

Mesa Park MESSENGER

Volume 17, Issue #5

October/November 2010

Fireman Appreciation Event

Thursday, November 4th, 7pm

Start thinking of your favorite baking recipes, and get ready to join us on Thursday, the 4th of November, in tribute to our neighborhood Firemen at Station 25 on Duval Road. Mesa Park residents will gather at the Station 25 at 7pm on the 4th of November to express our thanks to these gallant fire fighters. You can walk or park your cars at Davis Elementary.

We will have the BAKED GOODS provided by Mesa Park residents and MPNA will provide the ice cream.

Cindy Lindsay will be collecting baked goods for Mesa Park if you cannot be at the Fire Station with us. Please bring items for the fireman to Cindy's house at 11702 Shoshone Drive, between 6-8pm on Wednesday, the 3rd of November. Any questions contact Cindy at 346-2232.

National Night Out

Tuesday, October 5

Mesa Park's enrollment and participation for NNO 2010 is complete! Please see the following streets and hosts and feel free to stop by any of them if your street is not listed.

Mesa Park has seven streets participating. We are expecting visits to each street from the different agencies: Police, Fire, EMS, Code Compliance, etc

1. Dull Knife—Gina Mattiza, Johathan Stille & Patricia Barrueta
2. Santa Cruz—Kay Wolking Bratton
3. Beaver Creek—Berney & Stella Young
4. Running Fox Trail—Karen Porter
5. Ray Dufresne—Zuni Dr
6. Wind River—Mary Linton
7. Shoshone—Claudia Ullrich

We are looking forward to another successful turnout for Mesa Park and getting to know your neighbors is an added bonus! If you would still like to be a host for NNO, all you need to do is contact all your neighbors, whether it be word of mouth, or leaving a flier on the front door step, announcing your streets participation. We have had some streets have barbecues, and some have games for the children, BYO's: bring your own drink or bring you own chair. Some have even had a potluck for the neighbors to celebrate NNO. It's up to you how big or small you want to go—the most important part is that we "GO"and "show"!



Fall is the Ideal Time to Plant Trees

Think back to this summer's heat and imagine what a difference a green canopy of shade would have made around your home. Trees are one of nature's best gifts and an investment for our homes and communities.

Planting trees in the fall allows the trees to have all winter and spring to re-establish a vigorous root system before summer's heat and dry weather place tremendous water stress on the plant. Even though the aboveground portion of the plant may go dormant during the winter, its roots continue to grow and function throughout the winter months. In fact, research indicates that planting now will give your trees almost a full growing season's advantage over planting next spring.

Trees that are 8 to 10 feet tall are probably the ideal size for most homeowners to buy. Trees of this height normally will have a 1/1/2 inch diameter trunk. There are many excellent trees available for planting in the Central Texas area, including many native and indigenous species.

When selecting a tree for your landscape, choose one that will tolerate the local weather extremes of heat and cold that has adapted to local soils. Poorly adapted species are a continual source of headaches and frustration. Avoid extremely fast-growing trees, as they are often short-lived and may be plagued by weak wood and a host of insect problems, including borers.

For additional information, there is a great free publication available in any Nursery, Home Depot, and Lowe's in Austin. Just ask for "Native and Adapted Landscape Plants." This is provided by Texas Cooperative and City of Austin at no charge. "The Growing Guide for Austin" is an excellent resource published by TreeFolks. You can call 443-5323 or go to www.treefolks.org. On line, see the Texas Forest Service "Texas Tree Planting Guide" for even more information.

Upcoming Events In this issue

National Night Out	Tuesday, Oct. 5
Neighborhood Garage Sale	Saturday, Oct. 16
Fireman's Appreciation	Thursday Nov. 4
Park Day Cleanup	Saturday, Nov. 6

Your Neighborhood Realtor

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Susan McVicker, ABR, CRS, GRI

Coldwell Banker United Realtors

Office: 512-917-3018

Email: susanmcv@att.net

Resident of Mesa Park

28 years as a Realtor in Austin, TX

21 years with Coldwell Banker United Realtors

Market report for Mesa Park—Between 8/3/2010-9/17/2010. 2 properties have sold, avg. price—\$204,000. 5 properties under contract, avg. price \$203,000: 10 properties currently on the market, avg. price \$214,000, avg. 84 days on market. Contact me if you need further information.

