

SLNA Sentinel

Publication of the South Lamar Neighborhood Association

December 2008, Volume 2, Issue 12

www.southlamar.org

Neighborhood Association Sponsored

HOLIDAY MIXER

Sunday, December 7 - Noon

This year, our annual South Lamar Neighborhood Association holiday party will follow our neighborhood cleanup on Dec. 7. The day offers opportunities to participate in a cleanup, get together for a fun mixer, or both. The holiday party will take place starting around noon on the grounds of the former Unity Church (2806 Del Curto Road). So even if you can't make the cleanup, try to make time to stop by and enjoy an SLNA-sponsored party complete with hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, beverages, and all the sides and supplies. It will be a great chance for you to meet your neighbors, make new friends, and find out from your neighborhood association officers about anything you want to know that's going on in our neighborhood. If you are interested in participating in the neighborhood cleanup, please see the announcement about it also published in this newsletter.

Krista Umscheid-Ramirez

SLNA Vice President and Newsletter Editor

Call For Advertising Support

In addition to helping us reduce newsletter production costs by opting to receive an electronic newsletter, we also need support in the way of advertising to continue providing the newsletter in any format. So we ask that you help spread the word to nearby businesses that could help support our neighborhood newsletter through advertisements. Rates start at \$50 before any discounts that are applied for taking out recurring advertisements in groups of three, six or 12. For a list of newsletter advertising rates, look online at www.peelinc.com/advertising.php#rates. You can refer anyone interested in advertising to Peel, Inc., at 1-888-687-6444 or send e-mail to sales@peelinc.com. If anyone is interested in being a contract sale representative, call or send e-mail to Peel, Inc.

Newsletter E-mail Option

The neighborhood association is looking for ways to continue providing the South Lamar Neighborhood Association Sentinel, and in today's economy, that includes keeping production costs as low as possible. Much of the newsletter cost can be attributed to mailing the printed newsletter, so we encourage residents to help us save money by opting to "go green" and receive an electronic version of the newsletter by e-mail that looks identical to the printed one you currently receive. To sign up for an electronic version of our newsletter, go to www.peelinc.com/newsletterSubscriptions.php.

RECYCLING

Compact fluorescent bulbs Replacing your regular light bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFLs) can save you at least \$30 per bulb over a CFL's life, according to Consumer Reports. And the newest bulbs are even better. However, questions still persist over the differences and advantages between ordinary light bulbs and CFLs. Here are a few comparisons.

Recycling CFLs. Don't throw out used CFLs with your regular trash. Home Depot, Ikea, and some Ace and True Value stores accept unbroken CFLs no matter where you bought them. Wal-Mart is reportedly looking into a recycling program, but does not currently have one. You also can go www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/disposal_a.htm for Austin Solid Waste Services' "How Do I Dispose Of" Directory of resources for drop-off locations throughout the city.

Cost. The cost of CFLs has gone down significantly over the years. Today, CFLs cost less than \$2. Some last five to 10 times as long as regular bulbs based on consumer tests, and Energy Star versions of the bulbs use as much as 75 percent less power. CFLs also have warranties that last up to nine years. To ensure you can use that warranty, if necessary, write the purchase date on the bulb in indelible ink and save your receipt.

Lighting differences. Previously, CFLs were thought to give off a blue-tinted light. However, many light like regular bulbs. The ones with a 2,700 to 3,000 Kelvin (K) number have a warmer, yellow color, while those with 3,500 K to 6,500 K produce a bluer or whiter light. Energy Star CFLs must include the Kelvin number on the package as of December. CFLs labeled "soft" or "warm" white will give you light like an incandescent, and "bright white," "natural," or "daylight" will emit a whiter light. Also, earlier CFLs used to flicker when they first lighted. Today, the new CFLs use faster, electronic ballasts instead of the previous magnetic ones. Many people believe

(Continued on Page 3)

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Teenage Job Seekers

Name	Age	Baby Sitter	Pet Sit	House Sit	Yard 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 9th of the month!

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

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Keep Austin Beautiful Cleanup and Post-Cleanup Party Sunday, December 7, 10 a.m.

Join your neighbors as we gather once again to clean up the neighborhood. We'll meet at the grounds of the former Unity Church at 2806 Del Curto Road on Dec. 7, at 10 a.m. (please note the new start time). From there, we will fan out to rid our streets of the debris left us by our passers-through. There's a lot out there, so we will need as many participants as we can get. We need you!

Keep Austin Beautiful will supply everything you will need: garbage bags, pick-up sticks, surgical gloves, and the like. The South Lamar Neighborhood Association also will make sure you have a snack and some water or coffee.

