

Mesa Park MESSENGER

Volume 15, Issue #4

October 2008

Cool Kids at Mesa Park

Mesa Park Neighborhood Association would like to offer some space in the Quarterly newsletter for any kids that live in the neighborhood who have a small business or service they would like to promote. We will provide an area on the last page of the newsletter where we will include up to 8 ads at no charge. If your son or daughter would like to participate, please email the job description and contact info to: gmattiza@austin.rr.com & lynda@texas-star.net

Contact Gina or Lynda regarding the date and deadlines for the next newsletter.

Quarries Update

• No dogs off-leash

The Quarries is not a City of Austin designated off-leash area, so it is unlawful to have dogs off-leash on the Quarries property. There is increasing construction activity and visitor traffic on the site, so the dangers for dogs and visitors are an increasing concern.

• The Quarries' School Construction

The private high school of Hyde Park Baptist church is moving to the HPBC Quarries property in late 2009. Construction on the school building began in September and is expected to be completed by October 2009. Their agreement with the neighborhood is that construction will begin no earlier than 7AM and finish by 6PM (M-F) and 1PM on Saturday. No construction is allowed on Sundays. Please let David Crowley (contact info below) know if the contractor is not obeying this agreement.

• The Quarries' Church

The Quarries Church is meeting in the

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Dull Knife Celebrates National Night Out!

The residents of Dull Knife gathered on Tuesday October 7th for a block party to celebrate National Night Out. Neighbors all brought snacks and enjoyed BBQ for an evening of fun. The block party was new idea organized by residents of Dull Knife and they hope to keep the tradition going annually.

While this was the first celebration for Dull Knife residents, it was the 25th Annual National Night Out, a long-standing unique crime and drug prevention event. This event provided a chance for neighbors to gather, get to know each other and let criminals know that our neighborhood is organized and motivated to fighting crime and quality of life issues.



Dogs on leash— it's the law!

It makes me sad, but even obedient dogs can't legally run and play "on the loose" in our neighborhood. I didn't realize that I was a law-breaker until recently. I, along with several other community members, have been illegally allowing my dog to run, play, and swim in the Hyde Park Baptist Church Quarries park. At our last meeting, the HPBC Quarries requested that I inform neighbors that dogs must to be on a leash on their property. They are concerned about the increasing activity at the Quarries and the possibility of

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Please Pickup After Your Dog

How lucky we are to have a beautiful "natural" park in our neighborhood and many of our residents take advantage of it. The park has a great playscape and trails that make you feel like you are in a rustic area.

You have your dog on his leash and you're ready to take him on a walk in the park. It's wonderful until you start smelling the faint odor of dog "POOP," you look down and you have stepped right in the middle of a pile of poop—a lovely way to start your walk!

Most areas in Austin enforce the phrase "Curb Your Dog" and "Leash your Dog." A dog owner can be fined up to \$500.00 for either of these laws. Make certain you have a scooper or plastic bag while walking your leashed dog to avoid unpleasant dilemmas. The city even provides us with free plastic bags "Mutt Mitts" and receptacles to throw it away while in the park. Think about the person behind you that is taking their nightly stroll or the neighbors yard and sidewalk.

We see too many irresponsible dog owners that don't think that their dogs are included in the laws we have in Austin. Those of us who follow the rules of leashing our dogs and picking up after our dogs are very angry at the SELFISH DOG OWNERS WHO DON'T CARE. If you are not walking your dog in the park, you can purchase baggies at the pet store or simply use the free bags that your groceries come in.

Please, don't expect other people to clean up after your dog. It takes just seconds to take care of the problem.



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FALL AND WINTER IS A GREAT TIME TO PLANT SHADE TREES.

by Susan McVicker

The sooner you plant, the more time the tree will have to begin to establish new root growth before the heat of summer arrives.

The following is a partial list of suggested tree species that are resistant to oak wilt. For additional information, go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/faqs.htm.

BUR OAK: An excellent tree. This oak is a tall, stately tree that can grow to 60 ft. or more with large, beautiful leaves. Moderate growth rate. Once it is established, this is drought resistance.

CHINQUAPIN OAK: This deciduous grows up to 50 feet tall. Its saw-toothed leaves are shiny green above and fuzzy underneath. It grows fairly quickly and makes a good yard tree. A very nice tree and highly recommended.

MONTEREY OAK: This tree can reach 30-40 ft. feet tall. It's semi-evergreen, that is, it remains green until a cold snap in the winter turns it's leaves brilliant colors (red, orange, and yellow) Monterey oak is a fast growing oak and prefers a little more water than a live oak.

