

Neighborhood Watch Meeting, January 26, 2011

By Claudia Ullrich

I want to say thank you to the residents that attended the Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Jan. 26th at the Milwood Library. There is a strong interest in reviving our neighborhood watch, but it will take effort. We invite EVERYONE to attend the training classes being offered by APD:

February 8, 2011 Part I – Introduction to Neighborhood Watch

March 8, 2011 Part II – Physical Security

April 12, 2011 Part III – James the Burglar Video and Guest Speaker TBD

6:30p.m.- 8:00p.m.

APD North Substation: 12425 Lamplight Village (Off Parmer Lane between Mo-Pac and Metric)

Please take a look at the manual. It has tips that ALL of us can use to make our homes safer. <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/downloads/neighborhoodwatchmanual.pdf>

From this meeting we have 6 block captain volunteers for the following blocks:

Catalonia	Santa Cruz
Gray Fox	Shoshone
Red Cloud	Spotted Horse

There are SIXTEEN other blocks that need volunteers. Please consider this role. If your street has a block captain, you will most likely be contacted by them after the training series. Please help them by filling out a household information sheet and getting to know them.

OAK WILT: A Guide to Identification and Management

Texas Forest Service/ submitted by Susan McVicker

Oak wilt is considered to be one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States. Over 100,000 trees have already died of oak wilt in San Antonio and Central Texas.

What is oak wilt? Oak wilt is a disease caused by a fungus that clogs the water conducting vessels of infected trees, causing them to wilt and die.

What causes oak wilt? A fungus called *Ceratocystis fagacearum* causes oak wilt.

What types of trees can get oak wilt? Oak wilt is a problem for live oaks and red oaks (including Spanish Oak and Blackjack Oak) in the San Antonio area and throughout Central Texas.

How does it spread? Oak wilt can spread in two ways: 1) underground—it spreads from one tree to the next through connected roots, thus forming expanding patches of dead and
(continued on page 3)

Reminder, the ideal time to prune your oaks is when it is extremely cold.
Always use pruning paint on all areas being pruned.

MPNA is online!... and other survey results

By Claudia Ullrich

As many of you know, we have an active Yahoo Group and it serves as an easy and immediate way to stay in touch with the neighborhood and send out notices.

Based on the survey we issued a while back, many respondents showed interest in a Facebook Group as well. We will be launching this in the near future, so stay tuned for details. It will not replace the Yahoo Group—it will be in addition to the Yahoo Group. I encourage you to join both groups or at least one. Many times information goes out through the Yahoo Group that is not covered in the newsletter or through any other means, e.g. lost pets, crime watch, social invites, development news. You might be missing out on important information if you are not following us through Yahoo Groups. This is a free and easy way for us to get out information. We will continue to distribute the newsletter every two months, but that is dependent on advertisers and dedicated volunteers. If we lose either, we may not have the newsletter.

Another theme that came out of the survey is the desire for more neighborhood events and social groups (moms, gardening, wine club, etc.) This is up to the residents! Anyone can start a group with just the willingness to organize. Such groups have already started to form through the Yahoo Group—the bunco group, Moms group, and even beer tastings. If you start a group and would like to submit updates or announcements through the newsletter, please contact Susan McVicker at susanmcv@att.net.

In the survey, respondents said they like Milwood Library and Covenant United Methodist Church equally as venues for neighborhood meetings. This is good for us to know! For 2011, we have reserved space at Milwood and will continue to meet there through the end of the year. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, April 27th at 7 pm, Milwood Library.**

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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 11/01/10-2/6/2011: Between 11/1/2010 and 2/6/2011 there have been "0" solds or under contract. 14 properties currently on the market, lowest price at \$159,900/highest price is \$259,100. Highest days on market is 333/lowest days on market is 1. Contact me if you need further information.

Silverfish

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

I recently noticed silverfish lurking in my house after I put away my holiday decorations, so I'm sure others may have the same problem. Silverfish can eat and stain books, fabrics, food and wallpaper, but are often considered more of a nuisance than a pest. These insects have flattened carrot-shaped bodies with three long "tails" that come off the tip of the abdomen. The body is covered with fine scales that give them a silver sheen. Immatures look just like the adults, only smaller in size.

