

PLTA

NEWS!

The Protect Lake Travis Association

10801 Rush Rd.

Austin, Texas 78732

August 30, 1990

Vol. 9, #3

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL - "QUICK CHANGE ARTISTS?"

The City of Austin has a new plan which they would like to put into effect. This new plan would "streamline" development procedures to avoid unnecessary, time-consuming, and costly delays. And all this to spur business activity for the benefit of all Austinites!?

Austinites, neighborhood groups, those of us in Austin's ETJ, and concerned individuals only have to give up: the right to be notified of any development in our neighborhood, the right to review the site plan and give input, the right to appeal those site plans which may not fit into our neighborhood, and many more too numerous to list.

The revision of the development plan will not be a benefit to all of Austin but will benefit one segment alone: the developer. If you would be shocked by looking out your kitchen window one day and seeing a three-story apartment project being built on the vacant lot next door without your knowing about it and without your input, then you need to get involved now or this will soon be a reality.

Right now there are two opportunities for you to have "your say" -- September 11, at 6:30 PM, before the Planning Commission and September 20, at 4 PM, before the Austin City Council. These times are tentative as we "go to press," so you need to call the following people for corrected times and more information: Mary Anne Krohn - 250-8829, or Cecilia Games - 345-9378.

Our thanks go out to Bull Creek Homeowners Association and its members Cecilia Games and Dan Pike, to Planning Commission member Jackie Goodman, and to City Council member Smoot Carl-Mitchell for alerting us to this serious problem. Between now and the dates of the meetings noted above you may also call the City Council members and Mayor and voice your concerns. Phone calls are more effective than letters, but they both will help, and the needed phone numbers and addresses are printed below.

All Council members have the same mailing address:

c/o City of Austin, P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767-8803

Mayor Lee Cooke
Phone: 499-2250

Robert Barnstone
Phone: 499-2264

Max Nofziger
Phone: 499-2260

Dr. Charles Urdy
Phone: 499-2266

Louise Epstein
Phone: 499-2255

Bob Larson
Phone: 499-2258

You might also call in your support to Smoot, via his aide, to let him know you support his efforts to protect our neighborhood rights.

*** Smoot Carl-Mitchell, phone: 499-2256

COLORADO RIVER WATCH NETWORK WORKSHOP

On July 22-25, the Colorado River Watch Network (CRWN) held a workshop in La Grange to train volunteers on how to make several water quality tests. The workshop was sponsored by the Clear Clean Colorado River Assn., the Lower Colorado River Authority, and the Texas Water Commission. Two of PLTA's Directors, Mary Anne Krohn and Bob Vann, were sent to this four day workshop and brought back the skills and knowledge of how to run tests for the detection of chlorides, nitrates, phosphates, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, turbidity, and more. What is also important is that they brought back two testing kits with which to run these tests.

This training and testing equipment is just the first step in beginning PLTA's water monitoring program on Lake Travis which should begin operating in September. PLTA's monitoring of Lake Travis (and Lake Austin) will be done with the help of volunteers from PLTA, local school teachers and students, and other concerned citizens. The other lake groups above Lake Travis, Protect Lakes Buchanan-Inks and Protect LBJ-Marble Falls, will be starting their own volunteer water monitoring programs and all three lake groups will join in their efforts as The Highland Lakes Water Watch Network. This water monitoring program will be funded by grants from the Lower Colorado River Authority and will be maintained with their help and assistance. This is another effort by LCRA which is greatly appreciated by PLTA and is added to LCRA's growing list of accomplishments toward maintaining and improving water quality along the Colorado River.

This water monitoring program along the Colorado River, from the upper reaches of Lake Buchanan all the way to the Gulf of Mexico, which will be done by the Clear Clean Colorado, PLTA, PLBIA, and PLBJ-MF, will be the longest stretch of river monitored by volunteers in the United States! (We are still checking on the following, but it will probably be the longest in the world, too!)

You, as a PLTA member, can be a part of this history because PLTA is looking for "a few good volunteers." What will be required is a desire to help improve water quality, donate an hour or two of your time each week (and you get to choose the day and time!), and choosing one location to run your water sample from our list of many locations. If you would like to get involved, or think you might, or just want more information, call Bob Vann at 266-2500. If you cannot help but know of someone else who might (a teacher, etc.,) please call. This is an excellent program which will allow PLTA members a hands-on part in caring for Lake Travis.

