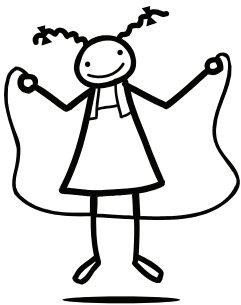


## Davis Elementary Welcomes Incoming Kindergarteners

New kindergarteners are invited to come experience the fun of Davis Elementary! Come play on the playground, meet the gym teacher, and hear a story in the library. All these activities and more are sponsored by the Davis PTA Welcome to Davis Club.

If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten at Davis Elementary in the Fall of 2008, the Davis PTA would like to invite you to join the Welcome to Davis club. The club sponsors playdates and activities to acquaint you and your child with Davis Elementary. It offers opportunities to meet



other incoming kindergarteners and their parents, current parents of Davis students, and (at some events) school administrators. If you are interested in joining, please RSVP for

*continued on page 4*

## Police Appreciation Event (A cooperative effort with Mesa Park, Balcones Woods and Angus Valley)

Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 7:00pm  
Covenant United Methodist Church  
4410 Duval Road

(Go north on Santa Cruz to Duval. The church is right across the street.)

### Typical Agenda

- Recognition of officers and presentation of awards and plaques
- Presentation of "gift" boxes for each of the three shifts
- Refreshments and mingling with the officers

### Items needed for gift boxes

- *Homemade cookies* - individual bags with 3 to 5 cookies in a bag
- Chewing gum (regular and sugar free)
- Small bags of peanuts
- Breakfast bars
- Individually wrapped biscotti
- Small packages of pretzels
- 3" x 5" spiral-bound notepads that would fit in an officer's pocket
- Small packages of cheese or peanut butter crackers

A Balcones Woods coordinator is needed.

Volunteers are needed to assemble a variety of items of "goodies" for the officers. A home in Angus Valley is needed to store/assemble these items. There are 3 shifts, approx. 100 officers per shift. Each neighborhood is taking a shift.

Contact Susan McVicker (Mesa Park's coordinator) at 917-3018.

## Profile of a Mesa Park Neighbor

The following story is an excerpt from a family profile to be included in a book about life in the Panama Canal Zone that will be published by the Panama Canal Museum in August 2008.

When Bert Schroeter decided to return to the CZ in 1954, he was hired as an electrical engineer at a salary of \$5,256.25/year. The excitement of moving to a foreign country and sailing on a ship for the first time made up for the sadness of leaving friends & family behind. On May 18th, 1954 they sailed from NYC on the SS Panama. At that time, it was a seven day journey with a stop in the beautiful harbor of Port au Prince, Haiti, where many small boats clustered around the ship selling their handcrafted items. They landed at Christobal and Val & Suzie were escorted across the Isthmus on the train, while Bert waited for their care to be unloaded. They spent their first night in the

historic Hotel Tivoli, Their first class room had a bare light bulb hanging on a string from the ceiling. The next day, they drove to Gamboa to see their first quarters. It was an old, four-family building on stilts on the Ridge. It had no glass windows – only screens, with old metal furniture and an ice box with daily delivery of ice and milk. The toilet tank was mounted on the wall with a long pull chain. After only 2 months in Bamboa, Bert's previous service qualified them to move into a new 2 story, 3 bedroom, 1 ½ baths, concrete duplex.

