

# SLNA Sentinel

Publication of the South Lamar Neighborhood Association

April 2008, Volume 2, Issue 4

[www.southlamar.org](http://www.southlamar.org)

## *From the Prez.*

Well I guess spring is about sprung! SXSW is over, spring break and Easter are over. We are back in the swing of daylight savings time, too.

Must be time to get a garden planted. Whether for ornamentals or vegetables, gardening is great exercise and a nice way to spend the spring days. Look elsewhere in this issue for info about a garden tour that features the yard of our neighbor Link Davidson on Doolin Drive.

Also, this issue is the first for our new volunteer editor Krista Umscheid. (Thank you Krista!) Be sure and give her feedback on the kinds of things you'd like to see in your newsletter.

And I'd like to thank the anonymous neighbor who rescued some lost items from the street (uh, well someone who lives at my house apparently placed them on the roof of the car while rearranging things on the front seat – and left them there....). The items happened to be some foreign language CDs – one set from the library and one set that I owned. Someone found the fallen cases, placed them on a parked car, then someone else (apparently) turned them in to the police. The officer took the library materials to the library, the librarian called me to let me know they had checked back in their set and the other set had gone with the officer down to the APD evidence department. By the time you read this, I will have re-acquired both sets and be back to my language studies. (and I promise to be more diligent when shuffling front seat items around.) Thanks neighbors, APD, and Austin Public Library! What a team!

See ya around the 'hood!

Nancy Maclaine

### **Next Meeting:**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17, at 7 p.m.**

**Faith Methodist Church**

**2701 S. Lamar Boulevard**

*Look for the sign directing you to the building where we used to vote.*

## **Shred Day 2008**

With the increased awareness of identity theft, it's important to dispose of personal records carefully. To help, the Association of Records Managers and Administrators and the City of Austin is sponsoring a free event Saturday, April 19, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Austin High School parking lot (1715 W. Cesar Chavez) to help individuals and families with:

- Home records management
- Recycling
- Identity theft protection

Households can bring up to five file boxes of paper records for shredding. Mobile shredding trucks from Austin Shred, a Balcones Resource Company, CenTex Shred and Iron Mountain will be on-site to shred the material.

### **Restrictions:**

- No wet material
- No plastics/binders
- No electronic media

For more information call Jannette Goodall at (512) 974-9045 or send e-mail to [Jannette.goodall@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:Jannette.goodall@ci.austin.tx.us).

## **Alert Residents Keep Construction Materials, Traffic Out Of 'Hood**

Many of you have been affected by the Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP) Staging Area on Thornton Road and also have been neighbors to some of the actual street work on Bridgeway Drive, Cinnamon Path, Kinney Avenue, and Southridge Drive. The dump trucks and front-end loaders that have been rumbling through the neighborhood have been mostly carrying aggregate materials back and forth each day from the construction sites to the staging area, as each day's excavated material has to be carted back and forth through the neighborhood.

Unknown to the South Lamar Neighborhood Association, the Thornton Road staging area began to be used by the contractor for other construction sites outside our neighborhood, and was slated to be the dumping ground for most of South Austin's street reconstruction projects until a group of concerned neighbors was able to raise enough of a stink to change the situation. Thanks to their efforts, the site will be used only until this summer, not until summer 2009 (or beyond). Thanks to the ACWP for hearing our neighborhood's concerns and doing something about it.

This is a great example of how active members of the our neighborhood association can affect change in our 'hood. Please be a part of the meetings and goings-on!

David J. Ansel

Recording Secretary

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### SLNA-KAB Committee Co-Chair

Link Davidson,..... osouthaustin@aol.com

To join the yahoo! e-list send an email to  
SouthLamarNA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

## Teenage Job Seekers

| Name      | Age | Baby<br>Sit | Pet<br>Sit | House<br>Sit | Yard<br>Work | Phone    |
|-----------|-----|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Doe, John | 15  |             |            |              |              | 111-1111 |

\*-CPR Training

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### Attention Teenagers

The **Teenage Job Seekers** listing service is offered free of charge to all South Lamar NA teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to kumscheid@austin.rr.com by the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month!

