



GRAFFITI WIPEOUT - MARCH 17TH

**Help THCA Wipe Out Graffiti in our Neighborhood.
Make friends, meet your neighbors.**

Eager THCA volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at the empty lot at the SW Corner of N. Main and Laurel, south of Luther's Cafe. The city of San Antonio is supplying us with the paint and equipment we need to Wipe Out graffiti from telephone poles, municipal and cable boxes, walls, and buildings. We'll be painting until noon, or until we have Wiped Out all graffiti. Got an hour or two to help us spiff up our neighborhood? We'd love to have you.

FACTS ABOUT GRAFFITI:

- 50% of graffiti vandals are adults.
- Rapid removal of graffiti vandalism is the most effective way to permanently stop graffiti in our neighborhood.
- Removing graffiti increases safety in communities.

To report graffiti to the city call: (210) 207-5430

For more information, or to let us know you're coming, please contact Carolyn Kelley at carolyn25k@yahoo.com for additional details, concerns or questions.

Carolyn, Cullen, Gabriel, Lorena, Lori, Luis, Marty and Judge Monica Cabalero will see you there.... in our paint clothes! We hope you can join them!

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

A great thing is happening in our neighborhood. The S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) Project will return to Tobin Hill on two weekends: **Sat.-Sun. March 24-25; and Sat.-Sun. Mar.31-April 1.** Minor repair and maintenance will be done by crews of students from the College of Architecture at UTSA. They will be supervised by building industry professionals (i.e., contractors). Preparations are underway for the four-day blitz of eight houses in the Tobin Hill Historic District. The plan is to re-visit some of the houses which were too big a job to finish in the two days of the November S.T.A.R. Project, and to tackle several additional houses as well. The four days scheduled for the project will give the students a chance to do more work on each property.

The Tobin Hill Community Association will be participating by providing volunteers to help with serving lunches donated by our own Main Street Pizza and Tycoon Flats to the 100 or so students and their construction supervisors. The RK Group will also be donating lunch on one of the four days. We'd also like to have someone with a truck to help with the supply delivery to the sites where the repair work is going on, which will take an hour or so in the early morning. The food service should take about two hours of volunteer time in the middle of each day. If you are willing, we can use you. If you have only a few hours on one or more of those days you can help.

The people who worked in November had fun and shared a feeling of accomplishment. So, set aside some time for the Neighborhood on Mar. 24-25 or Mar.31-April 1. Let's do it again in Tobin Hill!

To volunteer, call or e-mail Gabriel Sanchez: 389-4417 - gabesanchez81@hotmail.com

Tobin Hill Upcoming Events

MARCH 15, 2012

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

MARCH 17, 2012

Graffiti Wipeout Sweep
Contact: Marty Kushner
Time: 9 am to Noon

APRIL 13 2012

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

APRIL 19, 2012

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

APRIL 30-MAY 8, 2012

Early Voting - Bond Election

MAY 12, 2012

Bond Election Day

**THE THCA
WEB SITE IS
NOW ALIVE and
up to date!**

**GO TO
TOBINHILL.COM
and take a look.**

FROM THCA PRESIDENT MARTY KUSHNER



The Tobin Hill Community Association has so much to be proud of. We are a vital, involved community organization that serves everyone involved in making Tobin Hill a better place to live and work. Our “clients” are both Tobin Hill residents and businesses. As an organization we are growing by leaps and bounds. In fact, as of the publication date of this Newsletter (March 15th) our paid membership is **double** that of all last year! Attendance at our public meetings is up and community involvement in THCA projects is increasing.

A day doesn't go by that you don't hear the welcome sounds of wood being cut, hammers hitting nails and people fixing up their homes and cleaning up their yards. We continue to see more and more homes being restored and new businesses are moving into Tobin Hill. Importantly, THCA is being consulted when businesses and developers consider investing in our neighborhood. This allows us to have important input into the planning process, and assures that the Tobin Hill Neighborhood Plan is being adhered to.

Yes, Tobin Hill is moving forward and heading, in my opinion, in the right direction. The important thing to keep in mind is that we need **your** involvement in our Association to take on more projects that benefit our neighborhood. Yes, I know that everyone is busy, but volunteering a few hours to improve your neighborhood and our living/working environment has to be the best investment you can make. Elsewhere in this Newsletter there are articles about the STAR project and our Graffiti Wipeout. Both are important to the betterment of Tobin Hill and need your help. The articles provide a contact person. Please call the person and offer a few hours of your valuable time.

Finally, do make the effort to attend our Public Meetings and speak out about issues that you think need our attention.

