

Glenlake Neighborhood Association

July 2007

www.glenlakehoa.org

Neighborhood News

General Meeting and Picnic

Please join your neighbors for an informative GNA meeting followed by a picnic and fun on:

Saturday, 21 July 2007

10:30am—1:30pm

Emma Long Metropolitan Park

PLEASE RSVP

president@glenlakehoa.org

(Indicate how many in your household will be attending. Call 794.8250 to RSVP by phone.)

The GNA will host an informational meeting, with representatives from LCRA and RPMUD on hand to tell Glenlake residents about the latest plans for the water system and answer any questions. Park Superintendent Alberto Perez will also speak about the Friends of the Park program and how we can be good neighbors and continue to enjoy direct access to the adjacent preserve land.

The meeting and picnic will be held in the Concession Area at Emma Long Park, adjacent to beautiful Lake Austin. There will be no entrance fee for Glenlake residents to enter the park to attend—just tell the gate attendant that you are attending the GNA meeting.

With a lake and tree-filled park all we really need is good people and refreshments to have a lot of fun! But there are logistical details, so please volunteer if you can help coordinate the food and fun.

So we can have a proper amount of food, please RSVP *no later than Wednesday, 18 July* to president@glenlakehoa.org. Indicate how many in your household will be attending. As time nears, watch the Glenlake Web site (www.glenlakehoa.org) for further details, or contact Carol at 794-8250 if you do not have Internet access.

GNA Membership

Thanks to all residents who have paid their GNA membership dues for this fiscal year, and especially to those who were generous in paying the suggested \$100 dues amount or even more. As-of 30 June we have collected \$7,750 in dues from 103 households. The FY2007-08 budget that was approved in March 2007 requires \$9,366 for the year, creating a projected shortfall of \$1,616.

The overall participation from Glenlake residents is a disappointing 55% of the total households. The volunteer GNA board and committee members work hard to make Glenlake a great place to live and to represent the interests of our community on a very small budget. As illustrated in the chart below, we do not have many discretionary funds. With dues set at a modest \$75 per year, it is critical that all of our residents support the Glenlake Neighborhood Association.

If you have not paid dues for this year, please do so today! If you are not yet a member of GNA, a dues form is enclosed with this newsletter for convenience.

Neighborhood Directories

In August we will be distributing updated copies of the Glenlake Neighborhood Directory. *You must be a member of the GNA to receive a neighborhood directory.*

If you have children, a Children's Information Form is enclosed with this newsletter. This information is used only to prepare the Children's Directory, which helps GNA member parents coordinate carpooling, school and other children's activities. Call Carol at 794.8250 if you would prefer to provide the info by phone.

Place completed forms in the secure GNA mailbox at the end of Glenlake Drive near the water tank (no postage required) *no later than 31 July*.

Water System Update

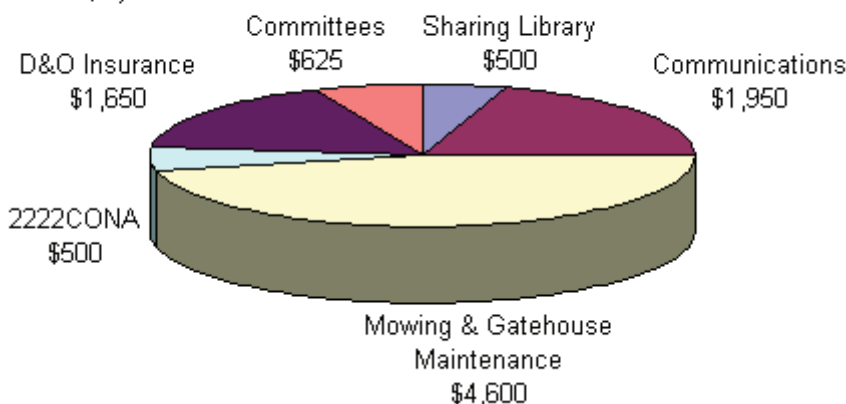
In May the Board of Directors for the LCRA and the River Place MUD approved a Memorandum of Understanding for the RPMUD to provide wholesale water to LCRA for Glenlake and Westminster Glen. Previously the LCRA had a retail water agreement whereby the RPMUD supplied water only to the distribution point (our water tank on Glenlake Dr.). With the wholesale water agreement, LCRA will be paying the RPMUD for storage capacity.

The new wholesale agreement eliminates the need to expand the storage tank on Glenlake Drive, although it will remain in service. As soon as the contract for the new retail water agreement has been executed, work will begin to install pressure reduction valves and then remove the problematic valve at High Gate Drive. This solution is supposed to solve the pressure flow problems in addition to ensuring adequate water capacity for Glenlake and Westminster Glen residents.

Come to the **General Meeting on Saturday, 21 July**, to hear details of the new plan from LCRA and RPMUD representatives.