CEDAR ELM: Upright tree to 50-60 feet tall, 30-40 feet across. Moderate rate of growth. One of the few really good elm species for Texas landscapes.

LACEBARK ELM: Can reach 30-40 ft tall. Nearly evergreen; open spreading form, attractive exfoliating bark; drought tolerant once established.

A mature shade tree can reduce annual air conditioning use by 2-8 percent.

Tree Folks has a great website. Go to www.treefolks.org, click on "about us," then choose Library and download the Adobe PDF for Tree Planting Guide.

\$100 Reward

for information leading to the apprehension of the person who drove his or her vehicle into our grey 2006 Toyota Scion van on or around Wednesday, July 23, 2008. The van was parked in front of 5000 Dull Knife Drive when it was hit.

Thank you.

Phil and Marsha Coleman
345-3965

Why we plant trees!!

Many of the trees in Mesa Park, planted 30 years ago, were fast growing trees and they are nearing the end of their life span. The best time to plant trees is between October and March so that they have time to establish roots before long hot summer months.

Trees in our yards add beauty and so much more. Properly placed shade trees can reduce heating and cooling costs up to 30%, by providing shade for roofs and walls.

Trees help to stabilize your neighborhood and add considerable value to our homes.

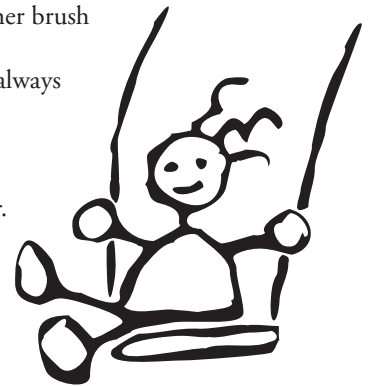
Trees help clean the air, add beauty and color and are home to many different types of wildlife.

With proper selection and placement, trees provide us with years of enjoyment as well as added value to property.

For additional information there is a great guide book available at any nursery and Home Depot and Lowe's, just ask for "Native and Adapted Landscape Plants". This is a free publication provide by Texas Cooperative Extension and the City of Austin. The Texas Cooperative Extension can answer many questions. Contact them at 854-9600. "The Growing Guide for Austin" is an excellent resource published by TreeFolks. You can call 443-5323 or www.treefolks.org. Another excellent web site is www.growgreen.org.

Great Truths About Life That Little Children Have Learned

1. No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
2. When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.
3. If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
4. Never ask a 3-year-old to hold a tomato.
5. You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
6. Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
7. Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic-tac.
8. Never hold a dustbuster and a cat at the same time.
9. School lunches stick to the wall.
10. You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
11. Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.



Great Truths About Life That Adults Have Learned

1. Raising teenagers is like trying to nail Jello-O to a tree.
2. There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it I that wrinkles don't hurt.
3. Reason to smile: Every seven minutes of every day, someone in an aerobics class pulls a hamstring.
4. The best way to keep kids at home is to make the home a pleasant atmosphere... and let the air out of their tires.
5. Families are like fudge... mostly sweet with a few nuts.
6. Middle age is when you choose cereal for the fiber, not the toy.
7. The more you complain, the longer God lets you live.
8. If you can remain calm, you don't have all the facts.
9. Eat a live toad first thing in the morning, and nothing worse can happen to you the rest of the day.
10. You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoes and wonder what else you can do while you're down there.

Quarries *continued from page 1*

recreation center gymnasium. The Quarries Church is an extension of the Hyde Park Baptist Church in central Austin. The pastor, Kie Bowman, actually drives between the church on Speedway Dr. (in Hyde Park) and the Quarries on Sunday mornings to speak at both sites. The new service at the Quarries is a more contemporary styled worship service than the Hyde Park service and is focusing on involving young families in our area. The Quarries welcomes us to visit the new church service.

• Traffic & Parking Survey

Hyde Park Baptist requested input from the community on whether the gate at Mesa Woods Drive should be opened for organized events like this church service. Hyde Park has moved their physical address and informed all participants in events at the Quarries to use their Mopac frontage entrance. The church leaders believe that there will be an increasing number of people from our neighborhood who will be attending the church service, and they don't want to inconvenience anyone in Mesa Park to have to drive all the way over to Braker and Mopac to get in. So I set up a web survey to gather Mesa Park's input. Each computer will be allowed one survey response. If you don't have access to the Internet, there are computers available at the Millwood library. Please go to the web address below to begin the survey: <http://xrl.us/bjdw9>

Please contact me about any concerns you have relating to the Quarries by sending an email to mesapark@crowleyhome.net or letter to my address at David Crowley, 11621 Spotted Horse Drive, 78759.

