

MESA PARK MESSENGER

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

MAY, 2006

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 are published as they are set.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By Terry Tevis

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 1st. There are tons of ideas and websites for information on how to get organized, just Google "National Night Out."

But let me tell you what will be going on for Fast Horse Drive. Shawn and I are pulling his barbeque grill out to the driveway, and we are going to grill up some fajitas. We are hoping to meet as many of our neighbors as possible, so stop by and grab a taco. And if you'd like, feel free to bring an appetizer, dip, or dessert.

Around 8:00ish, we will head on over to Schroeter Park where we have invited APD and the Fire department. The MPNA Board is still

mulling over additional ideas, so send us your suggestions.

For our Neighborhood Watch program, we have somewhat of an idea of the kind of program we want for our neighborhood and now it is time to start putting it into action. It would be great to have our Neighborhood Watch program functioning by National Night Out.

By the time you read this article, I will have knocked on everyone's door on Fast Horse and talked with people to inform them what it will entail to be a Watch Captain. We need a functioning Neighborhood Watch program in our community.

Did you know that you could qualify for a 1-15%

reduction in insurance premiums if you have a Neighborhood Watch?

If your property was stolen do you have the documentation that if the police did recover it, they would give it back to you? A Neighborhood Watch can educate.

If you are at work or out of town, and your house catches on fire, is there someone who would contact you? If you'd prefer not to deal with a perhaps grouchy neighbor, give your information to your Watch Captain.

This is a win/win for everyone in our neighborhood. It is going to take a little effort to get it into place, but everyone will benefit.



Neighborhoods throughout Austin are participating in National Night Out, Tuesday, August 1

Inside this issue:

Commander's Forum Update	2
Pruning and Oak Wilt	3
Bulky Garbage and Large Brush Collections	4
VIN Etching / Watering Tips / Flooding on Natrona	5
Neighborhood Crime Statistics	6
Roof Damage / Yard of the Month	7
Neighborhood Contacts / Classifieds	8

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 27TH

Topic: Home Improvement

Our next Neighborhood Meeting is scheduled for June 27th at 7:00pm, Covenant United Methodist Church, 4410 Duval Road.

We will have at least five \$20.00 gift certificates to award from a drawing. The plan is to have an expo type of event in which we will invite some speakers and also have different home improvement vendors present to answer any MPNA

residents' questions. The MPNA Board is still firming up the details, but we plan on asking for speakers from Home Depot and/or Lowe's, and finding an arborist to talk to us about Oak Wilt. Tables would be set-up for potential vendors to be present. If any resident has a roofer/landscaper/handyman/plumber/electrician that they recommend, let us know so we can invite them to participate. It would be great if we could get an MPNA work

committee together of like-minded residents to come together for neighborhood projects. Send an email of what you want to hear, see, and learn.

Thanks to all who have sent in donations to MPNA. Could we please get some feedback on publishing recognition in the Messenger?

Also, thanks to everyone for all the great feedback and compliments on the newsletter. Keep it coming in!

MESA PARK MESSENGER

NORTH WEST COMMANDER'S FORUM UPDATE: MAY 2006

At the quarterly North West Commander's Forum in May, our new NW Commander Leo Enriquez was introduced. He has been with the APD for 25 years and was transferred from NE Sector.

This meeting was brief, but some of the highlights were police reports of theft of A/C units/Compressors. Thieves take the compressors and strip the copper to sell. The older the unit, the more copper it has.

Another interesting part of the meeting was a report on the current Austin Fine Schedule.

- Speeding tickets up to 5 mph over the posted limit: \$139
- Speeding tickets up to 15 mph over posted limit: \$189
- Passing a school bus: \$548
- Speeding in a School Zone: \$174
- Unsafe lane changes: \$163
- Failure to maintain insurance: \$248

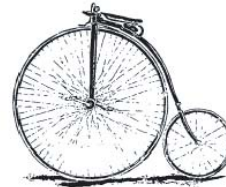
A lot of people were very surprised to find out how steep the fines are these days.

So the next time you are running late for an appointment, think of the time to be made up in the drive in these terms of what it could potentially cost you.

