

Glenlake Neighborhood Association

January, 2008

www.glenlakehoa.org

Neighborhood News

Incoming President's Message

By Mary Daigle

Glenlake is considered one of Austin's most unique neighborhoods. Since its founding in 1984, Glenlake residents have worked to maintain the natural beauty of the hill country surrounding their homes.

2007 Projects & Accomplishments

Past-President Carol Lee and her fellow board members devoted numerous hours to improving the life of Glenlake residents. Among the issues tackled by Carol and the Board were:

- LCRA- Negotiating with LCRA to rectify the inconsistencies in water billing rates between Westminister Glen and some of the residents of Glenlake. The resolution of the rate equity issue is still in process. Carol has generously agreed to continue representing Glenlake in discussions with LCRA. (Note: This issue will be discussed at the GNA Annual Meeting)
- Carol Lee, Lisette Schmidli, and several board members partnered with the 2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations (2222CONA) to represent Glenlake and the other member neighborhoods to support our interests regarding protection of Bull Creek and Lake Austin, preservation of the Hill Country and other natural resources, and traffic safety.
- Thanks to the work of CONA, the Webb Estates subdivision planned for City Park Rd. was zoned low-density Rural Residential (like Glenlake is) instead of the requested Single-Family 1 category. The property slated for development is composed of 167 acres in a "U" shape that will require two access roads onto City Park Road.
- Carol and I met with Travis County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty and his assistant Bob Moore to request county services for Glenlake and City Park Road. As a result the County repaired its portion of City Park Rd.; cleaned up trash along City Park; trimmed trees near power lines and signs; and installed new reflective street signs along Glenlake Drive.
- In building community, Susan Cooper initiated the GNA lending library located in the gatehouse at the entrance. Please feel free to check out books and donate books, CDs & DVDs. (Note: The process for checking out books will be discussed at the GNA Annual Meeting).

- The 2007 board with the help of very dedicated volunteers continued the social events at Ski Shores, the Halloween Hayride and hosted a GNA Picnic.

ALERT: Coyotes have been on the prowl at night. Please call 311 to report hearing them. The County is tracking the Coyotes.

Challenges for 2008

The 2008 Board has organized several volunteer committees that would provide residents with the opportunity to enhance life in Glenlake. Those committees are:

- Fire & Safety
- Environmental & Landscape
- Communications * Newsletter and GNA Directory
- Governmental Relations and 2222CONA
- Website
- Bylaws
- Welcome Committee
- Database and E-Mail
- Architectural Control

The committees meet on a quarterly basis at a time convenient to the members. To sign up, please contact us at gnaboard@glenlakehoa.org -- Mary Daigle

GNA General Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 29th 7 to 9 pm River Place Country Club Overlook Room

- "Annual Meeting" Agenda to Include
- Fiscal year 2008-9 Budget: discussion and voting
 - Association priorities for FY 2008-2009
 - Other updates including CONA/area development, LCRA pricing, and the new GNA Library

Please submit any additional agenda items to president@glenlakehoa.org by 22 January, 2008.

Please note corrected time is 7 to 9 pm.

Coyotes in Glenlake - Pet Safety

by Carol A. Adams

In a couple of months, I'll celebrate my 20th anniversary as a Glenlake homeowner. When I moved here in 1988, Westminster Glen and River Place were open, undeveloped land. To the best of my knowledge, Glenlake didn't have a coyote problem then. No doubt the coyotes were out there on the undeveloped land, living as they always had, but they were not coming into Glenlake and taking our dogs and cats.

But since then, the large amount of development in our area -- and especially the build-out of Westminster Glen and River Place -- has dramatically reduced the coyotes' open hunting territory and driven out or killed most of their wild prey. As a natural response to this enormous environmental change, for years now, the coyotes have been coming into our neighborhood and preying on our pets.

In 2000, my nearby neighbor and I together lost five indoor/outdoor cats within a few months before we figured out what was going on. And now, in 2008, if you sleep with your windows open for a few nights in a row, chances are good that on at least one night, you'll be able to hear coyotes yipping and howling as they swing through this part of their territory.

I've spoken with the county wildlife service several times about the increase in coyote predation in Glenlake since Westminster Glen and River Place were developed. I've learned that our experience in Glenlake follows a very predictable pattern: destroying the coyotes' natural habitat and putting them in closer-than-natural contact with humans inevitably leads to predation on pet dogs and cats.

Trapping and killing the coyotes won't help -- they are so resilient as a species that as long as easy prey is available, other coyotes will simply flow into the same ecological niche. Leaving floodlights on at night won't help. Typical residential fences won't help. So what can we do to keep our pets safe? It's actually very easy.

- First and foremost, bring your pets inside -- all of them -- before nightfall. If you don't want pets in your house, make a place for them in your garage.
- Second, when you bring your pets inside, make sure you also bring inside any dog or cat food you may have put outside during the day.
- Third, never leave food scraps or leftovers of any sort out "for the wildlife." Coyotes are omnivores, so even vegetable scraps will attract them and keep them coming back for more.

If we all simply take the small step of withdrawing the availability of easy meals, over time Glenlake will become much less inviting to coyotes. Begin now by bringing your pets inside at night and removing all potential outside food sources, and keep it up with no exceptions -- all it takes is one easy meal to encourage future visits. Together, we can make Glenlake a much safer place for all of our animal companions if each of us commits to just these three small changes. -- Carol A. Adams

FY 2008-2009 GNA Contacts

Mailing Address

Glenlake Neighborhood Association
9811 Glenlake Drive
Austin, Texas 78730

GNA Board

President - Mary Daigle
Treasurer - Mari Bareda
Secretary - Eric Dorris
Vice President - Bob Cadenhead
Vice President - Susan Cooper
Vice President - Luanne Cullen

Key Committees and Contacts

Governmental / LCRA Negotiations / CONA
- Carol Lee & Lisette Schmidli
LCRA Operations - John Busch
Fire & Safety / Environmental & Landscape
- Susan Cooper
Database / Email - Bob Cadenhead
Newsletter/Directory and Bylaws - Luanne Cullen
Welcome Committee - Gillian McLean
Social Committee - Eric Dorris
Architectural Control - Richard Yoder

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Committee Spotlight: Bylaws by Luanne Cullen

Periodically, GNA reviews and updates our bylaws. We are due for such a revision during FY 2008-9. Steps in this effort will include:

- Identifying & including "stakeholders"
 - Identifying old or new issues that could make a bylaws update desirable
 - Coordinating with neighboring non-GNA-groups for bylaws consistency to the extent it makes sense
 - Obtaining legal advice as needed (pro bono if possible!)
 - Presenting the resulting updated bylaws for GNA membership discussion & ratification
- We'd love your help!

To Volunteer, contact gnaboard@glenlakehoa.org

You can review the bylaws at

www.glenlakehoa.org/gna/bylaws.php5

To comment on the bylaws or process (for dues-paying GNA members), contact GNAcommunications@austin.rr.com

Thank you!

Do you have an idea for a future GNA Newsletter article?

Do you want to contribute an event notice, bulletin, or neighborhood kudo/thanks?

We welcome your participation. Please contact the Newsletter at: GNAcommunications@austin.rr.com