

A Closer View of District 2

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, ISSUE 12

March 2013

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILWOMAN TAYLOR

Dear Neighbor,

This newsletter issue highlights progress that has been made in the district by providing information on topics such as the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) winning of \$29.7 million through the HUD Choice Implementation Grant for development of the Wheatley Courts area, the announcement of a new Eastside Financial Empowerment Center that is geared towards assisting residents out of poverty, an update on the third annual report back meeting, and a listing of complete, ongoing and future projects that are occurring in the district.



Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to working with you to continue progress in District 2.

Sincerely,
Ivy R. Taylor
Councilmember, District 2

Rittiman Road Bridge Project Update

The Rittiman Road Bridge Project will restart soon. Early in February BID offers were evaluated for a contractor selection. Capital Improvements Management Services (CIMS) anticipates that construction will begin mid-to-late March. CIMS is also working with the Department of Parks and Recreation in an effort to maintain vegetation at John James Park. The \$5.1 million project will expand and raise the bridge, improve traffic and drainage issues in the area. The Rittiman Road Bridge project is anticipated to be finished by November 2013. For more information, please call 207-0970.

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Wheatley Courts Awarded \$29.7 Million

Last year, the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) was awarded the \$29.7 million United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhood Grant in an effort to revitalize the Wheatley Courts area of East San Antonio. The \$29.7 million HUD Choice Neighborhoods Grant is focused on transforming distressed neighborhoods and publicly assisted projects into viable and sustainable mixed-income neighborhoods by providing housing improvements with adequate services to schools, public assets, transportation and access to jobs. The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative is one of the signature programs of the White



Student Aid Saturdays Help Students with Higher Educational Pursuits

Student Aid Saturdays San Antonio (SASSA) offers incoming freshmen and continuing students FREE one-on-one help completing their college financial aid applications. Students can receive free help every Saturday until April 27th at various locations throughout San Antonio. Trained college financial aid experts will help students file both the FAFSA and TASFA. Volunteers will be available to answer questions and provide scholarship information. All help is offered to students in both English and Spanish. For more information and a complete schedule of events, please call Café College at 210-207-4528 or visit www.studentaidsa.org.



House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative which supports innovative and inclusive strategies that bring public and private matters together to help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative encourages collaboration between HUD and the Department of Education, Justice, Treasury, Health and Human Services to support local solutions for sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with the affordable housing, safe streets and good schools for all families. The nearly \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant will assist SAHA with developing the Wheatley Choice Transformation Plan.

In 2011, SAHA was awarded a \$250,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant in an effort to develop a transformation plan for the Wheatley Courts and surrounding area. During the time, SAHA held numerous community planning sessions where neighborhood residents, local businesses, public agencies, stakeholders and community leaders voiced their vision of the Wheatley Courts area. SAHA submitted the resulting Transformation Plan to HUD in April 2012 along with the Implementation Grant application.

The Wheatley Choice Transformation Plan targets housing, people and neighborhoods. The housing component will turn the Wheatley Courts into a 305-unit, high quality mixed income community that will build off of SAHA's 194 unit of Sutton Oaks Phase I and add an additional 286 mixed-income units in Sutton Oaks II and III while saving a key piece of land for commercial/retail development. The neighborhood component will redevelop Wheatley Courts into a pedestrian friendly neighborhood that provides a wide range of amenities including increased park space, community gardens and multi-modal transit hub to institutions and employment centers. The people component of the plan will provide residents with job training and placement programs, improved public safety and educational opportunities for residents.

