

BALCONES CIVIC ASSN.
P.O. BOX 26864
AUSTIN, TX 78755-0864

*Fall 2003
Newsletter*

www.main.org/bca



BCA Annual Meeting
Tuesday Sept. 16, 2003 at 7 PM
Anderson High School Theatre

Speaker: Patricia Wadsack, P.E.
City of Austin Public Works Dept.

Topic: Mesa & Greystone Transmission Mains
Project - Effects of Construction on Our Area



In early 2004, the City of Austin Public Works Dept. will begin a project on Mesa Dr. and Greystone Dr. to install additional water transmission lines in the area between Spicewood Springs Rd. and Far West Blvd. The long-range goal is to improve water capacity to homes in this area. Work on Greystone Dr. will occur between Valburn and Park View, and between Mesa and West Rim. Work on Mesa Dr. will take place from Spicewood Springs Rd. to Far West Blvd. The existing 20-inch water transmission line on the east side of Mesa Dr. will be cleaned after the new transmission line is installed.

Construction on this project is expected to take about 12 months. During the time that this improvement project is underway, two-way traffic will be maintained on Mesa Dr. (one lane only each direction) between Spicewood Springs Rd. and Greystone Dr. Two-way traffic (one lane each direction) will also be maintained along Greystone Dr. **However, traffic on Mesa Dr. between Greystone and Far West Blvd. will be one-way only, northbound. Southbound traffic on Mesa from Greystone Dr. to Far West Blvd. will be rerouted to Waterline or Chimney Corners.** Trench-less technology (boring and jacking) will be used to install the new water line along Mesa Dr. through the intersection with Spicewood Springs Rd. so that two-way traffic can continue using the intersection during construction.

Ms. Patricia Wadsack is Project Manager for this water transmission improvement project. Come to the BCA annual meeting on Sept. 16 to hear details and ask questions about this up-coming water utility project.

Mark your Calendar!

BCA Monthly Meetings

Bank Building at 7800 MoPac
NW corner of MoPac & Spicewood Springs
First floor east conference room
Third Wednesday of each month

Oct. 15, 2003 **7:00 PM**
Nov. 19, 2003 **7:00 PM**
Jan. 21, 2004 **7:00 PM**

BCA Officers

President	Tom Arbuckle	454-9003
Vice President	Stanley Moos	345-4594
Secretary	Louise Epstein	502-8885
Treasurer	Jack Jennings	231-1032
Past President	Mary Tannahill	343-1573

BCA Executive Committee Representatives

	Sector 1	
Tony Aterno		346-3437
Belinda Herrera		346-6126
Jim Hooser		345-0817
Mary Tannahill		343-1573
	Sector 2	
Joe Makeever		345-0800
John Rhodes		345-0778
Gwen Sederholm		345-0720
Monroe Zoch		345-0687
	Sector 3	
Tom Arbuckle		454-9003
Watson Howell		346-6042
Jack Jennings		231-1032
Linda Keeling		345-4704
	Sector 4	
Louise Epstein		502-8885
Bob Latsha		345-4831
Stanley Moos		345-4594
Sam Smith		345-1337

At-Large Representatives

Beverly Kimbrough	372-8713
Sam Robertson	343-7659

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

New Non-Emergency number	311
Main Switchboard	974-5000
WebSite	www.cityofaustin.org/police
Northwest Area Command	974-5500
Abandoned Vehicles	280-0075
Auto Theft Info (H.E.A.T. & VIN etching)	974-5713
Crime Stoppers	472-8477
Graffiti Removal	854-4125
Community Liaison Office	459-1877
Traffic Office	974-5789
Victim Services	974-5037

CITY OF AUSTIN

Main Switchboard	974-2000
WebSite	www.cityofaustin.org
Animal Control	972-6060
Dead Animals (Solid Waste Services)	494-9400
Dogs running loose	974-6033
Flooding Complaints	974-3355
Garbage Pickup (Solid Waste Services)	494-9400
Handicapped Curb Ramps	974-6426
Home Chemicals Collection	974-4343
Illegal Dumping	494-9400
Mosquito Infestation	972-5692
Night Watchman Lights Installation	505-7617
Noise Complaints	311
Pothole Complaints or obstructions in roadway	440-8444
School Sidewalk Safety	974-7240
School Zone Light Malfunction	457-4851
Stop Signs	457-4885
Street Light Installation	505-7617
Street Light Repair (Austin Energy)	505-7617
Street and Bridge Repairs	440-8444
Street Signs Down	457-4885
Traffic Signal Malfunction	457-4850
Weeds & Trash on private or city property	972-5600
Watershed Protection Dept.	974-2550
Call to report environmental spills or deliberate dumping (e.g. dumping of used motor oil, etc.)	