To place an ad in the *Mesa Park Messenger*, please contact Cindy at TreeTopProperties@prodigy.net or 346-2232.

We must be willing to get rid of the life we planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.

—Joseph Campbell

Dogs on leash *continued from page 1*

unleashed dogs being injured by the construction equipment and children being injured by aggressive dogs. Since I play fetch with my dog on their property often, I asked if there could be any exceptions for "obedient" dogs, but they informed me that it is the law that requires dogs to be restrained, so they don't have the authority to make any exceptions.

In fact, the Austin City Code states that dogs must be restrained by their owner except in one of the 12 designated leash-free areas (Austin, listed at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/dogparks.htm>) [Austin City Code Sections 3-4-1, 3-4-4]. Travis County also has a regulation that requires dog owners to keep their dogs securely on their property or on a leash [Travis County Regulations Chapter 52.005]. These laws seem harsh, but they were made in response to some severe tragedies. Travis County adopted their leash law in response to an 8-year old girl who was mauled and killed by loose dogs in her own driveway. The law protects us by allowing the city and county law enforcement to capture aggressive dogs before they cause injury.

I would like my dog to continue to be able to run, play, and swim in our neighborhood. If you are interested in helping to establish a leash-free area in Schroeter Park, or if this is something you would be willing to support, please contact David Crowley mesapark@crowleyhome.net. For now, since dogs can't legally run and play in our Mesa Park neighborhood, please join me in taking your dog to one of the leash-free areas around town.

Pickup after dog *continued from page 1*

Please help keep our neighborhood clean so that all residents can enjoy it.

No Leash Parks

- Town Lake - Auditorium Shores
920 W. Riverside Drive 78704
- Bull Creek District Park
6701 Lakewood Dr. 78731
- Turkey Creek at Emma Long
1600 City Park Rd. 78730
- Northeast District Park
5909 Crystalbrook Dr. 78724
- Norwood Estate and Off-Leash Area
1009 Edgecliff Terrace 78704
- Red Bud Isle
3401 Redbud Trail 78703
- Onion Creek
7001 Onion Creek Dr. 78744
- Shoal Creek Greenbelt-Central
2631 Shoal Creek Blvd. 78705
- Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park
12138 N. Lamar Blvd. 78753
- West Austin Park
1317 W. 10th St. 78703
- Zilker Metropolitan Park
2100 Barton Springs Rd. 78746
- Far West Blvd.
ROW between Great Northern Blvd & Shoal Creek Blvd.

Your Neighborhood Realtor

*It makes a difference when your agent knows your neighborhood.
Serving you through every step of the buying and selling process.
Let me know how I can help!*



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Susan McVicker, ABR, CRS, GRI
Coldwell Banker United Realtors
Office: 512-691-6717
Email: susanmcv@att.net

- Resident of Mesa Park
- 26 years as a Realtor in Austin, TX
- 19 years with Coldwell Banker United Realtors

*Market report for Mesa Park: Between 7/15/08 & 10/15/08,
9 properties have sold; average price of \$198,306; avg. price per sq.ft. \$140.89;
average of 20 days on the market.*

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*.

Thank you for your Donations!

MPNA Board of Directors continues to work for you on a volunteer basis—looking out for your safety and encouraging positive community relationships.

All residents of Mesa Park Neighborhood are members of Mesa Park Neighborhood Association, whether you rent or own your home. If you receive this newsletter delivered at your door, you are a member. Mesa Park Neighborhood does not charge annual dues, unlike most neighborhood associations, but we do accept your donations.

Donations pay for gift cards for the Christmas Lighting Contest, organization of the neighborhood garage sale, it's "My Park Day" and other events. Your donations also help pay for the Newsletter. We want to keep the newsletter going, but we need your help.

We want to continue to provide Mesa Park residents with information that helps our neighborhood.

We appreciate any donation you would like to contribute. Just complete the form below and include your check. A minimum amount of \$5.00 would be greatly appreciated.

Donation for MPNA \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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

Neighborhood contacts:

Volunteer Coordinator:

Susan McVicker
susanmcv@att.net.

Board Members:

Cindy Lindsay, 346-2232
TreeTopProp@prodigy.net

Gina Mattiza,
mattiza@austin.rr.com

Terry Tevis, 736-8469
mpnapres@yahoo.com

Claudia Ullrich
claudia.mpna@gmail.com

Lynda White
lynda@texas-star.net

Quarries Representative:

David Crowley
mesapark@crowleyhome.net or
11621 Spotted Horse Dr., 78759

Emergency: 911

Police Non-Emergency: 311

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

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!

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

—Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*