

Mesa Park MESSENGER

Volume 17, Issue #1

February/March 2010

It's My Park Day! Sat, March 9th— 9AM-1PM at Schroeter Park

By David Crowley

Mark your calendars. It's that time of year again to join with neighbors and improve the park in the center of our community. Last year we had a great turnout with over 25 volunteers! Don't worry; you won't have to hack down tumbleweed again this year. The Parks Department is going to cut down the tumbleweed around the playscape and we will just be piling it up this year. Kids can help with spreading ground cover in the playscape. We will continue to distribute mulch to the trails, but this year we will be making a big improvement. We are going to finally replace the kiosk on Big Trail (really this time). We are going to purchase a city-approved kiosk kit and assemble it and put it on the ground this park day. We have already received \$75 toward the \$250 (estimated) kit. Please help us by do-



minating to MPNA and stating the money be used towards the park kiosk. We will also be building formwork for new mile markers along the trail. Bring your work gloves and water bottle and if it is convenient we can always use more shovels, wheel barrows, and rakes. This is a great event you and your family won't want to miss. See you at 9am Saturday March 9 at the pavilion on Big Trail. Let us know that you are coming so we can prepare water, snacks, and request t-shirts for you at mesapark@crowleyhome.net.



Help Needed! Schroeter Park Kiosk

We need handy people to help in putting together the kiosk kit on Sat, March 9. We also need donations to help pay for the \$250 estimated kit (\$175 still needed). Please send checks to MPNA, PMB 104, P.O. Box 200255, Austin, TX 78720, with memo "Park Kiosk."

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

—Winston Churchill

Upcoming Events In this issue

- Neighborhood Meeting February 18
- It's My Park Day..... March 6
- Police Appreciation..... April 29

Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, February 18th at 7:00 PM.
Covenant Methodist Church, Room 114
4410 Duval

Come hear about what is going on in the neighborhood and how you can get involved. We will review the city planning notices affecting our neighborhood and discuss neighbor's concerns. We will have a guest speaker talking about how and why to plant a vegetable garden.

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Resident of Mesa Park

27 years as a Realtor in Austin, TX

21 years with Coldwell Banker United Realtors

Market report for Mesa Park---. Between 12/15/09-2/3/2010: 2 Properties have sold, avg. price--\$210,000; 2 properties under contract, avg price \$226,000; 6 properties currently on the market, avg. price \$230,000, avg. 45 day on market. Contact me if you need further information.

Security Alert! Mail Fraud

By David Crowley

A few weeks ago a neighbor on S potted Horse was the victim of mail fraud. A criminal saw their flag raised on their mailbox and took bills with their checks out of their mailbox. The perpetrator used the routing numbers on the check to make counterfeit checks with his name, but used the residents address and account information. He was able to cash the checks at local businesses and ran up over \$1000 in charges. If you see anyone suspiciously lurking around mail boxes, please call 9-1-1. Also, it may be best to put your mail out in the morning instead of leaving it in your mail box overnight. One neighbor even makes it a habit to send all her mail through a post office drop box located in the parking lot of the Wind River Office complex.

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Want to learn more about fitness and nutrition?

You are invited to join us for our
Quarries Fitness Workshop!

Date: March 6

Time: 10am - 2pm

Cost: \$10

Lunch and child care included

**Includes 45 minute sessions on Pilates,
Strength Training, Step Aerobics, and Nutrition.**

See the Quarries Website for details and registration.

hpbc.org/quarries

ARE YOUR KIDS READY FOR SUMMER YET?

We can't wait for summer at Quarries Camps!
Campers will have an awesome experience
right around the corner!

Weekly camps for kids entering 1st-6th grades

June 14-18 Tip Off Basketball Camp

June 21-25 Outback Outdoor Camp

July 6-9 Adventure Austin Camp

July 12-16 Ballin' All Sports Camp

July 19-23 Splash Camp

July 26-30 First Down Flag Football and Cheer

For more Quarries Camps information visit the
Quarries Website

241-0233

Quarries Church Helps Neighbors

By David Crowley

The Quarries Church came out to help Mesa Park neighbors and improve Schroeter Park on Sat, Jan. 30. Twelve volunteers in all responded to neighbors requests for help. MPNA sent a message out to the newsgroup to ask if anyone needed help and three neighbors responded with projects. One single mother on Spotted Horse got a small fence built around her pool equipment and some



unwanted bushes removed and transplanted. The Quarries Church volunteers helped another neighbor on Dull

Knife build a paved pad for her trash bins and storage on the side of her house in what was a frustrating muddy area. And we all benefited from their work at Schroeter Park finishing out the trail on the SE side we started at the last park work day. They lined the trail

with rock, distributed mulch, and broke up the weeds that had taken over the existing trail. The Quarries Church sounded interested in continuing to help out neighbors, so if you have a project you need help with please contact MPNA and we can put a list together to send to them.



Hazardous Waste Event 1/2/2010

by Claudia Ullrich

Thank you to all who participated in our neighborhood Hazardous Waste drop-off event. Special thanks go to Cameron Thum and Nelson Cole, the students who organized the initiative. I was impressed by their passion for working in the community and protecting our environment. The event was a success and they collected one large truckload to take to the disposal facility. We hope to have another event like this in the future. If you'd like to help by providing assistance (back-up truck, offering coffee or donuts) please let us know. E-mail Claudia Ullrich at claudia.mpna@gmail.com. Thank you!



