



Cedar Elm



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Virginia Creeper

## Holiday Decorating Contest

Make sure you have your house ready for the Holidays! The MPNA will be judging houses on December 16th at 7 PM. We will drive around the neighborhood to look at and take pictures of the neighborhood's most nicely decorated homes. Start decorating!

All winners will receive gift cards from Home Depot in the following increments:

1st: \$50

2nd: \$35

3rd: \$20

Honorable mention (3 spots): \$10 each

## Yard of the Month

by: Susan Serna

Yards are still looking great despite the fact that we're already experiencing the coldest weather since last winter! Our December YOTM honor goes to Paul Dano, 11507 Big Trail Cove. Congratulations! This will be our last YOTM until next year (most likely March). (Please don't forget to see information in previous article regarding our Holiday Decorating Contest!) We look forward to receiving more YOTM nominations in the New Year!

## Neighborhood Meeting

Tuesday, February 27th 2007

### Police Appreciation

Please make plans to attend. If you would like to donate baked goods or other gifts (memo pads, etc.) to be included in the appreciation baskets, please call Jessie Grisom (345-4882) This is a cherished Mesa Park tradition and the NW District Police appreciate it greatly! Let's keep it going. If you have not participated in the past, please do so. It's a great way to say Thank You and to meet your neighbors and service men and women!

## Park Day

It's winter, but we're already planning for spring. Park Day is a city wide effort to keep our parks clean. Please start rallying volunteers to help with our annual Schroeter Park spring clean-up—that means you, Mesa Park residents! The more volunteers we have, the less work we have to do individually. Please put it on your new 2007 calendars: Saturday April 14th. More details to follow.

## December Gardening Tips

by: Susan McVicker

Protect plants during freezes: Use sheets, towels or blankets. Keep your beds mulched and always water well before a freeze. Do not prune the perennials, allow them to freeze back. This actually helps to insulate and protect the plant.

This is a good time to plant hardy perennials. These will be blooming in the spring such as columbine, coreopsis or Shasta daisies.

Continue to rake fallen leaves. If you let them accumulate they will smother the lawn grass.

Keep cool season weeds in check before they get too established in the yard. Henbit, chickweed and dandelion that germinated in October will grow all winter.

Never "top" a tree, particularly Crepe Myrtles. This has become so prevalent; it's been referred to as "Crepe Murder". This ruins the natural shape of the tree. Prune in February to promote new growth. As a rule of thumb, only remove old seed pods and old stalks that are thinner than a pencil.

After the holidays, turn your Christmas tree into free mulch

Christmas Tree Recycling

Pay-As-You Throw Customers - Curbside Collection

Convenient curbside collection of Christmas trees for recycling is available for Austin's Pay-As-You-Throw customers. Beginning on December 27th, trees will be collected with yard trimmings. Please set your tree at the curb by 6:30 AM on your yard trimmings collection day. Be sure to remove all decorations and the stand. Trees 6 ft. tall or taller must be cut in half.

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For more information go to the city's website [www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm) or call 494-9400 or 440-5163.

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department will have free Christmas tree mulch available to the public at Zilker Park shortly after Christmas trees have been collected. The mulch is available on a first-come-first-service basis and is strictly for private use. Individuals picking up mulch should bring their own bags, and equipment. Park personnel will not be available to assist loading.

The Parks and Recreation staff strongly recommend that the mulch be placed in a compost pile for several months. The mulch is "green" and the decay process causes it to get very hot. If the mulch is applied without a waiting period it may damage areas where it is spread.

Recycle Old Phone Books. Look for dumpsters dedicated to phone book recycling in the parking lots of major grocery stores. Currently, there is one located at the HEB on Braker and 183.

## MPNA Crime Statistics

In assembling our MPNA statistics from the Austin Police Department website, the list for the last two months is relatively short. In reviewing the list, it appears that our biggest problem is vehicle theft. However, in talking with several residents and reviewing the statistics in neighboring Angus Valley and Balcones Woods we have a very real problem with crime in our neighborhood. Christmas season is upon us and these statistics are only going to increase.

Don't let the rush and excitement of the holiday season make you careless in protecting your home from potential criminals. The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. The following tips can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season.

- **Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.**
- **When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.**
- **Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.**
- **Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.**
- **Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.**
- **When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display, make sure doors and passageways are clear inside your home.**

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Available with 12 mo. c.d. program only.  
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- **Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so children, elderly persons or family pets cannot pull it over on themselves.**
- **If you use lights on your Christmas tree ensure the wiring is not damaged or frayed. Frayed or damaged wiring can cause a fire.**
- **Place your Christmas tree in water or wet sand to keep it green.**
- **Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.**
- **Be sure and put out the candles before sleeping or leaving the house.**

In the past three months alone, our neighborhood has had two drug operations shut down, one resident wrote down the license plate of an APD wanted burglary ring member and several burglaries reported in Angus Valley and Balcones Woods. When you see a suspicious car or person in our neighborhood, please don't talk yourself out of reaching for the phone and calling 911. You can remain anonymous, and you are helping to keep not just your neighbors, but yourself and your property safe as well.

