

December 2005
Volume 4, Issue 6

SLNA Newsletter

South Lamar Neighborhood Association www.southlamar.org



From the President

by Carol Gibbs

With my first term as SLNA President behind us, I'm looking forward to a calmer 2006, thanks in part to the "moratorium" on zoning changes imposed by the Neighborhood Planning process we began in October. My goals for 2006 are simple: to increase the involvement of individuals who live within SLNA boundaries and to expand the activities of SLNA to meet the broader needs and interests of our membership. What can you do for SLNA in 2006?

- ✓ If you haven't become a SLNA member yet, JOIN now for 2006 (form on back). I've heard lots of folks say they appreciate what SLNA does for the neighborhood, but it's hard to measure how we are doing if we can't "see it" in our membership roster.
- ✓ If you have been a member before, RENEW your membership (same form; it's due in January anyway - renewing now will count toward next year!)
- ✓ If you want to keep up with what's going on (SLNA member or not), join the SLNA Yahoo email group by emailing your name & address to Contact@SouthLamar.org. I will send you an invitation to join. You can even choose to only receive Special Notices, such as our regular meetings and neighborhood clean-up projects.
- ✓ Come to the December 15 meeting, which is actually just a pot-luck social where we will sing carols, eat good food, and meet neighbors new and old. I promise to not talk business (much!)
- ✓ If there's a reason you haven't joined SLNA (or renewed) and you'd like to share that reason with me, I'm open to suggestions. My email and phone # are in every newsletter as well as on the SLNA website.... I want to hear from you!

Happy Holidays!



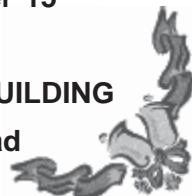
Holiday Potluck:

THURSDAY, December 15

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

UNITY CHURCH MAIN BUILDING

2806 Del Curto Road



CALENDAR



Dec 7 South Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning meeting 2508 Durwood Street
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Dec 11 Zilker Trail of Lights opens

Dec 15 SLNA Holiday Potluck

Neighborhood Planning Continues

by Bill Stoughton, SLNA Neighborhood Planning Chair

Our Neighborhood Plan is on its way to fruition, but it's not too late to get involved and let your voice be heard! Neighborhood planning is an opportunity to help shape our neighborhood's future. The process addresses land use, zoning, transportation, and urban design. The **South Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning Area** (SLCNPA), while sounding like it covers only the SLNA area, is actually comprised of four neighborhood planning areas: **Barton Hills/Barton View, Galindo, South Lamar, and Zilker**, which include the respective neighborhood associations and adjacent areas not served by any NAs.

The objective of the November 7 community meeting was to identify issues within our neighborhoods and develop goals for our plan. The next meeting will revisit the goals and review the planning process to raise our understanding of what we can expect as the process moves to completion. This meeting will be held:

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

S. Austin Neighborhood Center (2508 Durwood St.)

Each of the areas will have its own Contact Team. The teams will consist of stakeholders who will act as stewards of the Neighborhood Plan for their separate areas. There are still some logistics to figure out, especially how to "package" the separate-but-related plans for the diverse entities that will be using the document(s) in the coming years. Staff clearly heard our concerns at the Nov. 7th workshop, greatly appreciated the stakeholders' obvious investments thus far, and hope we continue to participate at the level we have shown already. So we need to keep participating!

After the **Goals and Visions** meeting on **December 7**, the **next step** in the process will be **Task Group Meetings** that focus on a variety of topics. The results of these meetings provide the framework and substance of the Neighborhood Plan itself. A detailed survey will be sent out in concurrence with the Task Group Meetings.

You can read about the Neighborhood Plan process and sign up to be notified of future meetings at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/slcnpa.htm>. Please come join us work to preserve and improve our neighborhood!

Oak Wilt Extensive in SLNA but Controllable by "Chemotherapy"

Jay Culver, City Forester (440-5195), has identified that oak wilt in SLNA (**Grayford - Clawson- Valley View**) is so widespread trenching is not an option for treatment. **Our Best Option: Alamo™ Fungicide!** According to Jay,



"chemotherapy" does work! A **fungicide** called propiconazole (**Alamo™**) can be used by homeowners who have newly infected live oaks or ones in the immediate path of infection. The chemical is injected into the base and flare roots of the tree and is most effective as a preventative treatment. Although **Alamo™** can be used to save individual trees, it does not kill the fungus in the roots. That means it does not keep the disease from spreading tree-to-tree.