ELLA AUSTIN WELCOMES COMMUNITY RESOURCE ROOM



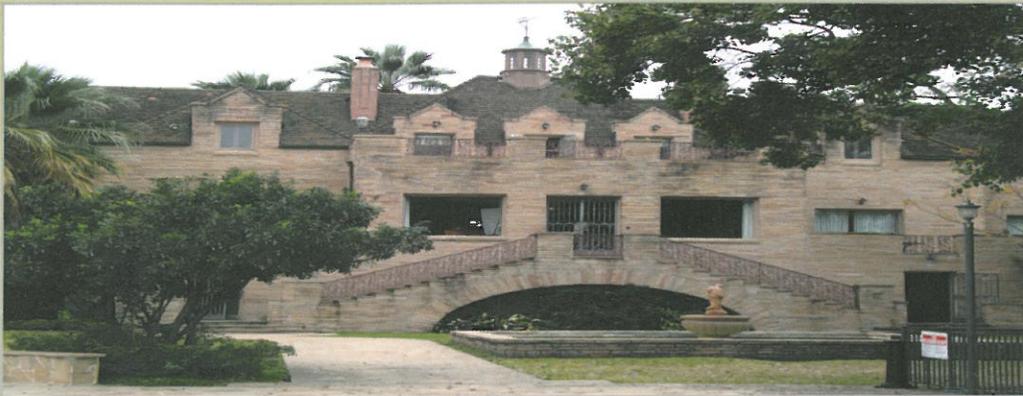
Executive Director of the Ella Austin Community Center, Tony Hargrove and Comerica's Texas Market President J. Patrick Faubion unveils community resource center.

Ella Austin Community Center announced the grand opening of the first San Antonio Comerica Community Resource Center. The community resource center provides residents with new computers, Wi-Fi access, furniture, financial education books and materials that range from saving and budgeting to retirement planning and fraud. This summer, the center will offer residents a series of financial literacy workshops. The workshops are free and open to the public



Councilwoman Taylor along with Mr. Tony Hargrove of Ella Austin, and Comerica's Texas Market President J. Patrick Faubion hold check of \$35,000 grant during the grand opening of the Community Resource Center.

and will cover a variety of topics for children, adults and seniors including the basics of budgeting, elder care abuse scams and retirement planning. All classes will be offered in English and Spanish. For more information, please call 210-224-2351.



Red Berry Estate Update: City of San Antonio Releases RFQ

In February, the City of San Antonio released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) based on the community input and direction of the development of Red Berry Estate. In Spring 2010, the property was identified as a catalytic project at the Eastside Reinvestment Summit. Since the summit, the City of San Antonio purchased the property in June 2012. Two community meetings were held in an effort to allow residents to provide feedback and suggestions of their vision of the estate. The first meeting was held in November 2012 and the follow up meeting was held December 2012. The Red Berry Estate includes the 14,300 square foot Red Berry mansion with a man made lake, pecan tree grove and acres of vacant land. The estate is adjacent to the Willow Springs Golf Course and Salado Creek Bike Trail. For more information on the Red Berry estate, please call 210-207-2122.



Interior photo of the Living Room area inside of the Red Berry Mansion. The estate also holds a library and downstairs casino.

DISTRICT 2 WELCOMES FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Earlier this year, San Antonio received a \$3.3 million grant through the Bloomberg Philanthropies and Living Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) Fund. The fund enables cities to provide residents extensive technical assistance in an effort to refine new approaches to alleviating poverty. Through the grant, the City of San Antonio will establish two financial empowerment centers on the San Antonio's East and West side. The East Side Financial Empowerment Center will be housed in the Claude Black Community Center located at 2805 E. Commerce. The center will assist residents with counseling services regardless of their income. Residents will learn how to stabilize their finances, rebuild credit, reduce debt, learn techniques on how to build new savings and referrals to community resources that are available to assist them. The financial community centers will open this month. For more information, please call 210-207-5233.



Residents will be able to talk to certified financial consultants at the new financial empowerment center that will be housed in the Claude Black Center.

Recap of Iowa Street Open House

In the next several months, Iowa Street will undergo corridor improvements. Councilwoman Taylor in partnership with the City of San Antonio Department of Planning and Community Development have partnered together for the "Nine Block Renaissance." The re-investment plan will include infrastructure improvements, home improvement repairs, a new bus shelter, bus stops, and park improvements. The "Nine Block Renaissance" is a component of the City's strategic plan for community development. The strategic reinvestment initiative is intended to provide comprehensive services within a