At about noon, we will return to our original starting point to enjoy an SLNA-sponsored party, complete with hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, beverages, and all the sides and supplies. It will be a great chance for you to meet your neighbors and make new friends. You'll be glad you came, unless you don't come, in which case you will regret missing the fun and -- let's be honest -- the latest neighborhood gossip.

Please RSVP your participation to Link Davidson by sending e-mail to osouthaustin@aol.com or by calling 326-2379. Don't postpone. We'll even follow up with a friendly reminder phone call, if you so choose.

Come. Participate. You'll be glad you did.

Link Davidson

2009 Austin Calendar Benefits Keep Austin Beautiful

Keep Austin Beautiful's 2009 calendar includes more than 250 Austin festivals, events and activities. The \$15 calendar features pictures of classic Austin places and events, and benefits the nonprofit KAB organization. The calendar can be purchased online or in some local stores. For more information, go to www.keeptoaustinbeautiful.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.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

At no time will any source be allowed to use the SLNA Sentinel contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from the South Lamar Neighborhood Association and Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of South Lamar Neighborhood Association residents only.

Recycling - (Continued from Cover Page)

these CFL bulbs need time to turn on. In reality, turn-on is now nearly instantaneous. Most CFLs may take about 30 seconds to reach 80 percent of their brightness, and some flood and outdoor lights may take closer to two minutes. That brightening time may make some of the bulbs less than ideal for places like closets or stairways.

Chemical concerns. Each CFL bulb contains a tiny fraction of the mercury in a traditional thermometer. Additionally, Energy Star CFLs will soon have strict limits. Compact fluorescent light bulbs do not release mercury as they burn – the mercury is sealed inside the glass tubing. However, exposure to broken CFLs can be a health risk, especially if handled by women who are pregnant or young children. If you are exposed to a broken CFL, don't panic. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that you open a window, turn off central air conditioning or forced-air heating, and clear the room for at least 15 minutes. After that, follow the EPA's cleanup guide at www.epa.gov/mercury/spills. To prevent any anxiety, be sure to keep CFLs out of lamps that could easily tip, especially in rooms used often by children or women who are pregnant. When CFLs burn out, they typically flicker, dim, or produce a reddish-orange glow. If one smokes or smolders, turn off power to the light, let the bulb cool before removing it, and then take it to a retailer or recycler.

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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 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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Agency Web Site Helps Find Computer Recycling Locations

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has a new statewide Web site for computer equipment recycling. Because computers and related equipment are a rapidly growing source of waste in Texas and the nation, the Web site offers Texans a simple way to find recycling options offered by their computer manufacturers.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 53 million computers became obsolete last year, along with 35 million monitors and 82 million keyboards and mice. During its last regular session the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2714, which requires computer manufacturers that sell in Texas to offer consumers convenient and free recycling of their equipment.

So please pass the word along to everyone who has a computer or handles the purchasing or disposal of computers in their workplace or school.

For more information, go to
www.texasrecyclescomputers.org.



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PREVIEW EVENT
JANUARY 20 . 12:00PM & 6:00PM

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SLNA General Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2008

This meeting was held at the Skyline Terrace. The meeting was called to order by South Lamar (SLNA) Neighborhood Association President Nancy Maclaine at 7:07 p.m. SLNA officers present: Maclaine, Carol Gibbs, Krista Umscheid, John Bissell.

1) Bissell presented the Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance: \$941.74

Undeposited: \$ 0.00

Savings Account Balance: \$1,262.35

Two CDs Balance: \$2,280.97

Total Funds: \$4,485.06

Membership as of Aug. 21, 2008: 36

Membership at end of 2007: 63

2) SLNA officer elections were held. The slate was as follows: Nancy Maclaine unopposed for President. Krista Umscheid unopposed for Vice-President. David Ansel unopposed for Secretary. Sally Merritt unopposed for Treasurer. Carol Gibbs unopposed for ANC representative. The slate was unanimously elected. Carol Gibbs delivered her annual "we need new blood" speech and threatened that the neighborhood association was in danger of folding for a lack of neighborhood participation.

3) Alyssa Schramm, our neighborhood's community liaison from CapMetro, presented details on major CapMetro projects. Metrorail will run 32 miles through nine stations and begin service March 30, and function during commuter hours only. Metrorapid, another upcoming project, has express super-size buses that can communicate with traffic lights to make them 25 percent faster. There was some discussion of bus stops serving the neighborhood on South Lamar Boulevard and we asked about moving the southbound stop closer to the light at Bluebonnet Lane.