APD is also planning a new way to kick off Blue Santa and start it earlier in the year. They are planning a "Christmas in July" event in Waterloo Park on July 15th, 2006, 10:00am to 2:00pm. There will be all kind of events for the kids such as face painting and games. They will have personnel there to VIN ID your car (see page 5 for other opportunities for this service). They want families to attend and bring a present for the Blue Santa program for needy families at Christmas.

The next Commander's Forum is Austin 8th at Covenant United Methodist Church, 4410 Duval Road.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

By Shawn McAdams

My apologies, neighbors, that this newsletter is arriving on your doorstep late. I do my best to publish the newsletter by the third weekend of the month, but this has been a busy month for me, and I just couldn't get it done in time. Plus, while I'm glad to see we had enough content for an eight page newsletter this month, that does take twice as much time to edit. Please bare with me, I'll get the hang of this one of these months.

I'd also like to thank our advertisers for providing their services to our neighborhood (and to Claudia for coordinating it all!). Please try out their services, and remember to utilize the special offers they provide our neighborhood. Personally, I was very excited that the Soup Peddler contacted us about advertising in the newsletter; this is a "very Austin" company that I read about last year, but they didn't deliver to our neighborhood at the time. I will be placing my order shortly.

Finally, I would again like to call out to our neighbors for anyone interested in writing an article for the newsletter to please drop me an e-mail at newsletter.mpna@gmail.com.

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HAVE YOU BEEN TRIMMING YOUR OAK TREES THIS SPRING??

This guide is an attempt to educate the **residents of Mesa Park** about Oak Wilt and to present practical steps that all of us can take to protect our grand and valuable Oak Trees. Oak Wilt is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States. In Central Texas, we must constantly be on the lookout for Oak Wilt disease and must take precautionary steps each year to prevent its spread.

Facts About Oak Wilt Disease

1. Oak Wilt is a disease caused by a fungus (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*) that clogs the water conducting vessels of the infected tree, causing the tree to wilt and die.
2. There is **NO cure** for Oak Wilt disease, so prevention is our main weapon to fight it.
3. Most types of Oak Trees in Central Texas are affected by Oak Wilt, including Live Oaks and members of the Red Oak group, which includes Spanish, Blackjack, Pin, Shumard, and Water Oaks. Post Oaks seem to be somewhat resistant to the disease.
4. Oak Wilt can spread in two ways: 1) underground, from an infected tree to a healthy tree through connected root systems (affects live oaks primarily); and 2) above ground, by the sap beetle, which carries the fungus from an infected tree to fresh wounds on a healthy tree.
5. Members of the Red Oak group are particularly susceptible to Oak Wilt and play a large role in spreading the disease. In the late fall and early spring, infected Red Oak trees contain special structures just beneath the bark called fungal mats. The fungal mats are covered with spores that can be carried by sap beetles to infect new trees. Peak time for **sap beetle infections is Feb.-May**. Red Oaks seldom survive oak wilt and often die within 3-4 weeks following the initial appearance of symptoms.
6. Fungal mats can also form on firewood from diseased Spanish or Blackjack Oak trees while the firewood is in storage. Infected firewood should be carefully burned.

Information taken from: 1) Balcones Civic Association Oak Wilt Guide, 5th Edition, May 2003; and
2) a USDA Forest Service bulletin of Dec. 2001 entitled "How to Identify and Manage Oak Wilt in Texas".

