

MESA PARK MESSENGER

MARCH, 2006

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

Special Points of Interest:

- Board of Directors meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each month at Milwood Library, 10am. All are welcome.
- Neighborhood Association meetings are quarterly, and the dates will be published as they are set.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING, MARCH 28TH

Our first Mesa Park Neighborhood Association meeting of 2006 will be Tuesday, March 28th, 7:00 pm at Covenant Methodist Church, 4410 Duval Rd.

Topping our agenda is the 12th Annual Police Appreciation award. This is our way of showing our gratitude that we live in a city where any citizen of our community can pick up the phone and expect that help will be sent to them when needed. We are grateful that there is a contingent of 300 police personnel located in the NW Lamplight Station that

are dedicated to help when we ask.

Invitations have been sent to all our neighboring associations and to Davis Elementary School families to join us. Kids are invited and welcome to participate, so please bring the entire family.

Police Appreciation will take up most of our meeting, but the board would also like to address future communications with the neighborhood. We would like to hear about the easiest way for neighbors to communicate to the Board and which form of communication is more pro-

ductive for you, be it telephone, email, Yahoo message groups, Schroeter Park updates, etc. We also want your opinions on what topics to address, such as Quarries information, youth groups, home renovations, Neighborhood Watch program updates, MPNA Messenger articles, to name a few. Ongoing communication will make our quarterly meetings more productive and informative.

We're looking forward to meeting you on March 28th.

- MPNA Board of Directors



Please join us on March 28th to show your appreciation for Austin's finest.

MESA PARK SPRING GARAGE SALE, APRIL 29TH

The MPNA Spring Garage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. The fee for participating in the sale is \$5.00. The deadline for participation and payment is Tuesday, April 25. Please make your check out to MPNA and mail it to:

Ruth Kidwell
11609 Blackhawk Drive
Austin, TX 78759

You can also deliver the check in person, or place it in a box by Ruth's front door. But remember, **PLEASE NO CASH.** With your payment please

include your address for the map and your name.

Balloons will be available for you to tie on your mailbox on the day of the sale. They make our sale more festive and make your house easier to spot. Please pick up 2 or 3 balloons by the Bulletin Board on the day of the sale. Maps will also be available there.

The Salvation Army will pick up any unsold items sometime in the week after the sale. Please note that they will no longer pick up items on the day of the sale. They require the name, address

and phone number of those donating items and an itemized list of the items. They will pick up to 20 bags or boxes and 4 large furniture items. These may be left in the driveway near the garage if nobody will be home. If you wish to be included in this pick-up, please notify Ruth at 343-1638 or Rkidwell@Austin.rr.com before Monday, May 1st.

In the event of inclement weather, **THERE WILL BE NO RAIN DATE**, and there will be no refunds. If the sale does not occur, any money remaining after paying the

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MESA PARK MESSENGER

MPNA IS A MEMBER OF THE AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

By Terry Tevis

Mesa Park Neighborhood Association is a member of the Austin Neighborhood Council Association. I was asked to attend the February 22nd meeting with the planned speaker of City of Austin Neighborhood Planning Manager. Since I planned on sitting in the back and taking a short nap, I was completely surprised by the outcome of the evening.

In the space of 10 minutes the room held about 100 people from all over Austin. I look up and there is a very pretty young woman in front of me, introducing herself as a candidate for City Council and not a minute later, a young man was announcing his candidacy for City Council. There were additional candidates attending the meeting to "press the flesh."

Then the first speaker was from the Austin Parks Foundation to explain the upcoming "My Parks Day" for April 22nd. We then heard from City of Austin Neighborhood Planning Department and their current "Transit Ori-

ented Development" (TOD) project with Capitol Metro. There was an explanation as to what TOD is, demonstrations of completed projects all over the United States, and what future Capitol Metro sub-stations are going to be and how they will affect their surrounding neighborhoods.

There is a proposed project to build a bus station facility near/on the Pickle property that could potentially affect our neighborhood. The existing Cap Metro/Salttillo project in SE Austin was held up as an example often during the meeting. Right now, Cap Metro is planning on three new sub-stations; Leander, Pickle and South Austin.

The next speaker addressed ANC as to what the status is of any bond issues that Austin City Council is proposing for May ballot. At this point in time, the Council voted that there will be no Bond issues on the ballot, so all current bond requests will migrate to the next calendar agenda and he advised ANC members to keep vigilant on their own neighborhood bond projects, so they do not "fall off the

schedule". Another note to self, get educated on how MPNA might benefit from City of Austin bonds.

There were another 3 speakers that addressed the crowd. My head was reeling by this time. I talked with several other people from all over Austin and received a lot of good information and different ideas on how they addressed issues in the

neighborhoods. The ANC web site also has a good amount of useful information for Austin residents, <http://www.ancweb.org>. There is information/links to all kinds of organizations and information on just about any questions an Austin resident might need.

I find myself looking forward to our next meeting.

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SALE, cont'd from I

charges incurred for the sale will be deposited into the MPNA account.

We respectfully request that in fairness to all, that if you wish to have a garage sale on that date that you will pay the fee and participate in this neighborhood function.

Thank you for your cooperation.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

By Shawn McAdams

For those out there wondering what is going on with the newsletter, and I'm sure there are plenty, I'd like to take a moment to share my thoughts on the future of the newsletter.

