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Volume 1, Issue 3

# SLNA Newsletter

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

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## **Next Meeting June 20<sup>th</sup> - 7pm at Unity Church**

### **Exciting June SLNA Program**

We have an exciting and jammed packed program for the June SLNA meeting including three presentations. First, Doug Ballew, a Health Educator with the Austin/Travis County Youth Traffic Safety Project will present information on youth pedestrian and bicycle crashes occurring in South Austin neighborhoods. The data, compiled by a Safe Communities grant, pinpoints specific locations where crashes have occurred. The presentation will also address how the crashes most frequently occur and how they can be prevented as well as information on the Project's many available resources for child bicycle, pedestrian, and passenger safety. Secondly, Dr. Richard Fonte, president of Austin Community College, will be on hand to present information about the new ACC campus that is being constructed at Stassney and Manchaca. Thirdly, Rick Colburn, City of Austin Public Works Department, will be on hand to show maps and diagrams that explain the multi-phase 18 month process of repaving South First street that is just beginning. In addition, we'll have an update of the 4th of July party that is in the mill, updates of various property sales, business projects and developments in the hood, sidewalk committee and oak wilt committee. We will also vote on the Lawn Parking Ordinance that is before council right now. The current draft of the ordinance may be viewed at <http://www.main.org/parking/> A vote on the bylaws amendments will also take place which include 1) the meeting schedule should be changed to every other month, and 2 ) consider adding a "hardship clause" for those people who cannot pay SLNA dues. Please mark your calendar for Thursday June 20th at 7pm, Unity Church on Del Curto. You won't want to miss this SLNA meeting

### ***From the desk of Kenny Nash, APD District Rep for SLNA***

*I thought I would drop a few lines and let everyone know what has been going on since the last time that we met. There has been a suspicious person going around from door to door asking for money. He is a white male, approximately 6 feet tall and around 200 lbs. This person has been all around the south Austin area and has been knocking on doors at all times. He has not victimized anyone nor has there been any evidence of any burglaries committed by him so far. He has been simply asking for money and has given different reasons for wanting the money. Examples are: he needs to take his mother to the airport and his car broke down. This person appears to have a drug habit and his getting money to support that habit. If anyone observes this person, please do not answer the door and immediately call 911 and report a suspicious person at your front door. Answering the door could only give this person the opportunity to commit a crime or hurt someone. We have identified this person and are tracking his whereabouts as we speak. This is the main topic that I wanted to discuss with everyone. Until the next meeting, everyone stay safe and remember not to answer your door for strangers late at night or in the early morning hours.*

*Kenny Nash, Southwest District Rep. Austin Police Department*

# Oak Wilt Workshop GREAT Success

By Kathryn Stern

Two weeks ago Saturday, May 18, 2002, Jay Culver of Austin Parks & Recreation and twelve of our SLNA members gathered at 2410 Valley View to treat a live oak tree against the fatal fungal disease known as Oak Wilt. Jay effectively demonstrated that with a 15 liter injection tank, a small bottle of Alamo fungicide concentrate, a drill, a pair of vice grips, some supportive neighbors and two hours to spare, a tree can be adequately shielded from Oak Wilt for up to three years. Using a fungicide injection tank donated by Jon and Lisa Long of Oak Wilt Specialists, Jay (breakfast taco in hand) went through the entire treatment process, including 1) measuring the diameter of the tree; 2) exposing the flare roots; 3) drilling holes into the roots for the tanks injectors; 4) mixing the solution; 5) and finally, pumping the fungicide through the tanks line into the roots. All the while, our trusty webmaster Bill Stoughton captured everything on his digicam (free video forthcoming – thanks Bryan and Bill)! In a nutshell, the treatment was quick and easy! The twenty two inch diameter tree used in the demo took us two hours to treat, and had we paid for the fungicide, would have cost us about \$50 (about \$2.25 per inch) versus a potential \$2000+ for having to remove and replace the tree, plus some unknown figure for the decrease in property value.

So, if you want to get started, here are some important numbers:

Jay Culver: FREE diagnosis (440-5195) ·

Kathryn Stern/Charlton Perry: FREE use of the SLNA treatment rig (416-0954) ·

Oak Wilt Specialists: fungicide (512) 842-8733 ·

Callahan's General Store: fungicide (512) 385-3452

Changos ad

## Parking Parking Parking Parking

The latest version of the lawn parking ordinance can be viewed at <http://www.main.org/parking/index.html>

It is coming up for second reading at council in a couple of weeks. Now that the language and scope of the ordinance has firmed up, we will need to take an SLNA vote at the June meeting as to be included or not.

