

# SLNA Sentinel

Publication of the South Lamar Neighborhood Association

June 2008, Volume 2, Issue 6

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

## *From the Prez*

I'd like to start right out with an apology. Last month's issue had an article briefly describing multiple development projects in the neighborhood, updating us on their current status. Item No. 7 had a factual error in it. When I wrote that article, I was a little lazy and relied on my memory. I should have stated the requested zoning change request is to MF-2 – which is much less dense than the zoning I alleged (MF-6). I should have checked my facts. I apologize to the readers. (The property is on Clawson Road – three lots around 3706 Clawson Road – currently zoned SF-3 (Single Family). The owners would like to combine the three lots into a single lot zoned MF-2 (Multiple Family Residence).

Remember that we are in mandatory watering restrictions since May 1, continuing until Sept. 30. If you live in a single-family home (including duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes), watering days are determined by street address (not zip code): Odd-numbered addresses: Wednesday and/or Saturday. Even-numbered addresses: Thursday and/or Sunday. For more details on allowed hours, depending upon watering method, see the City of Austin Web site at [www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/schedulefaq.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/schedulefaq.htm).

Finally, don't forget to vote in the Austin City Council Place 4 run-off election. Early voting is from May 28 until June 10, with election day on June 14.

See ya around the 'hood!

Nancy Maclaine

## **Next Meeting:**

Thursday, June 19, at 7 p.m.  
Skyline Terrace (former Ramada Inn)  
at the corner of Bannister Lane  
and West Ben White Boulevard

## **Austin Drinking Water Ranks Among Nation's Best**

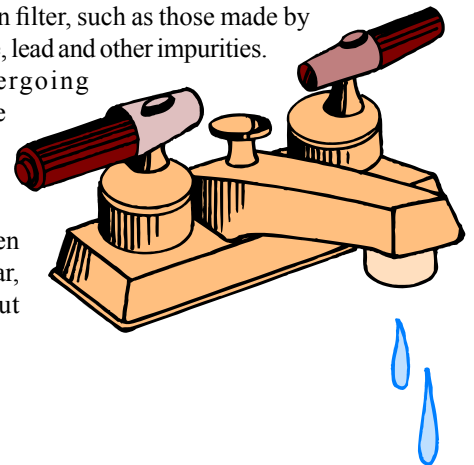
A national survey ranked Austin No. 2 in "Best Cities for Clean Drinking Water." Forbes.com found that the metropolitan statistical areas with some of the cleanest water on tap include Des Moines, Iowa; Austin, Texas; and Sioux Falls, S.D. Other cities with sparkling clean water include Miami, Fla., and Birmingham, Ala. The report says that while drinking water supplies across much of the United States meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water standards, contaminant concentrations vary from city to city.

Forbes.com used data supplied by community water systems that was compiled by University of Cincinnati researchers. Des Moines, Iowa, was the top-rated city. The report covers 77 metropolitan statistical areas – about 62 percent of the population in the contiguous United States. Forbes.com's rankings are based on levels of the cloudiness of water or turbidity, bacteria, haloacetic acids – a byproduct of drinking water disinfection – and lead.

The survey by Forbes.com also noted that Austin "has a lot going for it, including clean drinking water. The Austin-San Marcos region was among the top 10 metropolitan statistical areas for lowest levels of lead, turbidity and haloacetic acid."

The study also suggests that if you are worried about what's in your tap water, a carbon filter, such as those made by Brita, can remove chlorine, lead and other impurities.

Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, people who are HIV positive, those recovering from a major surgery as well as pregnant women, children and the elderly, in particular, need to be careful about what they drink.



***Don't want to wait for the mail?***

**View the current issue of the SLNA Sentinel Newsletter  
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To join the yahoo! e-list send an email to  
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## Skyline Terrace Grand Opening

Our new neighbor, Skyline Terrace, is hosting a grand opening Wednesday, June 25, from 10 a.m. until noon at 1212 W. Ben White Blvd. (formerly the Ramada Inn). Skyline Terrace is a community of 100 efficiency apartments for individuals with annual incomes of \$24,900 or less. Developed and owned by Foundation Communities, a local nonprofit organization, Skyline Terrace offers residents community meeting spaces, a relaxing courtyard and services to promote self-sufficiency. Residents began moving in this past April. To R.S.V.P., contact Chris Alberts at (512) 447-2026, Ext. 41, or send e-mail to christopher.alberts@foundcom.org.

