

October 2003  
Volume 2, Issue 5

# SLNA Newsletter

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

## 2003 COMES TO A CLOSE

by Kevin Lewis, SLNA President

### Next Meeting

Thursday, October 16th  
7 - 9 pm  
Unity Church  
Youth Annex  
2806 del Curto

#### AGENDA TOPICS:

- **Election of Officers, Revisions to Bylaws**
- **Developers in SLNA**  
Bryan King
- **Solar Power**  
Amanda Buehler
- **Envision Central Texas**  
Bryan King
- **Keep SLNA Beautiful**  
Carol Gibbs
- **December "Social"**
- **Other SLNA Business**  
Kevin Lewis

As we wind our way toward the end of another busy year for the South Lamar Neighborhood Association, we look forward to next year's challenges and opportunities. SLNA neighbors have accomplished a lot in 2003. We've spoken up on important development cases like Walgreens and CityView Storage (more on those below). We've worked to build community in our area, cleaning streets and researching a possible park. We've continued to learn about the City's operations and been a resource for residents on numerous questions.

The work of the association happens only through the efforts of our volunteers. Officers, committee members and many other neighbors put in countless hours of effort, for which we're grateful. This month we elect officers for 2004. The bylaws state that each term is one year (Jan. – Dec.) and limited to 2 consecutive terms in a position. Hilary Dyer has served diligently as Secretary for two years, so a new volunteer must take her place. We also must re-elect (or elect new folks for) the other four officers. Any current member is eligible to be nominated, either by a Nominating Committee or "on the floor" at the meeting. You must also be a SLNA member to make a nomination. Anyone interested in running for an SLNA office should contact Kevin Lewis ([kewis@wholeearthprovision.com](mailto:kewis@wholeearthprovision.com) or 443-1576), or just speak up at the meeting. Descriptions of SLNA officers' responsibilities can be found online at [www.southlamar.org/Bylaws.htm](http://www.southlamar.org/Bylaws.htm).

Also at this month's meeting there may be some recommendations to modify the SLNA bylaws. A copy of the current bylaws will be available at the meeting for those who do not have access to the Internet.

**Is your SLNA membership current?** The annual membership fee of \$10 per household is due in January of each year. If you are not sure of your status, call or email the treasurer, Bill Stoughton, at 448-2754 or [bill@southlamar.org](mailto:bill@southlamar.org).

SLNA's December meeting has historically been a social event, with the "passing of the torch" from the old officers to the new, followed by potluck snacks and general merriment. We will be asking for one or two neighbors to volunteer as "social coordinators" for the holiday affair, slated for December 18<sup>th</sup> at our usual time and location.

### Walgreens to Revise Plans for South Lamar at Bluebonnet

David Darr, the developer who proposed a Walgreens store at South Lamar and Bluebonnet Lane, has told SLNA he plans to bring out a revised design for the site. City Council voted July 17 to reject the original Walgreens plan, citing intrusion into the neighborhood and traffic and safety impact on Bluebonnet. The SLNA voiced unanimous neighborhood opposition.

City regulations allow a developer to reapply on a rejected site if the new zoning change request is less intense. Darr said if plans for the store were ready he would show them to residents soon, possibly in late October. Maria Corbalan of Maria's Taco Xpress has said the new proposal might include moving her business to a different part of the Village Trailer Park land. Details are not clear and not finalized, but it appears the new plan still includes Walgreens' driveway access to Bluebonnet Lane. We will post notice on the SLNA email list and at Taco Xpress when a meeting is planned with the developer. Please stay tuned.

In other development news: after two years of denying the request, the Board of Adjustment finally granted the parking variance for CityView Storage in September. The multistory storage facility is planned for Kinney Road at Lamar. Neighbors' objections to the variance were based on concerns about traffic, safety and parking on the street. Also, City Council approved changing the zoning of 1704 Fortview to Commercial, but limited to vehicle storage only. That lot is used by Sayther Automotive to store vehicles awaiting repair. The SLNA Executive Committee had voted to take no position on that case.

### "SOLAR AUSTIN"

Guest speaker at this month's meeting will be Amanda Buehler, representing the Solar Austin Campaign, a coalition of businesses, individuals and civic organizations with the common vision of making Austin a leading "Solar City" in the country. By increasing our use of solar power and other renewable sources of energy, Austin could stem the current trend of "Ozone Alerts," unemployment statistics, rising electric bills, and reliance on oil from other countries... Come hear more about it at the meeting! To learn more online, go to <http://www.seedcoalition.org/solaraustin/index.htm>.

### ENVISION CENTRAL TEXAS

You may have seen the article "Imagining Central Texas" on the front page of Sunday, Oct. 5th's Austin American Statesman, which is also available online: "Imagining Central Texas, 20-40 years down the road" at [www.statesman.com](http://www.statesman.com).

If you are reading a paper version of this newsletter, you may have found with it a four-page survey from "Envision Central Texas." If you did not get a survey, or are reading this newsletter online, there are many other ways you can share your opinions, such as the ECT website: <http://www.envisioncentraltexas.org/publicfeedback.php>.

Bryan King (past president of SLNA, current President of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, and a member of the ECT Board of Directors) will tell us about ECT and the survey at this month's meeting. Bring your survey with you if you have any questions about it.

### Keeping [South] Austin Beautiful

When Austin Energy removed most of the shade trees along Bluebonnet Lane, several neighbors decided to do something about the eyesore left behind. With assistance from Richard McHale of Solid Waste Services, SLNA took advantage of the Bulky Items Pick-Up, and pulled all kinds of junk out of that ditch. On the following weekend, several more members filled 18 large garbage bags (4 of which were recyclable cans and bottles) with trash from that same stretch of road. With supplies donated by Keep Austin Beautiful, we made significant improvements to what is still a painfully bare stretch of Bluebonnet, but at least it looks a little bit cleaner.

**Silver Lining?** Keep your fingers crossed, as there is a chance that the City will continue the work we started, returning that ditch to its original purpose: drainage retention instead of garbage retention!

**“Adopt-A-Street”** There are several more stretches of roadway in our neighborhood that also need a major cleanup - Clawson Road being the most obvious. Keep Austin Beautiful has offered more help: If SLNA will commit to doing one cleanup project each quarter, Keep Austin Beautiful will create and erect our own SLNA “Adopt-A-Street” sign, fashioned after the Adopt-A-Highway program. Come to the October meeting to learn how you can help “Keep SLNA Beautiful”.

### Community-wide Fire Ant Management

With recent changes in the weather- rainfall and temperature decline- fire ant mounds seem to be popping up all over! When the weather is hot and dry, fire ants dig deep into the soil to find cooler temperatures. Fall is a great time to tackle fire ants.

Community-wide fire ant management programs can be a beneficial way to overcome the constant battle between homeowners and fire ants. Since most fire ant control methods are executed by individual landowners, there is often rapid reinfestation from nearby, untreated areas. By organizing a community program, the reinfestation boundaries can be pushed further away, resulting in longer periods of time between reinvansion and treatment. Fortunately, many types of bait found in today’s market are suitable for large-scale use and can be utilized for community-wide fire ant management.

The “Two-Step Method” is a good method for community-wide treatment of fire ants. This method consists of a broadcast bait treatment twice a year- usually in the spring and fall- followed by spot treatment of individual mounds that require immediate attention. Call Wizzie Brown, Extension Agent-IPM, at 512-854-9600 or go to <http://fireant.tamu.edu> for more info.



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

### 2003 SLNA Contacts

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