

February 2007
Volume 6, Issue 1

SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association www.southlamar.org

CALENDAR

February 15 - SLNA Meeting 7:00-9:00
Unity Church Main Building 2806 Del Curto
March 31 - Neighborhood Cleanup

NEXT MEETING

Officer Robert Barboza, our SLNA Austin Police Department district representative will be on hand for neighborhood updates and Q and A!

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL SLNA NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP

Rain, rain, rain and a prediction of more rain washed out our planned KAB/SLNA Cleanup for January. Coordinator's schedules prohibit any February attempts, but fear not! On March 31st you have another opportunity to make our hood a cleaner place. Here's what you need to know:

Saturday, March 31st, 2007

WHAT TIME

Cleanup: 9:00am - 11:00am

Volunteer Party: 11:30am - 2:00pm

WHO...Everyone can participate!

WHAT

Clean Sweep is a citywide cleanup that takes place all over Austin. It's followed by an awesome "Thank You Party" at Waterloo Park with event t-shirts, free lunch, a rock climbing wall, kid's activities, live music, environmental exhibits and a performance of Gyre by the Ariel Dance Theater.

WHERE

Cleanup: We will meet at the corner of Del Curto and Cinnamon Path.

Volunteer Party: Waterloo Park, 403 East 15th St. KAB will provide us with supplies, wristbands to the party, t-shirts and arrange for the trash bags we collect to be picked up. Clean Sweep is a part of the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest annual community improvement program which rallies people to make sweeping, dramatic changes from coast-to-coast.

See you on the 31st!

Wendy Brennan wenbrennan@aol.com

Link Davidson osouthaustin@aol.com

Co-Coordinators, KAB in SLNA

FOR SALE IN THE HOOD

List\$	Beds	Baths	Sq ft	\$/SqFt	Address
188,500	3	1	1,048	180	3206 Overcup Oak
198,000	3	1	816	234	1507 Grayford Dr.
259,000	2	2	1,500	173	1606 Morgan Ln-A
259,000	2	2	1,663	156	1606 Morgan Ln-B
375,000	4	3	2,053	183	1304 Morgan Ln
417,000	3	2	1,830	228	1810 Villiage Oak Ct
419,000	3	1	1,976	212	3706 Clawson Rd

LOTS

159,500	0.090 Acres.....	2606 Kinney Oaks Ct
1,300,000	3.020 Acres.....	3701 Clawson Rd
749,500	0.810 Acres (cont.pending)	3504 Clawson Rd

Thanks to Terry Echols of Keller Williams Realty for providing the numbers for February 2007! He can be contacted at 512-453-0903 or by fax 512-453-3946. Otherwise contact him online at www.EcholsTeam.com

Compact Flourescent Bulbs Reduce Energy Usage

With all the recent news on climate change and TXU's controversial plans to build up to 11 coal-fired power plants in Texas, we all need to do our part to reduce our energy usage and carbon footprint. One way to help and actually save money at the same time is through the use of Energy Star Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs. (CFL). CFL's use about 70% less energy than the equivalent incandescent bulbs. The energy savings alone will more than pay for the cost of the bulbs over their lifetime. They last longer than standard bulbs for a further savings, generating less heat while decreasing the load on the air conditioner.

The government's Energy Star website:

(http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=clfs.pr_cfls) says,"If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR, we would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars."

These bulbs have improved markedly over the past few years. The newest spiral bulbs are smaller and will fit into more fixtures than ever before. The cost has come down to the point where a 4-pack of popular wattages goes for \$8 or less at home improvement stores. AND you can usually get an Austin Energy rebate form for \$2 off that price.

I have over 40 of these bulbs in our home, ranging from 40-watt bulbs in ceiling fans to R30 floodlight replacements in the kitchen. I've only had to replace one of them over the last 2+ years. Try a package in the most heavily-used fixtures in your home. Porch lights are a good place to start as they are usually on all night and are often hard to reach for bulb replacement.

