

SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association www.southlamar.org

Upcoming SLNA Events

- **Saturday, April 9 (9-11AM) — Austin Clean Sweep**
Meet at Southridge & Clawson to collect litter from Fortview to Cinnamon Path. Then join other “sweepers” at the after-party at Fiesta Gardens ‘til 2PM. Call Chad Hymel for details (916-8707) or go to www.keepeaustinbeautiful.org.
- **Wednesday, April 20 — Early voting** in person begins.
- **Thursday, April 21 (7PM–9PM) — SLNA Meeting**
- **Saturday, April 23 (9AM–1PM) — It’s My Park Day**
Help Galindo Neighborhood clean up South Austin Park and West Bouldin Creek, just across the railroad tracks from SLNA (Cumberland & S. 5th by car). See www.austinparks.org/ItsMyParkDay.html for details.
- **Saturday, May 7 — Habitat for Humanity**
The ‘Hood is building a house! Sign up individually online at <http://www.austinhabitat.org/volunteer> OR attend the next Orientation class (Sat. April 16, 2:00 PM — call Lyndsay at 512-472-8788 x 101 to sign up for the class. The orientations are at the Homefront offices, 310 Comal St., east of downtown on the corner of 4th and Comal.)
For specifics about any of these events, call or email SLNA President, Carol Gibbs (442-8060 and cgibbs1@austin.rr.com).
- **Saturday, May 7 — Municipal Election Day.** Election includes three Council positions and a Smoking Ordinance. There will also be an Austin Community College item to expand the areas around Austin that pay taxes to ACC. For details, go to www.austin.cc.tx.us/pubinfo/releases/30705-2.htm.
 - SLNA does not endorse candidates. **We endorse voting.** In the last election, SLNA precincts had the lowest rate of voting among South Austin neighborhoods (see www.ancweb.org/sector7news.php). Let’s change that this time!
 - In addition to voting please consider working to support the candidate of your choice. We all know the value of electing council members who support neighborhoods’ needs.



Next Meeting:
THURSDAY, APRIL 21
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
UNITY CHURCH
MAIN BUILDING
2806 Del Curto Road

April 21 Meeting Agenda Items

- **Richard Coons** will present his plans for developing the remaining property of the Trailer Park (Case #C14-05-0033, 2525 S. Lamar). You can see the Tentative Site Plan online at www.southlamar.org/citynotices.htm.
- We will discuss the **Bluebonnet Lane** road improvements and their impact on traffic. (More information on development is available on pg. 2 of this SLNA Newsletter.)
- **South Austin Park:** The SLNA Executive Committee opposes expansion of the Tennis Center. Galindo Neighborhood’s position paper is available online at www.main.org/gena/news_park1.htm.
- All **City Council candidates** are invited to attend this meeting. Any who attend will have a few minutes to explain their platforms and answer our questions on neighborhood-related issues.



Tsunami Bake Sale Success!

The Tsunami Bake Sale on March 19-20 was a phenomenal success! We raised more than **\$2,000** for a private trust established to rebuild fishing villages in Arugambay, Sri Lanka that were totally destroyed on December 26.

After raising nearly half of that in the South Lamar Shopping Center parking lot and at the new Alamo Drafthouse, we had so much still to sell that we set up at Maria’s Taco Xpress the next day, during the Sunday Gospel Brunch. The band, the **Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers**, added their \$383 in tips to our kitty.

With still dozens of homemade brownies & cookies that we couldn’t let go to waste, **Lee Ann Atherton’s** “barn dance” was our final venue, the last brownie sold about 11PM Sunday night.

As Bake Sale organizer **Jennifer Marine** put it, this was our stone soup story — it was as if the brownies and cookies just kept reproducing faster than we could sell them. Thanks to everyone who baked, sold, and bought all the goodies!



SLNA/Unity Church Food Drive

Starting this month, SLNA & Unity Church will host a Food Drive for **Caritas of Austin**. (See their website at www.caritasofaustin.org.) Since 1964, Caritas of Austin has dedicated itself to one mission — assisting with basic needs such as food, rent and utility assistance in times of financial crisis. Caritas envisions a community of hope, respect and self-reliance. Caritas works to prevent homelessness and hunger by assisting low-income community members and refugees with basic needs and promoting self-sufficiency. Through Basic Needs and Self-Sufficiency Services, Caritas will serve more than 15,000 Travis County adults and children this year.

Bring **non-perishable foods and/or baby supplies** to the SLNA meetings, or deliver them to the church office for up to two weeks after each meeting (i.e., **April 21 — May 5; June 16-30**, etc.). Caritas is most interested in *non-perishable food items*:

- Canned meats and fish
 - Rice
 - Beans (pinto, black, etc.)
 - Macaroni & cheese
 - Peanut butter
 - Canned fruits
 - Canned vegetables
 - Soups
 - Cereal
 - Powdered and/or evaporated milk
 - Pop-top items (e.g. tuna, beans, fruit)
- and *Infant supplies*
- Baby formula Infamilie Lipil
 - Baby diapers — large size, 4-6

They’re also interested in hygiene items (e.g. shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors) and gently used paper grocery bags to distribute the items. Thanks to SLNA Secretary and Unity Church member **Roberta Leahy** for coordinating this project!



