

# Mesa Park MESSENGER

Volume 16, Issue #5

October/November 2009

## National Night Out Block Parties Promote Safety and Fun

By David Crowley

In all there were seven National Night Out (NNO) block parties in Mesa Park this year: Santa Cruz (hosted by David and Dean Haight), Zuni (hosted by Richard Heraty and Barbara Tuttle), Running Fox Trail (hosted by Karen and Johnny Porter), Big Trail Cove (hosted by Kate and Ron Svedersky), Spotted Horse (hosted by David and Veronica Crowley), Shoshone (hosted by Adam and Claudia Ullrich and Cindy Lindsay), and Dull Knife (hosted by Gina Mattiza). The Austin Police Department Officers, Travis County Sheriffs Department Officers, and Fire Department all came out to celebrate with us.

Here are a few excerpts from the parties:

**Dull Knife:** Dull Knife had a great turnout for our 2nd Annual National Night Out event! We had finger sandwiches, chips, water, cookies, and homemade brownies - Bon Appétit! We had between 15-20 people stop by and visit, and met many new neighbors, which would not have happened without this event. The best part was when the BIG fire truck turned on our street and stopped for a good 15 minutes. The kids were able to get on and they had many questions to ask of the friendly crew. The firemen actually received a real call, so they departed and the sirens were blaring! A pretty cool ending that left a smile on everyone's face!

### Spotted Horse:

We pulled a grill, tables, and chairs out into the middle of the cult-a-sac on Spotted Horse. We grilled hamburgers and neighbors brought sides: potato salad, bean dip, vegetable plate with



Big Trail

ranch dip, fruit, and apple and lemon meringue pies. We had about 30 people there. We had 2 police officers, 2 sheriff's constables, and the fire truck rolled by in all its glory with red, blue, and white lights flashing about 8:15PM. All the neighbors were happy to see each other and feel safer being part of such a great community.



Dull Knife

meet most of our neighbors! Two of the couples on our street have lived here since the neighborhood was new. We enjoyed hearing about how the area has changed since then and one couple learned that their house was built on a giant slab of limestone.

We served hot dogs and soft drinks. The neighbors brought cornbread muffins, chocolate chip cookies and

potato salad. Unfortunately we did not get a visit from any policemen or fire fighters. We only had two small kids attend our party, though. I think they are the only two on our street! Thanks for all you do for the neighborhood.

**Running Fox:** We had a good turn-out for National Night Out



Dull Knife

**Big Trail Cove:** We had a great time on Tuesday night at the National Night Out party. We have only lived on Big Trail Cove for a year, so it was great to finally



Big Trail

We did not have any visits from the police, EMT, or firefighters. The children were somewhat disappointed. Several neighbors have lived in MP since their homes were built (1976), and said they had never had a NNO in all those years. It was well worth the effort and many expressed thanks for hosting it. Thank you for your help in organizing this fun event.

**Shoshone:** Despite the temperature and humidity, the neighbors on Shoshone Drive gathered together at Adam and Claudia Ullrich's house. We grilled hot dogs and neighbors brought their own special treats including cake, watermelon, cole slaw, chips, cookies, and homemade bread. We swapped email addresses and are going to start a block directory. Contacts were made, information was shared, and we feel much safer knowing more about each other and will be

keeping our eyes open for each other and even getting together throughout the year. The conversation was titillating, and a good time was had by all. There were between 21 and 31 in attendance.

Thanks to everyone who courageously went out and met their neighbors and made this year's National Night Out a great success and encouragement to our community and law enforcement.

## 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!*



We never stop moving™



UNITED, REALTORS®

Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.

