

SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association www.southlamar.org

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 19 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

UNITY CHURCH YOUTH ANNEX – 2806 Del Curto Road

THIS ISSUE:

- **Walgreens Update:**
Case # C14-04-0060
- **Sept. 12 - National
Neighborhood Day**
- **Editor Wanted!**
- **Sept. 11 – SLNA
Street Clean-Up**
- **Austin Playhouse**
- **Webworms**
- **SLNA Moms' Group?**

S.N.I.M.B.Y. or Walgreens?

by Kevin Lewis

The proposal for a new Walgreens at South Lamar and Bluebonnet Lane will likely be heard at City Council meeting Thursday, August 26. Please plan to attend, to speak or sign a card expressing your opinion.

SLNA members voted at the June general meeting to oppose the plans for Walgreens. Overarching our discussion was this: We support Taco Xpress and celebrate their success. We are glad they have an iron-clad, long-term lease on their current location. Taco Xpress will be well taken care of in the event of any redevelopment of this property, as it should be.

Here are the main points of opposition to the Walgreens plan: This is a bad location for a high-volume, single-use, double drive-through drugstore. The plan would put several hundred new car trips daily onto Bluebonnet Lane, a residential collector street. Although the plan includes a widening of Bluebonnet intended to accommodate that added traffic, we felt the best idea is to keep only residential access on Bluebonnet, with commercial access limited to Lamar.

The Walgreens plan would also limit options for reuse of the trailer park land, just as we're heading into the City Neighborhood Planning process. We could envision a multi-use redevelopment with integrated residential and local retail (like Taco Xpress). This plan would put a single-use, suburban-style chain store in the way of that vision.

SLNA members have spent literally hundreds of hours researching and discussing this project and its implications. Sometimes those discussions get thick with arcane technical points, so although details and facts are indeed critical, let's zoom back out to the big picture.

What we're really advocating here is **Something Nice** in My Back Yard ("S.N.I.M.B.Y."). In development circles, neighborhoods resistant to development or change are sometimes called "N.I.M.B.Y." (**Not** In My Back Yard). That is not, and should not be, our position. Our neighborhood, indeed our city and whole region, is in transition, and we will likely feel the growing pains. We should measure any proposals, not against the worst-case scenario, but against our best-case vision. It is not too much to ask, that our community reflect our vision for the future. Please do express your opinions to City Council prior to the vote Aug. 26. The Walgreens plans and contact information for council members are available at www.southlamar.org.



National Neighborhood Day is September 12

by Carol Gibbs

Shall SLNA join other neighborhoods and celebrate "National Neighborhood Day"? Anyone want to volunteer to coordinate a get-together in SLNA for Sunday afternoon, Sept. 12? SLNA did not organize anything official for National Night Out, but with this event being on a weekend (and hopefully cooler!), this might be a great opportunity to meet our neighbors beyond next-door.

If you would like to help organize an SLNA event or volunteer for specific tasks, please either come to the August 19 meeting OR contact an officer (see list on back of newsletter) before the August meeting. At the meeting, we can determine the general level of interest, and then set up a planning committee. There may even be some SLNA funds available for the day's activities, if the membership votes to do so.

Taken from the group's website, apparently in its first year: National Neighborhood Day is a grassroots, nonprofit initiative that offers an opportunity for simple gatherings sharing food and fun. It is a chance to celebrate the things we all share and discover the diversity among us that makes America great. There is no agenda and no prescription. Your neighborhood might be a street, a few houses or an apartment building. Make it a party, a project or a potluck. Rekindle friendships. Welcome new neighbors. Learn about each others' families, interests and needs. Visit www.neighborhoodday.org for ideas, inspiration, information, or assistance about organizing neighborhood gatherings. See how easy it is to plan and host an event with the tools and templates available on the site. While there, you can join their email list and sign up for National Neighborhood Day's \$100 drawing – the winner will get to choose their favorite non-profit organization to receive the \$100!

WANTED: Newsletter Editor

After the December issue, I will "retire" from this job, making it available for the next eager SLNA volunteer. I'll gladly answer any questions and share any "tricks" with anyone who might be interested. It's really no big deal – I just want a break (the Newsletter Editor is not responsible for our website or the SLNA email group – both of those functions will continue, uninterrupted). Call or email me if you want more details about the newsletter:

cgibbs1@austin.rr.com / 442-8060

Keeping South Austin Beautiful...One Street at a Time
by Carol Gibbs

It's time for another SLNA quarterly clean-up. Join your neighbors on Thornton Rd. between Bridgeway & Oltorf on **Saturday, Sept. 11** from **8 to 11AM**. Whether we spend more time talkin' trash or picking it up, we've always had a good time, met new folk, and felt really good about ourselves afterwards!

Watch for signs and/or flyers in September, but put it on your calendar now! This route has little (if any) poison ivy, so no excuses! Also, check out the new Keep Austin Beautiful sign on Del Curto at Bluebonnet, designating SLNA as a "Clean Streets" partner (the first South Austin neighborhood association to do so, I might add!)



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912-8468 Joshua Robertson
A+ Certified PC Tech

Hello from Austin Playhouse!
Located in Penn Field at 3601 South Congress, we're your South Austin professional theatre. Though we've been in the 78704 neighborhood for two years, we haven't properly introduced ourselves to our neighbors! As a South Austin resident, we'd like to offer you a \$5 discount off a season subscription. Please look for a season brochure to come in the mail.
Check out the upcoming season, beginning in October, at www.austinplayhouse.com or call our box office at 476-0084 for individual shows and ticket prices. We are really happy to be a part of South Austin and look forward to finding lots of ways to participate as your good neighbor!
~ Lauri Raymond, Board Member

Any moms in the neighborhood interested
in starting up a moms' group?
Please call Lisa at 462-2214

Halloween? . . . Webworms!
The stores may be stocking up for Halloween, but what you see in the pecan trees is Webworms! If your pecan trees are infested, there are a few things you can do.
Webworms have three to four generations per year, with the most damaging stage in the fall. Caterpillars (larvae) start with just a small clump of tender leaves, but once they run out of leaves, they will make a web so big, they often encompass entire branches. The web is virtually impenetrable to parasites and predators.
Here are some tips for webworm management:

- Remove and destroy leaves with egg masses (on the underside of leaves, covered with "hair"), before the web starts "growing".
- Use a broom or stick to knock down webs within reach, and a high pressure water hose for the rest.
- Open the webbing you've knocked down, so the predators and parasites can eat the caterpillars
- Insecticides such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (**Bt**), *carbaryl* or *acephate* may be used, but they must penetrate the webbing in order to work
- **Bt** works best on small caterpillars and must be applied with good coverage; *Acephate* has systemic properties - be wary of applying to consumable plants.
- Always read the insecticide labels and follow all instructions.

For more information, contact Wizzie Brown at 854-9600.



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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.
If you live outside SLNA's borders, please note the address of the SLNA property you own: _____
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 Bill Stoughton, 3200 South Oak, Austin, TX 78704
Check out the SLNA Website at www.southlamar.org

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731-6518 cperry@ststephens-texas.com

Membership in the Association shall be issued on the basis of residency and payment of **annual dues** *. SLNA boundaries are: 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 are available at regular meetings and online at www.southlamar.org.