Proposed Improvements

Proposed Streetscape Improvements
IOWA STREET

Corridor-wide Improvements

- **Bike Lanes** - add bike lanes or sharrows to north and south sides of Iowa - connect to existing bike routes via Mesquite, Pine, and Palmetto
- **Sidewalks** - control weed growth between curb and sidewalk
- **Utility Lines** - power lines are located on the north & south sides of Iowa but also cross the street frequently - eliminate drops that cross the street to reduce visual impact
- **Code Compliance** - illegal front yard fences, vacant lots and overgrown, poor property maintenance
- **Streetlights** - 1) add streetlights to achieve consistent lighting, 2) add pedestrian-scale lighting features to illuminate sidewalks, 3) relocate streetlights from wooden utility poles to metal standards
- **Bus Stops** - add benches to bus stops; add picnic seats to poles where space is not available for benches



Say Cheese: Staff from St. Philip's College pose for a picture during the Iowa Street Corridor Open House.

targeted neighborhood, district or corridor within the City of San Antonio. It is an inter-departmental collaborative that seeks to transform distressed areas within the City of San Antonio into ones of opportunity. Amongst the many benefits, reinvestment strategies are designed to sustain and increase owner-occupancy, strengthen property values and improve the physical appearance and quality of life of neighborhoods and neighborhood commercial corridors. The revitalization effort is divided into three phases. Phase I is infrastructure improvements, Phase II is housing improvements, and Phase III is other opportunities. Phase I is scheduled to be completed August 2013. For more information about the project or the community developments reinvestment strategy, please call 210-207-2797.

NOWCAST SA Wants to Hear Community Members Stories of East San Antonio

NOWCast SA has partnered with Eastside Promise Neighborhood to collect oral histories about East San Antonio. The San Antonio community news channel, NOWCast SA reports various topics on issues that impact neighborhoods, housing and economic development, education, environmental and public safety. The organization seeks to promote civic engagement through increased technology including live streaming designed to foster community dialogue. NOWCast SA invites residents and community members to send stories, photos and videos or anything that can help document the history of East San Antonio. The documents—stories, photos and videos—will be used to create short video documentaries about the assets in the neighborhood. Currently, NOWCast SA has a list of 63 different points of interest that the community can voice their stories on. For more information on how you can speak to someone about contributing your story, photos or videos, please contact NOWCast SA via email at news@nowcastsa.org.



NOBLEWOOD DRIVE EXPANSION OPENS



3rd Year Report Back Meeting Informs Residents of Progress

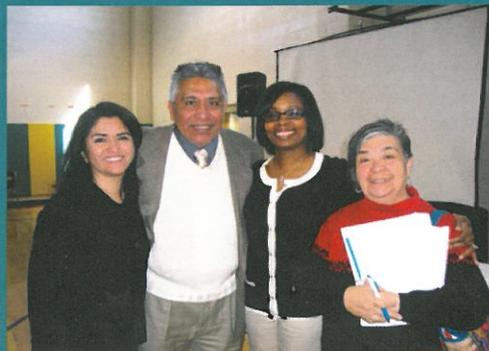
Over 200 residents attended the third annual report back meeting in an effort to learn about reinvestment initiatives occurring in East San Antonio. The meeting, held by Councilwoman Taylor in partnership with the City of San Antonio, highlighted the progress made in East San Antonio by providing residents with information of catalytic projects that have been completed, are in the works and are planned for the area.



Residents take time out of their busy schedule to come hear about progress in District 2.

As economic development continues to spur throughout the community, sustainable development is taking place. Since the first report back meeting, more than 4,058 vacant structures have been demolished and over 747,543 square feet of graffiti has been abated. The meeting covered areas such as enhanced safety and communication efforts between SAPD and residents, and provided updates on San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD), VIA Metropolitan Transit, and CHOICE Neighborhood initiatives in the district. Residents attended break out sessions in an effort to discuss how they can continue revitalization efforts and become more involved in public safety, education, housing and neighborhood transformation, and corridor revitalization.

At the conclusion of the meeting, residents were asked to identify what they would like to see accomplished in the community over short term and long term goals. Community members, residents and business leaders provided feedback for short term goals by suggesting the need to repair streets and provide sidewalk infrastructure, better animal control efforts, continue to improve safety efforts and code compliance relationships, the need for more grocery store options, and improved housing opportunities.



L-R: Ms. Loudres, Mr. Garcia, Councilwoman Taylor and Ms. Garcia pose for the camera during the report back meeting.

