

SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association www.southlamar.org

CALENDAR

- Aug 2 National Night Out** - Unity Church's middle parking lot, 2806 Del Curto, from 7:00PM to 9:30PM
- Aug 18 SLNA Meeting**
- Sep 7 CASA Open House (see article)
- Sep 10 Friends of Austin Public Library Monster Book Sale
- Sep 11 Friends of A.P.L. Monster Book Sale continues
- Sep 24 Neighborhood Cleanup**
- Oct 3 CASA Open House



Next Meeting:
THURSDAY, August 18
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
UNITY CHURCH
MAIN BUILDING
2806 Del Curto Road

Planning for Our Neighborhood's Future... How YOU Can Help!

by Carol Gibbs, SLNA President & Bill Stoughton, Neighborhood Planning Committee Chair

Many of us who live in SLNA may be concerned that new development could adversely alter the character of our neighborhood. On the other hand, we know that some changes can be good, and we welcome opportunities to improve our quality of life. Now, we can have a say in what our neighborhood will look like in the coming years.

We can contribute to our Neighborhood Plan!

Starting this fall, the City's **Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department (NPZD)** will help us develop a plan for the future of the South Lamar Combined Planning Area, which includes these five adjacent neighborhood associations: South Lamar, Zilker, Galindo, Barton Hills and Barton Oaks. All "stakeholders" within our boundaries, i.e., all property owners, renters, businesses, etc. -- whoever wants to be involved -- will develop a shared vision for the future land use in our collective area. (For a formal introduction to the process, see the **NPZD web site**: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/>.)

SLNA's preparation for this process has really already begun! **Bill Stoughton** is chairing **SLNA's Neighborhood Planning Committee**, the **first meeting** of which was on **Sunday, July 17**. This meeting featured NPZD's Mark Walters, the lead planner for the South Lamar Combined NP, who presented an overview of the planning process. Members of the other NA's were also in attendance.

You should receive a letter from the NPZD by mid-September, introducing the neighborhood planning process and **inviting you to participate**. Letters will be mailed to all property owners and all utility customers; so whether you rent or own, you should get one. **Please take the time to read it**. Your response to this first communication will **keep you informed** of the Kick-Off Meeting date and location, and all subsequent meetings. If you do not receive a letter from the City of Austin NPZD by mid-September, please call our lead planner in mid-September to request one: **Mark Walters, 974-7695**.

The NPZD estimates our neighborhood planning process will **begin October 1 and will take around eleven months to complete**. Stakeholders will work with city staff in a series of meetings to develop a **Future Land Use Map ('FLUM')** that reflects our collective vision. This map will be instrumental in all subsequent zoning decisions for the area.

Neighborhood Planning can be a long and sometimes difficult process, but it is our one chance to have our opinions heard, and can be very rewarding. If you'd like to get a head start on understanding neighborhood planning, you can download this useful guide: "Neighborhood Planning: Introduction to Land Use" at www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/downloads/land_use_guide1.pdf. Bill also has a few printed copies available. If you would like one, contact him at **448-2754** or Bill@southlamar.org.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Join your neighbors for **National Night Out** on **Tuesday, August 2nd** at Unity Church's middle parking lot, **2806 Del Curto**, from **7 to 9:30PM** for food and drinks, stickers & giveaways for kids! Maybe we'll even get a tour of a fire truck!

Keep SLNA Beautiful

Chad Hymel, Chair

Through Keep Austin Beautiful, more than 10,000 Austinites volunteer their time each year with projects involving the clean up and beautification of public spaces such as parks, streets and neighborhoods. It's that time in SLNA! **Saturday Sept. 24th, 8-10AM**. Meet at 8AM the **corner of Cinnamon Path & Del Curto**. Some stretches of our roadways have poison ivy, so wear closed shoes, long pants, long sleeves & gloves. Here's the drill:

- 1 Sign in at **8AM**, pick up supplies and get a route assignment (a stretch of street to pick up litter).
- 2 Teams will disperse at **8:15** to collect trash and leave the filled trashbags along the street to be picked up later.
- 3 **Meet back at Cinnamon Path at 10AM**. We'll carpool to **breakfast at Mexico Lindo** afterwards!!

Keep Austin Beautiful's mission is to empower citizens of Greater Austin to take personal responsibility for enhancing their community environment. Why do it? Because "It's OUR town!" For more information, refer to www.keeppaustinbeautiful.org.



Back to School Clothing Drive

Unity Church is holding a **Back to School Clothing Drive** for **The Dream Center Austin** from **Sunday, July 24th through Sunday, August 14th**. Items especially needed are:



- Boys & Girls, sizes 2T - 4T; size 6 - size 14
- Jeans for men, women and children
- Ladies clothing size 14 and up
- Men's socks & underwear (even gently worn)

The Dream Center Austin is primarily a food pantry and clothing closet right now, but more services are being planned. Located at **4800 S. First St.**, it is **open only on Thursdays from 10AM to 2PM**, but still serves 65 to 85 families (representing 250-300 individuals) in a single day.

