

Galindo Neighborhood Association News



Hi Neighbors!

Happy Spring! We hope you and yours are enjoying the beautiful weather. GENA has had a busy start to the year. In February, we successfully got the developer of 600 Cumberland to rethink their 8 story building on the corner of S. 1st and Cumberland Road and to withdraw their variance request! Thank you to all the neighbors who submitted comments and showed up at the Board of Adjustments ready to fight. Your actions made a huge difference to the outcome of this case.

Austin Beer Garden and Brewery, ABGB, has filed a rezoning request for their property at 1305 W. Oltorf which sits on West Bouldin Creek and the MOPAC train tracks. It will be heard at the planning commission on June 10, 2025. The case number is: C14-2025-0039. They are seeking to change from commercial zoning (CS) to a vertical mixed used (VMU) zoning that will allow a five story building with 130 apartments and ground floor retail. The developer will be at our next general membership meeting on May 19, 2025 to present the project and answer questions. The GENA board has expressed our concerns about flooding and traffic at that location as only one driveway in and out is planned.

As some of you may know, we are now in the stormy, rainy part of our year here in central Texas. Flood risk in our urban core neighborhoods has increased significantly over the last few years. Infill development and more impervious cover cause water to run off into the streets with nowhere to drain especially in a large rain event which can happen quickly. Be smart and don't drive through high water.

Our risk of wildfire in the urban core has increased too as we are still in a long term drought and entering our hot dry summer season. A representative from the Austin Fire Department, Chris Dibrell, attended our general membership meeting in March and gave us the basics on how to maintain a defensible space around our homes. Clearing debris around the structure and keeping your roof and gutters free from leaves and debris is critical to keep your risk down. He emphasized the importance of having a bug out bag ready to go in case of emergency. Please go to ATXWIIDFIRE HUB for more information and tips.

(continued on next page)

Upcoming Meetings

May 19th
July 28th

7pm, South Austin
Recreation Center

About GENA

The Galindo Elementary Neighborhood Association ("GENA") seeks to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood, representing residents and property owners within the boundaries of Oltorf St (N), Ben White (S), the Union Pacific Railway (W) and S 1st St (E).

Find out more at:

www.gena.org



Above: Lt. Chris Dibrell gives Fire safety advice at GENA's March 2025 meeting

(welcome letter, continued from page 1)

Look for boulder seating to be installed in South Austin Neighborhood Park on May 16th at the park entrances of Stone Crest Drive, Juanita Street and Herndon Lane as part of a Community Activated Park Project grant sponsored by the Austin Parks and Recreations Department. Other park improvements included in this grant are the new signage, mutt mitts and trash and recycling receptacles you see throughout the park. GENA is paying for the pick up and installation of the seating with funds earned and donated to our Savings Fund Account (SFA) with the Austin Parks Foundation. The boulders are courtesy of PARD. Big thank yous to Sev Coursen and Kate Hainsworth for all their hard work and perseverance in getting this project organized and underway!

We hope to see you at our next meeting on **May 19th at 7:00pm**. Please check GENA.org for any updates on current zoning cases and events in the neighborhood. Enjoy the beautiful day!

Thanks for reading!

Patty

*Patty Sprinkle, GENA President
president@gena.org*

Austin's EMS Station One Gets Major Upgrade

What It Means for First Responders—and You

By Madyson Russell

Austin-Travis County EMS Station One isn't just any emergency station—it's the first *freestanding municipal EMS station in the United States*, originally built in 1982. Now, after more than 40 years of service, the station that sits at the corner of South First and South Center Streets is getting a long-overdue upgrade that will make a big difference for both medics and the community they serve.

"This is a huge step up for the personnel in general, as well as the department that is Austin EMS," said Captain Christa Stedman, Public Information Officer for Austin-Travis County EMS. "It's not just about the building—it's about creating a healthier, safer environment for the people who respond to emergencies day in and day out."

A Healthier Space for EMS Workers

The renovation includes updated dorms with *private sleeping quarters*, expanded ambulance bays, a modern kitchen and day room as well as more reliable heating, cooling, and backup power.

The changes aren't just practical—they're *scientifically informed*, too.

"One of the things that came out of recent studies is redeveloping the way we alert personnel," said Stedman. "The old alerting system would just blast your ears. The newer system uses a *gradual volume increase and soft lighting*, which significantly reduces cortisol spikes and supports long-term cardiovascular health."

EMS personnel had been working from a *cramped trailer* on the property during construction, so the new space will be a welcome change. With room to house two *ambulances and a commander*, plus potential future resources like an advanced life support (ALS) squad, the station is better equipped to respond quickly and efficiently to neighborhood emergencies.



New EMS station design at 3616 S 1st St

A Win for the Community

Upgraded EMS stations aren't just about comfort for medics—they're also about *faster, more reliable* emergency response for residents.

"When you call 9-1-1, you want the quickest response time that you can get," said Stedman. "Having an ambulance in your neighborhood is ideal."

The Austin-Travis County EMS is also invested in *community education*. The department will continue to offer free classes like CPR, Stop the Bleed, and Breathe Now (overdose response and Narcan training). Interested residents can sign up for public sessions or request a class for a group—details are available on the EMS website and social media.