Preventing The Spread Of Oak Wilt Disease

1. **Cut/Prune Oak Trees ONLY during July through September or in January.** The sap beetle is not as active in extremely hot or cold weather.
2. **DO NOT cut/prune oaks from Feb. 1 through June 30th, or during October through December.** These are the most active times for the sap-feeding beetle.
3. **Use only clean/disinfected tools for pruning oak trees.** Disinfect tools with Lysol spray, or a 20% bleach/80% water solution. Dry each tool thoroughly before using.
4. **Immediately after pruning, paint all wounds with a standard asphalt-based wound dressing before proceeding to the next branch or limb.** It only takes one wound contact by a contaminated sap beetle to introduce oak wilt into our oaks, so **paint all pruning cuts, regardless of the size.** Don't accept the "experts" response that painting is not necessary or that they have a "clear coating" over the wounds that you cannot see.
5. **Be observant. Watch for wounds or storm damage and take immediate action to prune and seal the wounds.** Alert your neighbors to the problems of oak wilt. Give a new neighbor a copy of this guide.
6. **Do not let unqualified people prune your trees during the months when the sap beetles are most active.** Disinfected tools and wound dressing **MUST** be used during these periods of the year, and should be used at all times.
7. **Keep the grass away from, and the ivy, Off Your Trees.** Keeping the grass away from the base of your trees is the only way to absolutely avoid lawn mower, or edger, cuts around the base of your trees. Such cuts not only increase your oaks vulnerability to the oak wilt fungus, they expose all your trees to the entry of bugs and other diseases. Also, ivy growing on the trunks of your trees, over the long term, will damage and weaken your oaks as well as your other trees.
8. **Purchase or harvest ONLY uninfected firewood.** The easiest way to do this is to not purchase or harvest, oak firewood. Favor instead, firewood harvested from elm, pecan mesquite or ash trees.
9. **Limit the amount of firewood stored at home, stack firewood away from oak trees, and cover with clear plastic, tucking in and covering all edges with soil.** Do not use black or colored plastic to cover firewood, as any sap beetles accidentally brought in with the firewood can identify holes in the dark plastic and escape from.
10. **Burn all firewood by March 1st of each year** to prevent your wood from becoming a possible source of infection. The sap beetle begins to be active in mid-late Feb.

Additional Resources:

- City of Austin Oak Wilt web page: www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/faqs.htm
- <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/default.htm>
- Travis County Agriculture Extension Service Office – (512) 854-9600 – ask for Oak Wilt information
- Texas Forest Service – (512) 407-9728
- www.texasoakwilt.org

Disclaimer: The information in this guide was compiled and edited by Susan McVicker, Board Member, MPNA. While she believes that the resources used and information compiled are the most reliable and accurate, the Mesa Park Neighborhood Association makes no representation, implication, or guarantee that the procedures suggested in this guide will absolutely prevent oak wilt disease.

MESA PARK MESSENGER

BULK GARBAGE AND LARGE BRUSH COLLECTION

The bulk garbage collection for Mesa Park is scheduled to begin Monday, July 10, 2006.

The large brush collection is scheduled to begin Monday, August 21, 2006.

Solid Waste Services collects items that are too large for your garbage cart during specially-scheduled bulk collections and large brush collections. Over 10% of the bulk material collected is recycled, and your yard waste is "recycled" and used to make Dillo Dirt, an EPA-certified soil conditioner.

Solid Waste Services mails a flyer to all households a few weeks ahead of their bulk collection and large brush

collection. The schedule is not published online to discourage illegal scavenging and dumping.

BULK GUIDELINES

Place bulky items at the curb in front of your house by 6:30 a.m. on the first day of your scheduled collection week.

To prevent damage to your property, keep items five feet away from your garbage cart, your mailbox, fences or walls, your water meter, your telephone connection box, and parked cars. Do not place them under low hanging tree limbs or power lines.

Items will not be collected if they are in an alley, in front

of a vacant lot or in front of a business.

Do not put bulk items in bags, boxes or other containers. Bulk collection is for most items that are too large to fit in containers. Bags will be treated as extra garbage and are subject to extra garbage fees.

Separate Items into Three Piles:

Metal items, including most appliances (doors removed), should be put in one pile. These are taken to the City's Landfill Diversion Center for recycling.

Passenger car tires should be put in a separate pile to go to a tire recycling facility. Tires must be removed from the rims and there is a limit of 8 per household. The City cannot collect truck or tractor tires.

Non-metal items, such as carpeting and nail-free lumber, should be placed in a single pile. These items go to a landfill.

Because these piles are collected by different trucks, they may be collected at different times throughout the week.

Watch your mail for reminder cards in July and August



LARGE BRUSH GUIDELINES

The large brush collection is scheduled to begin Monday, August 21, 2006. Large brush includes limbs five to fifteen feet long and three to eight inches in diameter. All limbs need to be placed at the curb by 6:30 a.m. that Monday.

Depending on the volume it could take a full week for the crew to collect the brush.