It seems that most of the problems that were in the ordinance early on have been resolved.

Any ticketing will only happen when a complaint is made and the District Rep will come out and make several warnings before actually ticketing anyone. Patrol officers will not be enforcing this nor will they be cruising the streets looking for violation. So, washing your car, a lot of folks over for a special occasion, temporary parking, etc. all of that is OK.

This will be used where folks are parking cars on their front yard on a permanent basis where there is no driveway, the curb jumping muddy rut type stuff. At present, if your next door neighbor decided to park a dozen cars where their front lawn once was, there is nothing you can do about it. So, we can decide if we want this ordinance as a tool to deal with this type of problem when it exists.

Now that the language has settled in and the enforcement methods and modes are defined, it looks like this would be a positive thing for the neighborhood. The main reason this neighborhood initiated ordinance came about was to improve neighborhood conditions. At present about 70 other neighborhood associations have signed on. Should we decide not to sign on at this time, and decide to later on, it would be very expensive (read the ordinance).

Again, this will be enforced only when a complaint to the APD is made.

## **A Letter from the Prez.....**

Our SLNA is experiencing growing pains in many different areas, both internal and external. We are officially about 18 months old now. We rallied around a development issue, those 18 months ago, and it looks like there is no end of further development in sight. Five properties are under contract or in the pipeline for development right now here in SLNA land. Internally, our association has been going through growing pains also. We are working toward fine-tuning the bylaws, better dissemination of information, and growing our membership and participation.

The house in front of me, with 2 acres, went on the market and within a few days had a contract pending. The next day, I had a realtor call to solicit buying my house, they are talking to my neighbor too! Our hood is unique in that we have many large pieces of undeveloped land and we are so close to downtown. Two properties on Thornton have just sold. One is MF-2, looking to do Condos and the other is planned for single family houses. The trailer park is under contract and who knows how or how big that project might be. Then there is our unifying cause, Del Curto Place with survey stakes in the ground for 19 single family attached. The corner on Kinney and Lamar is still stirring with the developer hoping to build the climate controlled 4 story building there. (He hasn't overcome the parking hurdle yet) Whew! When will it stop?

You are now reading our third newsletter. Yea! We are printing up 1200 copies in an effort to better inform all SLNA stakeholders. (We still need more volunteers to deliver some routes) The email list is a great way to communicate on a daily basis but it does not serve everyone. The email system is now up to 100 folks but that's a long way from covering everyone. We just had more yard signs made to better announce our regular meeting too.

The big push is to include everyone we can and do it anyway we can. Yard signs, web site, emails, and newsletters, all combined, are making a great effort to notify and inform all in the hood.

At this month's meeting we'll be voting on a couple of changes to our bylaws. To insure we include everyone, we are adding a hardship clause that will allow anyone to be a member even if they can't pay dues. It takes money to run the SLNA, we need support, but the dues were never meant to be a poll tax. We hope you will choose to pay dues but if that is a hardship, no one will be excluded, just contact any officer. The other change is housekeeping, to correct our meeting time to every other month.

There is a lot going on in our hood. Hope you can make the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Check the SLNA website often [www.southlamar.org](http://www.southlamar.org). Join your neighbors any Friday evening at 6 for our neighborhood get together at Taco Express on Lamar. There can be anywhere from 2 to 20 show up on any given Friday.

Take care, Bryan King, SLNA Prez

## **Sidewalks / Pedestrian Safety Committee Update**

Work continues on seeking sidewalks and other pedestrian safety enhancements for our neighborhood. Following up on our March 23 workshop on the subject, residents at the April SLNA meeting discussed areas where sidewalks are most needed, and where traffic calming and bicycle lane provisions could be useful. Neighbors viewed a slide presentation showing options for sidewalk and bike lane design, and for traffic calming measures. Some residents noted the absence of sidewalks on main roads like Del Curto, Thornton, and Clawson, while others complained of high-speed and reckless driving. No decisions were made at the April meeting but there was general agreement that the SLNA should continue to collect input and pursue sidewalks for the area. At the June meeting we will continue this conversation and set the agenda for further work on the part of the Sidewalks Committee, chaired by Patricia Fiske. Following the collecting of input from interested neighbors, Sidewalk Committee members hope to propose to the city specific sites for sidewalk installation and for potential traffic mitigation measures as soon as possible. The process beyond the request to the city can be long and convoluted, but submitting our request is key. If you can't make the meeting in June contact Patricia at [pfiske@austin.rr.com](mailto:pfiske@austin.rr.com).

