
MESA PARK MESSENGER

A Mesa Park Neighborhood Association monthly newsletter for the residents of Mesa Park

www.main.org/mpna



Happy New Year!

MPNA Board of Directors Update

Austin, TX -- The new MPNA Board of Directors have met twice now, and we are getting to know each other and discuss all of our different ideas of what defines a great neighborhood. For the most part, we all agree that we would like to have a lot more participation in **Neighborhood Watch Programs** and definitely **National Night Out on August 1, 2006**.

How do we get some of our neighbors interested in participating in our Neighborhood Association? Hopefully our last newsletter sent the message that **home renters and owners are welcome neighbors in MPNA**. Our best channel of communication to all of our neighbors is our newsletter and articles like this one. Researching some other neighborhood association websites, it looks like one has not published and posted a newsletter since July! And their Homeowners Association collects dues from residents.

The MPNA is ahead of the game, and we'd like to stay there. Our **newsletter and our website**, which we are working to update with all new names and contact information, are our best channel of communication. Anyone who is interested in working on the newsletter should contact MPNA's Volunteer Coordinator, **Ruth Kidwell at rkidwell@austin.rr.com**. Currently we run the risk of making the **Mesa Park Messenger** a quarterly publication due to the lack of an editor and designer.

I realize that I have lived in this neighborhood for 8 years and I own my house, and I really do not know all of my neighbors. I know my neighbor across the street, her first name but not her last, and that we wave occasionally when we are out in the front, but other than that, I really do not know her. She gave me a plate of Christmas cookies and we chatted a while. And when I think of those cookies, it is not the warmth of Christmas that comes to mind, but that **it really might be possible to write an article to get my fellow neighbors involved and interacting**.

Programs, such as Neighborhood Watch, are designed to make our lives safer and more comfortable. So even though eight years have gone by with little interaction with my neighborhood, it was easy to open the door and be a neighbor. Please help make Mesa Park the best it's ever been:

MPNA Board of Directors Meeting: February 11, 10 AM

MPNA Neighborhood Meeting: March 28th, 7 PM



MPNA Holiday Decorating Contest

Winners announced!

We had some beautifully decorated houses in the neighborhood this Holiday season. Congratulations to our winners!



1st Place (above): 11702 Santa Cruz
Flawless Decorations! Lots of light complete with an Angel and reindeer.



2nd Place (left): 11501 Elk Park Circle
Very colorful and fun! The clincher: Santa standing in the the window and a window view of the snowy village!

3rd Place tie (right): 4605 Gray Fox

Colorful and the best part of all-- the tree shaped from lights on the roof!



3rd Place tie (left): 4711 Gray Fox

Beautiful white manger scene, lots of clean white lights and an extra bonus, a "Santa Stop" for him to park his sleigh.

Cast your vote for best of Austin City Hall art exhibition in January

Plan a weekend outing to downtown Austin.

The public is invited to participate in a vote for their favorite piece of visual art in the current City Hall art exhibition. The winning art piece will be purchased for the permanent City Hall art collection.

Voting began Jan. 4, 2005, and will continue through the entire month of January.

To vote, simply visit Austin City Hall and experience the collection, then cast your vote before you leave or use the voting Web site after you get home.

A complete listing of the art and the ballots are available on the second floor in the display rack. You can take home free post cards of the art works also available in the second floor display.

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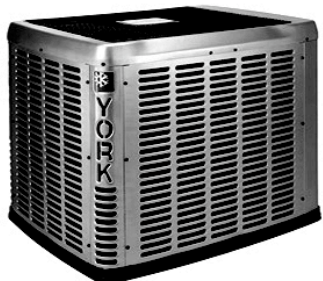
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The architecturally-acclaimed City Hall building is at 301 W. Second St.

Visitors to City Hall and the Second Street Retail District have two hours of free parking in the underground parking garage. City Hall is open to the public on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The hours are extended on Thursday evenings for City Council meetings.

The City Hall exhibition is part of the ongoing exhibition program series designed to showcase regional artistic endeavors and to encourage public dialogue, understanding and enjoyment of visual art.

The current exhibition has been on display for a year and will come down at the end of February and the new 2006 exhibition will be installed.



How To Get Involved

Many volunteers needed

The MPNA is looking for several volunteers to help with various activities (please see section in lower right of this page). We are always looking for new people to help and to **get to know as neighbors**. We received no response to our last newsletter. Please feel free to contact any of the Board Members (information on the right) or Ruth Kidwell, our Volunteer Coordinator.

Another great way to get involved and stay informed is by attending our Neighborhood Meetings. Also, we hold our Board of Directors meetings the second Saturday of every month at the Milwood Library public meeting room (10 am). **Please feel free to join us, these are open to everybody!** Please help us breathe new life into the MPNA.

MPNA Board of Directors Meeting: February 11, 10 AM
MPNA Neighborhood Meeting: March 28th, 7 PM

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Contact

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Claudia Chavez
claudia.mpna@gmail.com

Gwen Thompson, 343-6522

Cindy Lindsay, 346-2232

Ruth Kidwell, 343-1638 or
rkidwell@austin.rr.com

Emergency: 911

Police Non-Emergency: 311

NW Austin Police District Rep:

Officer Chris Keen, 974-5852

Christopher.Keen@ci.austin.tx.us

Volunteers Needed

1) Lost Pets Contact Person:

We need someone to publish their name and number in the newsletter as a contact person for lost pets.

2) Yard of the Month Committee:

We need 2-3 individuals to scout the best yards and select a monthly winner.

3) Police Appreciation Gift Committee:

Put together gifts such as baked goods, baskets, etc. (MPNA covers expenses)

4) Meeting Posters:

We need someone to put up meeting posters at six neighborhood locations for our neighborhood meetings.

5) Park Cleanup - March 2006

Help keep Schroeter Park beautiful! Volunteer for 15 minutes or all day, it's up to you! Anything helps.

If you are interested in volunteering please e-mail Ruth Kidwell: rkidwell@austin.rr.com