THCA PUBLIC MEETING AND MIXER

A Tobin Hill Community Association semi-monthly Public Meeting was held on Sunday, March 11th in the Metropolitan Community Church's Social Hall. The agenda was jam packed with information of interest to all members and Tobin Hill friends. The meeting started with a greeting from President Kushner and then there were a number of reports. Treasurer Lori Yanez presented the February Treasurer's Report that reflected a very healthy cash position for THCA. Gabriel Sanchez, our Membership Chair reported that three new members had joined THCA at the meeting and that our **paid** membership for 2012 is now officially **double** that of last year. Ricki Kushner provided a report on the upcoming S.T.A.R. Project in Tobin Hill. (See complete article elsewhere in this Newsletter). Finally Board member Braxton Clark, Chair of Communications announced that our Tobin Hill Community Association Web Site (tobinhill.org) has been completely updated and is now live.

The meeting then moved on to presentations. Mr. Bill Shown, Vice-President of the HemisFair Park Development Corporation provided us with a very interesting look at the plans for HemisFair Park. It was a look at the future of one of San Antonio's great downtown assets. Carololy Kelley then presented some updates on a number of important economic developments happening or planned for our Tobin Hill neighborhood.

The main speaker of the meeting was the City of San Antonio's Ms. Lisa McKenzie. Ms. McKenzie is the Neighborhood Services Coordinator for District One graffiti issues. She presented a very interesting and helpful talk on the graffiti problem in San Antonio and offered helpful suggestions on how to fight the problem. She also let us know what the City is doing to assist neighborhoods to reduce the problem.

The floor was then opened for questions and/or issues from the membership. There being none, the meeting adjourned to the Kushner's front porch for a mixer. The majority of the members attended and the talk and fellowship continued for quite some time.

The next Public Meeting will be held in May.

THCA PUBLIC MEETING AND MIXER



Registration



Registration



Marty Kushner



Lori Yanez



Gabriel Sanchez



Braxton Clark



Ricki Kushner



Carolyn Kelley



Bill Shown

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS



Lisa McKenzie



THE MIXER



HELP NEEDED ON ZONING COMMITTEE

Tobin Hill is a rapidly evolving neighborhood. As such some current or prospective owners of land and buildings seek changes in the zoning of property to better meet their personal or business needs. THCA receives notices from the City of San Antonio about zoning requests and has an opportunity to present our position on the request. The Zoning Commission meetings are typically held twice a month on Tuesdays, beginning at 1pm. While cases pertaining to Tobin Hill are not on every agenda, it is important that our neighborhood is represented when a case does come up.

We need a few THCA members to volunteer for this Committee. Don't worry, we will provide information and training to new committee members. If you are willing to help us out, please contact Gabriel Sanchez at gabesanchez81@hotmail.com.

A LITTLE BIT OF TOBIN HILL HISTORY VOL. 7

by Ricki Kushner

Tobin Hill's Churches/Places of Worship – Part 4

Temple Beth-El – 211 Belknap Place

In 1927 the Temple Beth-El congregation completed their new synagogue on the corner of W. Ashby Street and Belknap Place. But there's more to it than that: Temple Beth-El is the oldest Jewish congregation in San Antonio ⁽¹⁾ and the third-oldest in the state of Texas, dating from 1874. Only Houston and Dallas have older Reform Jewish congregations.⁽²⁾

By 1855 a Jewish burial ground had been started in San Antonio, but the Civil War interrupted most Jewish activity in the city and in the state. However, in the early 1870s members of the Hebrew Benevolent Society bought land on the corner of Travis and Jefferson Streets from Mrs. Mary Maverick; and in 1875 the first synagogue built on that site was completed. But, by 1902 the congregation had grown, so that structure was razed and a larger, more ornate sanctuary was built on the same site.⁽³⁾ The second Temple was dedicated on Sept. 18, 1903.⁽⁴⁾

By the mid-1920s the congregation realized that they couldn't grow any further in downtown, so they selected a site on a hill just north of downtown and engaged Seutter & Simons as architects. There, at 211 Belknap Place, they built a beautiful sanctuary that can seat 1,600, under a red-orange tile dome that can be seen for miles. In 1983 the administrative and classroom part of the Temple were renovated and a new community hall was added to the south side.⁽⁵⁾ The building shows Spanish/Moorish influence and has been declared a National Historic Landmark.

(1) "Temple Beth-El's first 75 years". Temple Beth-El website, pre-2012.

(2) Historic churches of Texas: the land and the people / by Frank A. Driskill and Noel Grisham. Burnet, Texas; Eakin Press, 1980.