If you can't bring your donations to National Night Out, you can bring them to the SLNA August 18th meeting or drop them by the Unity Church Youth Building before **August 24th**. Thanks for helping Unity Church help our neighbors!

Membership Statement

- Membership in the Association shall be issued on the basis of residency (**renters** and **homeowners**) and timely payment of annual dues [January].
- 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.



"Friends of Austin Public Library" Come to South Austin

The City of Austin acquired the former Post Office facility at **South 5th & West Mary** as the future site of a **new Twin Oaks branch library**. Because construction won't start for another few years, the Library has designated the space for "Friends" activities in the meantime.

The Friends of APL will hold their annual **Monster Book Sale** there on **September 10-11**. "Friends" will continue to use the building as a bookstore until the City is ready to begin construction of the new library.

Find out how to donate books or volunteer for the Book Sale, check the progress of the bookstore, and eventually check on the new library plans at www.austinlibrary.org.

For Sale by 'Hood

Introduction by Beth Troell, Newsletter Editor

In June, Carol Gibbs published a list of properties for sale in SLNA to the email group. The post sparked interest and discussion regarding prices and availability in our neighborhood. In a response to that interest, we've put together these property statistics. If you like the information, drop me an email and we'll keep including it (beth@directwriting.net.) Thanks, Julia Feighner for collecting and crunching the numbers!

Properties sold June 1- July 31	22
Av. \$ per sq ft	\$161
Av. sales price	\$223248

For Sale as of Tue, Jul 26, 2005 02:28 PM

Beds	Baths	List\$	Property	SQFT	Street Name
3	2	\$280,000	House	1,588	2305 Del Curto
3	3.5	\$469,900	Condo	2,400	2608 Del Curto
3	1	\$152,900	House	1,095	3202 Dolphin
4	2.5	\$379,900	House	2,398	2821 Kinney Oaks
3	2	\$299,900	House	1,832	1603 Lightsey
3	1	\$234,500	House	943	2407 Southland
1	1	\$213,400	Condo	1,197	2216 Thornton
0	0	\$489,000	Lot	.87acre	3911 Valley View

Information Deemed Reliable But Not Guaranteed. Buyer Must Verify. Summary provided by Julia Feighner & Anne M. Haikola, Realtor®, Realty World, John Horton & Associates Phone: 512-293-5737, teamhaikola@austin.rr.com. Copyright: 2005 by Austin Board of REALTORS(R), All Rights Reserved. Tue, Jul 26, 2005 02:28 PM

You can Be the Voice for a Child in Need

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Travis County is a non-profit organization that **needs volunteers**. Once trained, these community members can be appointed by a judge to **represent** the best interests of **abused and neglected children in court**.



Such advocates are vital to the children they serve. A study by the University of Texas School of Social Work Research concluded that CASA of Travis County Volunteers moved children to a safe, permanent home six months faster than children without a CASA volunteer. And, at 2004 year-end, CASA of Travis County had served 1,134 abused and neglected children on 579 cases.

CASA recently increased the number of training sessions in an effort to extend a hand, heart, and voice to more children in need. If you are interested in learning more about CASA before volunteering, drop by for one of CASA's **Open House** days at **6339 Hwy 290E Suite 350**, anytime **11AM to 7PM** on Wednesday **September 7th** or Monday **October 3rd**.

You can also visit www.casatravis.org or call **459-2272** to learn what's involved in volunteering to make a difference in a child's life.

SLNA Officers & Contacts

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Attention At-Home MOMS!

At-home moms: join the **MOMS Club of Austin-South**, a chapter of the international stay-at-home MOMS support group! The club holds activities for moms and kids during the day, including meetings with speakers, family activities and outings for mothers and children; sponsored play groups, new arrival groups and others. MOMS also performs projects helping needy children in our community.

SLNA Mom, Lisa Ready says, "My son has been in a playgroup with children his age, and it is wonderful to see them grow up together and develop a friendship."

You can check out the international organization at www.momsclub.org or the local chapter at www.geocities.com/momsclubaustinsth. Or to contact a mom directly, call **Christa Yancy** at **292-6909** or via email: austinmomsclub@yahoo.com.



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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 live outside SLNA's borders, the address of SLNA property you own: _____

Annual Membership: \$10 per Household -OR- \$20 to be a "Big Bubba/Bubbette" - **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** _____

Make check payable to "SLNA". Mail/Deliver with completed form to Don Ewalt, Treasurer, 1605 Lightsey, Austin, TX 78704
- OR - Check here if you are requesting a Waiver of this year's Membership Fee: []