Feedback that was provided for long term goals included improving educational opportunities, transportation system, commercial development, a community hospital, and continued

infrastructure improvements.

For more information on the Eastside Reinvestment Summit, please call 207-2122.



Councilwoman Taylor and residents cut the ceremonial ribbon in completion of the Noblewood Drive Expansion.

Councilwoman Taylor, City of San Antonio staff and community members cut a ceremonial ribbon to mark the completion of the Noblewood Drive expansion. The Noblewood Drive Expansion project consisted of the reconstruction and widening of Noblewood Drive from E. Houston Street to Tamarak; and the extension of Noblewood Drive from Tamarak to the Wheatley Heights Sports Complex. The \$1.3 million project involved right-of-acquisition, utility



Cherry Hill Residents and member from the Bethany Church Choir celebrate with fellowship of the Noblewood Drive entrance.

adjustments, landscaping and construction of new curbs, sidewalks and driveways. Noblewood Drive is the main entrance to the Wheatley Heights Sports Complex and the Cherry Hill Neighborhood. Residents enjoyed music from Bethany First Baptist Church Choir.

Development Projects

Completed Projects

SALADO CREEK HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL



The trail opened March 2012 and includes a trail along the Salado Creek from Comanche Park to Willow Springs Golf Course and to Jack White Park.

WHEATLEY HEIGHTS SPORTS COMPLEX



The 65 acre sports complex is home to four softball/baseball fields, one football field, one football practice field, eight soccer fields and three mile cross country tracks along the Salado Creek trail.

SUTTON OAKS PHASE #1



The facility includes 194 one-to-four bedroom apartment homes and a club house. The facility contains 49 public housing units and 137 affordable (tax credit) units and is 100% leased.

FIRE STATION #1



The over 24,000 square foot station accommodates both Fire and EMS shift commanders with officers, sleeping quarters and vehicle bays. The bays house medic unit and four fire apparatus.

DISTRICT 2 SENIOR CENTER



The 8,000 square foot center provides noon meals and hosts wellness, education and comprehensive assistance services to seniors 60 years of age and older.

Ongoing Projects

UNIVERSITY OF INCARNATE WORD HEALTH AND EYE CLINIC



The 30,000 square foot facility will serve the vision care needs of residents on the Eastside and surrounding areas regardless of their ability to pay. The total cost for the facility is \$11 million.

ELLIS ALLEY BUILDING PROJECT



Three historic buildings will be refurbished for commercial use in Ellis Alley. The project is a partnership with VIA, District 2 and the San Antonio Conservation Society. The total cost of the project is \$750,00.

GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL



The historic hospital will become a veterans training and education center. The project is in partnership with District 2 and St. Philip's College. The total cost of the project is \$4.3 million.

THOMPSON TRANSIT CENTER



The VIA project will consist of expanding use of the center, and provide electric recharge stations for buses. VIA has allocated \$10 million towards the center.

MLK DRIVE VACANT LOTS

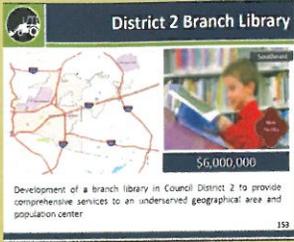


The ten vacant lots will provide housing for seniors in the near future. The total cost for the project is \$120,000.

Development Projects

Ongoing Projects

NEW DISTRICT 2 LIBRARY



The new branch library was approved by voters of the 2012-2017 BOND. The library will provide residents with comprehensive services. \$6 million has been allocated for the project.

CARVER LIBRARY



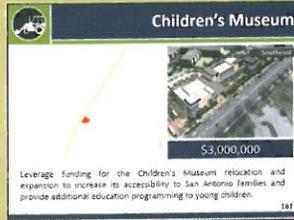
The Carver Library facility is being improved through \$333,000 of work to eliminate drainage issues, expand the parking lot, and create a children's playscape.

THE PARK AT SUTTON OAKS



The new housing development will be the first multi-family community to achieve Build San Antonio Green (BSAG) Level II Certification.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



The new museum will relocate to District 2 and provide educational programs to youth. The \$3 million project was approved by voters in the 2012-2017 BOND.

