

### Cleanin' the Creek, April 8th...

Galindo and S. Lamar neighbors, Austin Watershed Protection Staff, and Keep Austin Beautiful participants cleared more than two tons of trash from W. Bouldin Creek at the Clean Creek Kickoff on March 4.

Missed the Clean Creek Kickoff? Come to **Clean Sweep** on **Saturday, April 8** from **9am to 11am**. Meet at the end of S. Center St. (west of Garden Villa, near Galindo Elem.). Water, snacks, t-shirts, and after-party with live music and lunch at Fiesta Gardens on Town Lake provided by Keep Austin Beautiful.

These efforts are the first phase of projects to improve water quality in W. Bouldin Creek.

For more information, see [www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org](http://www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org).



### "It's My Park! Day" 2006, April 22...



GENA will host another **It's My Park! Day** on **Saturday, April 22, 9am - 1pm** in **South Austin Park**. Possible projects include painting murals and removing invasive species. Sign up at [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org).

If you have suggestions for other park projects, call **Kathryn: 448-9475** or e-mail: [kawazoe7777@yahoo.com](mailto:kawazoe7777@yahoo.com).

### Proposed "Bouldin Meadows" Subdivision Update

City Council recently approved a rezoning for a section of the proposed subdivision, located on land accessed by extending Barton Skyway over W. Bouldin Creek. The controversy has not been over the worthiness of the idea of the proposed project, but, rather, over inaccurate floodplain mapping and questionable interpretation of City Code related to "contributing drainage area".

City staff is not reviewing the plans for the proposed project in relation to the actual acreage that drains runoff onto the site (through culverts at the end of Lightsey on the other side of the railroad tracks). Thus, the developers will not be held to code

requirements related to protecting Critical Water Quality Zone and 100-year floodplain. GENA's position that no formal action should be made on this subdivision until the 100-year floodplain is properly assessed still stands.

Neighbors are pursuing Council Member Leffingwell's suggestion that City Code related to "contributing drainage area" be examined for a possible amendment in order to uphold the intent of the code to protect public welfare, water quality, and the overall health of the watershed. As well, improvements in the proposed project are evolving as a result of neighbors voicing their concerns..

### 2006 Test Census

Austin, Texas was selected for a Test Census in 2006. It is one of only two locations in the country! The Census Bureau will be testing new ways to make the next census easier, more accurate, and less costly. One of the key elements in the test program is the use of a hand-held computer instead of the pencil and paper that Census takers have used since its inception in 1790.

The Census Bureau will be hiring more than 2000 employees to complete the Test

Census. Most of the positions pay \$14.50 per hour. Both full-time and part-time jobs are available. These are temporary jobs lasting approximately 5 to 10 weeks.

Applicants are required to qualify for these positions. Part of the qualification process includes taking a skills test. Call the Local Census Office at 1-888-814-6711 to schedule an appointment to take the test and apply for a Census job! For additional information, visit the website: <http://www.census.gov/2006censustest>.

### Agenda for GENA Meeting on March 27

After some social time from 6:45pm-7:15pm, there will be a brief presentation about the Census Test that is happening in Austin this year. We will also have an update of the Neighborhood Planning process, and a Zoning update.

The most important "work" we will do, however, will be beginning the process of defining a neighborhood vision. This will be a group exercise and led by the executive committee. We'd like everyone to participate and provide input into where we stand as a neighborhood and as neighbors to each other, as well as where we are and ought to be headed. What would you like to see in Galindo? Who are your neighbors now, and how do you relate? This will involve some brainstorming and attempting to understand what makes us unique and how we can use our many strengths together.



### LOST PET! Please help!

The search for **Indy**, my 11yr old shepherd/akita mix continues. He ran away x-mas eve while I was visiting South Austin from New Mexico. He's 80 lbs, neutered, brown with prominent black markings on back and "V" marking between the eyes. Very shy and not accustomed to city life. See [www.lostadog.com](http://www.lostadog.com).

I am coming to Austin at the end of March for another search. If interested contact **Anna** at [acosentine1717@yahoo.com](mailto:acosentine1717@yahoo.com) or (505) 770-4177. Thank you!!

GENA GENERAL MEETINGS: the **fourth Monday of January, March, May, July, September, and November** at **Mercury Hall** (corner of S. 1st St. and Cardinal Ln.). EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: the third Monday of other months.

## Combined Neighborhood Planning Update

The Galindo Neighborhood started the neighborhood planning process in October 2005. The city has combined the neighborhoods of Barton Hills, South Lamar, Zilker and Galindo into one group, the South Lamar Combined Neighborhood Plan in order to streamline the process.