Usually silverfish are not seen by homeowners because they tend to be active at night. They can commonly be found in attics, closets or near bookcases. They will often be found behind baseboards or around door and window casings. Silverfish feed on starchy foods like paper, flour, oats or glue.

Tips for managing silverfish:

- Remove old books, papers & magazines
- Store items in sealed, plastic bags or containers
- Clean closets on a regular basis
- Reduce humidity with fans, air conditioning or dehumidifiers
- Repair water leaks
- Inspect all items before bringing them into the house
- Target treatments to where silverfish live—wall voids, closets, attics, behind baseboards, etc.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512-854-9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com.

the Quarries

ALL MESA PARK NEIGHBORS WELCOME!

Fitness & Nutrition WORKSHOP

Date : March 5th
Time : 10am - 2pm
Cost : \$12

Healthy lunch provided
Child care also available for \$2 per child
(must register for child care in advance.)

Includes sessions on
Pilates, Strength Training, Step Aerobics,
Spin, and Nutrition.
Participants choose 3 of 5 sessions.

See the Quarries Website for details and registration.

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

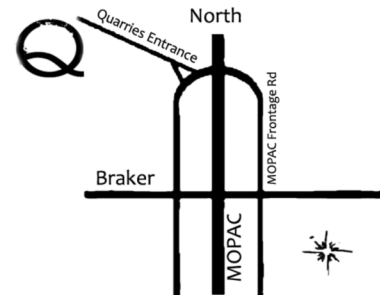
www.hpbc.org/quarries



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 toward the back of the complex behind the fields.

MPNA Crime Reports from APD for Mesa Park Neighborhood

Crime	Address	Date	Time	Location
ASSIST COMPLAINT	.115XX ANGUS RD	11/5/10	19:07	RESIDENCES
AUTO THEFT	.47XX DUVAL RD	11/6/10	13:27	RESIDENCES
ASSAULT W/INJURY-FAM/DATE VIOL	.115XX BIG TRAIL CV	11/11/10	14:27	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	.117XX ELK PARK TRL	12/2/10	18:44	RESIDENCES
CRED CARD ABUSE BY FORGERY	.117XX SHOSHONE DR	12/3/10	14:39	RESIDENCES
SUICIDE	.47XX DUVAL RD	12/3/10	19:38	RESIDENCES
THEFT	.116XX ELK PARK TRL	12/4/10	8:34	RESIDENCES
HARASSMENT	.47XX DUVAL RD	12/15/10	14:48	RESIDENCES
THEFT	.116XX ANGUS RD	12/15/10	10:57	BUSINESS / OTHER
THEFT	.47XX RUNNING DEER DR	12/17/10	12:48	RESIDENCES
THEFT	.48XX RUNNING DEER DR	12/17/10	14:01	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF VEH	.48XX GRAY FOX DR	12/21/10	8:26	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF VEH	.116XX SANTA CRUZ DR	12/21/10	10:13	RESIDENCES
UCW	.52XX WIND RIVER RD	12/21/10	4:06	OTHER / UNKNOWN
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	.48XX GRAY FOX DR	12/25/10	21:11	RESIDENCES
DEBIT CARD ABUSE	.115XX ANGUS RD	12/30/10	15:45	RESIDENCES
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	.116XX SPOTTED HORSE DR	12/30/10	16:57	STREETS / HWY / ROAD / ALLEY
ASSAULT W/INJURY-FAM/DATE VIOL	.117XX SPOTTED HORSE DR	1/3/11	12:08	RESIDENCES
ASSAULT W/INJURY-FAM/DATE VIOL	.46XX BEAVER CREEK DR	1/3/11	17:13	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	.115XX ELK PARK CIR	1/5/11	20:13	RESIDENCES
FOUND PROP	.117XX BIG TRL	1/8/11	11:52	PARKING LOTS / GARAGE
LOST PROP	.X BIG TRL	1/8/11	12:06	OTHER / UNKNOWN
HARASSMENT	.48XX DUVAL RD	1/9/11	20:24	RESIDENCES
ABANDONED VEH	.X WIND RIVER RD	1/24/11	9:41	STREETS / HWY / ROAD / ALLEY
LOST PROP Type:THEFT OF BICYCLE	.46XX DUVAL RD	1/23/11	13:39	BUSINESS / OTHER

