

August 2007
Volume 6, Issue 4

SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association www.southlamar.org

Notes from the Prez

It may seem strange to be saying what I'm about to say at this time of year but it is never too early to show true feelings and appreciation. Time passes faster than we realize. So, let me tell everyone that I have enjoyed serving and representing our neighborhood association. I am proud to be a resident of SLNA. I have come to realize that SLNA has many selfless individuals--much more selfless than I. I have learned from them and hope I have also been able to contribute in some manner to our neighborhood. This is a tough job and because of it, my appreciation and respect for citizens who serve or have served on SLNA committees, on the Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment and other boards, commissions, etc. in Austin, has increased beyond description--I have always admired and respected these volunteers, but, now...well, you know what I mean! SLNA has been very lucky, blessed in that we have had very hardworking and dedicated residents willing to stand up for the things that matter, for the things that make not only SLNA but Austin what they are; make SLNA and Austin different. Thank you for the opportunity,

Oscar

p.s. If anybody has doubts about whether or not they should or could serve as an officer or zoning committee member, all I can say is: if I can do it...

Neighborhood Density

by Nancy Maclaine

One way of measuring a neighborhood's density is to figure the number of dwelling units per acre. A dwelling unit is a house, duplex, an apartment. The City Council over the most recent years has promoted the idea of greater density in the inner-city neighborhoods. We've seen our neighborhood's density increase over recent years--as single family lots and undeveloped property have been developed as apartments, condos duplexes and more single family units. According to the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC) in 2005 the neighborhood with the highest density ("Net Residential population per acre") was RMMA (Robert Mueller Municipal Airport) with a whopping 827.8! UT is second with a density of 206.2 The third place is Triangle/State with density 98.0. South Lamar's is a good distance from those extremes--we had a density of 23.0 How does that stack up against other neighborhoods? Of the 63 neighborhoods tracked, SLNA has higher density than 36 of them. The neighborhoods nearest us range from 12.8 in Barton Hills to 20.9 for Bouldin. Neighborhoods in Austin with the lowest density are West Oak Hill, Windsor Road and Allandale, with 6.2 to 10.4. The numbers say that SLNA is doing its share for the density of inner Austin. Still, a look around shows that our density will go up dramatically. We have been "discovered" by developers as an inner-city neighborhood with relatively large tracts of "underdeveloped" land coming on the market. We have many active construction projects underway within our borders and more threatening. Is this a problem? Well, yes. Aside from the question of how close we want our neighbors to be, is the issue of infrastructure: roads to carry the extra traffic, storm and wastewater sewers, parks. Since this infrastructure is not in place, neighborhood residents pay the price in inconvenience while the developers pocket their profits and walk away. A typical neighborhood zoning of SF-3 (single family/duplex) affords protection only to the extent that we have a council that regards the zoning as a stopping place, not the starting place. Sadly, we don't have such a council at present--to hold the line, we make repeated trips to the Planning Commission and City Council to convey our point-of view. Sometimes we win. Sometimes we lose the battle but manage a few concessions. Every little bit helps!

CALENDAR

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 16 7:00 -9:00pm
Unity Church Main Building 2806 Del Curto

Agenda:

Linda Cox will present Pandemic Flu information
John Bissell-New Newsletter! In your mailbox!
New "Developments"
Other Announcements

Be prepared for Pandemic Flu...Linda Cox, the Public Outreach and Education Coordinator for Pandemic Flu Preparedness for the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department will be here to give us a presentation covering what pandemic flu is, how it can impact us and what we can do to minimize its effects.

Newsletter...Get it in the mail! Can you help? Writers?

FOR SALE IN THE HOOD

List \$	Bd	SqFt	\$/SF	Address
\$239,000	1	800	298.75	2211 Thornton Rd
\$244,900	3	1328	184.41	2103 Fortview Rd
\$317,900	4	1680	189.23	3005 Leaning Oak Cir
\$324,900	3	875	371.31	3300 Dolphin Dr
\$334,900	3	1456	230.01	2206 Iva Ln
\$355,000	4	2316	153.28	2614 Kinney Oaks Ct
\$355,000	3	1830	193.99	1819 Village Oak Ct
\$365,000	4	2221	164.34	2716 Kinney Oaks Ct
\$375,000	3	1910	196.34	4202 Clawson Rd
\$384,983	3	1994	193.07	1817 Village Oak Ct
\$389,000	3	2002	194.31	1806 Village Oak Ct
\$407,000	1	654	622.32	2500 Kinney Rd

Lots currently active:

List \$	Acres	Address
\$599,000	0.850	4010 Clawson Rd
\$1,200,000	3.020	3701 Clawson Rd

Thanks to Terry Echols of Keller Williams Realty for providing the numbers for August 2007! He can be contacted at 512-453-0903 or by fax 512-453-3946.

