

GNA NEWSLETTER

GLENLAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MAY 2010

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



By Luanne Cullen
2010 GNA President

Dear Neighbors,

Greetings! GNA Board and Members have been busy this Spring, and we have big news and upcoming events to share throughout this newsletter. So, without further ado...

Thank You, Mari Barreda, for 5 years of Volunteer Service as GNA Treasurer

For the past 5 years, Mari Barreda has given generously of her time and her accounting expertise in her volunteer role as GNA’s Treasurer. As Treasurer, Mari has been responsible for paying bills and expenses in a timely fashion, building a budget from member input, and treasury reports – such as the extremely helpful charts she made recently that showed in graphic form how money is being spent. Mari now takes a well-deserved rest from the Treasury role and transitions the project to Tracy Sims. For the past several months, Mari and Tracy have worked closely together on the transition. We thank Mari for her generous volunteer service over the past 5 years, and we welcome Tracy and thank her for taking on this important volunteer service!

An Awesome “Clean Sweep” in Glenlake, April 10th

Wow! Unbelievable! We had 11 people help during Glenlake’s Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep Event on April 10th!

10 of us met at the water tower for the 9-11 am cleanup, plus Austin Spencer was seen cleaning up Glenlake Drive on a golf cart, so our total cleanup participation was 11 people. Thank you to our Clean-Sweeping Volunteers: Steve Kupac; Byron Todd and Marie Todd; Ivonne Mercado and daughters Isa & Maritsa Tomlinson; Tracy Sims, son Trevor, and Trevor’s friend Cole from River Place; Luanne Cullen; and Austin Spencer.

We got about a dozen big bags of trash plus some larger pieces (chunks of rotted wood, medium-sized metal scraps, and all kinds of discarded yard signs). We are pretty sure that the group did all of Glenlake, plus Steve Kupec did a big chunk of City Park Rd. Ivonne and family did the 911 cut through. It was amazing to see how much junk could be found even in Glenlake when you walk the roadside instead of driving by. Of course, City Park Road was by far the biggest mess As Steve said, "You don't see this blowing by at 45 MPH, but City Park Road is Nasty!"

Thank you, Volunteers, for a fun and successful event!

A Few Words about Dog Control

Keeping our dogs under control is a long-recurring issue that is back on the GNA radar.

Recently, neighbors have expressed concerns both to the GNA board and to the Sheriff about run-ins with dogs that have gotten loose and that seem very aggressive. These concerned neighbors want to be neighborly, but at the same time they are sincerely and seriously concerned about the potential for injury to an adult or child, and are dedicated to taking the legal steps needed to prevent injury. As a lesser but also disruptive issue,, uncontrolled and persistent nighttime dog barking is robbing neighbors of their sleep. As I look back in the GNA files that I have recently inherited, control of dogs is a consistently reoccurring issue. The GNA has been asked to say a few words about this issue.

Glenlake & River Pointe have “limited purpose” ties with City of Austin, and this can make some

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

rules confusing. But Travis County does indeed have a leash law. You can find Travis County animal control information at this link: http://www.co.travis.tx.us/health_human_services/pdfs/ch_52_animalcontrol_050315.pdf Paragraph (52.005) of special interest in this document states that Travis County requires that: *“It is the responsibility of each Owner to effectively restrain the Owner’s dog, which means the dog must either be kept securely on the Owner’s property so that the dog remains on the Owner’s property or, if not on the Owner’s property, on a leash of a length that will allow for the direct control of the dog by the Owner or the person in control of the dog (or otherwise contained, such as in a car, in a crate, etc.)...”*

In other words, Travis County does have a leash law. Please help the neighborhood maintain safety and peace and neighborliness, by controlling your dogs. It’s also advisable to keep cats and small dogs inside due to coyote activity. Also a chronic problem, but that is another topic.

Our Meeting with Travis County about Services for Glenlake

In late March, Carol Lee and I met with two key staffers from County Commissioner Karen Huber’s office: Garry Brown (Karen’s Chief of Staff) and Lori Duarte (Constituent Relations Director). We had a very productive meeting covering the following topics:

- Road Maintenance on City Park – we highlighted a number of issues with County including: Roadside erosion & lack of a shoulder; traffic and lack of safe places to pass or pull off the road; a desire for bike path or bike-friendly road enhancements to allow us to observe the 3-foot passing width for bicycles without risking head-on collisions. This is a long-term issue and we made a start at raising awareness. Additionally, we discussed litter collection on nearby roads such as City Park and got a commitment that we can call on them for more frequent County help.
- Parkland for Glenlake – Carol Lee helped us raise the issue of Glenlake’s need for “neighborhood parkland.” Although City Park looks close on paper, it certainly is not a neighborhood park that any child could safely walk to, nor a place where neighbors could meet for picnics and other recreation. This is a long-term issue and we made a start at raising awareness.
- We also discussed some “in case this becomes an issue who would we work with” topics and got some contact names “just in case” for issues that may come up such as Deed Restriction enforcement.

We extended an invitation for County Commissioner Karen Huber to drop by our May 23rd GNA Picnic so that residents can meet and speak with her on issues that interest you. (I don’t think she is up for reelection soon, so this is just a great communication opportunity, nothing more.)