Rents range from \$373 to \$498, with lower rents for residents in the Passages program. Passages will serve 15 formerly homeless persons. Clients and case workers work intensively to achieve financial independence and permanent stable housing. Passages is

(Continued on Page 5)

## Newsletter Information

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## 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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## Want to Know the Current Air Quality?

For information on Travis County's air quality, go to [www.stateoftheair.org](http://www.stateoftheair.org). The site also provides the current state of air quality on any day by zip code. The Web site also includes information on key findings, polluted cities, cleanest cities, pollution basics, health risks and tips for protecting yourself.

## Austin Police Offer Monthly Neighborhood Watch Training

District representatives of the Austin Police Department's South West Area Command host Neighborhood Watch training programs monthly on Tuesdays. Currently, training programs are scheduled for June 10, July 8 and Aug. 12. Training programs take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Clinton Hunter Substation, 404 Ralph Ablanado, (between Congress Avenue and South First Street, one block north of Slaughter Lane). For more information, call Sally Becerra at (512) 974-5903.



## It's Not Too Late for Kids to Enjoy Summer Camp

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department offers free, minimal-cost and fee-based summer programs for children 3 to 18 years of age. These programs are offered at our facilities, golf courses, pools, tennis courts and parks. Here are some examples:

- Summer Playground Program: a FREE summer playground program for children 6 to 12 years old.
- As part of the summer programs, the department also sponsors the Summer Food Service Program. This program provides lunch to children ages 1 to 18 years old at various locations throughout Austin. The U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Texas Department of Human Services funds the Summer Food Service Program.
- Summer Day Camp Programs: each of the 17 recreation centers, the Dougherty Arts Center and the Austin Nature Center offer fee-based day camps for children ages 3 to 16. Registration dates vary from site to site, as well as fees and activity schedules. Contact the site closest to your home or office for more information.
- National Junior Tennis League(NJTL): this program is Austin's most comprehensive grass-roots program for the development of young tennis players ages 7 to 18.
- Junior Golf Academy, Clinics and Tournaments: a high-quality golf instruction program recommended for

the young and the newcomer to the game.

- Swimming Lessons, Diving Lessons and Swim Team Program: lessons are designed in progressive levels and are taught in two-week time frames per session. The Swim Team program is a recreational program for children 5 to 17 years of age.
- There is even a water quality summer camp where parents, scout leaders and other supervising adults have the chance to join their 9 through 12-year-olds in exploring Austin's creeks and aquifers. Camps are June 16-20; July 7-10 and July 21-24. For more information, look online at [www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/clean\\_creek\\_camp.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/clean_creek_camp.htm) or call Susan Wall at 974-6571. A \$20 per family refundable deposit is required. Also, a Hydrofiles Camp for teens, 15 to 19, will be offered during June. Outdoorsy teens experience the life of a watershed scientist by studying creek life, caving through the Edwards Aquifer and swimming in Barton Springs. Campers must arrange for their own transportation to a different nature site each day. The camp will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 9-12. Call 974-3540 or check [www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/hydro\\_camp.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/hydro_camp.htm). A \$25 refundable deposit is required.

For a list of Austin-area camps, go to [www.statesman.com/life/content/life/travel/camps.html](http://www.statesman.com/life/content/life/travel/camps.html).

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## South Lamar Neighborhood Association (SLNA) General Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2008

This meeting was held at the Faith United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order by SLNA President Nancy MacLaine at 7:08 p.m. All South Lamar Neighborhood Association officers were present except for the secretary, David Ansel.

1) John Bissell presented the Treasurer's report:

Checking Account Balance: \$1,039.17

Undeposited: \$0.00

Savings Account Balance: \$1,249.23

Two CDs Balance: \$2,254.19

Total Funds: \$4,542.59

Membership as of April 15, 2008: 32

Membership at end of 2007: 63

2) The South West Area Command of the Austin Police Department will hold its Commander's Forum on April 29, 2008, from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at APD Clinton Hunter Substation, 404 Ralph Ablandado Drive, in far South Austin (just north of Slaughter Lane). We need a representative from SLNA to start attending these periodic meetings. Please contact Nancy MacLaine at [nmaclaine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nmaclaine@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to volunteer.