Otherwise contact him online at www.EcholsTeam.com

SLNA MEMBERSHIP STATEMENT

Membership in the Association shall be issued on the basis of residency (including renters) or residential property ownership and timely payment of dues or waiver request.
SLNA boundaries: North-Oltorf, South-Ben White, West-South Lamar/ Manchaca, East-Union Pacific Railroad
Persons meeting this criteria may request a reduction in dues or a waiver when submitting the membership application.
The privilege of introducing motions and voting shall be limited to those who have joined the Association at least ten (10) days prior to any scheduled meeting.
Complete bylaws and links to other useful SLNA related information are available at www.southlamar.org

2007 SLNA Officers and Contacts

Oscar Lipchak, President olipchak@austin.rr.com
Jan Cartwright, Vice President jandot@swbell.net
Nancy Maclaine, Sec. nmaclaine@sbcglobal.net
John Bissell, Treasurer john@jmbissell.com
Bill Stoughton Webmaster and SCC/ANC Delegate bill@southlamar.org
Dottie Cartwright, Newsletter Co-editor jandot@swbell.net
Annie Taylor, Newsletter Co-editor annietaylor1@mac.com
Wendy Brennan, SLNA-KAB Committee Co-Chair wenbrennan@aol.com
Link Davidson, SLNA-KAB Committee Co-Chair osouthaustin@aol.com
Roberta Leahy, Newsletter Distributor robertaleahy@gmail.com

SLNA NEEDS YOU!

Like so many neighborhood associations SLNA began in response to new development that threatened the character of our neighborhood and our quality of life.

Since 2001, we have worked with the City Council and other Austin neighborhood associations to try to insure that our growth is "smart" rather than harmful to our neighborhoods.

As we experience what many perceive as an assault on inner city neighborhoods, we need every resident to be involved!

We need your ideas and your input. We need your voice in the important decisions that impact our unique area.

We want SLNA to be a resource for every person living within our boundaries.

Won't you please join us?

Cub Scout Recruiting Coming to Area Schools

by Charles Mead

Families have as many choices as ever when it comes to spending their free time together. But few of those choices will offer parents fun for their children, while allowing mom and dad to get involved, too. Scouting can offer all this – plus access and opportunity to people and experiences that can help your child succeed in the future. The start of the school year is a great time for families who are interested in getting started in Scouting, as school districts across Central Texas offer "Join Cub Scouting Nights" at their elementary school campuses. Join Cub Scouting Nights offer families of boys in the first through fifth grades the chance to find out what Scouting is all about, and ask leaders questions. "Scouts get out of the house and have fun with friends," says Capitol Area Council President, Winston Krause. "A child can try so many new things in Scouting, and moms and dads can be there with their children as they figure out what they like and what they don't. The most important thing is that no matter what a Scout tries, he promises to do his best."

Cub Scouts and their families can take advantage of the Capitol Area Council's new 150 acre "Cub World at Camp Tom Wooten, on the LCRA Lost Pines Scout Reservation in Bastrop.

Every new Scout that joins this August or September will receive a free Pinewood Derby car kit courtesy of Gatti's Pizza and will be invited to an exclusive practice of the University of Texas Longhorn football team, hosted by former Scout, coach Mack Brown!

For more information go online to www.bsacac.org. or contact James Johnson at (512)926-6363 or jajohnso@bsamail.org



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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 the SLNA property that you own: _____

Annual Membership: \$10.00 per household OR \$20.00 to be a "Big Bubba/Bubbette" TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make check payable to SLNA. Mail or deliver with completed form to: John Bissell, 2816 Kinney Oaks Ct. Austin TX 78704

OR Check here if you are requesting a Waiver of this year's Membership fee: _____