If further assistance is needed you may call the City of Austin's customer service line at 512-494-9400, and choose the option for Solid Waste Services, or visit them on the Web at

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/>

Mesa Park Market Update

5/31/06

Status	#	Av. Price	Av. \$/sqft**	Av. DOM
Active	1	\$179,995	\$131	6
Pending	4	\$157,350	\$122	65
Sold*	12	\$160,776	\$107	44

* 1/1 to 5/31/06

** adjusted for seller's concessions.

2006 vs. 2005 \$/sqft has increased about 4% over last year.

Please call me if you have any questions about these statistics or if you are planning to sell and want to know how they may apply to your property.

Prepared by:

G.A. "Sandy" Nelson, Jr.
 Broker Associate CRS, GRI, ABR
 J.B. Goodwin, Realtors
 512-205-7856
 Sandy@SandyNelson.com

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SPRING GARAGE SALE REPORT

By Ruth Kidwell

In spite of the very questionable weather, our Spring Garage Sale was a success. We had 24 households sign up to participate.

By most reports, there was a good turnout of shoppers. After paying the expenses of

\$34.50 we contributed \$85.50 to our treasury. Special thanks to Teresa Smith for being the garage sale consultant, and to all who participated in the sale. Our Fall Sale will be on Saturday, October 21st.

Tips for watering your lawn effectively this summer

Look in your May utility bill for your Five Day Watering Calendar

Or find it online at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/summer.htm>

Water in the early morning to help prevent fungal diseases

Water more deeply and less frequently to encourage deeper roots

Water so that the soil is wet to a depth of 4-6 inches. This takes 1/2 to 1 inch of water, depending on your soil type. To check on the amount applied, collect water from sprinklers in a tuna can or rain gauge

Because water is more likely to run off clay soils and sloping lots, it may be necessary to irrigate slowly or in multiple short cycles to prevent water run-off

Allow soil to dry out between waterings

*** The above information was taken from the City of Austin's Grow Green Web site.*

NEIGHBORHOOD FLOODING

An MPNA resident who lives on Natrona Drive has brought to the attention of the MPNA Board of Directors the serious problem of flooding on his street. The flooding began after two office building were built on Thunder Creek.

We would like to invite residents who are affected by the problem to plan on attending our next Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, June 10th at 10am.

We would like to plan a strategy to get this problem corrected. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

VEHICLE ETCHING FROM APD

All vehicles have a federally assigned vehicle identification number (VIN). The etching of a VIN on the windows of a vehicle deters thieves because it is more difficult to dispose of property that is identifiable. It is time-consuming and expensive for thieves to replace windows that have been marked with the VIN.

The APD Auto Theft Interdiction Project has announced the following VIN Etching Schedule:

06/10/06 - 10am - 1pm, NW Target, 11220 FM 2222

06/17/06 - 10am - 1pm, SW Target, 2300 W. Ben White Blvd.

07/08/06 - 10am - 1pm, SW Target Greatland, 5300 S. MoPac

07/15/06 - 10am - 1pm, Waterloo Park, 403 E. 15th

07/29/06 - 10am - 1pm, St. James Baptist Church,
3714 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

For information regarding the VIN etching, please call Diana Amaro at (512) 974-5713 or by email diana.amaro@ci.austin.tx.us



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MESA PARK CRIME REPORT FROM APD