Budget FY2007-08

\$9,366



Safety Improvements

In April we added a new "SLOW, Children At Play" caution sign to an existing pole on the west side of Glenlake Drive.

In May, Kevin MacDonnell, Glenlake resident and President of the Travis County Emergency Services District #4 (ESD#4), sponsored a GNA request to the ESD#4 Board for a STOP sign to be installed at the 911 boulevard. Residents in the Glenlake cul-de-sac have had several near accidents with vehicles exiting the 911 drive without stopping or looking for oncoming traffic. The STOP sign was installed in June. Thanks to Kevin and the ESD#4 for helping us improve the safety of this intersection! Please do your part by going slowly on this narrow access, not advertising its use as a cut-through, and stopping at the STOP sign!

In June, Mary Daigle and I (Carol) met with our Precinct 3 County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty and his Executive Assistant, Bob Moore. The following day I toured the area with Bob and the Road Maintenance Manager for Travis County, Howard Herrin, to identify problem areas and solutions.

Bob, Howard, and I discussed:

- 1) cleanup of litter along City Park Road,
- 2) smoothing out the steep, jagged roadway edges along City Park Road and providing some smooth, safe places for vehicles to pull over,
- 3) repairing the road surface where the water stands near the S-curves around Westcliff,
- 4) pruning limbs and shrubs as necessary to improve visibility to signs and intersections, and
- 5) cleaning out clogged pipes and culverts to improve drainage in Glenlake.

I'll also be talking with the person who is responsible for signage in the County to discuss repair and addition of signs to improve navigation, safety, and litter control.

If you have the opportunity, please let our Commissioner's office know that you appreciate Travis County giving some attention to the Glenlake neighborhood and City Park Road. The email addresses of our Precinct 3 Commissioner and his Executive Assistant Bob Moore are:

Gerald.Daugherty@co.travis.tx.us
Bob.Moore@co.travis.tx.us

What Happened to Our Web Site?

Our new GNA Web site has hardly become the dynamic hub of communication that was envisioned when the GNA hired a contract Web designer last year. Although we got a nice new design, it's the information that makes a Web site useful.

Our agreement with the Web designer was based on three milestones: design of the new site, populating it with content from the old site, and adding new functionality that would allow for more direct interaction with residents. The new design was posted in November 2006, and most of the content from the old site was in place by January 2007. Then we got strung along with promises of imminent completion. We finally set a firm deadline of midnight on 6 May 2007 to have the functionality completed or forfeit the remaining fee. He agreed with this and thought it reasonable, but did not come through.

For the five months that we believed the new functionality was underway, we were limited in making changes to the site as adding new files and changing existing files would have complicated the integration. We now have five months worth of new and revised information to incorporate and post. Resident Laura B. made a huge effort to cull our Service Provider's List of outdated vendors and those who have not lived up to the initial recommendation, we've received several new Service Provider recommendations, we have minutes of the general meeting and many board meetings to post, suggestions for improving the user interface to incorporate, etc., etc.

I have been and will continue to keep the main page of the site updated with critical information, and will continue to work on adding and updating the remainder of the site. My goal is to get caught up by the end of August so it really can be a dynamic and useful resource for Glenlake residents.

Shorts

Wine Tasting Club

Resident Lynette S. would like to start a Glenlake Wine Club. This will be a focused group exploring wine through blind tasting. Format and meeting times to be determined at the 1st kickoff meeting. If you are interested, please contact Lynette at 342-0949 or email glenlakewine@yahoo.com.

Oak Wilt

Oak wilt is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States, and we do have cases of Oak Wilt in the City Park Road area. Please be careful to prune your oak trees at the proper time, and to treat the pruning cuts with a pruning paint or latex paint to help prevent the sapfeeding Nitidulid beetles from feeding and infecting oak trees in Glenlake with the fungus. See <http://www.texasoakwilt.org/index.html> for more information.

Clean Sweep

Thanks to residents Bruce, Don, Eric, Gayle, Lisette, Pat, Patricia, Peter, Ruthie, Tracy, Trevor, Tom, Steve, and William for participating in the April Clean Sweep effort to pick up trash in the Glenlake neighborhood. We collected about 400 pounds of garbage from approximately 6 miles of roadway in Glenlake. The 'hood looked pretty darn good when we finished! Please help keep the litter picked up.

USPS Mail Delivery Problems

If you experience delayed delivery of mail (after 5pm or received days later than expected) or mail delivered to the incorrect address, please send details (type and class of mail, date, description of problem) to uspsmailproblems@glenlakehoa.org.

2007 GNA Board Members and Committee Chairpersons

Mari Barreda (Treasurer)

Jeannette Burger (VP)

Susan McDonald Cooper (VP)

Mary Daigle (VP)

Eric Dorris (Secretary)

Carol Lee (President)

Tom Pullum (Past President)

John Busch (LCRA liaison)

Lisette Schmidli (Area Development)

Gillian McLean (Social/Welcome)

Richard Yoder (Glenlake ACC)

2222CONA Report

Summer 2007

The 2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (2222CONA) continued to be very active in 2007. I wanted to give you a run-down of a few projects we've been (and are still) working on. If you have questions or would like to get involved in any issues, please call Carol Lee or me.

