

SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association www.southlamar.org

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

UNITY CHURCH YOUTH ANNEX – 2806 Del Curto Road

OCTOBER AGENDA:

- **Walgreens in Review**
- **2005 Election of SLNA Officers**
- **Farmers Market**
- **All Systems Go & CapMetro**
- **Holiday Party Plans?**

LOCATION * LOCATION * LOCATION

The October meeting will be held in Unity Church's Youth Annex -- where we have usually met -- rather than in the main chapel. The Youth Annex is the 2-story building east of the main building. As always, we're grateful to Unity Church for sharing their space.

Walgreens & Taco Xpress: Moving Forward

Well, nobody was singing, but there was some cheering, and a palpable sense of relief. After nearly two years, Walgreens' plans for South Lamar at Bluebonnet won approval by City Council on Sept. 30th. This was the final vote on the zoning case. We will have the developer's drawings to show and can answer questions at our October 21 general meeting.

Understanding that SLNA's opposition to the main case had been heard on Sept. 2nd, we re-focused on working with the developer and city staff to reach agreement on various issues. The developer listened to all of our requests, and accommodated us where possible. We worked with city staff and City Council to make sure those provisions were codified in the most clear and solid way. Given the entire epic, I believe this is as good a resolution as we could expect, and provides a good basis for moving forward.

Among the points on which we reached agreement are these:

- All improvements to Bluebonnet Lane will be made before the development gets driveway access onto Bluebonnet.
- The developer will pay for and build these improvements, although he was not required by city code to do so.
- Bluebonnet will be widened to 36 feet (3 car lanes) from Lamar to the far side of Walgreens' driveway.
- The developer will build sidewalks along Bluebonnet: on the south side all the way to Del Curto, and on the north side to the residential properties.
- Right turns onto Bluebonnet will be prohibited. They will build a curb device ("porkchop") into the Bluebonnet driveway to enforce that.
- Bluebonnet will have a dedicated left turn lane onto southbound Lamar, and directional striping on the west side of Lamar will be improved.
- Parking lot lighting will be like that in Westlake. This results in less spillover light pollution and better energy conservation.
- Building aesthetics (awnings, façade materials, colors, etc.) will be designed as promised.
- Stormwater retention will be twice what is required by city code. This will not eliminate flooding, but should help reduce it.
- The developer will post a \$50,000 security deposit in escrow. In case of a breach of our agreement on above points, SLNA could use those funds to sue for compliance or damages.

And oh, yeah: they're going to rebuild the funky taco spot with a heart of gold, Taco Xpress. Maybe you heard about that?

If you have a sense of nostalgia about the Village Trailer Park, now's your chance to soak up the ambiance, to revel in the glory of Old South Austin. I suggested to the trailer park's owner, Gene Payne, that someone collect historical anecdotes and photos before the bulldozing begins. Let me know if you'd like to help with that. Likewise Taco Xpress and the boot shop.

This was in many ways a landmark process for SLNA. Through considerable effort (an understatement) we have learned valuable lessons. I thank everyone who has worked so hard on this for their dedication, ability, and heart, especially Carol Gibbs, Bob Thompson, Antonio Gonzalez, Bill Stoughton, and our friends in Zilker. I believe the developer, David Darr, and his representative, Steve Drenner, mean well for the neighborhood, and will render their words in deeds. The agreements we have secured will help ensure that.

Perhaps most importantly, many neighbors contributed to thoughtful and productive discussions on important questions. We maintained respect for those of every viewpoint, and worked toward resolution. Let's build on this experience and look forward to continuing to improve our home.

Kevin Lewis
SLNA President

SLNA Officer Candidates for 2005 Wanted

If you've wanted to do more to help SLNA make a difference, you might be a great officer candidate.

Please contact Carol Gibbs or Kevin Lewis (see back page) about possible open positions.

SLNA offices are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) Representative.

Capital Metro Rail Plan Discussion at October 21 SLNA Meeting

Our regional transit authority, Capital Metro, is proposing a commuter urban rail line on the November 2 ballot. The line would run from downtown to Leander.

At our SLNA meeting Oct. 21, we'll have a discussion featuring a representative from Cap Metro, and one proponent and one opponent of the proposal. Come hear the details and what it could mean for our area. It promises to be a very educational session. In the meantime, check out www.capmetro.org for more information.



One Number For Austin Community Services Aid

2-1-1 is an easy to remember toll-free telephone number that connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities.

2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing callers with information about (and referrals to) human services for every day needs and in times of crisis. For example, 2-1-1 can offer access to the following services:

- Basic Human Needs Resource: food banks, clothing closets, shelters, rent assistance, utility assistance.
- Physical and Mental Health Resources: health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health, Children's Health Insurance Program, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation.
- Employment Support: financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs.
- Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities: adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, and homemaker services.
- Support for Children, Youth and Families: Childcare, after school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services.
- Volunteer Opportunities and Donations.

This free service, available throughout the entire state of Texas, is a public/private partnership of the United Ways in Central Texas and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

More information is available at www.211.org.



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Farmers' Market & the Sustainable Food Center

Open Saturdays, 9 - 1 through December 18th, the Austin Farmers' Market is located in the heart of downtown at Republic Square Park (4th and Guadalupe). A vital part of the community and the Austin experience, it features dozens of farmers who bring tasty fresh vegetables, fruits, cheeses, meats, eggs, honey and more direct from their farms to you. There are also artisan vendors who create prepared foods, jellies, salsas, breads, desserts and crafts of all kinds. Match that with a live local band every week, chefs' demos and garden workshops and you've got a great place to go to shop local, eat fresh! www.austinfarmersmarket.org

The Austin Farmers' Market is a project of the Sustainable Food Center (SFC), a local non-profit that focuses on issues around food and the sustainability of growing it, eating it and marketing/selling it. SFC has a mission to increase community food security by providing access to local, healthy and affordable food to Central Texans. The organization operates the downtown Austin Farmers' Markets, individual farmers' stands in East Austin, four community gardens across the city, and The Happy Kitchen cooking and nutrition program that teaches low-income and at-risk families how to best cook and shop for healthy, affordable, and seasonal meals. www.sustainablefoodcenter.org or call the Sustainable Food Center at 512-236-0074.



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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

2004 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.