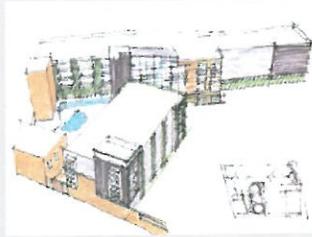
CAMELOT SPARK PARK



The park will improve the school playgrounds of Camelot Elementary by turning them into fitness parks the community can enjoy. The park will be the second of its kind in San Antonio.

Future Projects

AUSTIN STREET LOFTS



The project will develop apartment buildings on Austin Street and include mid-price dining in a rehabilitated building.

IDEA-CARVER SCHOOL EXPANSION



The IDEA-Carver Academy will build a secondary school in an effort to expand the campus facility.

MERCHANT'S ICE BUILDING



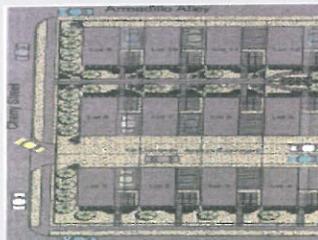
One future plan concept for the vacant building is to redevelop the ice building for mixed-use development including housing.

ALAMO BREWERY



The Alamo Brewery will create a production facility and restaurant in District 2. The project will create 40 new jobs.

CHERRY MODERN TOWNHOMES



The project will consist of taking a large vacant lot on Cherry street and turning it into modern townhouses.

A Closer View Of District 2

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March 2013



Councilwoman Ivy R. Taylor
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 San Antonio, TX 78283

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OR VISIT THE DISTRICT 2 WEBSITE AT:
<http://www.ci.sat.tx.us/council/d2/>

CALL ANYTIME FOR RECORDED COMMUNITY UPDATES AT

207-0947

REACH US VIA EMAIL AT: DISTRICT2@SANANTONIO.GOV

UPCOMING EVENTS

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

March 2013

- 3/17 HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY!
- 3/22 AN EVENING WITH TERRI HENDRIX AT THE LITTLE CARVER
- 3/28 SPRING BBQ AT THE DISTRICT 2 EASTSIDE OFFICE
- 3/31 HAPPY EASTER!

April 2013

- 4/12 KENNY BARRON PERFORMS AT CARVER CULTURAL CENTER
- 4/13 DISTRICT 2 TOWN HALL MEETING
- 4/18 FIESTA BEGINS
- 4/20 FIESTA SAN JACINTO CELEBRATION AT THE ALAMO
- 4/24 FIESTA BBQ AT THE DISTRICT 2 NORTHEAST OFFICE

May 2013

- 5/4 2ND ANNUAL EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING AND RESOURCE FAIR AT ST. PHILIPS COLLEGE
- 5/18 HAMBURGER FESTIVAL AT 1600 BLOCK OF E. COMMERCE

June 2013

- 6/13 ART IN THE DARK AT WITTE MUSEUM
- 6/26 OPEN DOOR WALK-INS AT DISTRICT 2 NORTHEAST OFFICE
- 6/27 OPEN DOOR WALK-INS AT DISTRICT 2 EASTSIDE OFFICE

July 2013

- 7/4 HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!
- 7/11 ART CRAWL GALLERY TOURS FOR CAREGIVERS AND BABIES AT SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART

- 24 hr. City Hotline.....311 or 207-6000
- Utility/Rental assistance.....207-7830
- Housing Rehab.....207-0147
- Bexar Utility Assistance.....335-6770
- Fair Housing.....207-5910
- Senior Services.....207-7172
- Childcare Services.....206-5200
- Youth Services.....207-8198
- Health Department.....207-8780
- SAPD (East) Substation.....207-7781
- SAPD (North) Substation.....207-8126
- SAFFE Office (East).....207-7566
- SAFFE Office (North).....207-8350
- SAPD Non-emergency.....207-7273
- Homeless Services.....207-7823
- Animal Care Services.....207-4738
- Graffiti.....207-6460
- CPS Energy.....353-2222
- SAWS.....704-7297
- VIA Metro Transit.....362-2020
- Literacy GED/ESL Classes.....207-7227
- Traffic Sign Signal Request.....207-7765
- United Way.....211
- Animal Resource Center.....351-SPAY