

### Twin Oaks Branch Library Design Review

On Tuesday, August 1, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. the Austin Public Library will hold a community design review meeting for the construction of the new Twin Oaks Branch. The Library invites the public to attend to review and provide feedback to the architects of the proposed features included in the design of this new branch library, which is being called an "Eclectic Circus" because of its function as a gathering place for people of various cultures from the communities it serves.

The community design review meeting will take place at the Friends of the Austin Public Library Monster Bookstore located at 1800 S. 5th St. (@ Mary; former South Austin Post office site). This is the third public meeting on this new library construction project. For more information, contact: John W. Gillum, Library Facilities Planning Manager, at (512)974-7495 or email at [john.gillum@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:john.gillum@ci.austin.tx.us).

### Neighborhood Planning Update: Oltorf — Love it or Leave it!

As many of you know, the Galindo neighborhood is working on our neighborhood plan, which will be used to shape and define our neighborhood in the coming years. The process has been a slow one. In particular, Oltorf Street has generated a lot of discussion among neighbors and city staff. The group has been trying to find a middle ground that pleases everyone. Not easy. **The central question is how busy should Oltorf be?** Should it remain residential or are some businesses ok? If businesses are allowed, can the traffic and roadway handle it?

At the last land use meeting, on June 21, 2006, many neighbors expressed concern about Oltorf going commercial. Many neighbors feared increasing traffic would make it impossible to get in and out of driveways and add to parking within the neighborhood. Neighbors expressed frustration with overflow parking from San Jose Church, which spills into the neighborhood streets. Melissa Schardt, our city contact for this process, says the city's transportation department is running the numbers on the proposed zoning scenarios to see how traffic would be impacted.

Others felt if zoning was changed for the houses bordering Oltorf that the houses directly behind them should also be rezoned. Still others felt zoning should mirror the Bouldin Neighborhood's plan for their adjoining section of Oltorf. Bouldin's plan calls for SF6 (Single family 6) zoning, which allows town home type dwellings.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 7th. I will post notice as soon as the meeting is confirmed. I encourage all interested neighbors to make their voices and opinions heard. Information and maps can be found on the city website: [www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/sclnpa](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/sclnpa). Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

*Patty Sprinkle, Neighborhood Plan Chair*  
Vice-president, GENA, 326-2868, [midwife@arcane-world.com](mailto:midwife@arcane-world.com)

### Agenda for July 24 GENA Meeting

GENA will again meet at LifeWorks  
3700 South 1st @ South Center.

Come by at 6:45pm for socializing;  
the meeting begins at 7:00pm.

Austin Energy will present plans and take comments/suggestions on the substation project on S. 5th St. They'll also talk about the new transmission line to run down S. 2nd to Ben White.

Matt Hollon and Pat Hartigan from the City's Watershed Protection Dept. will present their proposal for the water quality project on the land south of the Bouldin Meadows site.

And, all our old favorites—a follow-up to the GENA visioning process from May's meeting, the Neighborhood Planning report, Bouldin Meadows subdivision update, and other Zoning updates, including a new project by the San Jose Church.



LifeWorks transitions youth and families from crisis to safety and success.

[www.lifeworksweb.org](http://www.lifeworksweb.org)

GENA GENERAL MEETINGS: the fourth Monday of January, March, May, July, September, and November at LifeWorks (3700 South 1st @ South Center). Please note this new location.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: the third Monday of other months.

## Bouldin Meadows Subdivison:

### Filling up and Paving Over West Bouldin Creek Tributary?

GENA and other neighbors continue to defend a tributary of W. Bouldin Creek (in the area where it empties into the main creekbed between the railroad and the end of Barton Skyway) by urging the City to follow existing code in its review of the developers' plans. The proposed "Bouldin Meadows" subdivision would place lots, a road, and a concrete drainage channel where there is currently a 100-year Floodplain and a Critical Water Quality Zone (CWQZ).

Although FEMA has newly proposed floodplain maps for watersheds within Austin (in preliminary stages at the moment), these maps will not be official until, perhaps, 2007. Since neighbors know that the proposed floodplain map for this area is

incorrect in at least a few places (including the area where the proposed bridge for the development extends from Barton Skyway), GENA has been urging the Zoning and Platting Commission (ZAP) to hold off approving the Subdivision plans until the public comment period for the proposed FEMA maps is over.

The other option (following City Code) is to deny the proposed subdivision application. Because more than 64 acres contribute drainage to the tributary that bisects the proposed development site, it is, by City Code, a Floodplain and a CWQZ. Unfortunately for neighbors who have to live with existing and potential flooding consequences in this area, the City's engineers do not want to acknowledge the drainage that bypasses the undersized culverts farther upstream (south), flows along the west side of the rail road tracks

towards Town Lake, and enters the culverts that pass drainage along the tributary to the proposed development site.

There is additional water (and all the pollution that it carries) that goes OVER the railroad tracks in heavy storms; this amount has also not been included in the City's assessment of how much water actually contributes to the site.

In short, it seems too complicated or against the established status quo for the engineers to do what code actually calls for. Neighbors will continue to meet with engineers, City Staff, and the developers in order to try to ensure a safe development for residents and our environment.

ZAP will hear this case on **Tuesday, AUGUST 15, 6pm @ City Council Chambers**. Please consider attending; we need folks to attend to ensure that neighbors' concerns are heard.

*Kathryn Kawazoe,  
GENA Parks Committee Chair and  
Member, GENA Zoning Committee*

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We shall never understand the natural environment until we see it as a living organism. Land can be healthy or sick, fertile or barren, rich or poor, lovingly nurtured or bled white. Our present attitudes and laws governing the ownership and use of land represent an abuse of the concept of private property.... Today you can murder land for private profit. You can leave the corpse for all to see and nobody calls the cops.

Paul Brooks, *The Pursuit of Wilderness*, Houghton Mifflin (1971).

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## Neighborhood Watch

For several months now, neighbors have reported a man approaching them in their yards or at their doors and asking for money, possibly with an offer to work. The timing of his most recent appearances (weekend of July 15) coincided with burglaries on the same streets.

Although we may feel we are helping someone in need, Officer Robert Barboza, GENA's police department representative, advises us to not encourage door-to-door panhandling. If approached, don't answer the door or engage the panhandler and call 911 IMMEDIATELY.

**Officer Robert Barboza's direct number is 974-8246.**

### Resources for Public Assistance:

- United Way's helpline: 2-1-1  
<http://www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org/>
- Austin/Travis County Homeless Task Force: <http://www.austinhft.org/>
- City of Austin Health and Human Services Department: (512) 972-5400  
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/>

## Step Right Up...

You've probably been wondering when you could be elected to serve as an officer in GENA – your opportunity is at hand! Approach any of the current officers at this month's meeting to find out about being nominated for and elected as a **2007 GENA officer!!**

Not willing to wait another day?? There's a **GENA committee** waiting for your input and participation right now, from the exciting and glamorous Zoning committee, to the rugged and pioneering Parks Committee, to, well, you name it, GENA is ready for YOU.

**Got Galindo history?** Articles for the newsletter/website? Contact GENA President Jay Billig (914-5292 or [jay@jaythings.com](mailto:jay@jaythings.com))