3) Carol Gibbs and Bryan King discussed our latest input on vertical mixed use (VMU). City of Austin staff prepared some 3D models for us showing what a VMU project on Lamar Boulevard between

Kinney Road and Del Curto Road might look like. Bryan had the simulations and we were able to view what such structures might look like to residents on Iva Lane. Some of these views can be seen in the "South Lamar Tract 4 Scene" PDF files at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthLamarNA/files/VMU%20Overlay/>.

A petition of the nearby neighbors objecting to the VMU zoning between Kinney Road and Del Curto Road has been presented to the City. However, there is now a question as to whether this is in fact a rezoning and whether nearby property owners can present a petition. We are still waiting to hear from City staff on this issue.

The VMU determination for SLNA is scheduled to be heard by the Austin City Council on April 24.

4) Bryan King updated us on our Neighborhood Planning project. As many of you will recall, SLNA, along with the four other neighborhoods in the South Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning (SLCNP) area, worked on Neighborhood Planning for more than a year before reaching an impasse with City staff. At the end of more than a year of facilitated meetings between the SLCNP neighborhoods, negotiations with City staff over their role in the Neighborhood Planning process broke down.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

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## Meeting - (Continued from Page 4)

Bryan presented the following motion for wording to be given to Sandra Kirk in the Neighborhood Planning Division:

"SLNA respectfully requests that the SLCNP not move forward at this time. We further request that the Neighborhood Planning process be put on hold until such time that city and Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department staff are more receptive to a process that further advances the neighborhood's personal vision for itself."

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

5) Now that construction is imminent on our new park on the former Unity Church property on Del Curto Road, we need a committee to help set the direction for the park and to work with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. One of the first tasks will be naming the park. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy MacLaine at [nmaclaine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nmaclaine@sbcglobal.net).

6) Kim Rossmo has started to collect data on "criminal mischief" types of crimes being committed in the neighborhood. Preliminary data from neighbors who have e-mailed him with information on these types of crimes as well as what he has gleaned from the Austin Police Department indicates a lot of these property crimes along Bridgeway Drive. Kim will have a full report ready for the June 19 SLNA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

John Bissell for David Ansel

## Skyline Terrace - (Continued from Page 2)

a collaboration of the Housing Authority of the City of Austin, the Salvation Army and Foundation Communities.

You can help welcome new residents home. Some residents will be moving in with just their personal belongings. They will need some basic items for their new apartments, but may not have the resources to obtain them. Here are two ways you can help:

- Welcome home baskets -- fill a basket with new things to start a home, including: twin sheets and pillows, bath towels, shower curtain and rings, toilet paper, plate and cup, cooking and eating utensils, pasta colander, kitchen towels, waste basket, laundry basket, cleaning supplies, items for stovetop and microwave cooking.
- Or make a gift of \$50 or more and Skyline Terrace staff will shop for you.

For more information about Skyline Terrace and other Foundation Communities projects, go to [www.foundcom.org](http://www.foundcom.org).

## 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).

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## Project Lifesaver

*Submitted by Andrea Buckley, Travis County Sheriff's Office*

An international program designed for finding lost senior adults is now available in Travis County.

The new program, Project Lifesaver: Travis County, is only open to senior adults with Alzheimer's disease or dementia and who still live at home with a full-time caregiver in Travis County. At this time, there is no charge to participate.

Wandering is a serious danger for those individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and other related illnesses. Project Lifesaver: Travis County is a partnership between their caregivers and law enforcement with the goal of locating them quickly.

The Project Lifesaver: Travis County client wears a radio transmitter on a wristband, which assists law enforcement in the event they wander and become lost or disoriented.



Caregivers of Project Lifesaver: Travis County clients register their loved ones for the program and must check the battery in the wristband daily. Once a month, a trained Project Lifesaver: Travis County representative will visit the home to replace the battery.

Although the Travis County Sheriff's Office is facilitating the initiative, it is not possible without valuable community support

of local organizations.

A coalition of senior adult organizations will help educate the public about the danger of wandering in adults with these disorders and refer clients to the program.

Project Lifesaver: Travis County is completely funded by private donations. The St. David's Community Health Foundation provided initial funding for Project Lifesaver: Travis County, which is supplemented by individual donations. All financial contributions to Project Lifesaver: Travis County are deposited into a special project fund that is administered by the Austin Community Foundation.

For more information about the program, please visit [www.tcsheff.org/projectlifesaver](http://www.tcsheff.org/projectlifesaver) or call Andrea Buckley at 512.854.4384.

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# REMEMBER FATHER

June 18

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