Park Day Cleanup

Saturday, November 6 at 9:00 am

- Meet under the Pavilion on Big Trail
- Tools needed: Wheel barrows, shovels, rakes, gloves
- Activities: cleanup, mulching of trails, sign installation
- Families and volunteers of all ages are encouraged to come help maintain and improve our neighborhood park. Contact David Crowley 586-9583 with any questions.



SUNTEX LANDSCAPE

Lawn Maintenance. Tree Trimming.
Installation.

Brian Boehm

Serving Mesa Park for 8 years & Former Resident

(512) 461-5909

the Quarries

ALL MESA PARK NEIGHBORS WELCOME!



Bring the whole family out for an evening filled with games, rides, food, live entertainment, candy, and FUN! This is a community event, so invite your friends, co-workers & anyone!

Join us for the most exciting season of Upward Basketball ever at the Quarries! Your young athlete will have the opportunity to develop new skills, build teamwork and friendships, and learn healthy competition in a safe and encouraging environment.

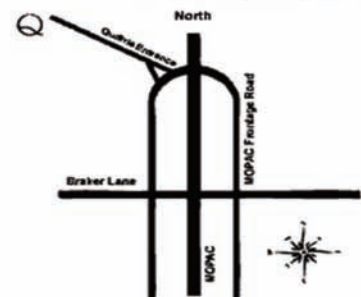


Check out our website to see more of what we have to offer!

 www.hpbc.org/quarries

Special Fitness Membership Rates for our Mesa Park Neighbors!

Just bring this ad in for
\$25/SINGLE MONTHLY RATE
\$45/FAMILY MONTHLY RATE
with no processing fee!



Walking Directions:

The Quarries walk-in gate is located at Spotted Horse and Mesa Woods Drive.

Driving Directions:

From Braker go north on the service road. The service road will turn to the left under Mo-Pac Expy and you want to be in the right hand lane. Immediately after crossing under Mo-Pac, take the first right into The Quarries. The fitness center is behind the sports fields, toward the back of the complex.

MPNA NEEDS YOUR HELP

MPNA needs volunteers for a number of tasks. If you are interested, please contact MPNA President David Crowley at 586-9583 or mesapark@crowleyhome.net.

- **Neighborhood Meeting Coordinator:** reserve meeting location, select and invite speaker to quarterly neighborhood meetings.
- **Park Work Day Coordinator:** Work with Austin Parks Department and Foundation to get equipment, coordinate volunteers on work projects.
- **Sign Runners:** Place signs at street corners before major events like neighborhood meetings, park work days, social events.
- Mesa Park resident or residents to represent Mesa Park at the "Austin Neighborhood Council" meetings once a month. They meet on the 4th Wednesday monthly from 7-9pm at the Austin Energy Building.
- We need a **webmaster** to maintain the Mesa Park Neighborhood Association web site. Please contact Susan McVicker, susan-mcv@att.net or 917-3018.



MATH TUTOR

Middle School Math
High School Math
SAT & ACT Math

Mesa Park Resident

11704 Elk Park Tr.

Hours: Mon-Thu(6-8), Sat(10-2)

marleneduplessis@gmail.com

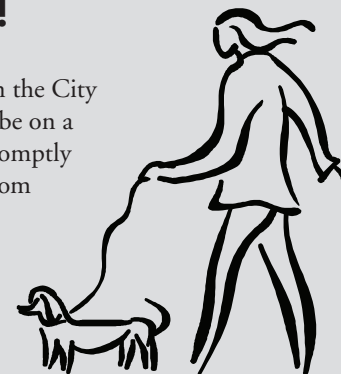
Marlene du Plessis



(512) 346-7531

Dog owners!

