

It's My Park Day

Thank you to Terry Tevis and Cindy Lindsay who volunteered on Saturday, April 14th to clean Schroeter Park. We were sad to see that more of our neighbors were not able to show up. We will organize another "It's my Park Day" on Saturday May 12th, starting at 9 am. Please make plans to attend.

The MPNA's goal is to foster community and interaction amongst our 500 households. Please consider volunteering to help out. We received only one response to our article in the March newsletter "Please help the MPNA." We could use the help of many volunteers. Currently it is a small group of 4-5 individuals who are going on 2+ years of service and we cannot do it alone. Thank you for your consideration!

Please don't forget to subscribe to the Yahoo group we have set up. The day may soon come when we are not able to put out a printed newsletter, and this may be our sole form of communication, please sign up to stay in the loop!

To subscribe to the Yahoo Group, e-mail:

Mesa_Park_Neighborhood-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

(*This link is also on our website)

Neighborhood Garage Sale

Saturday, April 21st – We will be having a neighborhood garage sale starting at 9 AM. If you would like to participate, and have your house put on the map, please contact Terry @ 736-8469 by Thursday 4/19. Cost is \$5 to participate. Please mail payment to our address (printed on back bottom of newsletter). Thank you!

VMU issue

Thank you to those who voted on the VMU issue. We are finding there might be some further details on what exactly "opt-in" and "opt-out" mean. The deadline to submit our position to city council is June 4th. Please read the following article. After the April 24th meeting, we will re-post a survey to give you the opportunity to re-cast your vote if you wish. Thank you.

The following is an article that Dustin Lanier, President of Milwood Neighborhood Association, graciously allowed us to re-print. We are also invited to attend their meeting. Mesa Park, Milwood and Angus Valley are working to form an alliance for the good of all of our area.

The Duval Dynamic

April 4th, 2007 by Dustin Lanier

People have asked me what do the Domain and North Burnet Gateway have in common that affects the neighborhood. At the end of the day, it all really boils down to the impact on Duval, and reasonable access to our homes. I don't consider our neighborhood to be particularly interested in being heavy activists, but I have never had more people mention an issue to me as often as during the Domain launch when the big TxDOT marker was blinking "Domain, exit Duval."

I expressed concern a year ago about the northmost entrance/exit to the Domain being too close to both the on and off ramp of the freeway, and the weaving it was (and is) going to cause. But it is very difficult to make traction on expressing concern when you have at least 3 players in the game - the city, TxDOT, and the developer (which itself is split between two companies and multiple teams within those companies).

The North Burnet Gateway plan both accentuates the traffic concern, and gives a clearer venue to express that concern, so potentially now we can have a bigger voice in shaping how traffic related to this "second downtown" flows. Also we can get involved in issues such as looking at commuter bus lines closer to the neighborhood and bike access to downtown from North Austin.

In my opinion, Parmer is basically unpassable at the end of the workday, and if Duval is not well planned, and is set up to be one of the main mouths to the "second downtown," it will reduce the value of our properties, and raise the daily agitation level of everyone trying to get home. Conversely, if it is planned for, and we can still get home without waiting and waiting and waiting at the last leg, we have a lot to look forward to in what Domain and North Burnet Gateway will bring.

Your chance to be involved is our general meeting on April 24th at 7:00 at the Milwood Library. Andy Pastor from the Domain will attend, and Molly Scarborough from the city is going to try to attend. I've also mentioned the meeting to Brewster McCracken and Mark Strama. Please come out and give us a good showing and get involved in an issue that affects you.

Emergency Preparedness

The ice storm we had in Austin this last winter gave us a small taste of what could happen if a pandemic situation were to occur in our region. Grocery store shelves were bare, bottled water was depleted and transportation was non-existent. City of Austin, Travis County and many other government entities are working together to start educating the population on how to be prepared if a pandemic event were to occur again, or to just be generally prepared for a disaster event. Their website has a lot of facts and information: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/pandemicflu>.

Most of the information on how to keep yourself safe is good common sense; wash hands, hand sanitizers in the workplace, cover mouth and nose when coughing, avoid touching (eyes, nose and mouth), eat nutritious foods, exercise, get enough sleep, stay home when sick, less travel, avoid close contact with those sick. But there are two new suggestions; work from home and have a family preparedness plan and kit.

Would you be able to work from home should a disaster shut the city down? Have you a plan in place with your employer if it happened? Have you discussed with your family what everyone should do if a disaster were to occur? They suggest having the following "kit" in place in your home just in case and it just makes good common sense to be prepared. If a pandemic event or natural disaster were to occur, think in terms of not having any mode of travel, except on foot, and that up to 30, 40 or even 50 percent of population is affected. So even if you can walk to the store, hospital, bank there won't be personnel to operate that facility. The recommend emergency kit is; prescription medications, 2 weeks of food and water, blankets, flashlight batteries, portable radio/television; batteries, simple tools (wrench, heavy

gloves, scissors, duct tape), bedding, clothing, cash and coins, copies of important docs, PPE (gloves, masks), first aid kit (reference guide, bandages, ointment, rubber gloves, activated charcoal).

You might question "bedding" on the list? If there is no electricity and you cannot do the wash, do you have enough clean bedding for a length of time? Remember special needs of the family and pets. The Pandemic Council has requested to come and address our next Mesa Park neighborhood meeting. Let us know if this would be an interest to you and your family.

Thank you to the following households for your donations: Grisom, Gauthier, Voltaggio and Stern. Thank You to the following neighbors who have sent donations to our PO Box: Landre, Ziebell, Schmidt, White, Roberts, Dawkins/Surette, Richardson, Hogle, Kidwell, Anderson, Wilson, Funke/Hodges, Mitchell, Heraty/Tuttle, Fearson, Wood (Elk Park), Wood (Running Fox), Ryser.

Donation Envelope

If you receive an envelope attached to your newsletter. Please consider making a small

donation to the MPNA. As little as \$5 makes a big difference. It helps us with events

such as police appreciation, holiday decoration prizes, and newsletter production.

Thank you!

Classified:

Toplaceyourad in the Mesa Park Messenger, please contact Claudia at: claudia.mpna@gmail.com

Neighborhood Contacts

President:

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

Treasurer:

Susan McVicker, susanmcv@att.net

Board Members:

Claudia Ullrich, claudia.mpna@gmail.com

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

Emergency: 911

Police Non-Emergency: 311

NW Austin Police District Rep: SPO Joe Maciel,
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!

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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.

Mailing address:

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