CREPE MYRTLES BLOOM WITH MINIMAL PRUNING

By Susan McVicker – information from numerous sources
www.usna.usda.gov/PhotoGallery/CrapemyrtleGallery/CrapeTable.html

Crepe myrtles can bloom all summer year after year. Crepe myrtles have a natural shape that needs minimal care and little or no pruning. Light tip pruning or snipping off old blooms will encourage more flowers. Heavy cutbacks (sometimes called “crepe murder”) in late winter or early spring is never a good idea. Many people engage in heavy pruning because they see their neighbors doing it or the tree trimmer needs a pay check. This ruins the natural shape of the tree. As a rule of thumb, only remove old seed pods and old stalks that are thinner than a pencil.



carefully, not to destroy the beauty nature intended. When you cut the top of a crepe myrtle down to a nub, it will send out several long, vigorous shoots at the spot where the pruning cuts were made. This will produce a cluster of new branches that gives the plant a wild, unkempt look.

Know a crepe myrtle mature height before you plant it. Crepe myrtles range in height from 2 ft to 30 ft. Trees such as ‘Natchez’ or ‘Tuscarora’ reach 25-30 ft. in height. ‘Sioux’ and ‘Regal Red’ are medium size selections that will grow only 12-15 ft. tall. A number of trees grow less than 3 ft. tall. Google the information above for more information on the many crepe/crapemyrtles available.

Holiday Decorating Contest

By: Paul Pedroncelli and Cindy Lindsay

Congratulations to the winners of the Holiday Decorating contest. There were lots of wonderful decorations and the neighborhood looked great.

1st Place: 11703 Shoshone

2nd Place: 11702 Santa Cruz

3rd Place: 11623 Elk Park

Honorable Mention: 4821 Gray Fox

Honorable Mention: 11713 Santa Cruz

Honorable Mention: 5020 Dull Knife



MPNA Crime Reports from APD for Mesa Park Neighborhood

December 1, 2009 - February 4, 2010

Crime	Address	Date	Time
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	.116xx NATRONA DR	12/30/2009	.1919
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	.117xx SHOSHONE DR	1/7/2010	.1616
BURGLARY OF VEH	.47xx GRAY FOX DR	12/24/2009	.608
BURGLARY OF VEH	.115xx PYRENEESE DR	12/24/2009	.1033
BURGLARY OF VEH	.47xx GRAY FOX DR	12/25/2009	.1658
BURGLARY OF VEH	.117xx SPOTTED HORSE DR	12/25/2009	.633
DEBIT CARD ABUSE	.42xx ZUNI DR.	12/2/2009	.1239
DECEASED PERSON	.116xx NATRONA DR	12/7/2009	.933
FORGERY AND PASSING	.117xx SPOTTED HORSE DR	1/10/2010	.1427
FOUND PROP	.115xx CATALONIA DR	1/24/2010	.1911
THEFT	.116xx ELK PARK TRL	12/15/2009	.1902
THEFT	.43xx STEVE SCARBROUGH DR	1/16/2010	.1400

Help us to reduce the crime in our neighborhood by getting to know your neighbors. Please participate in the Police Appreciation Event in the spring.

Thank you for your Donations!

MPNA Board of Directors continues to work for you on a volunteer basis. 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 does not charge annual dues, unlike most other neighborhood associations, but we do accept donations.

Donations pay for the "Mesa Park Messenger" newsletter, gift cards for the Holiday Lighting Contest, neighborhood garage sale, "It's My Park Day", the Annual Police Appreciation Event, and other events. We really need your help to keep the newsletter going.

We want to thank all the residents that have donated for the past few months. We really appreciate your generosity.

If you would like to make a donation, please complete the form below and include your check. A minimum amount of \$5.00 would be greatly appreciated.

Donation for MPNA \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone and Address: _____

Email: _____

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

Helpful Numbers

Police Headquarters
Main Switchboard 512-974-5000

Homicide tip line 512-477-3588

Robbery Hotline. 512-974-5092

Sex Crimes tip line 512-974-5095

Auto Theft tip line 512-974-5096

Abandoned Vehicle
tip line 512-974-8119

Northwest Area
Command 512-974-5591

Neighborhood contacts:

President/Quarries Representative: **David Crowley**, mesapark@crowleyhome.net or 11621 Spotted Horse Dr., 78759

Mail donations to MPNA, PMB 104, P.O. Box 200255, Austin, TX 7872

Volunteer Coordinator and Newsletter Editor: **Susan McVicker**, susanmcv@att.net

Board Members: **Cindy Lindsay**, 346-2232, TreeTopProp@prodigy.net; **Gina Mattiza**, gmattiza@austin.rr.com; **Terry Tevis**, 736-8469, mpnapres@yahoo.com; **Claudia Ullrich**, claudia.mpna@gmail.com; **Paul Pedroncelli**, Webmaster, paulp.mpna@gmail.com

Emergency: 911

Police Non-Emergency: 311

NW Austin Police District Representative: SPO Mike Dunn, 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!