We all love our pets. In the City of Austin, our dogs must be on a leash and owners must promptly remove their pet's feces from other's properties. Please be considerate of your neighbors and comply with the law.



Austin Civic Wind Ensemble

Austin's Oldest Community Concert Band Since 1975

NO FEAR FALL CONCERT
Friday - Oct 29 - 7:30pm

Bring your friends and family and join us for an hour of festive fall music. Performance pieces include Twilight Dance – Ballenger, and The Planets – Mars & Jupiter - Holst

Admission is Free!

Covenant United Methodist Church
4410 Duval Rd at Whispering Valley

ACWE is Funded and Supported in Part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division
ACWE is Currently Accepting New Members – No Audition Required - 507-7161



www.acwe.org



Quarries Development Negotiation Meeting

David Crowley

Thanks for attending the input gathering meeting on Sept. 16th.

Attendees: Carolyn May, Ron Waters, Kasey Davis, Ed Cortes, Pamela Villars, Donna Kinney, Morgan & Stephen Stephanian, Beverly Tolbert, Elizabeth Flynn, Brad Hein, Kay Wolking Bratton, Richard C Bratton, Susan Prosperie & David Zane, Jason Furr, Roger & Shirley Evans, David & Veronica Crowley, Claudia Ullrich, Stella Burkhalter (Covenant UMC)

Neighbors concerns:

In addition to those already documented on the hand-out:

- Do not want any new development to decrease anyone's property values
- If more noise will be created on the Quarries property, some type of soundproofing improvements could be compensated for neighbors
- We do not want the proposed baseball field or the buildings in the approved site plan
- Do not want any increase in parking on neighborhood streets by Quarries visitors
- Would like to see a permanent site plan that cannot be changed every 10 years

Agreements/Conclusions

- We would be willing to allow increased square footage of buildings in the area near the high school and fitness center in exchange for the area on our side of the bridge becoming a passive-recreation restricted green-space
- We will stand together and try to get an agreement that is best for everyone

Action Items:

1. Ask HPBC why buildings on new proposed site plan are colored as approved but are not on the original site plan (David Crowley)
2. Send out digital copy of drawings (Stephen Stephanian)
3. Ask HPBC about details of what new buildings shown on proposed site plan will be used for (David Crowley)
4. Send out a copy of the neighborhood agreement on the approved site plan (David Crowley)
5. Ask HPBC if there is another location where they could put the ball field that would be less disruptive to neighbors' quality of life (David Crowley)

Please let me know if there is anyone else who would like to be added to this email group so we can keep everyone informed. If you would like a copy of the "Quarries Agreement, approved by the Planning Commission, on Sept. 19, 2000," let David Crowley know.

Quarries Development Update

The Hyde Park Baptist Church (HPBC) is in the process of applying for an extension of their site plan for developing the Quarries property. The site plan approved in 2000 will expire on 11/27/2010.

They have not completed several buildings that were previously approved by the city. If the site plan expires they will not be able to get permits to build the incomplete buildings.

Of the approved buildings that are not built are a 10,000 SF 18. high building directly behind homes on Spotted Horse Drive and a 3800 SF 15. high building directly behind homes on Red Cloud Drive (Building C below). This extension will come up to a vote before city council and the city development review committee soon. HPBC has stated their intention to modify this site plan as soon as it is extended to build at least one additional baseball field in this area closest to neighbors' homes. They also intend to request an increase in building square footage from what was on the original site plan. HPBC is in a position to negotiate to reduce their development for our support of their extension of the approved site plan.

Thanks to Cherrie Smith who delivered flyers to over 100 homes in proximity to the Quarries. We had an emergency meeting on September 16th to get neighbors' input for our negotiation. We also sent out the meeting invitation via our email newsgroup*.

There is still time to give your input if you were unable to make this meeting. Please contact David Crowley at 586-9583 or mesapark@crowleyhome.net to give input and get more details about the status of negotiations.

*http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Mesa_Park_Neighborhood/

Save Your Empty Aluminum Cans

Cindy Lindsey

Don't forget to save your empty aluminum cans to donate to the Blue Santa project. This is an ongoing project, not just for Christmastime.