Testing equipment will be furnished by LCRA but is limited, and PLTA is in need of funds to hopefully purchase a "DataSonde 3" from Hydrolab Corp. of Austin. This equipment will allow PLTA to test more locations on Lake Travis and thus allow more monitoring at problem locations. If you can help PLTA purchase this equipment please let us know.

LAKE LEVEL PETITION UPDATE

The many signatures which you so generously returned to PLTA offices were turned over to the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce and were included in the 15,000 petition signatures turned in to the Lower Colorado River Authority by Lake Travis Chamber's Water Committee member Cole Rowland. Cole is also a member of PLTA and for further information on LCRA's response (which is pending) to the petition, call Cole Rowland, 261-3606.

PROTECT LAKE TRAVIS

"Keep it clean, clear, beautiful"

PLTA'S SECOND ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Our second annual garage sale was held on May 26-27-28 at Scuba Point Travis and was a very nice success, raising \$930. This event could not have even happened without the help of these members and volunteers who generously donated their time, effort, and/or items: Bill Atwood-for the use of Scuba Point Travis, Travis County Pct. 2 Commissioner Bruce Todd-who has been in PLTA's corner on many Lake Travis water quality fights and was first in line to donate items, Evalyn Scott, Al Purdon, Bill Pennington, Steve Sayer, Patty Oppel, Taylor Ollman, Joe Lowe, Sam Key, Jr., Janet Ross, Jim Davis, Susan Young, Jack Strickland and Family, Bruce and Edith Beaugh, Henry Parkinson, Becky, Connie, Lara, & Bob Vann, and last, but not least, two of PLTA's hardest working garage sale volunteers, Sam and Virginia Warrington. PLTA thanks each of these fine people for their help.

1990-91 PLTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Bob Vann, President
10801 Rush Rd.
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Ph: 266-2500

Jim Davis, Treasurer
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Dr. Taylor Ollman, Vice-President
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Ph: 266-2573

John Strickland, Jr.
12717 Bullick Hollow
Austin, TX 78726
Ph: 258-8998

Joe Adams
2008 Robinhood Trail
Austin, TX 78703
Ph: 472-7824

Membership and/or Special Contributions, Mail to:

The Protect Lake Travis Association
10801 Rush Rd., Austin, TX 78732

- Enclosed is my annual membership dues of \$10.
- Enclosed is my Special Contribution of \$_____.
- Yes, I would like to contribute to PLTA's effort to purchase water monitoring equipment, here is \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Remember, the Protect Lake Travis Association is made up of 100% volunteers. Because PLTA is a 501C.3 Non-Profit Organization, contributions are tax deductible. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

***** AUSTIN AREA ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS *****

On April 20 at the Austin Nature Center, Protect Lake Travis Association was presented the Austin Area Environmental Achievement Award for Water Conservation and Protection. This was the first time this award has been given. It was awarded by the City of Austin, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and Earth Day 1990 for PLTA's water quality work for Lake Travis and on the Marble Falls sewage discharge permit.

***** LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY'S FOURTH ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS *****

On June 19 at LCRA's Fourth Environmental Awards ceremony, PLTA's past president Cecil Laws was recognized with a very special "Individual Environmental Award for Lifetime Achievement." Cecil's years of work on the water quality of Lake Travis has always been known and appreciated by those of us in PLTA and this award brings the public recognition which Cecil so well deserved. Thank you LCRA and thank you Cecil!

WCID FOR COWS - UPDATE

The governor signed Senate Bill 18 which was pushed through and passed late in the last special session and was authored by Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos. It now enables developer Bill Milburn to set up a water district to develop his 1,328 acre Cypress Creek Ranch, which is in the watershed of the already embattled Cypress Creek Cove arm of Lake Travis. This area will now need even more careful watching.

HOW TO SAVE WATER OUTSIDE THE HOME

The enclosed bruchure was given to PLTA members by LCRA and may be "old hat" to some. When you are through reading it, pass it along to a neighbor.

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U.S. POSTAGE PD.
AUSTIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 1474

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10801 Rush Rd.
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