

# Mesa Park MESSENGER

Volume 19, Issue #1

February/March 2012

## It's My Park Day: Saturday, March 3, 9am-1pm at Schroeter Park Mark your calendars!

Do you enjoy the serenity and beauty of Schroeder Park? Here's an opportunity to help preserve its environment.

Join us in cleaning up Schroeder Park and helping to refurbish its trails. Enjoy the fellowship of working side-by-side with neighbors. Snacks, drinks, and some tools will be provided.

"It's My Park Day" is an annual community service day, sponsored by the Austin Parks Foundation in cooperation with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the Mesa Park Neighborhood Association. It focuses on improvements to Austin's parks.



Last year we had over 30 volunteers, most from the Mesa Park area.

Adults and children hauled and spread bark mulch on the trails. Workers also lined trails with rock and picked up trash and dead underbrush.

This is a great event you and your family won't want to miss. Let Phil know you are coming. See you at the pavilion on Big Trail.

Look for more information in the Mesa\_Park\_Neighborhood group at Yahoo! Groups online. To volunteer for It's My Park Day, contact Phil Coleman, 512-345-3965, [phils\\_in@hotmail.com](mailto:phils_in@hotmail.com)



## A Tribute to Bob Grissom



Bob Grissom and his wife Jessie have been residents in Mesa Park for over 30 years and have been active in many projects during those years. One of Bob's favorite projects is the "Operation Blue Santa" program. This program is sponsored by the Austin Police Department, and is another way our crime fighters work to make our community a better place.

Bob has been gathering empty aluminum cans from Mesa Park neighbors for many years. The cans are redeemed and the money is donated to APD. The donations enable the APD to achieve their mission to provide toys and food for families in need during the holiday season.

Bob has been instrumental in keeping this tradition continuing year after year. This past year Bob collected enough cans to donate \$100 to the Austin Police Operation Blue Santa Program on behalf of the Mesa Park Neighborhood Association.

Start saving your empty aluminum cans now. It takes a lot of cans to get to \$100. You can drop them off at 11703 Shoshone Drive. There are receptacles by the garage just waiting to be filled.



## Valentine's Day Trivia for 2012



♥ 15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.



♥ 73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27% are women.



♥ About 1 billion Valentine's day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.



♥ About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.



♥ Hallmark has over 1,330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day.



*(Continued on page 3)*

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Email: [susanmcv@att.net](mailto:susanmcv@att.net)

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

*Between 12/6/2011 to 2/5/2012. Eight properties "Sold" avg price \$180,000. Three "Under Contract," avg price \$165,000. Eight properties "Active," avg price \$209,000. Call me if you need further information.*

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# the Quarries

ALL MESA PARK NEIGHBORS WELCOME!



### SPRING BREAK CAMP!

For kids in 1 - 6th grade

Cost: \$199 for all 5 days  
\$49/day for single day registration

Time: 8a - 4p

After Camp Care: 4 - 6p / \$6/day

Register at: [www.hpbc.org/quarries](http://www.hpbc.org/quarries)

Achieve your FITNESS GOALS in 2012!

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### Special Fitness Membership Rates

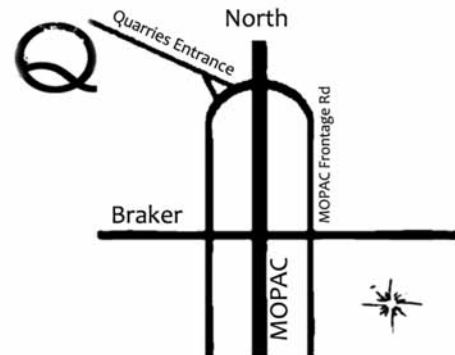
for our Mesa Park Neighbors!

Just bring this ad in for

\$25/SINGLE MONTHLY RATE

\$45/FAMILY MONTHLY RATE

with no processing fee!



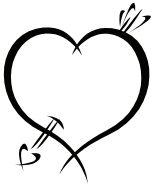
### Walking Directions:

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.

