ces - Call: 311

**Police Department:** www.sanantonio.gov/sapd/contact - Emergency: 911 - Non-emergency: 207-7273

**Tobin Hill's SAFFE Officer:** Robert Rodriguez - 260-7479

**San Antonio Water System:** www.saws.org/service- 704-7297

**City Public Service:** www.cpsenergy.com - 353-2222

**This is YOUR newsletter and we would like to include articles and features of interest to you. So, if you have any suggestions for articles or an on-going column, please let me know. Are you aware of any upcoming event that has an impact Tobin Hill? We certainly would like to include it in our Calendar of Events. Also, where appropriate, we would consider publishing appropriate non-political thoughts from THCA members and friends. You can contact me at 223-2814 or at mfkushner@sbcglobal.net**

**Marty Kushner, Editor**