And Speaking of the May 23rd Picnic

We’ve done some research into a Green Neighborhood initiative and it looks like it might be a good thing for Glenlake. Green Neighbor is a designation that individual neighbors as well as entire neighborhoods can earn that brings with it some positive community recognition and valuable prizes. The Green Neighbor program also has enough flexibility to it that people in the neighborhood who don’t want to participate certainly don’t have to. We will have an information table set up at the picnic on May 23rd so that if you are interested, you can learn more and become a Green Neighbor..

Hope to see you at the Picnic!

That’s probably all the news we have room for at the moment. We are always looking for ideas and feedback, so please contact me any time at president@glenlakehoa.org, or via phone as listed in the GNA Directory available to all GNA members.

Regards,

Luanne Cullen

ANNUAL GNA PICNIC

By Alex Tomlinson, Board Secretary

Please join us for some good old-fashioned fun at the annual neighborhood picnic on Sunday May 23rd from 4 to 7pm at Woodlands Park. There will be music, BBQ, watermelon, frozen margaritas, and other refreshments. There will be a water slide for your kids, so they can entertain themselves for hours on end (kids should wear clothes they can get wet).

The picnic is funded by GNA membership dues. Non-members are welcome and encouraged to attend, but we ask that non-members donate \$20 per family.

What: GNA Picnic

When: Sunday May 23, 4-7pm

Where: Woodlands Park, 8800 Big View Dr (same place as last year)

Cost: Free for GNA members. Request \$20/family from non-members.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: Alex Tomlinson, 512-913-5381, alex@aivor.com

TREASURY TRACY

By Tracy Sims, Treasurer

Reporting from your Treasurer: Hello! I'm the new GNA Treasurer and look forward to my new role. I would like to personally thank Mari for her 5 years of service and for a great lunch! We have successfully transitioned the Treasurer duties as of this newsletter.

Reminder on Annual Dues: If you haven't yet made your payment, your reminder is included with this newsletter! So far, we have collected about 42% of our households – which is where we were at this same date last year! We have also had some households make a payment *this* year – that didn't pay last year – and we SO appreciate that – thank you for your renewed support of your GNA Board!

Hope to see YOU at the next meeting!

LANDSCAPING

By Yvonne Nacu, Landscape Committee

Landscaping projects are underway! An update will appear in the next newsletter.

GLENLAKE LIBRARY

By Donna L. Burgess, Glenlake Librarian

In the building at the entrance is a library, started a couple of years ago by the members of the Book Club. In order to have a key, a member needed to submit 10 books. The lock has now been changed to a keyless entry pad, and paid up members of the Glenlake Homeowner's Association will be given the code upon request to Donna Burgess.

If you wish to donate any books to the library, a plastic bin will be provided. Please place your books in the bin and they will be shelved. We have limited room, so books will be purged occasionally and donated.

Here are a few titles that have been currently added to the library:

"The Story of Edgar Sawtelle" by David Wroblewski, "The Whole Truth", "Divine Justice", and "First Family" by David Baldacci, "Careless in Red" by Elizabeth George and two books by P.D. James.

All books are shelved alphabetically by author. There is also a small Non-Fiction section. We hope you will enjoy using this library/

CONA UPDATE

By Lisette Schmidli, GNA CONA Board Member

2222 CONA (Coalition of Neighborhood Associations) held its biennial Open House at the River Place Club on April 25th.

On a glorious Sunday afternoon about 100 folks attended to glean information about pending development projects in our area. Other invited organizations with displays and presenters were TxDOT regarding the bridge-building on 2222 over Bull Creek, Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, Wildlife Austin, Bull Creek District Park, Austin Water Utility with info on water conservation and Water Treatment Plant #4.

A project CONA is following is Uncle Bob's Self-Storage on the south side of 2222 beside Riverlodge Apartments, and adjoining Balcones Canyonlands Preserve acreage. Uncle Bob's is a national company requesting re-zoning to General Commercial Services (CS) for this site for possible expansion. CONA is opposed to this zoning request because CS allows for many other uses that the City's own code says are not compatible with residential neighbors. We did not want the precedent set for CS zoning in this area. CONA did not oppose City Staff's recommendation to grant Warehouse/Limited Office -Conditional Overlay zoning (W/LO-CO). The City Council voted unanimously for W/LO-CO on first reading only. It will likely return to Council in May for 2nd & 3rd readings, which finalizes the zoning.

In conjunction with updating International Building Codes, City Council is considering an ordinance that would allow the "reactivation" of expired commercial building permits. There are many good reasons why building permits have expiration dates. A Public Hearing will probably be held at one of the May Council meetings. Watch the agenda on the City's website. If you have an interest in this or any other development issue in our area, please contact me. I am GNA's representative to the 2222 CONA board.

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Per Carol Lee

There have been chain saws abuzzing on Far View. The Ski Shores/Greenshores area has some oak wilt, as do the surrounding Balcones Canyonland Preserve. Those beetles can detect a fresh cut from miles away and infiltrate Glenlake if residents don't observe "NO pruning of oaks from Feb thru June." The Texas Oak Wilt organization provides some good info about the disease and what residents can do to help prevent and manage it.