SLNA has equipment secured by Jay to apply **Alamo™**. Neighbors must buy the chemicals and do the treatments ourselves, and we have a few members who are qualified! Contact **Carol Gibbs**, SLNA President, at **442-8060** or cgibbs1@austin.rr.com for a list of folks who can help you get started!

Membership Statement

- Membership in the Association shall be issued on the basis of residency (**renters** and **homeowners**) and timely payment of annual dues [January].
- SLNA boundaries: **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.

West Bouldin Creek Cleanup — New City Initiative

by Chad Hymel, SLNA-KAB Committee Chair

Keep Austin Beautiful is proposing West Bouldin Creek for the First Annual Clean Creek program being implemented early next year. The date is **tentatively Saturday, February 18th, 2006**. This Clean Creek program would be a combined effort on behalf of Galindo (<http://www.main.org/gena/>) and South Lamar Neighborhood Associations. Please come out and help clean this gem in our backyard. West Bouldin Creek has all the makings of a future natural greenway/transportation route for Galindo and SLNA to downtown along this possible future Commuter Rail Line. The campaign includes three new programs:

- **Creek Cleanups** — groups make a huge impact on an Austin creek in one day.
- **Adopt-a-Creek** — groups take ownership of their community and make a visible and lasting impact on their local creek.
- **Clean Creek Campus** — fosters student stewardship of our natural resources by utilizing hands-on activities and service-learning projects that both engage students and meet state education standards.

Review the City Bond Election Advisory Committee's (BEAC) list of proposed activities and note that the Open Space Subcommittee's list includes recommendations for purchasing more undeveloped land to create a contiguous corridor on south West Bouldin Creek (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/budget/beac/downloads/20051101beacagendapacket.pdf>). More information will be distributed as Chad Hymel receives it, or contact him directly at chadhymel@sbcglobal.net.



Zilker Trail of Lights

The **Trail of Lights Festival** is an annual Austin holiday tradition and celebration held in Zilker Metropolitan Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. The Grand Opening Parade begins at 6:30pm, with the opening of the Trail of Lights at 7pm, on Sunday December 11th and the trail is open through the 23rd.



The festival begins on December 4th, with the lighting of the Zilker Tree, a 155 feet tall, 180 feet diameter lighted tree consisting of 3,309 bulbs on 39 streamers strung from Austin's historical Moonlight Tower.

Visitors to the Trail of Lights may either park in Zilker Park (entering the park from MoPac) or ride the shuttle from the State lots at 14th and Trinity. Because of the limited parking available in the park it is recommended for visitors to ride the shuttle. The round trip fee is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 6-12, and children 5 and under are free. Parking is available in Zilker Park for \$7 per car. For additional information, see the official Trail of Lights website <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/tol/default.htm>.

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Start a New Tradition! Come to **First Night Austin 2006!**

On Saturday, December 31, 2005, First Night Austin is a **family-friendly, affordable, and alcohol free** New Year's Eve festival downtown. Indoor venues require purchase of an \$8.00 commemorative button. Help create a new tradition for Austin that celebrates the culturally rich and artistically diverse place we call home. We will look ahead collectively to welcome the New Year with hope and optimism.





Unity Church of Austin

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Website: www.unitychurchofaustin.org
Phone: 447-7772 Fax: 447-5841

Christmas Tree Mulch

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department will have free Christmas tree mulch available to the public at Zilker Park shortly after Christmas trees have been collected. (You can crop off Christmas trees by the Zilker Park Moontower from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 31st and Saturday/Sunday, January 7th and 8th 2006.) Individuals picking up mulch should bring their own bags, and equipment. Park personnel will not be available to assist loading.



The Parks and Recreation staff strongly recommend that the mulch be placed in a compost pile for several months. The mulch is "green" and the decay process causes it to get very hot. If the mulch is applied without a waiting period it may damage areas where it is spread.



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South Lamar Neighborhood Association Membership Form

PRINT NAME (Couples, please use both first names): _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____ / _____

If you live outside SLNA's borders, the address of SLNA property you own: _____

Initial Application / Renewal

Annual Membership: \$10 per Household -OR- \$20 to be a "Big Bubba/Bubbette" - **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** _____

Make check payable to "SLNA". Mail/Deliver with completed form to Don Ewalt, Treasurer, 1605 Lightsey, Austin, TX 78704

- OR - Check here if you are requesting a Waiver of this year's Membership Fee: []