The planning process includes an evaluation of the neighborhood's strengths and weaknesses and an examination of current transportation, land use, parks and open space, and current zoning uses.

It began with initial stakeholder outreach and a survey of neighborhood residents along with an invitation to attend the first community meeting held in the fall. The group meets every month and the planning process lasts about a year and a half. The plan will eventually be sent to the city council for final approval.

The Galindo Planning area has been meeting separately as a group to write our vision and

goals for our neighborhood. We've met twice to discuss and draft visions and goals. A list of neighborhood characteristics we would like to see in the future was the starting point for the draft goals below.

- Maintain neighborhood diversity and preserve single-family housing (infill options) while maintaining housing affordability.
- Provide more parks and open space via trails, greenbelt and recreation areas.
- Sidewalks and bike lane improvements with increased transit options. Speeding traffic and cut-through traffic are also an issue.
- Redevelopment of Oltorf and South First will emphasize neighborhood services and include residential and mixed use residential and commercial development.

School quality, environmental concerns and flood plain issues will also be included in the neighborhood's goals. We are now working on evaluating the current land use and potential

for development and change in the zoning and use of Oltorf, South First, Cardinal Lane and the corner of Ben White and South First.

**The next neighborhood plan meeting is: Monday April 10, 2006** from 6:30 - 8:30pm at Faith United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall 2701 South Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas. All are welcome to attend.

This meeting will be a continuation of last month's land use discussion. Meeting materials as well as minutes, handouts and other useful information relating to the planning process are at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/slcnpa>

If you haven't attended any of the other sessions, or need an update, this site will answer a lot of questions. Please feel free to email me with questions, comments or concerns. I will be giving an overview of the process to date at our next Galindo Elementary Neighborhood Association meeting on March 27, 2006 at Mercury Hall. Hope to see you there.

*Patty Sprinkle, Neighborhood Plan Chair  
Vice-president, GENA, [midwife@arcaneworld.com](mailto:midwife@arcaneworld.com)*

## City of Austin Coal Tar Ban Now in Effect

**A message from Nancy L. McClintock, assistant director of the City of Austin Watershed and Development Review Department.**

As you may know, on November 17, 2005, the City of Austin became the first city in the US to ban the use of coal tar-containing pavement sealants. The ban, which went into effect on January 1, 2006, is based upon research completed by the United States Geological Services (USGS) and the City of Austin.

The City has banned the coal tar-containing products because they are a potent source of PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), an organic contaminant known to be carcinogenic and toxic to aquatic life. For more information on this initiative and the research that

supports it, please see our Web site at [www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/coal\\_tar\\_main.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/coal_tar_main.htm).

We are asking for your cooperation in the transition from coal tar-containing products to alternatives by taking the following steps:

Request Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) Sheets from any potential contractor or sealcoat applicator before purchase or application to verify compliance with the new ordinance. Make sure that these sheets clearly state whether the product contains coal tar. The ban is for coal tar containing products, not just those with a higher percentage of coal tar. Blending coal tar with asphalt sealants will be deemed a violation of this ordinance.

Be aware that the ban prohibits use of these products in the City of Austin and its

planning jurisdiction. The planning jurisdiction applies to land near the city limits, but not in a separate municipality. You may determine whether a particular site is in the City's planning jurisdiction by calling our GIS Service at 512-974-2797.

Our in-house spills response team has been trained to use simple field tests to determine the presence of coal tar in sealants. Note that the use of banned products is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by up to \$2,000 for the initial violation. Each day a violation occurs or continues is a separate offense.

Thank you for your cooperation in our efforts to protect Austin's waterways. If you have additional questions or comments regarding this matter, please call **Tom Ennis** at **974-2722** or our **Spills Hotline** at **512-974-2550**.

## GALINDO ELEMENTARY NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

As part of the Neighborhood Planning process, we are seeking information about the history of the neighborhood. If there is someone in your household, or on your block who would be a good resource please get in touch with Jay Billig (914-5292 or [jay@jaythings.com](mailto:jay@jaythings.com)) with their contact info. It would also be great to have others write some about Galindo and how it has grown over the years. Historic photos and other documents can also be included. Further, we'd like to conduct a survey of historic properties in the area so that they can be recognized as significant within the final Neighborhood Plan. If you're interested in taking part in that survey, or if you're a history buff, your skills are definitely needed. Thanks for your help!

The image shows a logo for 'austin healing' with a stylized 'a' and 'h' intertwined. Below the logo, there are three text boxes: 'space for practitioners and groups healing services network', 'natural peaceful setting affordable rates', and 'austinhealing.com 512.914.5292'. The background is a grayscale image of trees.