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# SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association [www.southlamar.org](http://www.southlamar.org)

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Next Meeting April 18<sup>th</sup> - 7pm at Unity Church

## **Great program lined up for the SLNA Meeting !**

The Save Our Springs Alliance is thrilled to give their multimedia presentation to the SLNA.

The presentation uses photos, text, maps, and graphs to illustrate everything Austinites need to know about Barton Springs and the Edwards Aquifer. The presentation answers the questions: How does the Aquifer work? How is Barton Springs being polluted? and What can we do to save the Springs? Both long-time Austinites and folks new to town will learn valuable information about our most precious natural resource, the 4th largest spring in the state of Texas, Barton Springs!



There will also be some surveys available for you to take, about what you would like at the new ACC campus going in at Manchaca and Stassney.

We'll be giving a review of the Sidewalk Workshop that was done in March and will be giving more information on the upcoming Oak Wilt Treatment Workshop in May.

Plus Russell's Bakery will be supplying tasty treats for the meeting! Please plan to make this meeting...

**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002 , 7pm, Unity Church, 2806 Del Curto Rd.**



## ***Meet Officer Kenny Nash Area Representative***

Hello everyone, I would like to take a few moments and introduce myself to you. My name is Kenny Nash and I am your new District Representative.

I was a Military Police Officer for 7 1/2 years prior to coming to the Austin Police Department, where I have now been for nearly five years. I have worked patrol in this area the entire time that I have been with APD. I think that coming from the street and being familiar with this area is a great advantage to all of us in being your district rep. I am aware of the ongoing problems in this area and am also familiar with most of the people that have committed these crimes in the past.

The crimes that I have noticed as being the most prevalent are the burglary of vehicles and burglary of residences. There are some things that we can do to cut down on these crimes. Some examples are knowing what suspicious activity is, and when and how to report it. Keeping items out of plain view in the vehicles and keeping your doors locked.

I would like to emphasize the "we" in this article. It takes teamwork and participation to cut down on these crimes. I believe that we can do this and make great improvements to the quality of life in this area. I would also like to take this time to invite everyone out to the next neighborhood meeting on April 18 at 7:00pm at the Unity church. I will be going over some different crimes and safety tips and what to look for. I look forward to meeting each and everyone of you. Until then, be safe. Thank everyone for their time in reading this.

Kenny Nash, District Representative.

## **Upcoming Construction on South First Street**

Just when you think they are finished rerouting and creating detours, here it comes again. The South First Street Reconstruction and Utility Adjustment Project (Ben White Blvd. to Barton Springs Road) is currently estimated to begin construction in mid to late summer of 2002. The project will be constructed in five phases and is expected to take about 18 months.

The first phase will involve water and wastewater improvements from Fletcher to Gibson and El Paso to Oltorf. The remaining four phases will involve reconstructing South First Street beginning at Barton Springs Road and proceeding south in segments to Ben White Blvd. The project will be multi-phased to reduce inconvenience to motorists. During the work, two-way traffic on South First Street will be maintained at all times, with one lane in each direction. Driveway access will also be maintained at all times.

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# Sidewalks for the Neighborhood???

Our neighborhood can be a difficult place to walk. Going to visit friends or to the taco joint for breakfast presents a choice: walk cautiously on a street where there is no sidewalk and plenty of cars zooming by, or hop in your car and become one of the zoomers, for all of 3 minutes. Finding better ways to get around the neighborhood was the theme of a pedestrian safety and walkability workshop the SLNA hosted on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Neighbors learned how pedestrian accommodations can make getting around more convenient and safe, and even help build the community. The meeting was only a first step, but a valuable one.

The presenter-moderator was Charlie Gandy, a nationally recognized consultant on pedestrian and bicycle safety, also a resident of South Austin. Organized by SLNA Sidewalk Committee chairperson Patricia Fiske, the meeting included a traffic engineer and a staff planner from the COA, as well as Jeff Jack, aide to Councilperson Beverly Griffith. Mr. Gandy's talk and slides presented examples of various problems encountered by pedestrians: sidewalks that are incomplete, interrupted, obstructed, in disrepair or non-existent, and dangerous intersections with busy streets, inadequate signage or crossings. It was an intimidating litany of concerns, unfortunately well known to folks in our neighborhood. These are situations few of us would likely negotiate, and which are critically dangerous for persons with disabilities or children.