John Bissell

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

2007 SLNA Officers and Contacts

Oscar Lipchak, President olipchak@austin.rr.com

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Whatever happened to Neighborhood Planning
by Carol Gibbs

Many of you are aware that SLNA began participating in Neighborhood Planning (NP) in Oct.2005.Less than a year into it, we had only a handful of “diehards” showing up at each monthly meeting. The attrition was due to the lack of progress made at each meeting. Due to various frustrations with the process, we have not had a meeting of the South Lamar NP Area since August. We are now waiting for facilitators from the UT Law School’s Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution to get up to speed on our situation so that they can help us and City Staff get those meetings back on track - hopefully in March.

In the meantime, we are seeing other Neighborhood Plans - already approved by City Council - being ignored when those very same Councilmembers vote to approve zoning cases that the neighborhoods opposed. Most recently, City Council voted unanimously for a zoning case in the East Riverside area in direct conflict with what they had just approved as part of the Neighborhood Plan.Why should we spend hours each month attending meetings if the end result will not survive against the next developer with big plans for property in our ‘hood? I for one am committed to seeing the process through!

SLNA planning challenges are complex. We have residential properties that are considered “underdeveloped” (one house on one acre, where there could be several duplexes, and therefore ripe for re-development). We have commercial properties around the perimeter of SLNA that could invite “commercial creep” into the residential sidestreets.

The latest issue for us to consider when we return to our NP meetings is the new “Vertical Mixed Use”portion of the Commercial Design Standards ordinance. There is great confusion about the intent and application of the VMU overlay, even among individuals intimately involved in the writing of the ordinance. When we resume NP meetings, we need to revisit commercially zoned properties along South Lamar on our draft “Future Land Use Map” (FLUM), to decide which properties we may want to recommend NOT be granted the VMU overlay. (however, our recommendation is just that - a recommendation. Council can still give VMU to ALL of Lamar’s commercially zoned properties if they want to).

I encourage everyone who is even remotely interested in Neighborhood Planning to sign up as a South Lamar Neighborhood “stakeholder” by contacting Mark Walters at 974-7695 or mark.walters@ci.austin.tx.us This will get you on the mailing list to receive meeting notifications. AND come to the meetings! We will post NP meetings on our website at www.southlamar.org as well as sending email to the SLNA Yahoo group, which every SLNA member is urged to join!

FEBRUARY BONUS

In October, I found a new home
no more to roam
Trees, leafy green in November
nothing to remember
By December, stripped to gray
leaves blown away
Now late February, to my surprise a new
disguise
Through my window, Magenta floods
They are redbuds
This brilliant bonus hidden in fall
by barky pall
bursts into a riot of lavender hues
butterflies choose
Birds join with bees in celebration
with elation
broadcasting songs for all to hear
Spring is near
Fuchsia fingers beckon me to play
as branches sway
dancing, prancing in wind and sun
The fun’s begun

Patricia Fiske



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SLNA COOKS!
Crockpot Oatmeal...

Try this overnight for a hot breakfast when you wake up

1 Cup steel cut oats
1 Cup dried cranberries 1 Cup dried dates
4 Cups water
1/2 cup half-and-half
Spray inside of slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray.
Combine all ingredients in the slow cooker, cover and cook on LOW for 8 to 9 hours.Stir well before serving. Serves 4.
Calories: 270 Fat: 5 grams Sodium: 30mg

Whoever came up with
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location..."
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South Lamar Neighborhood Association Membership Form Initial Application ____Renewal____

Print Name (Couples, please use both first names): _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____/
If you liveoutside SLNA's borders, the address of the SLNA property that you own: _____

Annual Membership: \$10.00 per household OR \$20.00 to be a "Big Bubba/Bubette" TOTAL ENCLOSED\$ _____
Make check payable to SLNA. Mail or deliver with completed form to: John Bissell, 2816 KinneyOaks Ct.AustinTX 78704
OR Check here if you are requesting a Waiver of this year's Membership fee: _____