**Check the SLNA Website for information  
about becoming a member!**

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

**Join the SLNA email list too!**

**<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthLamarNA/>**

OFFICE DEPOT

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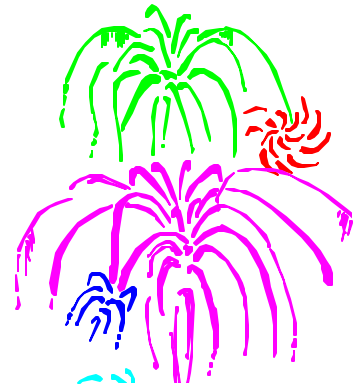
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## Music, Food & Fireworks

by Marci Roberts

Come on down to the south end of Southland for a July 4th celebration starting at 6pm on Thursday July 4. We are working on having a local band play for us and possible transportation down to the Fireworks display. We'll have more on this via e-mail. (Visit our web site to get on the list). Bring a covered dish and let's have a little din-din together. We'll have a grill there if you want to cook your own. Suzanne and Mitch have offered their shady yard and will have the sprinklers going for kids (or adults!!!)



### South Central Coalition & Austin Neighborhood Council Update by Kevin Lewis

The **South Central Coalition** (SCC) of neighborhood associations is an umbrella group representing central South Austin. We meet the first Saturday of each month at Mexico Lindo on South Lamar at 9am. Meetings are informal, and we discuss whatever topics participants bring up, including community events, politics and how neighborhood associations work. Some recent topics:

**ACC South Austin Campus Survey.** Austin Community College is developing the former Albertson's at Stassney and Manchaca into a new campus. This multi-year process is in it's early stages, and ACC Board of Trustees is seeking community input. ACC has created the South Austin Community Advisory Committee (SACAC) to help plan for this campus. More information is available from ACC at [www2.austincc.edu/sacac/](http://www2.austincc.edu/sacac/) or call 223-7601 or email [sacac@austin.cc.tx.us](mailto:sacac@austin.cc.tx.us).

**South First Street Reconstruction.** The City of Austin will repair and upgrade water and wastewater lines under South First Street from Barton Springs Road to Ben White Blvd. starting this summer. No changes in the width or alignment of the street are planned. The project, estimated to last about 18 months, will occur in phases. The first phase involves the section from Fletcher to Gibson and El Paso to Oltorf. Two way traffic and driveway access will be maintained at all times, with one lane in each direction in the section under construction. The project manager, Rick Colbrunn can provide more info at 974-7089.

**The Austin Neighborhoods Council** (ANC) is an umbrella group of neighborhood associations from across the city. Recently we've discussed the ballot issues and candidates in the last election, and yard parking ordinance. The most pressing issue discussed recently is the city budget. The city faces a significant budget crunch this year, due to falling sales tax revenues and increased spending, particularly on public safety. Planning is well under way for the 2002-03 budget year, with a series of budget work sessions to take place over the next several weeks. ANC is working on recommendations emphasizing neighborhoods' needs for the budget. Service areas addressed include environmental protection, parks, libraries, police and fire, neighborhood planning, code enforcement, pedestrian safety and infrastructure. The recommendations also discuss possibilities for revenue increases, including development fees and fines, creative use of volunteers, and increased code enforcement.

The need for neighborhoods' communication to council is greater than ever. The new city manager has indicated that the city intends to achieve many of the needed cost savings by de-funding currently vacant positions. Many of the vacant positions directly, negatively impact services provided to neighborhoods. Unless we want city services to decline, we must campaign for them.

### Proposed changes to SLNA bylaws: Voting on the following changes will take place at the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

1. Add hardship clause to the membership section as follows:

#### Section IV MEMBERSHIP

##### B. Dues

3. *Persons meeting the above criteria but who are unable to pay membership dues may obtained a reduction in dues or a waiver by contacting the Executive Committee*

2. Changes to section VI to state the correct number of meetings per year:

#### VI. MEETING AND ORGANIZATION

A. *Meetings of the general membership of the Association shall be held six times per year. The Executive Committee shall set the specific time, place, and agenda of each meeting.*