The coming of 60-cycle electricity from 25-cycle power in 1957

*continued on page 4*

## Mesa Park Crime Statistics 12/02/07 thru 02/01/08

Assault by contact/ fam/dating vio	52xx Thunder Creek Road	01/08/2008	1157	Residences
Assault by contact	52xx Thunder Creek Road	01/07/2008	342	Streets/Hwy/Road/Alley
Assault with injury	xx Big Trail	12/25/2007	2325	Residences
Burglary of residence	46xx Gray Fox Dr.	12/10/2007	1442	Residences
Burglary of vehicle	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	01/23/2008	2024	Restaurants
Burglary of vehicle	115xx Elk Park Cir.	01/21/2008	1258	Residences
Burglary of vehicle	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	01/03/2008	2150	Parking lots/Garage
Burglary of vehicle	52xx Thunder Creek Road	01/22/2008	650	Parking lots/Garage
Burglary of vehicle	43xx Steve Scarbrough Dr.	01/22/2008	555	Residences
Burglary of vehicle	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	12/26/2007	2342	Parking lots/Garage
Burglary of vehicle	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	01/15/2008	2120	Business/other
Burglary of vehicle	117xx RUNNING FOX TRL	01/22/2008	949	Residences
Burglary of vehicle	52xx Thunder Creek Road	01/18/2008	1952	Parking lots/Garage
Burglary of vehicle	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	12/26/2007	1326	Business/other
Burglary of vehicle	117xx FAST HORSE DR	12/31/2007	1658	Residences
Criminal mischief	117xx Santa Cruz Dr.	12/17/2007	1047	Residences
Criminal mischief	48xx Wind River Road	12/03/2007	1023	Residences
Criminal mischief	49xx Wind River Road	12/17/2007	1445	Residences
Criminal mischief	48xx Wind River Road	12/03/2007	729	Residences
DWI	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	12/09/2007	148	Streets/Hwy/Road/Alley
Family disturbance	52xx Thunder Creek Road	12/09/2007	2315	Residences
Felony enhancement/ aslt w/ inj	53xx Thunder Creek Road	01/21/2008	2326	Residences
Forgery and passing	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	01/23/2008	916	Business/other
Forgery by alteration	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	01/19/2008	1724	Business/other
Found prop	116xx Angus Road	01/22/2008	1324	Medical (drugstore/doctor of- fice/hospital)
Fraud/other	115xx Research NB Service Rd.	01/28/2008	1148	Business/other
Harassment	48xx Beaver Creek Dr.	12/19/2007	1133	Residences
Harassment	47xx Gray Fox Dr.	01/14/2008	1344	Residences
Leaving the scene crash/ accident	52xx Thunder Creek Road	01/27/2008	1219	Parking lots/garage
Poss controlled sub/narcotics	52xx Thunder Creek Road	12/11/2007	1637	Streets/Hwy/Road/Alley
Public intoxication	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	01/06/2008	2037	Parking lots / Garage
Suspicious vehicle	49xx Wind River Road	01/13/2008	49	Residences
Theft	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	01/14/2008	1201	Hotel/motel
Theft	115xx Angus Road	12/17/2007	1437	Residences
Theft	116xx Research NB Service Rd.	01/03/2008	1211	Business/other
Theft	116xx ELK PARK TRL	12/19/2007	1427	Residences

# Neighborhood Watch Block

## How to start a neighborhood watch

Participation in a neighborhood watch program can help reduce crime in your area. To be eligible for a neighborhood watch sign, it is preferred that fifty percent of your neighborhood or block must attend one to three meetings where helpful information on personal and property crimes is shared. Tips include how to reduce your chances of being attacked. Contact your neighborhood association president, or the Austin Police Department at 974-4736.

## Burglary Prevention Tips

Burglaries in Austin neighborhoods cost residents over 1.3 million per year in loss of property alone. Most burglaries in your neighborhood are being committed by youths 18 and under. They are not skilled professionals, but they will take advantage of an easy target. Don't make it easy for them.

### 1. Install a deadbolt lock.

Deadbolts are usually locked with a key from the outside and a thumb turn on the inside. The cylinder should be pick resistant. Lock your doors every time you leave the house, even if you're leaving for just a few minutes during the day. The most popular times for residential burglaries are weekday daylight hours. In over 1/3 of burglaries, there is no forcible entry--someone forgot to lock the doors.

### 2. Install solid doors.

Outside doors should be metal or solid hardwood and at least 1 3/4 inches thick. Frames must be made of equally strong material and each door must fit its frame securely.

### 3. Keep garage doors closed and locked.

### 4. Secure sliding doors and windows.

Cut a broom handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced. Also, drill one hole through both casings and sliding window and insert a nail or pin.

### 5. Secure sash windows.

To prevent wooden sash windows from being pried open, drill a downward sloping hole into the top of the bottom window through and into the bottom of the top window and insert a pin or nail.

To prevent aluminum sash windows from being broken into, purchase a track lock that blocks the window track.

### 6. Mark your property.

Mark your valuables with an engraver. Marking your property serves as a deterrent to would-be burglars and it helps police in identifying and returning stolen property. Make a property identification list. Put warning stickers on doors and windows.

### 7. Purchase a burglar alarm.

A home alarm system can be a very effective burglary deterrent and fit into many people's needs. Remember to test your system monthly.

### 8. Leave a light on.

When leaving on trips, leave a light on in the bathroom. In the bedroom, attach a lamp and radio to a 24-hour electric timer set to go on at dusk and off at your bedtime. Close bedroom drapes or blinds.

### 9. Use proper exterior lighting.

Place a light over every door. Double cones lights on each corner of the house will also light up windows.

### 10. Work together with your neighbors.

When you are going to be away, tell trusted neighbors and ask them to watch your property. Have neighbors maintain your yard. When on vacation, have someone cut grass. Shrubbery should not hide neighbors' view of windows or doors. Have someone pick up newspapers and mail. Tell neighbors to call police if they notice anything suspicious.

# Austin Energy Rebate for Solar Photovoltaics

Austin Energy offers rebates to help customers implement solar photovoltaic technology in their homes and businesses. The rebates help offset the cost of a solar photovoltaic electric system.

*Note: As a municipally-owned utility, Austin Energy may only offer this program to its customers.*

Austin Energy offers customers one of the country's best solar photovoltaic rebates, at \$4.50 per watt. This pays between 45% and 75% of the cost of installing a system.

For a typical residence, the cost of installing a one kilowatt (1,000 watts) solar photovoltaic system—the smallest considered practical—is between \$6,000 and \$10,000. Austin Energy will rebate \$4,500 (\$4.50 x 1,000 watts) of that.