[www.cbunited.com](http://www.cbunited.com)

*Susan McVicker, ABR, CRS, GRI*  
Coldwell Banker United Realtors  
Office: 512-691-6717  
Email: [susanmcv@att.net](mailto:susanmcv@att.net)

Resident of Mesa Park  
27 years as a Realtor in Austin, TX  
20 years with Coldwell Banker United Realtors

*Market report for Mesa Park: Between 8/12/09 & 10/12/09. 1 properties have sold, \$255,000/156/sf; 4 properties on the market, avg \$231,000, avg. 153/sf; 2 properties under contract, total avg. of 24 days on the market.*

## Upcoming Events

**Dogoberfest**, Saturday, October 24th, from 10am-7pm at The Domain (<http://.dogtoberfestaustin.org/>)

**Festival 31**, Saturday, October 31, 5-8pm at HPBC Quarries ([http://www.hpbc.org/event\\_detail.asp?id=965801&type=C](http://www.hpbc.org/event_detail.asp?id=965801&type=C))

## MPNA Upcoming Events

**Fireman Appreciation**, November 5th

**Holiday Lights Contest** in December

**Spring Garage Sale**, 2010



## SUNTEX LANDSCAPE

Lawn Maintenance. Tree Trimming.  
Installation.

*Brian Boehm*

*Serving Mesa Park for 7 years & Former Resident*

*(512) 461-5909*

# Austin Civic Wind Ensemble

## In Concert

Friday - October 30, 2009  
7:30 PM

Covenant United Methodist Church  
4410 Duval

Austin Civic Wind Ensemble  
Presents a **Free** Concert in  
Conjunction with Covenant United  
Methodist Church's

**"No Fear Celebration"**

Come Join Us For A Great Night Of Music And Fun!

ACWE, Austin's oldest Community Concert Band, is currently looking for new members.

For more information, contact [www.acwe.org](http://www.acwe.org) or 512-507-7161



Cultural Arts  
Division  
CITY OF AUSTIN

ACWE is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts

Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



Texas  
Commission  
on the Arts  
Investing in a Greater Texas

# How Do I Choose the Type of Tree to Plant?

See the Texas Forest Service “*Texas Tree Planting Guide*” for great tips on what kind of tree to select, what to look for in the nursery, how to plant the tree, and more.

## What is the best time of year to plant a tree?

The Texas Forest Service states, “Generally late fall through early spring is the best time to plant a new tree. Most shade and ornamental trees sold in the nursery trade are either balled-and-burl aped or container grown. Balled and burl aped trees should be planted as early as possible, preferably before bud break. Container grown trees can be planted later in the season because there is less disturbance of the plant’s root system.”

## How is planting a tree most properly performed?

The Texas Forest Service suggests the following: Loosen the soil in your planting site to a depth of 12 inches using a shovel. Work an area 2 to 5 times the diameter of the root ball. This will provide hospitable conditions for the tree to send out roots. Do not add organic matter (compost or peat) to the loosened soil.

In the center of the planting site, dig a hole to the depth of the root ball. Set the tree in the hole so that the top of the root ball is level with the surrounding soil. When removing a tree from its container, take care to avoid breaking the root ball. Position the tree and backfill with a little soil to hold it in place. Twine, wire, and burlap should be cut and pulled down off the root ball of balled and burl aped trees. Backfill with soil removed from the hole. Do not add organic matter

to the backfill. As you fill the hole, use water to settle air pockets. Tamp the soil lightly, but do not compact the soil around the root ball. Build a small dam around the base of the tree with soil from the hole. This will help hold water while it percolates into the soil. Spread 3 or 4 inches of mulch (compost, wood chips, etc.) over the entire planting site. Avoid piling mulch directly against the base of the tree.

If your tree seems to need additional support, use two or three 6-foot stakes outside the root ball. Attach the tree to the stakes with wide nylon webbing. The traditional method of using rope or wire cushioned with a piece of garden hose may be effective, but it can cause damage to the tree. Whatever the method of attachment, the tree should have enough freedom to sway in the wind so it can develop strength. The stakes should be removed after the first growing season.

