

October 1, 2002
Volume 1, Issue 5

SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association www.southlamar.org

October Meeting:

- ❖ Nominating committee presents slate
- ❖ Election of officers
- ❖ Update from APD District Rep Kenny Nash
- ❖ Discussion of Holiday Party
- ❖ Update on property developments in SLNA
- ❖ Voter registration
- ❖ Park Project
- ❖ Safe Routes to Schools Update
- ❖ ANC/SCC update
- ❖ SLNA Welcome Wagon

Seems like time is flying by since our last newsletter in August! School is back in session and I believe I have seen a few trees thinking about changing colors soon. It is also a year and 10 months into our newly formed South Lamar Neighborhood Association! It seems like almost yesterday.

These past weeks the association has been buzzing with projects. The nominating committee has been meeting and will present their slate of suggested SLNA officers for 2003. Nominations will be welcome from the floor at the October meeting, when we will hold that election. The sidewalk committee has been hard at it, working on obtaining Texas Department of Transportation grant money for safe routes to schools. We are still hammering away at getting a small pocket park in the hood also. With the city budget in such a shortfall, funding for any of these is tough. We also made a last minute run at a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation but didn't make the cut this time.

In September I attended the Envision Central Texas Project. Over 350 folks from all over the 5 county region attended this workshop to study the projected growth of an additional 1.25 million people in the next 20+ years. It was almost scary to think that Austin might be doubling again in 20 years (as it did over the last ten years). This project is looking for input from anyone in the metro area. The project may be the guiding light for development (or not?) in the coming years. For more information on the project and workshops check www.envisioncentraltexas.org on the web.

Ghosts and goblins will be taking over the hood in a few days. Be sure to read APD's Kenny Nash's column for some trick or treat tips and have a great Halloween South Austin style.

We have been experimenting with the Friday night get together, trying to find just the right spot for the winter months. That search is still on, so be sure to check the SLNA web site www.southlamar.org for the weekly location. It is a very informal get together of SLNA neighbors every Friday at 6pm. There is also an automatic email notice sent out and it will also have the location of the week (till we settle on one spot). If you are not already on the SLNA email list, please send me your email address and I'll get you on right away. It is the perfect way to communicate with your neighbors about what is going on in the hood.

Hope you all can make the next meeting, Oct 17th at Unity Church on Del Curto (south building) at 7pm.

Take Care - Bryan King



Oak Wilt Continues to Be a Problem in South Austin...

While driving on South 5th the other day, Charlton and I noticed several naked Oaks lining the street, reminding us that Oak Wilt is still a significant problem in South Austin. Presently, the only known cost effective preventative is to inject chemicals into affected trees. Last Spring, several SLNA members gathered for a demonstration of how to inject a fungicide called Alamo into a tree's flare roots. We learned that the treatment process was easy and economically sound, given the alternatives of tree removal or trenching, yet the Alamo Fungicide Injection Tank still sits in our storage shed; it has not been used since the demonstration.

So, I am writing this article as a *reminder* that the tank is still here, ready to be used at a minimal investment to you. The use of the tank is FREE! To treat a 20" diameter tree with the fungicide should not run more than \$50.00 and lasts up to three years. Oak Wilt Specialists of Wimberley and Callahan's General Store off of Bastrop Highway are distributors of the fungicide. Jon and Lisa Long of Oakwilt Specialists have verbalized their commitment to offer SLNA the best price available.

The next time you are out watering the grass, please take time to check your trees! If you see an amber colored tint in the veins of your leaves, or if your trees look unnaturally bare, please contact Jay Culver, of Austin Parks & Rec's Oak Wilt Suppression Project, immediately to set-up an appointment for diagnosis. Truly, the only way for us to maintain our age-old trees, those trees that provide shade, beauty and habitat, as well as appreciated home values, is to protect them through this cost effective chemical treatment.

If you were not able to attend our demo, we would be happy to schedule another. And, if you are now ready to borrow the injection tank, please give us a call! We do recommend, however, that you call Mr. Culver first for a proper diagnosis.

Contacts:

Diagnosis & General Questions:

Jay Culver

Austin Parks & Recreation
440-5195

jay.culver@ci.austin.tx.us

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/>

<http://www.stopoakwilt.com/>

Tank Check-Out:

Charlton & Kathryn
416-0954

1603B Morgan Lane
Austin, TX 78704

kathrynstern@worldnet.att.net

Fungicide Distributors:

Oak Wilt Specialists

Jon and Lisa Long

842-8733

jslbling@flash.net

Callahan's General Store
385-3452

Notes from Kenny Nash

APD District Representative

I would like to take this opportunity to tell everyone hello and give a few updates on what is going on. The Southwest Area Command just received our new smart trailer (a trailer with radar on it that lets you know how fast you are traveling). I have been trained on this equipment and will hopefully have it out in the neighborhoods by the 2nd week in October. I would like to remind everyone that **Halloween** is just around the corner, and remind all our children about strangers and the dangers that are associated with them. Everyone please thoroughly check all candy that your children receive during Halloween.