**Related offering:** Solar Water Heaters are a cost-effective and environmentally responsible alternative to conventional methods of producing hot water.

## Solar Photovoltaics—Loans

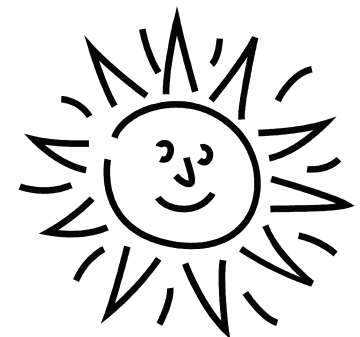
Austin Energy offers low-cost loans to purchase and install solar electric power systems.

### Low Interest Loans for Solar Energy

We contract with Velocity Credit Union to offer a current Market Interest Rate loan to install solar photovoltaic power systems. This offer is available to our residential customers with single-family residences.

Loans of up to \$20,000 are available with terms as long as 10 years .

- No fee
- No closing costs up to \$400
- lien required on loans up to \$15,000
- No prepayment penalty



## Davis Elementary *continued from page 1*

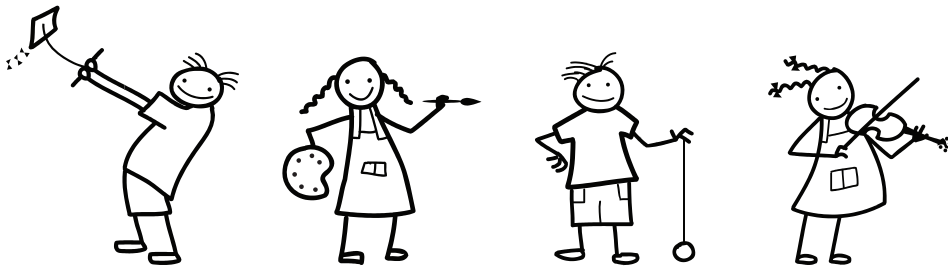
events at [welcometodavis@davisdolphins.org](mailto:welcometodavis@davisdolphins.org).

This spring and summer, we've already planned several exciting events:

- a Playdate at the Davis Elementary Playscape on Feb. 24.; 3 to 4 p.m.
- a Work-Out in the Davis Gym with the Gym Teacher on Mar. 18 from 12:30 to 1:00
- Story Time with the Davis Librarian on Apr. 7 from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.
- Brunch in the Davis Cafeteria on April 23 from 9:30 to 10:15
- A tour of the Science Lab's Wetlab during MARE week (May 12-16), time/date TBA
- a Playdate at the Davis Elementary Playscape on May 18.; 3 to 4 p.m.
- Ice Cream Social/Meet your Teacher on Aug. 21, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Splash into Davis Pool Party at Balcones Woods pool on Aug. 23 at 11:00 a.m.
- First Day of School on Aug 25 at 7:45 a.m.

**Kindergarten Round-up**—the registration for incoming kindergarteners—will be held at Davis Elementary on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. to 10:30.

To learn more about registering your child for kindergarten, visit [www.davisdolphins.org](http://www.davisdolphins.org).



## Profile *continued from page 1*

brought more dramatic changes with a whole new lifestyle that included air-conditioning, drapes at the windows and rugs on the floor. It helped to eliminate mildew in their closets and the need for the small heating units in the kitchen cabinets to keep crackers and cookies fresh. It also made lighting along the canal possible. Bert was assigned the job of helping to design and install the lights that still line the Canal today. On one of his treks along the banks of the Canal, he dashed into a telephone booth to avoid a downpour and encountered a hive of bees and was stung so badly that his face swelled up to the size of a basketball.

Bert retired in 1976, and the Schroeter family moved to Austin, TX. On October 13, 1985 the City of Austin named a 12 acre neighborhood park in his honor for all his efforts to keep the land as a park. With all of Austin's growth & development, this little bit of quiet green becomes more rare and important in our daily lives.

For the past 20 years Val Schroeter, Honorary MPNA Board Member, has worked tirelessly on behalf of our beloved Schroeter Park. She has spent countless hours to protect what many people consider our biggest neighborhood asset.

### Neighborhood contacts:

President: Terry Tevis, [mpnapres@yahoo.com](mailto:mpnapres@yahoo.com), 736-8469  
Volunteer Coordinator: Susan McVicker, [susanmcv@att.net](mailto:susanmcv@att.net).  
Board Members: Cindy Lindsay, [TreeTopProp@prodigy.net](mailto:TreeTopProp@prodigy.net), 346-2232  
Gina Mattiza, [gmattiza@austin.rr.com](mailto:gmattiza@austin.rr.com)  
Claudia Ullrich, [claudia.mpna@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.mpna@gmail.com)  
Lynda White, [lynda@texas-star.net](mailto:lynda@texas-star.net)

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Emergency: 911

Police Non-Emergency: 311

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

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Reminder: The MPNA is not an 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!