Fertilizer probably is not needed. If you want to fertilize, use a slow-release fertilizer that is high in nitrogen. Some nurseries carry packets of slow-release fertilizer for trees that can be tossed into the hole along with the backfill.

For additional information visit the Tree Encyclopedia section on planting.

## Who can I contact with specific problems with trees?

You may have a specific tree concern and wonder if the City will assist you with this matter. There are multiple tree-related concerns that will determine if the City can assist you. Are limbs hampering traffic flow? Is a fallen tree clogging a waterway? Has a tree fallen on utility lines? Is a tree blocking the alley? Is a tree creating a blind spot at an intersection? The following list helps to identify whom to contact about your specific tree maintenance issues:

Power lines and street lamps	Austin Energy	494-9400
Streets, right-of-ways, and sidewalks	Parks and Recreation Department	3-1-1
Alleys	Public Works - Street & Bridge Division	3-1-1
Creeks and stream banks	Watershed Protection - Field Operations	3-1-1

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees/faq.htm#plant>

# MPNA September Meeting Summary

Below is a brief summary of topics discussed at our last MPNA meeting on Tuesday, September 29. To find out more information on any of the items below, please contact MPNA.

## HPBC Quarries Update:

- Quarries needs neighbors bordering their property to fix holes in fences per their insurance company and will be contacting neighbors about this issue
- Expected high school move-in date has been delayed to around Thanksgiving
- Inviting Mesa Park residents to celebrate with them on Halloween at their Festival 31 event. There will be games, candy, entertainment and concessions. Bring a canned good to donate to the Central Texas Area Food Bank as admission.

## Schroeter Park:

- Had 8 people there and made progress on some small projects
- We still have mulch piles remaining to move in the spring
- Residents requested for the city to mow the grass more often
- Residents asked that sign that has nails that may hurt people be corrected

## National Night Out:

- MPNA provided invitations to all the street hosts and helped them register with law enforcement agencies

## Guest Speaker: Justin Marler, Certified Energy Auditor from Energy Action

- ECAD ordinance requires energy audit given to buyers when selling a home
- Energy audit covers areas that Dept. of Energy recommends as cost-effective areas for energy saving
- For Mesa Park residents, Justin recommends as highest priority that we seal our ducts and add insulation in the ceiling. These are the most cost-effective improvements we can do and will likely pay for the cost in energy savings within one year.
- City and federal government rebates make these improvements very affordable
- Residents interested in banding together to negotiate lower prices for contractors providing improvements (contact MPNA if interested)

# Fun and Festive Ideas for Thanksgiving Gifts

By Kathy Smith

American Thanksgiving all started during 1621 when Native Americans celebrated a three-day feast for surviving the country's first difficult winter. Thanksgiving today is known to be a very special holiday celebrated yearly during the 4th Thursday when autumn is at its best, November.

During Thanksgiving people usually gather, as friends or as families, and express their gratitude towards God for a fruitful year. Aside from the acknowledgements made by people during this day, another highlight of most Thanksgiving celebrations is actually the dinner you are to have during the gathering.

It wouldn't be Thanksgiving without the deliciously roasted and seasoned turkey at the center of the table. It's been a tradition for years and years to have turkey as dinner's main dish every Thanksgiving that some even call the special holiday "Turkey day."

The gathering can also be an opportunity not only for hosts but for everyone present to acknowledge their friends, colleagues, and family for being in their lives. This is an opportunity to fix conflicts you have with anyone and do some patch ups with loved ones you rarely see because of regular busy days.

It's also very common between Americans to exchange gift during this holiday to express their gratitude towards each other. They usually give out food or something they could eat for Thanksgiving dinner.

Of course, each person's tastes are different so they usually give out food that is accepted by the local community. But that doesn't stop certain people from giving out food that are exotic. Some prefer to

give out home made goods, which is actually good and thoughtful. More people prefer home made goods because it's a lot more special than just buying goods from stores.

