

# SLNA Newsletter

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

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.**

**UNITY CHURCH MAIN BUILDING – 2806 Del Curto Road**

## In This Issue:

- **PARTY TIME!**
- **Out with the Old,  
In with the New**
- **“Do You Want To  
Yahoo!”?**
- **Clawson Road  
Cleanup on Dec. 11**
- **New APD District  
Representative**

## SLNA Pot-Luck Holiday PARTY

Continuing the SLNA holiday tradition, our December meeting will involve very little business and a whole lot of singing, munching and sharing good cheer. Just bring your favorite dish or beverages to share (home-made or store-bought, we're not picky) and hang out with us for an hour or two.

We'll have everyone introduce themselves, “swear in” the new SLNA Officers for 2005, and then turn to the entertainment for the evening. **Florence Castle**, our own resident pianist, will accompany us again (and try to keep us on key!) as we sing those great holiday tunes. “The 12 Days of Christmas” will probably be performed again (for those who weren't there last year, you must come – if only for this one event)!

We promise to not discuss anything that requires deliberation. So come, meet more neighbors, share some holiday cheer, and while you're there you can go ahead and pay your 2005 SLNA membership dues! (Membership guidelines and application are on the back page, and available in more depth at [www.southlamar.org](http://www.southlamar.org) ).

## Presidential Farewell

by Kevin Lewis

For the last two years I have had the honor and pleasure of serving as SLNA president. I've really enjoyed helping our residents discuss ideas about the neighborhood and the city, and work toward realizing them. We've had some challenges and problems, but a good bit of progress as well. After only four years, SLNA has become one of the more visible and active neighborhood associations in Austin.

We have learned a lot about the workings of city government, and how both staff and elected officials can help us. We've also found, there's a whole lot more to learn. At our meetings we've had thoughtful, stimulating discussions on a number of questions. We have made new friendships as others grow. Importantly, we have seen the real effects we can have by showing up and making our opinions heard. Our ongoing activism is the gift to the community. It is the manifestation of our goodwill.

Our area, indeed our whole region, is changing and growing rapidly. That will continue. Some aspects of that change may be beyond our control, but many others are ours to create. We're fortunate to live in a city that embraces civic participation. The architect of the new City Hall described us as “terminally democratic.” I couldn't think of a higher compliment. It's up to us to live that ideal.

My great thanks to all the volunteers who make SLNA work. We all owe them for their dedication and hard work. We're fortunate to have a strong new group of officers for 2005. Carol Gibbs brings much experience as president. We'll welcome newcomers Nancy Maclaine as VP and Don Ewalt as Treasurer. Roberta Leahy continues as Secretary, Bill Stoughton will continue as our Webmaster, and I'll serve as ANC/SCC Representative.

Please join us December 16 for the holiday meeting/party. There's much to celebrate, and much to look forward to.

## Want to keep up with the Neighborhood Scoop?? Join our email “Yahoo!Group” – it's easy (honest!)

- First, register as a Yahoo!Groups member by going to our Yahoo webpage: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthLamarNA/>.
- Once there, click on the “Join This Group” button (you only have to complete the **required** information).
- It will tell you to create a **Yahoo ID** and **Password** and enter the **email address** you want to use (Yahoo offers free email accounts, if you don't already have an email account elsewhere or if you want to create one specifically for SLNA activity).
- Note: it may take a day or two for your Yahoo ID to be processed and your residency in SLNA to be verified. You can not take the next step until you receive email notification welcoming you as a Yahoo!Group member.
- Once you are a Yahoo!Group member, go back to the same website (above) and sign in with your Yahoo ID and password (you will remember them, won't you?!).
- Click on “Edit My Membership”, where you'll set your preferences for how to read the SLNA emails (i.e., in your email Inbox, or by going to the SLNA Yahoo!Group site).
- On the SLNA Yahoo!Group website, you can:
  - ♦ Review all messages ever posted, arranged as you wish: by date or by “thread” (subject), or search for messages containing “keywords” you enter.
  - ♦ Send individual emails to other SLNA subscribers: Click on the “Members” link at left, and scroll thru the list of subscribers (some profiles do not show who they are, but most do). While Yahoo will not reveal any one individual's entire email address, it will allow you to send them an email from the website. Hopefully, they will reply favorably to you!
  - ♦ You can always change these preferences at any time, or even quit this Yahoo!Group if you want.

Personally, I think it's a great way to keep up with your neighborhood, even if you never “post” any messages yourself. The SLNA Officers regularly “post” announcements received from civic groups, the City, quarterly meetings with APD, and any other news that can't wait till the next newsletter! So, join us online, won't you?!  
~ Carol Gibbs ~

Come "Talk Trash" With Your Neighbors -  
and Help Keep South Austin Beautiful!

Our fifth project as a member of Keep Austin Beautiful's "Adopt-A-Street" program has us on **Clawson Road** (the entire stretch this time, from Lightsey to Fortview) on **Saturday, Dec. 11, from 8 to 11 AM.**

Come whenever you can, but be sure to **sign in** at the corner of Southridge & Clawson (3500 block of Clawson) and pick up your supplies (trash bags, latex gloves, etc.). Bring water to drink, and work gloves if you have them. Long sleeves, jeans and closed shoes are strongly recommended (not a problem with the recent temperatures!).

Afterwards, we'll go to a nearby restaurant to reward ourselves for a job well done and get to know each other over a late breakfast. Plan to join us!

If you have any questions, or suggestions for where we should do the next SLNA Street Cleanup (in March), please contact our Cleanup Committee Chair, Chad Hymel (sounds like "he-mail") at [chadhymel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chadhymel@sbcglobal.net) or 916-8707.



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**New APD District Representative for SLNA!**  
by Carol Gibbs

For months now, Officer Dawn Leonard has been wearing multiple hats, helping cover vacancies in other areas of APD. She has now passed the torch to our new District Rep., Robert Barboza. He can be reached at [robert.barboza@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:robert.barboza@ci.austin.tx.us) or 974-8246. We hope he can join us at the December SLNA Holiday Social, but if not, he'll certainly be invited to our next SLNA meeting.

An APD District Rep is a wonderful resource. They provide the community relations aspect of the police force, and provide a wealth of insight and information that can be difficult for us to get otherwise. We have enjoyed a good relationship with all our previous DRs, who have always been very responsive. We just hope we'll get to hang on to this one for a while!



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**City Council Gets New Digs**

Austin celebrated the grand opening of our new City Hall November 20. In planning stages since 1974, it has been called Austin's most architecturally significant building in many years. Situated exactly where the old City Hall was (301 W. 2nd St.), the underground parking is accessible from Lavaca, just north of Cesar Chavez.

City staff is already moving into their new offices, and a locally-owned gift shop and café will eventually occupy the north side of the first floor. More info at [www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityhall/](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityhall/). Better yet, explore it in person: City Council's first meeting in the new chamber will be Thursday, January 13, 2005.



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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)

Membership in the Association shall be issued on the basis of residency (renters and homeowners) and timely 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 - and links to lots of other useful information - are available at [www.southlamar.org](http://www.southlamar.org).

**SLNA Officers & Contacts**

**Outgoing 2004:**

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Carol Gibbs, VP & Newsletter Editor  
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Roberta Leahy, Secretary  
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Bill Stoughton, Treasurer & Webmaster  
448-2754 [bill@southlamar.org](mailto:bill@southlamar.org)  
Charlton Perry, SCC/ANC Delegate  
[cperry@ststephens-texas.com](mailto:cperry@ststephens-texas.com)

**Incoming 2005 (effective Jan. '05) :**

Carol Gibbs, President  
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