Membership Statement

- Membership in the Association shall be issued on the basis of residency (**renters** and **homeowners**) and timely payment of annual dues.
- SLNA boundaries: **North** - Oltorf; **South** - Ben White; **East** - Union Pacific Railroad; **West** - S. Lamar / Manchaca.
- Persons meeting the above criteria but who are unable to pay membership dues may **request a reduction in dues or a waiver**.
- The privilege of introducing **motions and voting** shall be limited to those who have joined the Association at least ten days prior to any regularly-scheduled or special-called meeting.
- **Complete bylaws** -- and **links** to lots of other useful information -- are available at www.southlamar.org.



From the President — Developments in the ‘Hood

By Carol Gibbs

Neighborhood Planning: The latest news from the City about the future of our Neighborhood Plan (“NP”) is basically “no news”. We have stopped trying to anticipate “our turn”. With every NP that has been done, the City has changed the process. While it is called a “neighborhood plan”, involvement is not exclusive to the neighborhood association and its membership. Every owner of any property that lies within the boundaries drawn by the City for our NP — whether commercial or residential, in a neighborhood association or not — will be mailed a notice from the City’s Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Dept. when it is ready to start working with us. Every individual has the right and responsibility to get involved from the beginning, as it is a cumulative process. Every notice received by the SLNA officers will be posted on SLNA’s website, but please do not wait for us to keep you informed. Everyone with internet access can see what to expect by going to the City’s Neighborhood Planning website at www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/overview_np.htm. It is going to be a major undertaking, and we will need all the participation we can get!

Bluebonnet Lane: The Walgreens project seems to be stuck in the approval process but is definitely still on track. The upgrades to Bluebonnet will be the first stage, and we anticipate a significant impact for our residents wanting to go south on Lamar, since that is our only protected left turn. I hope to know more by the time of our meeting. It is **Site Plan Case # SP-04-1053C**, if you want to research it online or call the Case Manager, **Sue Welch**, at 974-3294.

Richard Coons, hoping to develop the balance of the trailer park, will be at the April 21 meeting to share and explain his plans for a “Mixed Use” development. A summary from the committee’s meeting with him, as well as the preliminary site plan itself, can be viewed at www.southlamar.org/city_notices.htm. If his plan is approved by the City, there will be one residential driveway onto Bluebonnet. Commercial traffic will use the two Walgreens entrances. After his presentation (and departure), we will discuss it, and **current members** (2005 dues paid or waiver renewed by April 11) **will vote on an official position** that SLNA officers will represent to the City at the zoning hearings.

I urge everyone who is remotely invested in the development of this property to attend, and anyone wanting their position to be represented to Council, **be sure your membership is current**. If you aren’t sure, contact SLNA Treasurer **Don Ewalt**.



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South Lamar Neighborhood Association

Membership Status: New Member _____

Renewing Member _____

Please complete the following. Couples, please use both first names.

NAME(S): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐ Check here if you want to join SLNA’s Yahoo Email Group.

Membership is **\$10 per year** per household

(due in **January** each year)

Or be a “Big Bubba/Big Bubbette” for \$20 (or more) per year.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

☐ Request Hardship Waiver of Membership Fee

Make checks payable to “South Lamar Neighborhood Association”

Mail/Deliver to Don Ewalt, 1605 Lightsey Rd., Austin, TX 78704

Check out the SLNA Website at www.southlamar.org



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Inspecting for Termites

by Wizzie Brown

Subterranean termites are the most destructive pest of wood in the United States, causing more than \$2 billion in damage each year. Termites are beneficial, breaking down wood materials that otherwise would accumulate, but when termites move into homes or other structures, they become a problem. A thorough inspection yearly can detect a termite problem and be used to determine if treatment is required; this inspection may be done by the property owner or a professional.

Outside:

- Inspect around garages, porches, patios, sidewalks
- Inspect foundation for mud tubes
 - Foundations should have 6-8 inches exposed for visual inspection
- Check for standing water or moist soil next to the structure
 - These areas should be corrected so moisture does not sit near the structure
- Check window and door frames; pipe penetrations
- Inspect roof eaves & gutters for leaks
- Inspect siding for decay or rot
- Check all wood to soil contact for termites or mud tubes
- If house on pier & beam- inspect crawl space area for mud tubes going up beams

Inside:

- Inspect baseboards, wood floors, window & door facings
- Check any known expansion joints or cracks in the slab
- Look for blistering of paint or wall surfaces
- Inspect plumbing, including the bath trap
 - If there is no bath trap, cut an access to periodically inspect plumbing
- Inspect attic for mud tubes, water leaks or wood rot

For more information, contact **Wizzie Brown**, Texas Cooperative Extension agent- IPM at (512) 854-9600.



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SLNA Officers & Contacts

Carol Gibbs, President

442-8060 cgibbs1@austin.rr.com

Nancy MacLaine, Vice President

916-1258 nmacLaine@sbcglobal.net

Roberta Leahy, Secretary

444-3568 laverta@msn.com

Don Ewalt, Treasurer

462-1950 ewaltjr@yahoo.com

Kevin Lewis, SCC/ANC Delegate

443-1576 klewis@wholeearthprovision.com

Bill Stoughton, Webmaster

448-2754 bill@southlamar.org

Beth Troell, Newsletter Editor

626-9709 beth@directwriting.net

Chad Hymel, SLNA-KAB Committee Chair

916-8707 chadhymel@sbcglobal.net