The cans are redeemed, the money going to purchase toys, so that not one needy child goes without a toy at Christmas. This program is sponsored by the Austin Police Department, and is another way our crime fighters work to make our community a better place to live.

It is easy.....just save your aluminum cans and drop them off at 11703 Shoshone Drive. There are receptacles by the garage just waiting to be filled.



City Ordinances (that might be helpful)

By David Crowley

If you are frustrated with neighbors because of lack of upkeep of their properties or general lack of consideration, the city can help you do something about it. Here is a selected list of a few city ordinances relating to residential properties. If a neighbor is violating an ordinance, give them the benefit of the doubt that they are unaware of the law and inform them of their violation with a letter. If the neighbor is unresponsive, call 3-1-1 (or 512-974-2000 if out of area) and get connected with code enforcement. All of the ordinances are available on-line at www.amlegal.com/austin_tx/.

14-9-3: No placing bulky items (vehicles, machinery, etc) on a street, sidewalk, or alley for more than 1 hour to sell the item, use the item for work or business, or dispose of

9-2-3,5: Sound Restrictions:

- A person may not use sound equipment or play a musical instrument audible to an adjacent residence or in public between 10:30PM and 7AM.
- No sand, gravel, or rock loading between 7PM and 6AM
- No car radios causing vibration 30ft from the vehicle
- No sound equipment can make audible noise at a residential property line between 10PM and 10AM
- No sound equipment can be audible at a residential property line above 75 dB.

3-4-1,4: Except in designated leash-free areas (11 locations specified), the owner of a dog must keep the dog under restraint

3-4-6: Dog and cat owners must promptly remove their pet's feces from other's property.

9-4-41: No barbed wire fences unless at the top of a 6ft or taller fence.

6-3-23: A person may not permit a tree or plant to overgrow or obstruct a sidewalk. Tree limbs over a sidewalk must be trimmed to a minimum of 14ft above the street level.

6-3-41,42: Trees or plants infected with lethal diseases (like oak wilt) must remove the tree or plant.

14-9-2: No fences on corner lots within 10ft of curblineline or 40ft from the corner.

3-4-2: Dogs cannot be restrained with a chain or tether unless a person is holding the chain or tether, a person may not keep more than 6 adult dogs unless a proper enclosure is provided for them, prescribed in 3-2-13.

10-5-21: Duty to maintain property in sanitary condition (\$2000 fine):

- No weeds or grass more than 12 inches tall, no accumulation of rubbish, garbage, or brush on property or between property and curblineline
- No stagnant water allowed on property

9-1-2: No inoperable motor vehicle left on public property for more than 48 continuous hours

12-5-38: No parking on sidewalks.

12-5-9: No parking vehicles of more than 9000 pounds on a public street.

12-5-10: No parking trailers or other non-motorized equipment towed by a vehicle on streets.

12-5-11: No parking motor homes on the street for more than 72 hours.

B&D SERVICES

Pest Control - Handy Man - Lawn Service

General Pest Control
Scorpions
Rodents
Bird Exclusion
and Enclosures

General Household Repair
Light Electrical
Plumbing

Mowing
Edging
Blowing
Cleanup



BRIAN THORNE - 512-797-4761
bdservices127@gmail.com

Current Mesa Park Resident

MESA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE!

Our neighborhood Garage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 16th, from 8am-1pm. The cost for each resident is \$5.00. Maps will be provided for each house, advertising in the Austin American Statesman, and Craigs list. To participate in the Garage Sale, please contact Teresa Wood at 512-795-0952. CALL AFTER 7PM. Please sign up before Oct. 10th. If anyone can help with placing signs, please contact Susan McVicker at 917-3018.

All the messages are available on-line at
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Mesa_Park_Neighborhood/messages

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, "Its 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 586-9583

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

Newsletter Editor, Treasurer & Volunteer Coordinator: **Susan McVicker**, susanmcv@att.net or 917-3018

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!