

Galindo Neighborhood Association

Elementary

G.E.N.A. News

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GalindoNeighborhood/>

WWW.MAIN.ORG/GENA • WINTER 2005

**ATTEND THE NEXT
GALINDO NEIGHBORHOOD
GENERAL MEETING:**

**Monday, November 28
7:00 pm, Mercury Hall
Cardinal and So. 1st Street**

On the Agenda:

- Galindo Neighborhood Planning
- Upcoming Development Projects
- South Austin Park Victory Potluck

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

JANUARY MEETING: JANUARY 23

We Saved South Austin Park! Party

WHAT? Celebration for successfully defending our hood's only Neighborhood Park (from becoming the regional tennis tournament facility in Austin)!

WHERE? At the Nov 28th GENA meeting at Mercury Hall (meeting begins at 7pm, and has been scheduled to be a short one!).

BRING: Yourself, friends, family, and your favorite snack dish for an appetizer potluck. Delicious cake provided by Whole Foods; holiday punch and sodas provided by GENA.



All are welcome, so come on over –
meet your neighbors and celebrate
South Austin Park!

Galindo Neighborhood Update

The next meeting of the Galindo Neighborhood Association will occur on Monday **November 28th** at **7pm** to be held at **Mercury Hall** (at South First St and Cardinal Lane). We will discuss new developments, status of existing developments planned for the neighborhood, neighborhood planning and we'll hold a potluck get together at the end of the meeting. Please tell your neighbors about the meeting and potluck.

The Galindo Neighborhood Association's September meeting brought elections for the association's **2006 officers**. As per our bylaws, a nominating committee solicited interested parties and created a list of officer nominees. The following neighbors/residents were nominated -and subsequently elected unanimously at the September GENA meeting- to serve as the executive committee for the Galindo Neighborhood Association for the coming year:

President: Jay Billig	Austin Neighborhood Council Rep: Katherine Kawazoe
Vice President: Patty Sprinkle	South Central Coalition Rep: Mishell Kneeland
Secretary: Sara Strandtman	Newsletter: Linda Passens
Treasurer: Scott McNearney	

On a separate note, I've be leading communications with the developer of a new subdivision planned for Garden Villa Lane that will place up to 18 small-lot new homes on 2 currently undeveloped acres in the coming year. The subdivision is called "**Sycamore Court**" (city subdivision case #C8-05-0167). We've asked the developer to present its plans to us at next week's association meeting but as of the newsletter deadline, I have not heard from them.

The subdivision will include single family homes on small lots (about 3,600 sq ft lots). The executive committee and zoning committee's initial concerns include insuring access to both streets the property meets (Garden Villa Lane and Marcae Ct) for connectivity, proper drainage of the property , safe utility set backs from the North and South sides of the lot, maintaining existing trees (including cedar) and more. Our work on this subdivision is focused on making sure the developers are building within city code and that the subdivision respects the character of the neighborhood and adjoining properties. We will discuss this development at our meeting next Monday, hopefully the developers will be there to present as well.

Neighborhood Planning has begun, and it is important for us all to stay involved. The next Neighborhood Planning meeting for the Galindo Neighborhood will occur on **Wednesday, December 7th at 7pm**. The meeting will be held at the South Austin Neighborhood Center at 2508 Durwood (just off of Oltorf and one block East of South First Street). Please attend to work on the future vision for the Galindo Neighborhood.

It has been my pleasure to work on behalf of the Galindo Neighborhood over the past 2+ years as the association president. I look forward to remaining involved as a member of the GENA executive committee as Jay Billig leads us into 2006 as the new Galindo Neighborhood Association President.

Thank you to everyone who has worked on behalf of the neighborhood and its residents to help keep Galindo on a positive path as our city and neighborhood grow and develop. I look forward to seeing you all at next week's meeting and seeing you in the neighborhood. The active association we've had over the last 2 years has brought us together in great ways, lets all do what we can to keep the great cooperative work moving forward.

Best regards,

Scott McNearney *Galindo Neighborhood Association President*

Proposed "Bouldin Meadows" Subdivisions

A subdivision of 50+ houses has been proposed by developers on land at the end of Barton Skyway, between the creek and the railroad tracks. There are many concerns by neighbors on both sides of the tracks, the most disconcerting being that the developers' proposed floodplain (now at FEMA for approval) does not reflect flooding experiences on the ground.

Since approved floodplain maps are what the Review Department looks at in approving plans for such developments, both the Galindo and S. Lamar Neighborhoods have urged for a postponement of the rezoning case related to this proposed subdivision in order to first discern where the 100-year floodplain is actually located. Preliminary results of FEMA's studies on the creek are scheduled for public release in February or March 2006. There is then a period for public input before the FINAL maps are released in 2007.

In addition, due to all the flooding patterns experienced by surrounding neighbors (and as brought forth in concern for the proposed development and in the Neighborhood Planning process), the Watershed Protection Department will now pursue a more intense study of the W. Bouldin Creek Watershed. Results from this study, which won't start until after the 2006 bond election, are likely to be the most accurate.

In concern for neighbors upstream and downstream of the proposed development site, as well as for those who might one day live in the development, GENA's executive committee has recommended postponing any further action on the rezoning or site development applications until everyone is satisfied with approved floodplain maps. The sentiment of caution for putting homes in the floodplain is reflected on tracts both north and south of the site; Watershed already secured ownership of three tracts to the south and is recommending a buy out of the tract to the north (Woodview Mobile Home Park) due to flooding concerns.

For updated information on this case, and others, see www.main.org/gena.

Bond Projects in Galindo?

The Bond Election Advisory Committee (BEAC) is finalizing their list of projects to be recommended for approval by City Council. They have been taking input from citizens over the past few months to determine what projects best serve our population. The next gathering where you can voice your support for specific projects is Tuesday, November 29 @ 6:00 pm, City Hall, Boards & Commissions Rm 1101, 301 West 2nd Street.

Recommended drainage projects in Galindo include water quality improvement projects along W. Bouldin Creek, as well as a buy out of the Woodview Mobile Home Park. Neighbors have been working with the "Affordable Housing" subcommittee to make sure that, if that buy out occurs, affordable housing will be provided for mobile home residents left with no place to live.

Galindo and S. Lamar Neighborhood residents have also been urging inclusion of an "Open Spaces Land Acquisition" project for a buy out of an undeveloped property that would allow for a true W. Bouldin Creek alternative transportation corridor. This idea incorporates opportunities for solutions to drainage problems (flooding, erosion, and water quality), as well as for responsible planning of the Austin-San Antonio Commuter Rail line and the south portion of West Bouldin Creek Greenway.

See <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/budget/beac.htm> for more information on the bond process.

Parks and More...

Upcoming events include beautification projects in S. Austin Park - send any suggestions through the yahoo group (To subscribe to this list if you live in the hood, see: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GalindoNeighborhood/>) or e-mail kawazoe7777@yahoo.com.

The City's Watershed Protection Department has water quality improvement projects planned for W. Bouldin Creek - these projects are listed in the Bond Election Advisory Committee's list of recommended projects for the city bond election coming up in May of 2006 (see "Bond Projects in Galindo?" above). Galindo/South Lamar Neighborhood/Watershed-coordinated W. Bouldin Creek cleanups will be announced soon.



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*Happy Holidays
from the Galindo
Neighborhood
Association!*

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