Everyone appreciates good food, even the corporate can agree to that. There's actually a lot to choose from when it comes to food given as gifts for Thanksgiving. There's a wide variety to choose from. The most popular we have is the traditional turkey. Either smoke or roasted both are equally delicious.

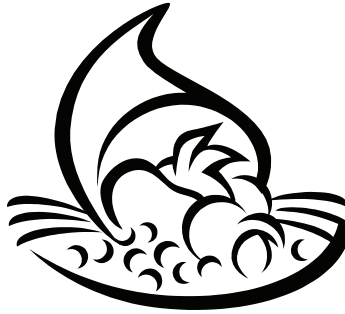
There's also ham, smoked or however you want it, which is ideally given along with deliciously homemade mashed potatoes and gravy, veggies, corn, or breads.

If you don't like going to your local markets, you can also order food to be delivered as gifts from the internet. You might even find a wider variety online. But before purchasing it's best to read the buyer's feedbacks on that item you are planning on buying first.

Items should have reasonable or fair prices and the quality should be in accordance with standards. If you're not sure about certain things, play safe. A trusted company will always have a lot of positive feedbacks.

## About The Author

Kathy is a food Lover! You can check out her very popular Thanksgiving Recipes on <http://www.quickthanksgivingrecipes.com> and her best Sandwich Recipes website on <http://greatsandwichrecipes.com>.



## Pumpkin Pie Recipe

*Long time family recipe (Susan McVicker)*

Makes two 9 in. pies

### Mix together:

2 cups pumpkin  
4 well beaten eggs  
3/4 cup carnation milk  
3/4 cup half & half  
1/2 cup melted butter or margarine

### Mix together and add to pumpkin mixture:

2 cups of sugar  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 tablespoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon allspice  
1/2 teaspoon cloves  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Pour into two unbaked pie shells.

Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes.

Turn to 325 degrees until done (approx. 35-45 min).

## Grandma's Apple Pie

*From Julie Kennedy's grandmother*

Yield: 1 pie

### Ingredients:

8 Pepin apples, peeled and sliced  
1 cup Sugar  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg  
2 -1/2 tablespoons butter  
Unbaked pie shell [I just buy one at the store, as her original recipe called for lard]

### Directions:

Mix together everything but the apples. Sprinkle the sugar mixture over apples. Place apples in unbaked pie shell. Mix. Dot with butter. Place top crust over and crimp edges. Make several breathing slits in top. Sprinkle top crust with sugar (just a little).

Bake at 400 degrees for 40 minutes. Then at 350 degrees for the last 10 minutes for a total of 1 hour.

## Schroeter Park September Work Day Makes Progress

By David Crowley

Thanks to everyone who came out to help improve Schroeter Park on Sat, Sept 19. With the volunteer help of eight neighbors and the Austin Parks Department providing tools we were able to make a lot of progress:

Extended a mulch trail from the picnic pavilion to the basketball courts

Cleared out brush between the basketball courts and playscape to improve visibility

Moved about several yards of mulch from the piles on the west side of the park to the trails.

We still do have a lot of work planned for Schroeter Park: moving the rest of the mulch (there are still several cubic yards of mulch left), clearing out more brush around the playscape, extending the trail on the northeast side of the park to the outer gravel path, and replacing the neighborhood information sign (see article "Carpentry Skills...").

## Carpentry Skills Needed for Park Sign

By David Crowley

Through generous donations of Mesa Park residents, we now have funding to make a new sign in Schroeter Park. The city has an approved design for the sign which we can use; we just need someone with carpentry skills to put it together. The sign, which stands on the west side of the park along Big Trail, has seen better days; we are excited about the opportunity to replace it. The parks department mentioned that it would be a great Eagle Scout or community service project. Please contact MPNA ([mesapark@crowley.net](mailto:mesapark@crowley.net)) if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining in this project.