4) Discussion of Proposition 2, the "End Domain Subsidies" vs. "Keep Austin's Word" battle. Brian Rogers presented a video in support of his proposition. Carl, from Austin City Councilman Brewster McCracken's office described the dangers of passing Prop 2.

5) We discussed the future of the Sentinel (neighborhood newsletter), which is in danger of being cancelled by the printer for lack of advertising revenues. We discussed going to an all-e-mail version should that case arise.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

- David Ansel

National Road User Study

Currently, the United States Congress is funding a national road user study.

Austin is one of six areas in the country to field test an alternative way to help pay for roads and bridges. There is financial reimbursement for study participants; however, the study is not commercial. Participants are compensated for participating in the study, which includes driving like they normally would, for a period of eight months. Currently, the gasoline tax (about 40 cents per gallon) helps fund the building and maintenance of America's roads and bridges. After 70 years, the gas tax is not meeting the increasing needs. This study is evaluating an approach based on the actual use of the roads and could eventually replace the gas tax. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation and is designed and conducted by the Public Policy Center at the University of Iowa.

To participate in the study, you must:

- * Have a valid driver's license
- * Be 18 years of age or older
- * Be a U.S. citizen
- * Own a personal automobile
- * Provide proof of vehicle registration
- * Provide proof of current insurance
- * Live in one of the selected field test sites:

o San Diego, CA

o Austin, TX

o Baltimore, MD

o Research Triangle in North Carolina including

Durham, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill

o Boise, ID

o Eastern Iowa (Delaware, Dubuque, Linn, Jones, Jackson, Cedar, Clinton, Muscatine and Scott counties.

* Plan to reside in the area for at least the next 10 months

* Record the number of gallons of gas you buy each time you refuel

If you meet these requirements and are interested in being part of the Road User Study, please complete the on-line survey to get started. Once you have completed the survey, a member of the study team will contact you if you are selected to participate in the Road User Study.

Participants will be paid \$300 after completing the training session and having the on-board computer installed in their vehicle. The monthly compensation will be \$40 per month for 8 months. Participants will be paid a final compensation of \$275 after completing the exit interview and having the on-board computer removed from their vehicle. The total compensation for completing all study requirements is \$895.

For more information, or to participate in the study, go to www.RoadUserStudy.org or call 1-866-363-1975.

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The Green Corner | Green the Holidays, Part Two

By: Sheri Hicks

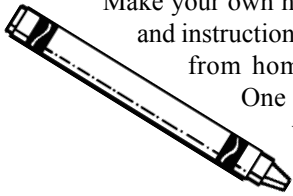
Last month, I focused on how to green up the Thanksgiving holiday. This month, in Green the Holidays, Part Two, I will focus on greening up Christmas. Christmas is a wonderful time, full of joy, celebration, remembrance, love and family. But it is also a stressful time full of consumption, overindulging and debt. I have a few suggestions that might take a bit of the stress and, in these hard economic times, debt from your shoulders so you can enjoy the holiday season for what it means to you and your family.

This year, instead of buying any roll of gift wrap, look for reusable bags or paper made from 100% post-consumer recycled products. My own family has passed around the same gift bags for the last five years!

Make your own Christmas Cards by enlisting your kids. Kids create the most amazing drawings with just a few crayons and card stock.

Make your own holiday ornaments. You can find recipes and instructions online for almost any kind of ornament from homemade cookie ornaments to origami.

One of the prettiest trees I have ever seen was decorated almost exclusively with origami cranes.



If you have to buy lights, go LED. LED lights save up to 90% on energy consumption. The colors aren't quite as true as traditional lights, but with that kind of energy savings I am willing to adjust!

Give the gift of experience. Research has shown that people are far happier with experience than an object. In a study conducted by the University of Colorado at Boulder, researchers concluded that people tend to internalize their feelings during an experience and that is just not possible with an object. That could explain how so much stuff ends up in our garages! If you know a wine lover, give them a gift of wine of the month club or a tour of a local vineyard and winery with a nice bottle of wine. If you know a golfer, give them green fees for a local course. My own family loves to travel and this year, our gift to our nine year old, is to travel to New York City for Christmas. He is excitedly anticipating ice skating in Rockefeller Center, visiting Macy's Santa land, seeing the Rockettes Christmas Spectacular, walking through Central Park, visiting the Natural History Museum and riding the subway. Of course he will get a few small gifts to open on Christmas morning but when those toys are discarded for the next "big" thing, he will still have his memories of his trip to NYC.

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