First, I want to thank everyone for your patience as we cut the newsletter back from 8 pages to 4. Without a permanent newsletter editor, we have been working in "just the

basics mode." I expect we will have to focus on just the basics for at least another month as I settle in to the routine of coordinating articles and doing page layouts.

However, my goal is to make the Mesa Park Messenger a great resource on information about our neighborhood and developments going on that effect our neighborhood.

Please feel free to send articles, ideas for articles, and/or

constructive criticism to me at newsletter.mpna@gmail.com.

Also, If anyone in the neighborhood is interested in writing an ongoing or semi-ongoing column, please let me know. Once I feel we have enough quality information each month to include, we will increase the size of the newsletter again.

Crape Myrtle
Lagerstroemia x. hybrida
 (many varieties)

Shony flowers; choose mildew-resistant varieties, named after Native American tribes, e.g., Sioux, Natchez, Hopi; trees need good air flow; note mature size when selecting variety; dwarf varieties available; aphids can be a problem.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with the following activities/events:

Police Appreciation

We need snacks and treats for 300 of Austin's Finest. Our Police Appreciation Night is March 28th at the Neighborhood Meeting. Please contact Jessie Grissom for details if you could contribute some goodies. (individually packaged pretzels, breakfast bars, etc. are great, but Jessie will need them by Monday the 27th) Phone 345-4882 or rgrissom1@austin.rr.com

Yard of the Month

We need 2 - 3 individuals to scout the best yards and select a monthly winner. (Volunteer time: 1 hour/month)

Meeting Posters

We need someone to put up the meeting posters at six neighborhood locations for our neighborhood meetings. (Volunteer time: 1 hour/4 times a year)

Park Clean-up

This is scheduled for April 22nd. (Volunteer time: Whatever you can do!)

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

This is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th. We need a chairperson(s) to head it up.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Kendall Kelsoe will be heading up this program. Think about becoming a block captain for your street.

CRAPE MYRTLES BLOOM ALL SUMMER

In the heat of the summer crape myrtles show their true colors, from red and pink to lavender, purple and white. Widely available, they can be found in most any nursery and May is the time to purchase them because you can see exactly what color you're getting. Just remember to give them lots of water to help them adjust to the garden and promote new root growth.

Crape myrtles can bloom all summer. These grow and bloom year after year with minimal care and little or no pruning. As a rule of thumb, only remove old seed pods and old stalks that are thinner than a pencil. Light tip pruning or snipping off old blooms will encourage more flowers. Putting fresh mulch around the base of the plant will also help make watering go further.

Heavy cutbacks (sometimes called crape murder) in later winter and early spring are not recommended. Many people engage in heavy pruning because they see their

neighbors doing it in February and March, leaving only 4 or 5 foot trunks sticking up out of the ground. This ruins the natural shape of the tree.

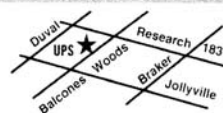
People shorten crape myrtles by 6 ft. or more, turning beautiful trunks into thick, ugly stubs. Repeated pruning to the same point creates gnarled, knobby "knuckles" on the ends of the trunks. A thicket of long, weak, whip like branches then sprouts from each knuckle. These whips are too weak to support the flowers and hang straight down like cooked spaghetti.

Know a crape myrtle's mature height before you plant it. They range in height from 2 feet to 30 feet.

If you already planted a crape myrtle that's overgrowing its boundary, you might want to move it. These trees may be transplanted easily, and only a small root ball is needed for success. It's best to move them in late fall or winter, when they're leafless and dormant.

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A MESA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MESA PARK



THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS!

We have had a very good response to the request for volunteers We're off to a great start! Very special thanks to those who have volunteered as of 2/11/06. We appreciate your interest in the neighborhood and your willingness to help. Thank you:

Julie Kennedy, Marie Wilson, Jennifer Zephyr Etheredge-Mettee, Sarah Rokicki, Terri Whitfield, Denai Jenkins, Ann White-Paclik, Harrison Cheung, Kendall Kelsoe, Cheryl C., Rob S., Nancy Cowart, Gail Miller

-Ruth Kidwell, Volunteer Coordinator

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Neighborhood Contacts

President:

Terry Tevis, mpnapres@yahoo.com, 736-8469

Board Members:

Claudia Chavez, Claudia.mpna@gmail.com

Susan McVickers, susanmcv@att.net

Gwen Thompson, 343-6522

Cindy Lindsay, TreeTopProp@prodigy.net, 346-2232

Oscar Gonzalez, theoscarman@sbcglobal.net, 338-1083

Hon. Board Member:

Val Schroeter, 345-3314

Quarries Representative:

Pamela Villars, pvillars@earthlink.net, 418-8219

Volunteer Coordinator:

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

Newsletter Editor:

Shawn McAdams, newsletter.mpna@gmail.com

Webmaster:

Julie Kennedy, julie@digitalcitydesigns.com

Lost & Found Pets:

Zephr Etheredge, POMpetcare@yahoo.com, 794-1031

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator / Park Chairman:

Kendal Kelsoe, nimpo_iddan@juno.com

Emergency: 911

Police Non-Emergency: 311

NW Austin Police District Rep:

Officer Chris Keen, 974-5852

Christopher.Keen@ci.austin.tx.us