(3) "Temple Beth-El has rich history in S.A." / J. Michael Parker. San Antonio Express-News, May 15, 1999, p.11-B.

(4) 100 years of Jewry in San Antonio / by Frances R. Kallisson. Thesis. Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 18, 1977.

(5) "Beth-El to dedicate new temple". The North San Antonio Times, Jan. 20, 1983, p.7.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The morning of February 25th we contacted a number of THCA members asking for some help to move some THCA office furniture, equipment, and supplies out of the space used to house the Tobin Hill Revitalization Zone Office. The following THCA members came to our aid and we want to formally thank them for their help:

Braxton Clark, Code Doege, Charles Herrin,
Andrew Johnson, Carolyn Kelley, Marty Kushner,
Gabriel Sanchez, Ryan Schmidt, and Chad Walling

We are so thankful that our membership is always ready to help out when needed.



THE GARDEN VIEW

by Melissa Miller, Garden Raconteur

A Few Questions

Question: What is the most common cause of the death of residential trees?

Answer: Weed wackers. A tree's growth ring is just under the surface of the bark. If a weed wacker cuts deeply enough, it can cut off the flow of life-giving nutrients above the cut. Make enough of these cuts around the tree, and you've choked it.

What to do? Educate whoever cuts your lawn so they will be careful in your yard and also your neighbors who also might not know the danger. Then put guards around the tree, keep it bare, or put a ring of mulch that discourages weeds close to (but NOT against) the bark and also conserves moisture.

Question: What is the best way to attract hummingbirds to your yard?

Answer: With flowers. I don't know about you, but I don't want the responsibility of keeping a feeder clean and the syrup unfermented in this heat to avoid making my precious visitors sick or tipsy and vulnerable to predators. And having it up all the time is too much of a commitment. But I love having flowers around my house.

What to do? Try some natives that give them good nutrition and attract bugs they also eat, such as native salvias and Texas lantana, trumpet vine, cross vine, asclepius tuberosa, and buddleia. (Note: several native and non-native plants are called "butterfly" something, including these last two.)

Did you know? Some plants attract butterflies but won't keep them hanging around your yard.

Why? Butterflies, like birds, need food, shelter, and a place to reproduce. Often those are not found on the same plant. If a butterfly finds food in your yard but no place to lay eggs, it will have to keep looking. If it comes out of its cocoon and finds no food, it will have to leave soon too.

What to do? Be sure you have everything needed for the butterfly you want to attract. Each species has evolved to lay their eggs on a particular type of plant. Monarchs will only lay their eggs on plants in the milkweed family, for instance.

Question: What does it mean when someone calls my yard sterile?

Answer: That term has recently come into vogue to describe a yard that looks green and manicured, but attracts very little wildlife other than the ubiquitous grackles, starlings, sparrows, and the like. Usually these lawns are planted primarily or solely with non-native plants that do not provide enough food, shelter, and nesting sites to keep native wildlife happy.

What to do? Plant natives and loosen up on your manicured look a little. It won't hurt you. If you mix your plantings with perennial evergreen and deciduous natives, you can maintain a good-looking yard with minimum maintenance and major water savings. Then stand back and watch the new kinds of birds and butterflies beautify your yard.

Melissa Miller lives in her great-grandmother's home in Tobin Hill graced with heirloom irises, snowdrops, and fig tree and a huge, peculiar pecan tree. She has added about 100 species of native plants, vegetables, fruits, and heirlooms. A member of the Native Plant Society and co-founder of their Native Landscape Certification Program, she is also a nonprofit consultant, grant writer, and landscape designer.

SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM ON NATIVE PLANTS

San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas to offer Texas Native Plant Training

Level 1 is the first of four levels of certification where you will learn to identify trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses native to Bexar County and authorized for use in commercial sites and housing development by San Antonio's Landscape Ordinance; identify plants that grow well in nature and in your yard and learn their benefits; and learn how natives help to conserve water, reduce run-off, and improve water quality. Level 1 will be offered on the following dates:

Saturday, April 7, at the San Antonio River Authority, 100 E. Guenther

Saturday, April 21, at Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa Road

This one-day class meets from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Cost: \$35. For more information or to receive a registration form by email, send a request to npsotnlcp@aol.com or call 210-733-0034. You can also print out a registration form at www.npsot.org/SanAntonio and send in your check.