OAK WILT

(continued from page 1)

dying trees. Among live oaks, the rate of spread is about 75 feet per year.

How can I tell if my trees have oak wilt?

Live oaks and red oaks show distinctive symptoms when they are infected with oak wilt.

In **live oaks**, some leaves on infected trees may begin to show a characteristic pattern. The veins on the leaf will turn yellow or brown, while the rest of the leaf remains green. The tips of some leaves may also turn brown, or the leaves may turn yellow with only the veins remaining green.

Once **live oaks** are infected, most gradually drop leaves and die over a period of three months to a year. Some trees survive for many years in various states of decline.

In **red oaks**, leaf symptoms are less distinct. The main thing to watch for is a red oak whose leaves quickly turn pale green to brown, usually remaining attached to the tree for some time. **Red oaks** die more quickly than live oaks once they are infected with oak wilt. Once infected, the trees will die within two weeks to several months.

Special structures covered with spores (called fungal mats) may form beneath the

bark on certain infected **red oaks**. These fungal mats make the tree especially contagious, because they are the source of fungal spores which can be carried by insects to infect new trees. Fungal mats are not known to occur in live oaks.

In addition to visible signs of oak wilt, laboratory tests can be performed on the wood of both live oaks and red oaks to determine the presence of the fungus. Out of season change of color is a sign of oak wilt for red oaks.

What is the cure for oak wilt? At this time there is no cure for oak wilt, so treatment involves suppression and prevention.

Trenches stop the underground spread of oak wilt by breaking the root connections between trees. In patches of dead and dying live oaks, trenches are placed 100 feet from the outermost trees showing oak wilt symptoms.

In certain situations, individual trees can be saved by fungicide injections. This practice will not stop the spread of the fungus through interconnected roots and is not considered a cure.

Also, **infected red oaks should be immediately removed**, and the wood burned or buried. This prevents fungal mats from forming on the wood and removes the source of fungal spores.

How can I prevent oak wilt? Prevention of oak wilt is in the hands of property owners and their neighbors with oak trees.

All property owners with healthy oaks should immediately paint all wounds, including fresh pruning cuts, on live oaks and red oaks! If possible, avoid pruning from February 1 to June 1. A coat of tree-wound paint acts as a barrier which stops any fungal spores by insects from entering the wound. After a few days, tree wounds are no longer susceptible for oak wilt infection so painting old wounds is not beneficial.

In addition, be very careful with firewood. Avoid oak firewood from trees infected with oak wilt. This firewood could contain fungal mats and/or insect carrying the oak wilt fungus. As a precaution, store firewood under clear plastic and bury the edges. Clear plastic traps the insects, and unlike black plastic, the insects cannot use light holes to escape.

What if my trees have oak wilt? The Texas Forest Service Oak Wilt Suppression Project is designed to assist you with your oak wilt problems.

For more information please call the office nearest you:

Austin (512) 440-5150

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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

Holiday Decorating Contest 2010

Congratulations to the winners of the Holiday Decorating contest.

There were lots of wonderful decorations and the neighborhood looked great.

1. 4821 Gray Fox
2. 11509 Murcia
3. 11708 Big Trail
4. 4602 Gray Fox
5. 11621 Elk Park
6. 11715 Blackhawk



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

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

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

Neighborhood Meeting Coordinator: **Melissa Conant**, celestembrown@gmail.com

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; **Mary Kay Tiernan**, mkbarber1@gmail.com

Mesa Park Messenger design: **Julie Kennedy**, julie@digitalcitydesigns.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!