## Newsletter Information

### Editor

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Peel, Inc..... www.PEELinc.com, 512-989-8905

Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-989-8905

## SLNA Membership Statement

Membership in the Association shall be issued on the basis of residency (including renters) or residential property ownership and timely payment of dues or waiver request.

SLNA boundaries: North-Oltorf, South-Ben White, West-South Lamar/Manchaca, East-Union Pacific Railroad

Persons meeting this criteria may request a reduction in dues or a waiver when submitting the membership application.

The privilege of introducing motions and voting shall be limited to those who have joined the Association at least ten (10) days prior to any scheduled meeting. Complete bylaws and links to other useful SLNA related information are available at [www.southlamar.org](http://www.southlamar.org)

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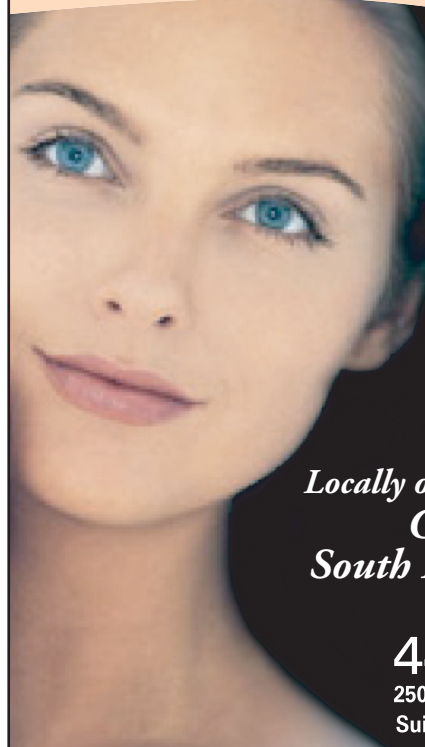
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## CLEAN SWEEP 2008

On Saturday, April 5, between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., Keep Austin Beautiful invites Austinites to join together in picking up trash all over Austin. During last year's event more than 3,400 collected more than 20 tons of litter in just a couple of hours.

Volunteers in the South Lamar Neighborhood Association (SLNA) will meet at the corner of Doolin Drive and Clawson Road at 9 a.m. to select which SLNA streets to "clean sweep." No pre-registration is necessary and all supplies, coffee, fruit and water will be provided.

After the cleanup, Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) invites all volunteers to a special Thank-You Party at Waterloo Park where volunteers will receive a free lunch and t-shirt and enjoy live music, a rock-climbing wall, environmental exhibits and other family- and environmentally friendly activities.

Learn more at [www.keeppaustinbeautiful.org/clean\\_sweep](http://www.keeppaustinbeautiful.org/clean_sweep). Volunteers can contact Wendy Brennan at [wenbrennan@aol.com](mailto:wenbrennan@aol.com) or Link Davidson at [osouthaustin@aol.com](mailto:osouthaustin@aol.com) with questions specific to the KAB campaign in the SLNA area.

## Manchaca Road Branch of the Library Reopens

On March 29, the branch library at Manchaca Road and Stassney Lane reopened after extensive remodeling and renovation that closed the library for almost two years. The project was part of the Library's Capital Improvement budget that entailed a general interior renovation, relocation of a telecommunications room, and a complete remediation of asbestos. The interior renovation includes a new entry vestibule, new carpeting and paint throughout, a complete remodeling of the public rest rooms, and a new Michael & Susan Dell Wired For Youth area. What exactly is "Wired for Youth"? Check it out at [www.wiredforyouth.com](http://www.wiredforyouth.com).

## Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the SLNA Sentinel. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all SLNA residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No neighborhood association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-989-8905 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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## SLNA General Meeting Minutes Feb. 21, 2008 • Meeting called to order 7:05 p.m.