Successful completion of Level 1 qualifies you to enroll in Level 2, which covers the best practices to save natural areas during development and help protect native plants from wholesale destruction; how to understand and where to find local regulations and how they are developed and revised; the best ways to meet code and go beyond the minimum standards; plant selection for low maintenance landscapes; applying these concepts in residential and commercial design to preserve, enhance and maintain native landscapes that comply with local regulations and earn rebates; and identify invasive species and their problems. Level 2 training will last 1-1/2 days, with the second day being a fieldtrip. Level II will be offered on the following dates:

Saturday and Sunday, May 5-6 (Location TBA)

Saturday and Sunday, May 19-20 (Location TBA).

HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY OPENED SATURDAYS

The City's seasonal household hazardous waste (HHW) facility will be opened one Saturday per month in March through August (8:00am to 3:00 pm). The site which is located at the Bitters Brush Recycling Center, 1800 Bitters Rd.

The site which opened in spring 2010 provides San Antonio residents with an alternative location to the City's permanent facility located on the northwest side of San Antonio. Residents are encouraged to visit the seasonal site to properly dispose of or recycle items such as lawn and garden products, cooking oil, paint, automotive fluids, cell phones, batteries, e-waste and other HHW items.

Materials should be kept in their original containers. If containers are deteriorated or leaking, transfer materials to a safe container and label the new container to correctly identify the contents. Residents visiting the site should remember to bring a recent CPS Energy bill referencing the environmental fee as proof of residency and a picture I.D.

For a list of dates the seasonal facility will be open, and a list of accepted materials, visit www.sanantonio.gov/swmd

FROM COJA'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

The following article comes from the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation's Monthly Newsletter

Reporting Potential Violations to the Historic Building Enforcement Officer

To help protect the City's historic resources, residents are encouraged to notify the Office of Historic Preservation of potential violations. To report a concern:

- 1) Gather information. Be prepared to provide the address of the property in question and a brief description of the potential violation or concern. Photographs are helpful but not necessary.
- 2) Call 210.219.2093 or email Ron Meyers, Historic Building Enforcement Officer, at ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov or OHP@sanantonio.gov during regular business hours (7:45am - 4:30pm) to report your concerns. After-hours complaints should be registered by phone through 311 or by email at OHP@sanantonio.gov.
- 3) You can report potential problems anonymously or provide contact information for follow-up.

FROM COUNCILMAN DIEGO BERNAL'S NEWSLETTER

Meetings with the Councilman

In March we will start our Coffee with the Councilman initiative, where on selected Saturdays I will host a small Question & Answer session at local diners and eateries around the district to learn more about your issues and neighborhoods. We'll hang a banner in each place for about a month so people know we're coming.

I want to hear directly from you, so I'll meet you at your favorite place and coffee is my treat. I look forward to seeing you out there.

Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 9:30 a.m., Taco Taco, 145 East Hildebrand,, (822-9533)

Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 9:30 a.m, Estela's Mexican Restaurant, 220 West Martin Street, (226-2979)

Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 10:30 a.m., Joseph's Storehouse, 3420 N Saint Mary's St # 105, (737-3430)

Customers Requiring Special Consideration due to Medical Conditions San Antonio Water System

San Antonio Water System strives to supply customers with an uninterrupted source of water. It is especially critical to customers who have certain medical conditions. With that in the mind, SAWS documents those customers who have advised of the need for special circumstances due to a medical condition in the home.

If your SAWS account becomes delinquent due to nonpayment, the Courtesy Notice Program will provide you with a 24-hour notice before services are scheduled to be disconnected. This additional time should be used to contact SAWS, so that payment and/or payment arrangements may be made.

To qualify, the SAWS account holder must complete a program application stating whether the account holder or a family member, living in the home, requires special medical consideration. The application must be completed by both, the account holder and their designated physician. The application will include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- The account holder's name, address, telephone and account number
- What medical condition exists in the home
- Name of person and relation to account holder for which the service is medically required
- The doctor's name, address, telephone and license number

For more information on this and other SAWS programs, please call (210) 704-SAWS.

Code Enforcement seeks volunteers for Code Ranger and Graffiti Ranger Programs

The Code Ranger program provides opportunities for citizen volunteers to become involved with code enforcement activities. The Graffiti Ranger program provides volunteers with an opportunity to proactively abate graffiti within their respective neighborhoods and throughout the city. Mandatory Orientation for the programs will be offered at 1400 South Flores (Code Enforcement Division – Main Conference Room) within the coming months on: March 19th, April 14th, May 22nd, June 30th.

Citizens interested in learning more about the Code Ranger and Graffiti Ranger programs can contact Joe Frank Picazo, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 207-5421.



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 and ask to be added to the mailing list.

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.

TOBIN HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

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 for pictures, events and important community information

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