A Look to the Future

In a thoughtful nod to its history and future, the team created a *time capsule* during the renovation, filled with letters from EMS staff and department leadership. The capsule is slated to be opened in 2051, on the agency's 75th anniversary.

A *grand reopening ceremony* is planned in the coming months—open to the public and family-friendly, with activities and a formal ribbon cutting. "The community is absolutely invited," said Stedman. "We'll post all the details on our social media once the date is set."

So whether you're a longtime Galindo neighbor or new to South Austin, keep an eye out—EMS Station One is back, better than ever, and ready to serve.



BEFORE: Former EMS station bay

Is there someone or someplace you would like to spotlight in Galindo? Reach out to us at newsletter@gena.org.

Fire Safety – How to Protect Yourself and Your Home!

By Heather Nelson

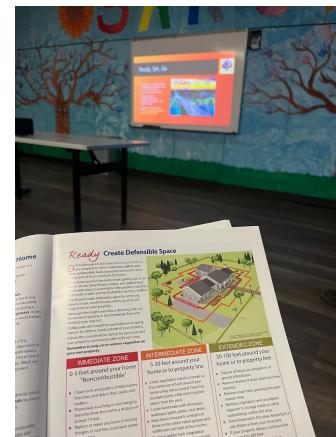
Austin has greatly expanded the zones in its latest update to the wildfire map, with over 51% of habitable land now considered at risk.

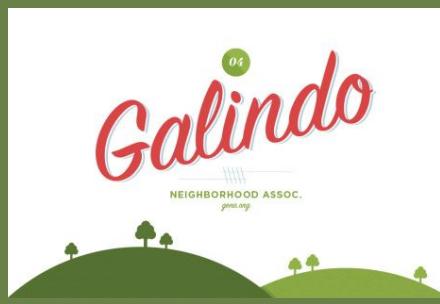
To help homeowners know what to do, Lt. Chris Dibrell gave a presentation on fire safety at our neighborhood meeting in March.

We learned a lot about how wildfires spread and practical steps anyone can take to reduce their personal risk. For example, did you know that embers can travel *several miles*, so even homes outside of the risk zones can still be susceptible? And that having foliage near your home—particularly oily plants like *rosemary*—increases this risk?

So, *what to do?* If you want personalized recommendations, you can sign up for a **FREE** home assessment through the **SIZE** (Structure Ignition Zone Evaluation) program by calling 311.

All information shared at the meeting, and more, is available online at: atxwildfirehub.com.





Meetings

General Member Meetings are open to the public and held every other month at **South Austin Recreation Center**, 1100 Cumberland Rd.

Dues are \$20 per household per calendar year to be a voting Member. You do not need to be a voting member to attend.

Upcoming Meetings:

- May 19, 2025
- July 28, 2025

GENA Officers (2025)

Board

President: Patty Sprinkle
Vice-President: Marshall Davis
Secretary: Paul Dietz
Treasurer: Lori Perry
Communications: Heather Nelson
South Central Coalition:
Lisa McGiffert
Zoning: Ryan McCarthy

Committees

Parks: Sev Coursen
Communications: Madyson Russell

Contact

Let's get in touch! To share input, ideas, or feedback:
W: www.gena.org
E: newsletter@gena.org
A: PO Box 41232 Austin TX 78704



Scan the QR code to join the neighborhood Facebook group!

www.gena.org

T.C. Broadnax visits South Austin Rec Center

By Paul Dietz

T.C. Broadnax, Austin's new City Manager, held one of five city-wide meetings at the South Austin Recreation Center on March 5 to explain to residents how the City budget is created and answer questions.

Next year's budget starts in October. T.C. stressed that the budget's focus is to improve public safety throughout Austin. The funding of other services is under review, which means they will look for opportunities to improve the efficiency of existing services and consider new services that are brought to their attention. The main questions centered on the areas of climate change, historic preservation, safety, and affordable housing.



A copy of his presentation can be found at austintexas.gov/budget.

Other News Highlights

- **The Enclave**, a new townhouse development located at S. 5th and Cumberland, has sold 13 of 17 units and will begin the process of board of director control to its homeowners this summer.
- The **Amplify Austin fundraiser** for **South Austin Neighborhood Park** raised a total of \$2138.58! Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions to improve our park!
- **Gillis Park pool** fully reopens this summer! The first day of swimming is June 9th.

Renew or Start Your Membership Today!

Membership in GENA is open to all residents within the Galindo Elementary Neighborhood boundaries for \$20 per household per calendar year.

We can't do it without your support! We rely entirely on member dues to fund essential operational costs such as our website, PO Box, newsletter and signage, and more.

You may join on our website at gena.org. Alternatively you may bring cash or check to a GENA meeting, or mail a check to PO Box 41232 Austin TX 78704. Questions may be directed to treasurer@gena.org.

Let's Stay in Touch

Do you want to stay up to date on what's happening in the neighborhood? We keep neighbors updated through our website at **gena.org**, our Facebook group (see left), and our **e-mail list** (send an e-mail to newsletter@gena.org to be added or subscribe at gena.org).

See You in the Neighborhood!