1. Speaker Robin Bradford from Foundation Communities. Update on Skyline Terrace project in former Ramada Inn. 100 affordable housing units ranging from \$373-498/month. Tenants will begin moving in March with one-year leases. There will be 24-hour desk security and all guests will sign in. Bradford described screening criteria for tenants, criminal background checks and confirmation against credit reports. Neighbor Kim Rossmo questioned their screening criteria, indicating that it failed to exclude nearly 80 percent of all criminals. Bradford said that this is more restrictive than other projects of theirs and that they have had very good security records on other sites. She offered to host SLNA meetings at Skyline Terrace.
2. Speaker Officer Robert Barboza from Austin Police Department. Learned that he is not made aware of "criminal mischief" events in our neighborhood in his daily reports. This includes car break-ins and acts of vandalism. Neighbors were surprised by this because there have been dozens of such acts so far in 2008. Barboza asked that we make him aware of acts directly at his email address Robert.barboza@ci.austin.tx.us. However, pleas by neighbors for better enforcement were met with a "sorry about your luck"... Barboza described the fact that only 10 officers are on duty for the entire southwest command, which runs from 78704 all the way down to Circle C and Oak Hill. Barboza also recommended all residents record serial numbers and take pictures of all valuables in their homes.
3. President Nancy MacLaine brought up the yard parking opt-out option for our neighborhood. This was met with a resounding silence. No big yard parking supporters present.
4. President MacLaine presented treasurer's report for John Bissell in absentia. We have about \$4,000 in the bank + CDs. Bryan King said "Party!" but we decided to keep the money for possible use in the new park.
5. Bryan King and Carol Gibbs presented Neighborhood Planning report. Even though they have "had it up to here" with City of Austin's (COA) wanton disregard for neighborhood plans, they are soldiering on and betrayed a tiny sliver of optimism for the renewed mediation process. Fresh-faced new staffers have agreed to meet with newly formed "plan teams" that will proportionately represent neighborhood stakeholders (including owners, tenants, business owners, COA itself). Staff also agreed to send a mailer to all stakeholders to re-kickoff the neighborhood planning process.
6. Bryan King and Carol Gibbs presented Vertical Mixed Use (VMU). Our application area runs along the east side of Lamar Boulevard from Oltorf Street down to Ben White Boulevard (this includes some areas outside our neighborhood boundaries, but still included in our application area). Our zoning committee wants to be able to exclude certain properties from VMU due to shallow lots and "iconic status," particularly from Kinney Avenue to Matt's El Rancho. Planning Committee staff shot down their recommendations so they are re-working them. Discussion of valid petitions to support recommendations. There was some discussion of the plot from Oltorf Street to Kinney Avenue being developed as one large VMU project, including demolishing Office Depot.
7. ANC Report. Announcement of candidates forum at Austin Energy.
8. Better Austin Today Political Action Committee (BATPAC) announcement. Better Austin Today PAC endorsing neighborhood positions and making recommendations for council candidates.
9. President MacLaine politely stepped down as Acting SLNA Sentinel editor. Vice President Umscheid volunteered to take the reins.
10. Revisitation of crime conversation. Neighbor Kim Rossmo suggested collecting crime data via SLNA and write a letter to Police Chief with requests to include "criminal mischief" on daily police reports and other neighborhood concerns. Rossmo offered to accumulate data on behalf of SLNA.

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## Inside Austin Gardens 2008 features neighborhood property

The Travis County Master Gardeners' Association will host its annual garden tour Saturday, April 19, focusing on the fundamentals of sustainable gardening. Providing visitors with an array of practical information and applications, the "sustainable" theme will demonstrate what the average Austin homeowner might do with a typical yard.

The tour consists of six private gardens and one public venue, each designed and landscaped by the gardener as livable, sustainable sites. The private gardens are owned and maintained by the homeowners themselves. Backyard havens feature paths, raised beds, vegetable and flower combinations, fruit and nut trees, ferns, vines and garden art, and far less water-thirsty grasses. Three of the gardens are certified wildlife habitats and two are Green Garden designated sites.