**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa!**

Thank you for your business & referrals . . .  
you are special to me! May your holidays be  
beautiful & full of wonderful memories.

I am always available to assist you  
or a friend or family member.

*Peace, Kay*

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## Arboretum Tower Update

Fellow neighbors, our new hearing date regarding the request for zoning variance for the "Arboretum Tower" is currently scheduled for December 14th. The developer hired a new agent and requested that City Council postpone the hearing. Website [www.notower.com](http://www.notower.com) has the new case number C14-06-0172 and details of this case as well as the history of what has occurred in the last year. The last hearing before City Council, for the Pavilion site, the developer abandoned his variance request at the last minute. We thought he had given up on trying to build a twelve story building in our area. Two weeks later he filed another zoning variance request for the Chuey's property at Jollyville and Duval Road.

It seems that every day in the Austin news, there is another zoning problem happening in this city. From McMansions to high rises on the shores of Towne Lake to the Arboretum Tower problem. What do we have to do in order to make sure that the Austin Zoning Commission and Austin City Council get the message that we do not want a twelve story high-density building in our area? Why do we have to remain "vigilant" that some developer does not sneak a zoning variance request past us when we weren't looking? Why is a petition containing over 800 names not putting an end to this variance request? Why is the fact that 4 neighborhood associations are against this tower not putting an end to the variance request? There are more important issues to address around our neighborhoods than going downtown every other week to once again tell the City of Austin NOT to grant a zoning variance. The zoning laws

exist and we are all happy to complying with the laws.

Please consider coming downtown on December 14th, 4:00 PM in the Austin City Council chambers to voice your opinion regarding this variance request. Please consider bringing the family as this is a great education opportunity to see City Council live in the brand new beautiful City Hall. City Hall should also be decorated for Christmas. This might be one of the few buildings in downtown where parking is not a problem. Before heading downtown, you might want to check the website for updates. If you cannot come downtown, please go to [www.notower.com](http://www.notower.com) website and there is a link to send an e-mail to all the City Council members regarding your opinion. Let's send a message so that no other developers even consider trying to request a variance.

### Mesa Park Market Update

11/25/06

Status	#	Av. Price	Av. \$/sqft**	Av. DOM
<b>Active</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$165,000</b>	<b>\$97</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Pending</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$176,700</b>	<b>\$109</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Sold* **</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$163,615</b>	<b>\$117</b>	<b>29</b>

\* 5/1 to 11/25/06

\*\* adjusted for seller's concessions.

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:

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Your Mesa Park resident Realtor

## How Smart Is Your Right Foot?

This is so funny that it will boggle your mind. And, you will keep trying it at least 50 more times to see if you can outsmart your foot. But you can't!!!

1. While sitting at your desk, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles with it.
2. Now, while doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand.

Your foot will change direction!!!

## Classified:

**Peace of Mind Pet Care** since 2004 in Mesa Park! Experienced vet techs care for your pets. Call 794-1031 free estimates.

**Piano Lessons** for young children in my home. Call Elizabeth @ 345-5584 for more information.

**To place your ad** in the Mesa Park Messenger, please contact Claudia at: [claudia.mpna@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.mpna@gmail.com)

**Neighborhood walks** if any ladies are interested in walking near Schroeter Park either in the mornings from 5:30 to 6:30 or in the evenings from 6-7 or 8-9, I would like to start a group walk. Call Tobi Ditmore @ 512-413-4353 .

Do you have an announcement to share or neighborhood news?

Is there something you would like your neighbors to know?

Please send us your news or stories and we will publish them in the next issue of the Mesa Park Messenger.

**Emergency: 911**

**Police Non-Emergency: 311**

NW Austin Police District Rep: SPO Joe Maciel,  
[joe.maciel@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:joe.maciel@ci.austin.tx.us), 974-4289

**Reminder:** The MPNA is not a HOA (Homeowner's Association). If you have a complaint or need to report a violation, please contact the appropriate city official for assistance. Thank you!

### Neighborhood Contacts

**President:**

Terry Tevis, [mpnapres@yahoo.com](mailto:mpnapres@yahoo.com), 736-8469

**Treasurer:**

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**Hon. Board Member:**

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**Quarries Representative:**

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