## Valentine's Day Trivia for 2012



- ♥ In the United States, 64% do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.
- ♥ In Victorian times, it was considered bad luck to sign a Valentine's Day card.
- ♥ Only the U.S., Canada, Mexico, France, Australia and the United Kingdom celebrate Valentine's Day.
- ♥ Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy," on Valentine's Day, 1876.
- ♥ California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.
- ♥ Cupid, another symbol of Valentines Day, became associated with the day because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards holding a bow and arrows because he is believed to use magical arrows to inspire feelings of love.
- ♥ During the late 1800s, postage rates around the world dropped, and the obscene St. Valentine's Day card became popular, despite the Victorian era being otherwise very prudish. As the numbers of racy valentines grew, several countries banned the practice of exchanging Valentine's Days cards. During this period, Chicago's post office rejected more than 25,000 cards on the grounds that they were so indecent, they were not fit to be carried through the U.S. mail.
- ♥ February 14, 270 A.D. : Roman Emperor Claudius II, dubbed "Claudius the Cruel," beheaded a priest named Valentine for performing marriage ceremonies. Claudius II had outlawed marriages when Roman men began refusing to go to war in order to stay with their wives.
- ♥ One single perfect red rose framed with baby's breath is referred to by some florists as a "signature rose," and is the preferred choice given by many on Valentine's Day, anniversaries, or birthdays.
- ♥ Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, and then sweethearts. Children ages 6 to 10 exchange more than 650 million Valentine's cards with teachers, classmates, and family members.
- ♥ The first photograph of a U.S. President was taken on February 14, 1849 by Matthew Brady in New York City. President James Polk was the subject of the famous picture.
- ♥ The first televised tour of the White House aired on February 14 in 1962. First Lady Jackie Kennedy hosted the tour.
- ♥ The most fantastic gift of love is the Taj Mahal in India. It was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife, who died in childbirth. Work on the Taj began in 1634 and continued for almost 22 years. It required the labor of 20,000 workers from all over India and Central Asia.
- ♥ Wearing a wedding ring on the fourth finger of the left hand dates back to ancient Egypt, where it was believed that the vein of love ran from this finger directly to the heart.

*Find these and more at <http://www.corsinet.com/braincandy/val-trivia.html>*

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## Home security when you're not home Information from the Austin Police Department

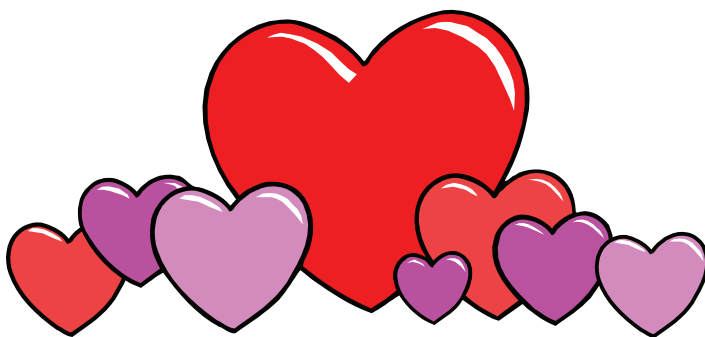
Most burglars prefer to break into your house when no one is home; therefore anything you can do to make your house appear occupied will discourage burglars from picking your house as their target. Fortunately, it is relatively simple to make your house appear occupied. Don't leave obvious clues that you are gone.



Don't leave notes on the door advertising you are gone or will be returning at a specific date and time. Make sure someone picks up the newspapers or deliveries. It is best not to cancel any mail or newspaper deliveries because that is letting someone know that you will be gone.

Have a neighbor or friend you trust look after your house while you are gone. Ask them change the drapes or blinds around to appear as if someone is home. Request a neighbor to park their car in your driveway and to move it around occasionally. You can also have your neighbor put their garbage out in front of your house. If you are going to be gone for an extended period time, schedule someone to mow your lawn for you as well.

While it is important for some people to know you will be gone, don't tell everyone. The fewer people that know you will be gone, the better. Ensure you leave a TV or radio on, and have several lamps placed on automatic times.



# Holiday Decorating Contest

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

1st Place:   
4821 Gray Fox

2nd Place:   
4803 Beaver Creek

3rd Place:   
11508 Murcia

4th Place:   
11715 Blackhawk

Honorable Mention: 4201 Red Cloud

## 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](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; 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 Michael J. Whetson #5381, michael.whetson@ci.austin.tx.us, 512-974-5553

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!