Of particular interest this year to South Lamar Neighborhood Association (SLNA) members is the inclusion of Link Davidson's garden. Link co-chairs the SLNA-Keep Austin Beautiful Committee. His yard features a collection of junk-art pieces created from a variety of found items, some simply repurposed or refined. Native and adapted plants frame the garden.

Experts and Master Gardeners will be on hand at each address to provide information on how to:

- Select proper plants for soil conditions
- Reduce mowing areas and increase minimal maintenance greenscapes
- Save money by using less fertilizer and chemicals

Free educational talks and handouts on various topics will give visitors the opportunity to take away something that they will be able to use in their own spaces. For those wanting the more tangible, plants also will be available for purchase.

Inside Austin Gardens 2008

April 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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## Fire Ant Mound Treatments

Fire ant mounds pop up in warmer weather and immediately following rains. And as our weather becomes even warmer, the ants become more active and noticeable. With varying temperatures, it's important to choose the treatment method wisely.

Fire ant bait may not be best during cooler weather. Fire ants pick up bait as food, but during cooler weather, fire ants usually do not actively forage for food. To check if fire ants are foraging for food, place a piece of meat, a potato chip or some peanut butter near a mound. After 15 to 30 minutes, check to see if the ants are taking it back to the mound. If they are picking up the food, then bait can be applied. If the ants are not picking up the food, you may need to try a different treatment method.

Granular products with ingredients like bifenthrin or fipronil work well when applied in late March or April. These products are applied with a spreader and then watered into the soil. Later, when fire ants work the soil to build their mounds, they come into contact with the chemical and die. These products can provide up to a year of control, although you may need to spot treat individual mounds.

Individual mound treatments with liquid drenches, dusts or granular products can be used at any time of year when you see fire ant mounds. Many of these products require water to carry the pesticide down into the mound where the fire ants live. If you don't use the proper amount of water, you may not completely kill the mound so follow the instructions before treating mounds.

## Time to get those gardens planted!

Are you thinking of planting a garden? Mel Bartholomew, author of Square Foot Gardening, recommends – actually insists on – raised beds. Here is his recipe for soil mix:

1/3 coarse vermiculite

1/3 peat moss

1/3 blended compost

It is especially important to use blended compost – that is, if you purchase your compost commercially (rather than create it yourself in your composter). You need to mix multiple brands together because all commercial compost is a byproduct of some single industry (wood, cattle, mushroom, etc.). Therefore, they have too much single-source material (like sawdust or manure, for example). So the solution is to buy many brands and mix them.

### Classified Ads

**Personal classifieds** (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to SLNA residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail [kumscheid@austin.rr.com](mailto:kumscheid@austin.rr.com).

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-989-8905 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).



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| \$125,000 and Above  | <b>3.04%</b> <sup>****</sup> | 36 mo.            | 4.22% |                 | 4.29% |
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# Recipe of the Month:



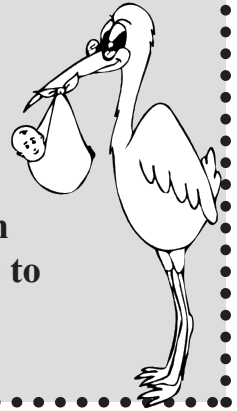
## Smothered Pork Chops

- 6 pork chops (sliced thick)
- 1 - 4 oz. can sliced mushrooms
- 1 envelope Lipton onion soup mix
- 4 medium potatoes, thinly sliced
- 1 C water

Brown pork chops. In buttered baking dish, place pork chops, potatoes, and mushrooms. Combine water and onion soup mix. Pour over pork chops. Cover with foil, and bake in 325° oven for about 1 hour.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe to the SLNA Sentinel email it to [kumscheid@austin.rr.com](mailto:kumscheid@austin.rr.com).*

## Stork Report South Lamar



Submit your information on the arrival of your little one to [kumscheid@austin.rr.com](mailto:kumscheid@austin.rr.com).

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