## Fix-It-Frank

Wood Chairs Repaired

(25+ years experience)

Table/Floor Lamps Repaired

(512)775-6307



Frank Bergen  
11507 Catalonia Dr.  
Austin, TX 78759

Food

Candy

Live

Entertainment

Jump Houses

Carnival Games

for the family

FESTIVAL

31



We've partnered with the CAFB. Help support them by bringing a can good for entrance into the event

**Saturday, October 31**  
**5 - 8pm**  
**The Quarries**



UPWARD BASKETBALL  
AND CHEERLEADING

For kids in Pre-K - 6th grades

Join us for the best season yet! For all the details and registration visit [hpb.org/quarries](http://hpb.org/quarries)

Registration is open!

# MPNA Crime Reports from APD for Mesa Park Neighborhood

August 17, 2009 - October 17, 2009

Crime	Address	Date	Time
ASSAULT W/INJURY-FAM/DAT VIO	.116xx ELK PARK TRL	9/21/09	.1225
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	.43xx STEVE SCARBROUGH DR.	9/1/09	.1644
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	.43xx STEVE SCARBROUGH DR.	9/29/09	.2216
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	.117xx SPOTTED HORSE DR.	10/2/09	.1350
DEBIT CARD ABUSE	.43xx RED CLOUD DR	10/7/09	.1128
DECEASED PERSON	.116xx NATRONA DR	10/13/09	.853
FAMILY DISTURBANCE	.116xx NATRONA DR	8/20/09	.2222
FAMILY DISTURBANCE	.48xx WIND RIVER RD.	10/7/09	.1714
FORGERY BY MAKING	.48xx WIND RIVER RD.	8/17/09	.1609
TERRORISTIC THREAT-FAM/DAT VIO	.116xx SHOSHONE DR.	8/21/09	.1200

## Helpful Numbers

Police Headquarters Main Switchboard	512-974-5000	Auto Theft tip line	512-974-5096
Homicide tip line	512-477-3588	Abandoned Vehicle tip line	512-974-8119
Robbery Hotline	512-974-5092	Northwest Area Command	512-974-5591
Sex Crimes tip line	512-974-5095		



## Fireman Appreciation Event

By David Crowley

Show your appreciation for our gallant fireman who keep our homes safe and are first responders to emergencies in our area. Cindy Lindsay will be collecting baked goods for Mesa Park to bring to our fireman at Station 25 (Duval Road) on November 6th. Please bring items for the fireman to her house at 11702 Shoshone Dr, between 6-8 pm Thursday, Nov. 5th. Any questions, contact Cindy at 346-2232.

New mom looking to start a walking group in the mornings. If interested, please email me at [claudia.mpna@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.mpna@gmail.com).

Looking forward to meeting my neighbors and other moms too!



## Neighborhood contacts:

President/Quarries

Representative: **David Crowley**, [mesapark@crowleyhome.net](mailto:mesapark@crowleyhome.net) or 11621 Spotted Horse Dr., 78759

Volunteer Coordinator and  
Newsletter Editor:

**Susan McVicker**, [susanmcv@att.net](mailto:susanmcv@att.net).

Board Members:

**Cindy Lindsay**, 346-2232

[TreeTopProp@prodigy.net](mailto:TreeTopProp@prodigy.net)

**Gina Mattiza**,  
[gmattiza@austin.rr.com](mailto:gmattiza@austin.rr.com)

**Terry Tevis**, 736-8469

[mpnapres@yahoo.com](mailto:mpnapres@yahoo.com)

**Claudia Ullrich**

[claudia.mpna@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.mpna@gmail.com)

**Paul Pedroncelli**

[pedroncelli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pedroncelli@sbcglobal.net)

Emergency: 911

Police Non-Emergency: 311

NW Austin Police District Representative: SPO Mike Dunn, [mike.dunn@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:mike.dunn@ci.austin.tx.us), 974-5553

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!