DATE OF INCIDENT	TYPE OF CRIME	BLOCK ADDRESS
5/31/2003	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	11600 BIG TRAIL
5/27/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	5000 DULL KNIFE DR
5/25/2003	ASSAULT WITH INJURY	11600 NATRONA DR
5/21/2003	AUTO THEFT	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
5/19/2003	ASSAULT WITH INJURY	0 RUNNING DEER DR
5/16/2003	THEFT	4300 ZUNI DR
5/13/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
5/11/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	11600 SHOSHONE DR
5/9/2003	THEFT OF VEHICLE/OTHER	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
5/8/2003	THEFT	11500 ANGUS RD
5/8/2003	AGG ASSAULT	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
5/8/2003	FAMILY DISTURBANCE	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
5/8/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
5/4/2003	FAMILY DISTURBANCE	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
5/1/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
3/29/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	4300 STEVE SCARBROUGH DR
3/29/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	4300 STEVE SCARBROUGH DR
3/28/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	11700 NATRONA DR
3/27/2003	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	11700 FAST HORSE DR
3/25/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	4300 ZUNI DR
3/14/2003	FAMILY DISTURBANCE	5000 DULL KNIFE DR
3/5/2003	ASSAULT WITH INJURY	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
3/5/2003	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
3/4/2003	THEFT OF LICENSE PLATE	11700 SHOSHONE DR
3/3/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	11600 SANTA CRUZ DR
3/2/2003	DWI 2ND	11700 MOHICAN DR
3/2/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
3/2/2003	SEXUAL ASSAULT	11600 RESEARCH BLVD
2/26/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	11700 BIG TRAIL
2/23/2003	POSS CONTROLLED SUB/NARCOTIC	11600 RESEARCH BLVD
2/21/2003	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
2/16/2003	POSS OF ALCOHOL-AGE 16 & UNDER	4300 DUVAL RD
2/10/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	11700 RUNNING FOX TRL
1/29/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	4500 DUVAL RD
1/16/2003	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	5000 DUVAL RD
1/16/2003	THEFT	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
1/15/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
1/15/2003	AGG ROBBERY/DEADLY WEAPON	5200 THUNDER CREEK RD
1/13/2003	THEFT	11600 ANGUS RD
1/9/2003	BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	4300 STEVE SCARBROUGH DR
1/8/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	11600 RESEARCH BLVD
1/3/2003	BURGLARY OF VEH	11600 SANTA CRUZ DR

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VOLUME 12, ISSUE 12

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR ROOF INSPECTED?

Our neighborhood was hit hard by hail several times in April. Some residents even reported seeing baseball sized hail during these storms, which has done a number on our roofs.

Many roofs were totaled by these hail storms. If you have not yet contacted a roofer to inspect your roof, you should do so immediately. In many cases, you may not know the extent of the damage just from a ground level "visual inspection."

Generally, you will want to have a roofer inspect your roof before you ever contact your insurance company. If your insurance company sends someone out to inspect your roof, this will often count as a claim on your policy, even if no damage is found. Your roofer can tell you the extent of your damage and advise you on how to proceed with your insurance company.

If your insurance company sends an inspector, also ask if they checked things like the chimney cap, window screens, garage doors, decking, etc. for damage.

When choosing a roofer, be sure to get someone who is

bonded and carries workers compensation insurance. Feel free to ask for copies of these policies for your records. You want to make sure that if something happens to someone while on your roof that you are not liable.

Other considerations when choosing a roofer are to find a company that will be around for a while. A warranty is no good if the company cannot be reached when future problems arise. You can check if the roofing company is listed in the Yellow Pages to make sure they are not a fly-by-night company, and also check if they are listed with the Better Business Bureau.

If your roof is being totally replaced, ask your roofer how they handle things like flashing, drip edges, the wind turbines, etc. And also ask if they remove the current layer of shingles, or if they will just lay new shingles over the old.

You can also ask about the style of shingle used. Many roofers are now using an architectural shingle (called so because they have a three-dimensional look) designed to mimic the appearance of wood shake shingles.

YARD OF THE MONTH

We have not had anybody step forward to be our Yard of the Month chairman.

Just so you have an idea what being chairman of that committee entails...there is only 1 on the committee. You set your own hours, can work day or nights, driving around the neighborhood once a month or even drive around once a quarter. Attend MPNA

Board meeting occasionally to hear our ideas. It's the easiest volunteer job we have.

So, without a chairman, the MPNA Board Meeting nominated and voted 11600 Elk Park Trail as "Yard of the Month"

**Congratulations
to 11600 Elk Park**

JUNE 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JUNE 10 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JUNE 18 — FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 27 — NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

JULY 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JULY 4 — INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 8 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MESA PARK UNCLASSIFIEDS

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To place your ad in the Messenger, please contact Claudia at claudia.mpna@gmail.com. The deadline to place your ad in the June issue will be June 15th. Please e-mail your order by then and mail a check payable to "MPNA" to:

MPNA, PMB 104, P.O. Box 200255, Austin, TX 78720

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:

Jennifer, POMpetcare@yahoo.com, 794-1031

Marie Wilson, organize4u@prodigy.net, 343-2662

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