<http://www.texasoakwilt.org/>

PRECINCT 2 CONSTABLE UPDATE

By Bob Cadenhead, webmaster

I attended the quarterly Precinct 2 Constable Advisory Meeting last week and have some updates:

There has been an officer monitoring traffic and speed on Glenlake Dr at many times throughout the day on different days. The fastest speed he clocked was 55. The average was a little over 35. He did not think that the problem was that bad.

Bicycles on City Park Road: said to call when they know there will be an event.

Lots of car robberies in Steiner Ranch.

ESD #4 FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE A SUCCESS

The ESD #4 fire station completed its remodeling and then held an open house March 7th to show the surrounding communities. Neighbors from up and down City Park road attended. Since the fire department's budget is limited the firemen had a "wish list" for donated items to decorate and furnish the new facility. Several Glenlake residents donated items to them and one neighbor down City Park road donated \$8,000 for all the remaining items and more. They are living comfortably now and thanks to all who participated!

Fire Chief Don Smith is retiring June 1st after 16 years of outstanding service to the community. He will be succeeded by Florencio (Flo) D. Soliz, who has many years of experience in the Austin Fire Department community and is familiar with Glenlake.

Note: We will have info on how to protect your home from fire at the picnic.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 23, 2010, 4-8 pm GNA Picnic and Bar-B-Que. Activities and food for the whole family. Free to GNA dues-paid members.

Upcoming Fall Events

- Tentative Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) tour, free native plants (to be scheduled).
- Tentative National Night Out, October -- Texas (only) will celebrate on October 5, 2010 this year
- GNA General Meeting (3rd week October) – unless we combine this with National Night Out
- Halloween Hayride (to be scheduled)

PS If you have articles or info of community interest to neighbors, please email it to me at newsletter@glenlakehoa.org so it can be included in the newsletter INFO section. All items are subject to approval and maybe edited.

GNA NEIGHBORHOOD INFO

Book Club

Interested in joining a low stress, fun book club? Then we have just the one for you! Each member need only buy 1 book per year, then swap with others in the group (keeping it very affordable). Please contact Donna Burgess at (512) 346-5443 or Gillian McLean at (512) 231-8244 or (512) 231-8244 for club information.

“Garden” Club

This friendly women's group is rather euphemistically named. Although botanical matters may be discussed, we pride ourselves on our fine conversational skills. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at various members' homes over our sack lunches. It's a fun way to get to know some of the wonderful people living around you. Absolutely no gardening experience is required. Call Lisette Schmidli at (512) 345-1776 or (512) 345-1776 for time and location. Join us!

River place Country Club

Information about the nearby River Place Country Club, where Glenlake residents can take advantage of membership discounts.

Wine Tasting Party

Please join Adeline (add-ah-lean) and Jer (yer) Rem at their house located at 3606 Ranch Creek Drive, Austin, TX 78730 for a Glenlake wine tasting. We will be serving French wine (Chateauneuf-du-Pape) with appetizers. If you would like to bring something, bring something sweet please. It will start at 7pm on May 22nd and end, well, when it does! RSVP by May 15th at adeline@chocbite.com or by calling 512 291 2969.

GENERAL ITEMS

Peruse the bulletin board, by the entrance when you exit, for neighborhood events.
There is a *new bulletin board* by the old water tower at 9811 Glenlake Dr.

The GNA mailbox is located at 9811 Glenlake Dr, if you would like to mail something to the Association.

Neighborhood Directories:

Please take a look at your directory listing and let us know of any changes for future update by emailing gnacommunications@austin.rr.com. Examples of things to check: Have you replaced your landline phone with a cell phone? Have you added children that you would like listed? Do you have a new email?

Recycling

Info on local recycling options will appear on the website www.glenlakehoa.org and in the next newsletter. If you have places you recommend neighbors recycle, please email me at newsletter@glenlakehoa.org so it can be included.

Town Lake Animal Fosters Needed

A lifetime of care for another creature is a big decision and NOT for everyone. So how does three weeks sound? That is the average time a homeless animal from Town Lake Animal Center needs in foster care before being ready for adoption. All you need is a little room, a little time and plenty of love to care for underage animals. www.getapetnow.com and Click on "Adoption Information" then select "Foster Program" on the left hand side.

GNA BOARD MEMBERS

Luanne Cullen, Board President - president@glenlakehoa.org

Bob Cadenhead, Board Vice President, Webmaster – webmaster@glenlakehoa.org

Yvonne Nacu, Board Vice President, Landscape Committee – landscape@glenlake.org

Alex Tomlinson, Board Secretary, Database – secretary@glenlakehoa.org

Linda Bailey, Board Vice President, Newsletter, Directory – newsletter@glenlakehoa.org

Tracy Sims, Board Treasurer, 2010 treasurer@glenlakehoa.org

Richard Yoder, Chair, Architectural Control Committee – acc@glenlake.org

Mary McAllister, Contact, Architectural Control Committee, River Pointe

Gillian McLean, Chair, Welcome Committee - welcome@glenlakehoa.org