Things got more encouraging as we saw how sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks and traffic management measures can provide both physical safety and psychological comfort. Though each community is unique, we saw how successes in other areas might be translated to improve our neighborhood.

Next we walked some of the neighborhood, using the streetscape (and ditch-scape) as props in further discussion. Walking along Del Curto, we not only saw but felt the consequences of an unchanged rural design in what has become an urban neighborhood thoroughfare. The extreme narrowness of the road, it's hills and curves, and complete lack of shoulder demonstrated the need for improvements.

Returning indoors, neighbors discussed specific problem areas and potential improvements. We used a large map to highlight areas for further investigation, including possible connections between streets which we hadn't notice before.

As Council aide Jeff Jack pointed out, there is no simple method for getting improvements to your neighborhood, but involvement in the City budget process is key especially in what promises to be a tight budget year. In other parts of Austin, residents have organized to gain improvements. The workshop in March helped start that movement here, but active participation is the only thing that can continue it.

Kevin Lewis

## OAK WILT WORKSHOP

The SLNA Oak Wilt Treatment Workshop is set for May 18th at 9:00 am at the home of Kenny Acord, at 4016 Valleyview. Jay Culver, City of Austin Forester, will be on hand to teach SLNA residents the "Do It Yourself" method of treating your own trees to save big bucks!

Jon Long with Oak Wilt Specialist of Texas has been kind enough to donate a complete Oak Wilt treatment system to the SLNA and it will be available to borrow for your use. Contact Kathryn Stern, chair of the Oak Wilt committee, for more information, 416-0954.

If you are not sure your trees are infected, you may contact Jay Culver at the Austin Parks & Recreation Department for a FREE inspection at (512) 440-5195, or you may check the SLNA Website to see if you live in or near a designated Oak Wilt cluster: [http://www.southlamar.org/docs/oak wilt map.pdf](http://www.southlamar.org/docs/oak%20wilt%20map.pdf).

Don't wait until your trees are sick! If you live within 200 feet of an infected tree, your trees are vulnerable. According to Mr. Culver, Oak Wilt can travel approximately 100 feet per year via the root system and/or traveling beetles. Pre-treating trees is your best defense!

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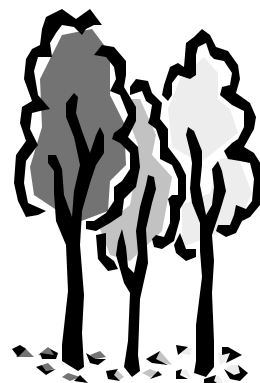
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## Come See My Etchings!!!

Free Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) window etching will take place on May 11, 2002 from 10:00am until 1pm in the parking lot at 3005 S. Lamar in front of the Mailboxes Etc. Many insurance companies offer discounts when you have VIN etching done on your vehicle.



## ACC in South Austin !!!

ACC has purchased the old Albertson's at the intersection of Stassney Ln. and Manchaca Rd. and intends to renovate it into a full service campus. The ACC Board of Trustees has created and appointed a South Austin Community Advisory Committee (SACAC) to help plan for and support the establishment of this campus. The SACAC meets the first and third Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Crockett High School Library. The SACAC is gathering information about the educational needs and interests of South Austin residents and how Austin Community College (ACC) might address those needs with a new campus in South Austin. Your input on this survey will greatly assist the South Austin Community Advisory Committee's efforts and recommendations to the ACC Board of Trustees. Please go to our website - [www2.austin.cc.tx.us/sacac/](http://www2.austin.cc.tx.us/sacac/) - and complete the on-line survey. If you would like more information, please call 223-7601 or email [sacac@austin.cc.tx.us](mailto:sacac@austin.cc.tx.us)

### OAK WILT SPECIALISTS OF TEXAS, INC. WIMBERLEY, TEXAS

Oak Wilt Specialist of Texas specialize in Oak Wilt Chemical Injections as prescribed by Texas A&M's Eight Step Program to Oak Wilt Management. Contact Us Phone: (512) 632-0832 or (512) 842-TREE (8733) E-mail: Jon Long, Oak Wilt Specialists of Texas, Inc.

Check the SNLA Website for information about becoming a member of the South Lamar Neighborhood Association  
**Check out the SLNA Website at**  
[www.southlamar.org](http://www.southlamar.org)

If you know of anyone that would like to advertise in our newsletter  
please contact  
Marci Roberts at  
441-4664