The WEBB ESTATES project looms immediately in front of us. Due to the overwhelming response from residents to City Council for the 21 June rezoning hearing, the Council asked us to meet with the applicant and staff late that Thursday afternoon to see if we could agree to the zoning with additional terms that would be specified in a Public Restrictive Covenant. The public hearing remains open, with the 2nd/3rd reading scheduled for 26 July. We just received a draft of the Restrictive Covenant on 5 July.

Go to <http://www.2222cona.org> for more information about the project and status. (Our Web site is still under development, but we had 19,923 page visits since the new site was rolled out Memorial Day, most of which was to the Webb Estates project page!) Depending on how the negotiations go with placing additional terms on the zoning via a Restrictive Covenant, we may need a large turnout for the 26 July public hearing. We won't ask residents to attend unless it appears really necessary to the outcome.

OTHER PROJECTS this year have included:

- Hosting a meeting of stakeholders that included neighborhood representatives, business owners, and public officials to preview TXDOT's plans for the RM2222 intersections at Loop 360 and at Hwy 620. The plans are posted at <http://www.2222cona.org/Projects/TxDOT/TxDOT.html>.
- Opposing the relocation of 4 huge billboards to Hwy 620 near RM2222. We joined with Scenic Texas and other citizens in a January 2007 public hearing to oppose a request to relocate 6 billboards. The request violated every provision of the City's Billboard Relocation Ordinance, and 4 of the billboards would have been visible from 2222CONA neighborhoods in addition to visitors of our Hill Country Roadways. Council Member Leffingwell demonstrated real leadership in making a substitute motion to deny the request—a motion which the Council then approved. This was a surprisingly close case.
- Filing an application for 501(c)(3) status. Contributions to non-profit organizations that have been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization are tax-deductible. We understand that it can take six or more months to receive a ruling, but we have filed the >250-page application.
- Ladera Bend: We are monitoring the construction of this office/retail complex on the NW corner of 2222 and Jester Blvd to ensure it complies with the terms of the rezoning and a Private Restrictive Covenant.

- Plant Rescue: Helped the Native Plant Society with the rescue of thousands (literally!) of native plants from two development sites. Before the bulldozers arrive we arrange with the developer to rescue the native plants, which are then transferred to parks and public preserves (in addition to private homes of those who help with the rescue!).
- Aspen Properties: This 23-acre property is at the SW corner of 2222 and River Place Blvd. The developer is trying to obtain "grandfather" status which would allow for 60% impervious cover rather than the 30% that would be allowed under current watershed regulations. CONA is continuing to monitor the status and meet with the developer as plans progress.
- Ribelin Ranch, Colina Vista, and Rancho la Valencia are 3 separate developments at the top of Tumbleweed Hill and on the North side of 2222. CONA was successful in having the City require that these 3 developments share an entrance driveway, which we continue to monitor all the plans for. Rancho la Valencia also encroached onto adjoining BCP land, which CONA periodically reminds the City must be corrected and the public preserve restored.
- Vaught Ranch: This property is directly across 2222 from Jester Blvd. Trammel Crow is building a 4- to 5-story apartment complex at the top of the ridge, and a 4-story complex at the lower elevation. This development did *not* have to comply with the height restrictions of the Hill Country Roadway Ordinance (which would have imposed a max 28ft within 1000 feet of the roadway). 2222CONA entered into a Restrictive Covenant with the Vaught Ranch developer last year. The developer has violated portions of this Restrictive Covenant governing access to the construction site and construction of a permanent bridge at Jester Blvd. To resolve this situation, 2222CONA is prepared to file a temporary restraining order if current negotiations fail to mitigate the breach.

In almost all these cases, 2222CONA volunteers are working with attorneys and other professionals hired by developers to represent their interests. While we will always remain a grass-roots organization, we sometimes need to hire legal, engineering, or land-planning professionals to review legal documents or help us form substantive positions. We are frugal in spending money since all that we have comes from neighbors' donations. Our volunteers, representing 7 neighborhoods, give huge amounts of time, energy and resources, trying to moderate traffic safety issues on RM2222 and water quality issues for the Bull Creek watershed, one of the biggest contributors to Austin's drinking water.

We are working for YOUR benefit, so please donate as generously as you can. We also welcome more residents who can become CONA volunteers. There is much to be done.

Make contributions payable to 2222CONA, with Glenlake noted in the Memo line of the check, and send to:

2222CONA
P.O. Box # 29602
Austin, TX 78755

Thank you,
Lisette Schmidli
Glenlake Director of 2222CONA
345-1776