

Dear Neighbors,

As we start the New Year, many issues are still unresolved. The planning process for our neighborhood plan has been on hold since the summer. The process was halted for many reasons. A communications break down between participants and the city is probably the most critical one. Neighborhood participants have been asking for information on existing infrastructure like roads, sewers, and transportation to help us assess and plan for the future. So far the city has failed to provide us with timely information or to take our requests seriously. The city considers itself to be a stakeholder in the neighborhood planning process but so far has refused to state its' goals and plans for our neighborhood. The city has hired a mediator to get the plan back on track and hopefully planning meetings will resume this winter.

There have been a rash of break-ins in the neighborhood recently and many have asked about starting a neighborhood watch program. We are looking into this and will have information to share with you at our next meeting, January 22 at Lifeworks. If you have any questions or concerns that can't wait, I urge you to contact Officer Barboza by email: [robertbarboza@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:robertbarboza@ci.austin.tx.us) or by phone 512-974-8246 or by fax: 512-974-8245 to voice your concerns or to report suspicious activity. If it is an emergency please call 911.

The purpose of Galindo Elementary Neighborhood Association is "to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood in matters such as land use, traffic control, social functions, environmental protection, public services, and other matters of neighborhood concern."

As president this year, I extend an invitation to all of you to contact me directly with your questions, concerns and suggestions. Thanks to all the neighbors who have volunteered their time and expertise. I look forward to meeting and hearing from you.

Happy New Year!

Patty Sprinkle; 326-2868, [patty@arcaneworld.com](mailto:patty@arcaneworld.com)

#### GENA Meeting-January 22nd

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

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

The agenda will include:

- Approve minutes of November 27
- Affordable housing presentation
- Update on bike lanes with inventory of side walks
- Cardinal Lane update
- Amendment vote to include zoning chair on executive committee
- Update from Officer Barboza on neighborhood crime
- Neighborhood cleanup committee

Galindo Elementary Neighborhood Association has elected new officers for the upcoming year. The following will serve until December 31, 2007:

- President -Patty Sprinkle
- Vice President -Kathryn Kawazoe
- Treasurer- Jay Billig
- Secretary -D'Andra Ulmer
- South Central Coalition Rep. - Sara Strandtman
- Austin Neighborhood Council Rep.- Mishell Kneeland
- Newsletter Coordinator- Kirk Smith

The Association also has several standing committees as follows; including their Chairs:

- Traffic - Nate Blakeslee;
- Parks - Kathryn Kawazoe;
- Neighborhood Planning - Patty Sprinkle
- Zoning - Scott McNearney

## Oltorf Street Reconstruction (excerpt from e-mail by Rick Colbrunn)

The Oltorf Street Reconstruction Project is currently scheduled to begin construction in mid summer of this year. The limits of construction are from South Congress to South 5th. The scope of work will include replacing the entire water line, storm sewer and wastewater improvements. The street reconstruction will consist of full depth excavation and replacement within the same footprint, curb to curb. The construction activities you will experience will be similar to the South First Project. No roadway

widening is planned due to the limited right of way. The existing roadway is currently 40' which permits four 10' lanes. I have discussed the bike lane proposal with Annick Beaudet. Additional right of way would be required to include bike lanes. All overhead power, telephone and cable TV would have to be relocated as well. Damaged or missing sidewalks, ADA ramps and curb and gutter will be replaced.

The City plans to implement the same acceleration strategies used on the Lamar and Riverside project. Those strategies include an aggressive construction

schedule, early completion bonus, and the work to be performed seven days per week 11 hours per day. I would be happy to meet with your neighborhood association to discuss. Our PIO Jennifer Herber will be in contact with all of the neighborhood associations within the area to offer a presentation on the project at their convenience.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the project ...I will be the Project Manager assigned to the project throughout construction.

Rick.Colbrunn@ci.austin.tx.us

## Park Update

The ongoing leak (on the east side of the tennis courts/end of Herndon Ln.) has finally been fixed! We're not sure if it's because of our many requests --or because of the movie recently filmed on the courts. But, hey, it's fixed!

The irrigation line for the planned xeriscape project will tap into an existing line near the site of this old leak. We are waiting to hear more about the planned lighting improvements on the tennis courts --we can't plant anything there (yet) if trucks need access.

Hopefully our Keep Austin Beautiful Grant will not expire before we can complete the project.

Also worth noting is the "swale" dug out by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) through the north-east area of the park. This is supposed to be the "drainage fix" that was included in the 1998 bond money for tennis center improvements. Because much of the runoff from the courts drains north to (and floods) neighbors' properties, PAR planned a berm with a trail on top in order to catch and re-disburse runoff. However, we now have a large ditch running through the park --instead of an elevated trail.

Among neighbors' concern is that the swale seems too small to prevent flooding of surrounding properties in a heavy storm event.

For questions/concerns about the "drainage fix" or to volunteer for the xeriscape project, please contact GENA Parks Chair, Kathryn Kawazoe, @ 448.9475.

## SOUTH AUSTIN COMMUNITY ACUPUNCTURE



2041 South Lamar  
acupunctureworldheadquarters.com  
(512)707-8330

affordable acupuncture - chinese herbal medicine

**Step Right Up...**You've probably been wondering how you can get involved with GENA. 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 articles for the newsletter/website? Contact GENA President Patty Sprinkle (326-2868, [patty@arcane.world.com](mailto:patty@arcane.world.com)).

### GENA 2007 MEETING DATES

Please join us for GENA's general meetings, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Lifeworks on South First (location subject to change):

January 22, 2007  
March 26, 2007  
May 21, 2007 (earlier than usual due to Mem. Day)  
July 23, 2007  
September 24, 2007  
November 26, 2007

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** the third Monday of other months.