

SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association www.southlamar.org

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December Meeting POT LUCK PARTY

Thursday, December 18th 7 - 9 pm
Unity Church Youth Annex 2806 del Curto

SLNA's Annual Holiday Potluck Social takes the place of the regular meeting for the month of December. So if you've been avoiding the meetings because they're all work and no play, this is the one you **don't want to miss**.

Everybody brings a favorite dish they've prepared or a snack tray they got at their favorite deli. (SLNA will provide drinks and the paper/plastic goods.) With holiday music in the background, we will stand around eating, drinking and being merry – and getting to know our neighbors. Other than the annual “passing of the torch” to the incoming officers, there should be no other “business” to interrupt the festivities!

Outgoing SLNA Secretary Hilary Dyer is coordinating the event, and she welcomes any assistance she can get in decorating for the occasion. Call or email Hilary at 440-1964 or hilary@texas.net if you're up for the challenge. We hope to have a great turnout!

SLNA Officers for 2004

by Kevin Lewis, SLNA President

At the October SLNA meeting, members elected officers for 2004. Returning are Bill Stoughton as Treasurer, Charlton Perry as SLNA's Representative to South Central Coalition and Austin Neighborhoods Council, and me, Kevin Lewis, as President. At that time, there were no candidates for vice president or secretary, but in accordance with our bylaws we continued the search.

We're now pleased to welcome Carol Gibbs, our hardworking Newsletter Editor and Trailer Park Study Committee Co-Chair, as Vice President. Carol agreed to serve and was approved by the Executive Committee on December 2.

We still need a Secretary for 2004. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact Kevin Lewis at 443-1576 or klewis@wholeearthprovision.com.

Please join us in welcoming Carol to her new position at the December meeting (party).

SLNA Membership Grows in 2003

by Bill Stoughton, Treasurer

Formed just three years ago, the South Lamar Neighborhood Association has grown from a handful of individuals to a burgeoning cross-section of our neighborhood's residents. SLNA's membership roll in 2003 expanded to 75 members, a 42 percent increase over the previous year and more than doubled over 2001.

You can help keep the momentum rolling by joining – or renewing your membership in – SLNA for the coming year. Mail your check along with the membership form (below), or bring them to this month's meeting/party.

Remember, these are **annual dues** – not a one-time fee. **Everyone's** membership fee is due for 2004, regardless of when they joined. So this holiday season, instead of spending \$10 or \$20 on that aftershave for Uncle Joe, give it to SLNA. Uncle Joe said he won't mind...

Walgreens Update

by Kevin Lewis & Carol Gibbs

Walgreens is definitely working on new plans for the Village Trailer Park property in 2004. David Darr, the developer, plans to meet with SLNA residents before the end of December (watch email for specific time) to show us the new plans, which he may submit to the City in January. Those plans reportedly include preserving Maria's Taco Xpress by rebuilding it just across the driveway from its current location (to the south). We hope he has taken into consideration the many concerns that were raised by the opposition at the July City Council meeting, which resulted in the Council denying that zoning request. We hope to know more in time to share it at the December meeting/party, so that's another reason to join us on the 18th!

KEEPING (SOUTH) AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL

by Carol Gibbs

At October's meeting, SLNA members voted to join the Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) “**Adopt-A-Street**” program. This means we will get a “Keep Austin Beautiful” street sign, naming SLNA as the adopter. Since we have more than just one stretch of roadway to clean, KAB is allowing us to work on a different area for each cleanup, which we will schedule on a quarterly basis.

We need volunteers to serve on the planning committee and to take turns coordinating the actual cleanup days. This would be a great activity for teenagers to get involved in, especially for any community service requirements their schools might have. Keep Austin Beautiful will continue to loan us the supplies needed for each cleanup, including street banners to hang during the actual cleanup events.

Thanks to Daryl Thompson and Rona Distenfeld for volunteering to serve on committee at the October meeting. Anyone else who wants to find out more about it should contact me, Carol Gibbs, at cgibbs1@austin.rr.com or 442-8060.

GOTCHA . . . FINALLY !!!
by Carol Gibbs

Remember that litterbug tossing a cigarette butt out the car window, and the debris blowing out of some guy’s truckbed? Now TxDOT’s “GOTCHA” program allows you to do something about it – without getting punched out by the offender. Just note a few things about the incident (please don’t write while driving!) and then report it:

- Make of the vehicle
- TX License Plate Number
- Date and Time of Day the offense occurred
- Location of the offense (street intersection or street & block #)
- Who tossed the trash (driver, passenger, or accidental)
- What was thrown/blown out (cigarette butt, cup/can/bottle, etc.)

Complete the report form at www.dontmesswithtexas.org/gotcha.php or call **1-888-TEX-8683** with the details of the incident.

When TxDOT identifies the vehicle’s owner by running the vehicle’s license plate number through their database, they send the owner a letter advising them that the littering from their vehicle did not go unnoticed, and to put their trash where it belongs!

TCEQ has a similar reporting program for smog-producing vehicles. Check the website below for more details: www.smokingvehicles.org. Report these offenders via the website or call **1-800-453-SMOG** with similar details as listed above.

Neither of these programs has the authority to “punish” offenders, but each reminds them that it is a “ticket-able offense”. And won’t you feel just a little better, knowing there is more you can do than just curse the litterbugs & polluters from behind your steering wheel?

Capital Metro and South Lamar
by Kevin Lewis

As part of their ongoing effort to improve pedestrian access to bus stops in Austin, Capital Metro (CapMetro) hosted a workshop a few months ago to gather input on needed service improvements for South Lamar Blvd. Several neighborhood leaders participated, and their suggestions have been incorporated into CapMetro’s 2004 plans for South Lamar. The planned projects include:

1. Sidewalk gap-infill on both sides of Lamar from Barton Skyway to Brodie Oaks, and a pedestrian bridge over the drainage ditch in the 1800 block of South Lamar (by Austin's Pizza).
2. Replace the bus shelter at La Casa.
3. Improve the bus shelter on Lamar at Oltorf (at Office Depot), maybe with the “Adopt-a-Stop” program.
4. Provide bike racks at businesses.

This was the first time CapMetro had used this format to gauge needs, and it was successful enough that they are adopting it as a model for future projects in other parts of the city. Thanks to CapMetro for making good use of the locals who know the area best, and care the most about the results. Our input can make a difference!

For more information, contact Brad Ehlers at 389-7590.



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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

2003 SLNA Contacts

Kevin Lewis, President
443-1576 klewis@wholeearthprovision.com
Carol Gibbs, Vice Pres. & Newsletter Editor
442-8060 cgibbs1@austin.rr.com

(to be filled) Secretary

Bill Stoughton, Treasurer & WebMaster
448-2754 bill@southlamar.org
Charlton Perry, SCC/ANC Delegate
731-6518 cperry@ststephens-texas.com

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.