For those who haven't heard yet, the "parking on the lawn" ordinance is now in effect. The way this is going to be handled is if someone wishes to file a complaint on an individual parking in a front or side yard, that individual must live in the prohibited area, and meet the correct criteria. The complainant should call 311 on the violator. A 311 dispatcher will then notify the correct District Representative. That District Rep. will then check out the residence of the parking violation. If the vehicle is still in violation, the District Rep. will issue a warning citation. There must be a 7 day grace period after this warning. If the vehicle is still parked illegally, then another warning will be issued. Again we must wait another 7 days to recheck the parking. If the vehicle is still parked illegally, then a citation will be issued. The citation will be issued in the name of the registered owner of the vehicle and not the owner of the residence (of course unless it is the same). Tickets will be issued every 7 days for as long as the vehicle remains illegally parked at the residence. That gives you the enforcement on this ordinance in a nutshell.

Again, I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful Halloween and stay safe. Let's make sure our children are highly visible and escorted by an adult at all times. I hope to see everyone at our next SLNA meeting on the 17th of October. Take care and stay safe.

Kenny Nash, Senior Police Officer
Phone- 512-974-4299 Fax- 512-974-8245

City to Repair Sewers

The Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP) was created last year to address an administrative order from the U.S. EPA. Over the next few years the City of Austin plans to spend as much as several hundred million dollars to eliminate and prevent sanitary sewer overflows. Ft. Worth has spent over \$212 million, Dallas \$186 million, and Houston \$1.5 billion on similar problems, as ordered by the EPA. These sewer overflows are usually caused by sewer blockage from roots or grease, or by high water flows during wet weather. In Austin, sanitary sewers are designed to take wastewater from the drains and toilets in residences and businesses. These are separate from storm drains, which take runoff from yards, parking lots and streets. The ACWP addresses only sanitary sewer repairs. Residents and businesses are encouraged to learn how they can help prevent sewer blockages and overflows. The high cost of repairing blocked sewers gives them an important reason to help prevent problems. Some ways are by throwing away grease in containers in the trash, and not putting anything down drains or toilets that could clog a pipe. More information is available from the ACWP hotline, 684-3204. Or, email Lisa.Rhodes@ci.austin.tx.us. Or, visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/acwp/

- Kevin Lewis

Nominating Committee's Recommendations for SLNA 2003 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee would like to introduce the five individuals we are recommending for the 2003 Slate of Officers, to be voted on at the October 17th meeting. In addition to these nominees, any SLNA member may make additional nominations from the floor during the October meeting. For "job descriptions" and other details of the SLNA Bylaws, go to www.southlamar.org/Bylaws.htm.

President: Kevin Lewis - kewis@wholeearthprovision.com

Kevin has been a resident of the neighborhood for four years, and a member of SLNA for 2 years. He works as General Merchandise Manager for Whole Earth Provision Co. Kevin has been the SLNA Delegate to the South Central Coalition and Austin Neighborhoods Council (SCC/ANC) for the past year.

Vice President: Steve Lacker - sglacker@texas.net

Steve spent much of his youth in this 'hood, and recently moved into the home that his grandparents built in the 1940's. He shares the Lightsey Road home with wife Ann and daughter Caitlin. Steve works as a Research Engineer at Applied Research Laboratories. He is a valuable member of the SLNA Sidewalk Committee, and we are pleased that he has accepted this nomination.

Secretary: Hilary Dyer - hilary@texas.net

Hilary, a Software Engineer for 360Commerce, bought her home on Lightsey Road in 1998. Hilary joined SLNA in order to get more actively involved with her neighbors. She has been the SLNA Secretary for the past year, and the committee is pleased that she is willing to continue in that role for one more year.

Treasurer: Bill Stoughton - bstoughton@ausint.rr.com

Bill came to Austin in 1991, transferring with Bust Buy as a Market Analyst. He purchased his home on South Oak in 1994, and shares it with three cats (actually, they let him live there with them). Bill is the maestro behind SLNA's website, www.southlamar.org, which has garnered rave reviews citywide. Bill has accepted out nomination as Treasurer because he wants to put more back into this neighborhood (he promises to continue as the webmaster, too!)

ACC/ANC Delegate: Charlton Perry - cperry@sss.austin.tx.us

Although he's a relative newcomer to our 'hood and the SLNA, Charlton is an Austin native. He teaches history and coaches soccer at St. Stephen's Episcopal School. Since becoming a property owner on Morgan Lane, he has become keenly interested in neighborhood planning. Charlton accepted this nomination because it will allow him to keep himself -- and his neighbors -- informed of salient issues and effective strategies for maintaining and improving our community.

The Nominating Committee believes each of these individuals will be an outstanding representative of SLNA, and we proudly present them as our recommendations to be the SLNA Officers for the coming year.

Compiled by Carol Gibbs

2002 Halloween Events

Ghouls and goblins will hit the Halloween Trail, an annual Halloween event coordinated by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27. The event provides family fun and entertainment. Carnival style booths will be arranged on the southwest corner of Zilker Park soccer fields offering a variety of activities for children. In addition, food and beverage vendors and entertainment stages are provided for all. Call (512) 974-7865 for

more information. Entry fee is \$1 and at least one canned food item. Canned food items are donated to the Capital Area Food Bank, and the entry fees go toward summer camp scholarships for children.

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Membership in the Association shall be open to all residents or residential property owners between these boundaries; North: Oltorf, South: Ben White, West: South Lamar, Manchaca and East: the Union Pacific Railroad. Membership in the Association shall be issued on the basis of residency and payment of annual dues. 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 by paying dues at least ten days prior to any regularly scheduled or special called meeting. Complete bylaws are available at www.southlamar.org and will be available at regular meetings.

