

Texan Residents Celebrate Annual Fall Festival

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist



Shametra Renee

Saturday, November 4, 2017, the East Austin Neighborhood Association of McKinley Heights, Clifford Sanchez and Homewood Heights held their Third Annual Fall Festival. Moreover, the Fall Fest is an opportunity for the three Neighborhood Associations to promote unity in the community. According to the organizers, "As a community we are supporting the Capital Area Food Bank, and making an effort to stop hunger. We can share the history of our neighborhood, enjoy good food and listen to some music in addition to supporting a great cause."

Moreover, this event was very family friendly and community oriented. Not only did it serve as a method of giving back to the community but, also as an aspect of unity among neighbors and the rest of the Central Texas community. According to the organizers, "It's a fact that East Austin is rapidly growing and changing. Get a chance to meet your neighbors at The East Austin Community Festival."

At this event, the attendees were from the neighborhood but, some came from other parts of the city. There were numerous vendors at this event that showcased various types of services and products. In addition, there were numerous performers at this event. Some of the performers included the following: Dani; South Austin Church Worship & Arts Ministry; The Woolly Vicars; Savannah Red; Ccycsta and Morgan Nicole.

Mike G. Lewis For Travis County Democratic Party Chair

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Now that the present Travis County Democratic Party Chairman has announced plans to step down, many have expressed their desire to run for the open seat. In the past month, a potential front runner of the job decided to withdraw his candidacy. Consequently, Michael Gregory Lewis has announced his decision to run for the TCDP Chair.

Mr. Lewis is also running on various issues and beliefs. Mr. Lewis, he plans to maximize various fundraising activities for the party. According to Mr. Lewis, "I will use the 24 month term to maximize small dollar fundraising events in each of the twenty plus cities and municipalities of Travis County. Working class people must be brought into their party."



Pictured left to right: Ntumngia, Osas and Travis County Democrat Party Chair Candidate Michael Gregory Lewis. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

These BBQs and picnics will be \$15/plate, open to the community in public parks, and will have speakers on important issues. Meanwhile, we will heavily promote sustaining donors to the County at \$10/month+ to help stabilize the budget."

Mr. Lewis who is currently a precinct chair in South Travis County just recently decided to run for the TCDP chair. Mr. Lewis decided to run because he wants to bring an "activism" aspect to the TCDP. According to Mr. Lewis "I would be highly engaged with

these committees, facilitating democracy, and ensuring the CEC has a clear understanding of the rules and processes of meetings adhering to Robert's Rules of Order, Travis County Democratic Party Bylaws, and the rules of the Texas Democratic Party."

Susanna Woody Runs for Travis County Commissioner Court Precinct II



Susanna Woody and Châu Lan Ngô

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

It's official! Susanna Woody has expressed in-

terest in the Travis County Commissioner Court Precinct 4 election. Mrs. Woody will be challenging Margaret Gomez for this seat. At first there were

rumors in which Ms. Gomez was not going to seek re-election. However, it was not the case. Moreover, Mrs. Woody is running on numerous issues

and beliefs. For instance, one of her issues is to increase of hospital and clinics in South East Austin. According to Mrs. Woody, "South East Austin need the same access to county services as our neighbors out west enjoy. We pay our Central Health taxes just like everyone else, yet we have no services or clinics to show for it."

In addition, it is not Mrs. Woody first run in Travis County. She has served was elected in 2011 to the Del Valle School Board. As a school board member, she helped pass a school budget; establish school guideline and advocate for her community. In addition, she has been endorsed by numerous leaders in Central Texas.

First Female African American CWO-5 in the Information Warfare Community

by Petty Officer 3rd Class Kyle Hafer, Navy Recruiting Command

MILLINGTON, Tenn — Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) 5 Valencia Simmons-Fowler is the first African America woman to achieve the highest chief warrant officer rank in the information warfare community, November 3. The Chicago, Illinois native started her Navy career at Recruit Training Command Orlando, Florida in March 1988. From there she attended Cryptologic Technician Collection (CTR) "A" School where she achieved the notable accomplishment of honor graduate.

As her list of successes continued, Simmons-Fowler earned the title of chief petty officer in September 2001 while serving aboard USS Bataan (LHD 5). Later, dur-

ing her tour at Naval Security Group Activity in Norfolk, Virginia she was selected for the CWO program in 2003, beginning her life as a chief warrant officer.

"This was my goal since the beginning of my career," said Simmons-Fowler. "I have always strived for the next level, the pinnacle profession, and I earned it." The historic promotion is the result of hard work and dedication that isn't achieved alone, but with the help of mentors and shipmates along the way. "None of us ever gets here alone," said Capt. Alonza Ross, the director of enlisted distribution at Navy Personal Command and mentor to Simmons-



MILLINGTON, Tenn. (Nov. 3, 2017) Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) 5 Valencia Simmons-Fowler was promoted as the first African-American CWO 5 in the information warfare community on November 3rd. The CWO rank is a technical specialist who performs duties that directly related to their previous rating. They are accessed from the chief petty officer pay grades E-7 to E-9, and must have a minimum of 14 yeas of service. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Kyle Hafer/Released)

Fowler. "It takes a lot of support from family, friends and shipmates. I certainly understand how significant this achievement is, and I knew she was capable of doing it." Inspiration follows this woman who has achieved so much. The protégés that Simmons-Fowler mentors see that they also have the opportunity to achieve just as much, if not more.

"I am extremely proud of Chief Warrant Officer 5 Simmons-Fowler," said Yeoman 2nd Class Olivia Likely, a protégé of Simmons-Fowler. "Women are pillars of strength and support. To see Chief Warrant Officer 5 Simmons-Fowler achieve this extraordinary goal, I know I have confidence and a voice, to know that not only can I conquer my goals, I can shoot far beyond that."

The newly appointed CWO 5 explains that being a chief warrant officer in the U.S. Navy requires a person to be more than just skillful in their field. In the U.S. Navy, the chief warrant officer rank is a technical specialist who performs duties that are directly related to their previous enlisted rating. They are accessed from the chief petty officer pay grades E-7 through E-9, and must have a minimum of 14 years of service.

"With every successful leader there is always a great team of Sailors that are hard-working, hard-charging and dedicated to completing the mission," said Simmons-Fowler. "Those are the people doing the work to make sure we succeed as a team. To those people, I'd like (say) thank you from the bottom of my heart."