Austin Police Department Northwest Area Commander's Forum

Date/Time: Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2003 7:00 PM
Location: Westover Hills Church of Christ
8332 Mesa Dr.

Interesting & informative sessions.

Recycle Your Computer for a Cleaner Environment

Old computers may contain lead and other hazardous materials which can harm the environment and our health. However, the metals and plastics in computers can be recycled, which will save valuable space in Texas landfills and help reduce the level of hazardous materials in our environment. The City of Austin Solid Waste Services Dept. is partnering with private recyclers to help educate the public about this important message. Contact the computer recyclers listed below to inquire about dropping off computer equipment and to find out about any applicable fees. (Private recyclers may charge a minimum fee to properly dispose of computer equipment.)

Computer Recyclers

Randy Weiss, Axxess Technologies
113 Industrial Blvd., Bldg. A-1, Austin, TX 78745
512-441-1100

Perce Collins, Computers for Kids
2928 Manor Rd., Austin, TX 78722
512-294-1158

Garland Luedicke, CTG Environmental
P.O. Box 200151, Austin, TX 78720-0151
512-657-5681

Rick Culleton, Discount Electronics
1738 W. Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78757
512-459-0026

Ecology Action, Austin, TX
512-322-0000

from City of Austin "At Your Doorstep," June 2003

Useful Web Sites & Phone Numbers

Balcones Civic Association

Need oak wilt or other information from a recent BCA newsletter? Just log on to www.main.org/bca and click on "Newsletters."

League of Women Voters, Austin Area

For information on the 22 Constitutional amendments on the 9/13 ballot, go to www.leaguewv.austin.tx.us or call 512-451-6710.

Credit Reporting Agencies

Need a copy of your current credit report to check for identity theft? Just contact one or more of the following agencies on the Internet: www.equifax.com or www.transunion.com or www.creditmatters.com (was Experian).

Addresses & phone numbers: Equifax, P.O. Box 105496, Atlanta, GA 30348-5496. Equifax by ph. 800-997-2493 or 800-685-1111. Transunion, P.O. Box 1000, Chester, PA 19022. Transunion by ph. 800-888-4213. Old Experian address: P.O. Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013. Experian ph. 888-397-3742.

Texas Dept. of Insurance (TDI)

Want to research homeowners insurance and find which companies are still writing new policies? Go to the TDI web site at : www.tdi.state.tx.us

22 Amendments Proposed for Texas Constitution in Sept. 13 Election

Exercise your right to vote in the Sept. 13 state-wide general election to decide the fate of 22 proposed amendments to our state constitution. Information on each of the amendments can be found on the League of Women Voters web site (see above), or can be obtained from a written copy of the League's "Voting Guide," which is placed in all area libraries prior to the election. The Voting Guide is also available at television station KVUE Ch. 24 on Steck Ave. **Early voting will be held from Aug. 27-Sept. 9.**

YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

There are many City codes and regulations in existence in Austin which are designed to support a peaceful, compatible, neighborhood environment. Various neighborhood problems can be addressed with specific City departments, as shown by the list below. This list is not comprehensive, but is a guide to help in finding support for initiating action to alleviate a disturbing or non-conforming condition on your street.

During your quest for information and action, you may be confronted with having to contact several different departments or city agencies to find the appropriate person to answer your questions. Agencies want to help, but they have organizational responsibilities which sometimes compromise their ability to assist in a specific situation. You may be transferred several times to different people in different departments. There is no "one-stop resource" in the City of Austin. The main thing to remember is to write down names and phone numbers of the people to whom you have been referred, so that you can follow up later about the specific problem.

What follows are some situations or problems which can be pursued with various City departments. Note that phone numbers for many of the appropriate departments are listed in our BCA newsletter on p.2. Also, in the government "blue pages" section of our yellow pages telephone directories, under the "City Government" main heading, is a section entitled "Complaints," which contains many useful telephone numbers.

Common Neighborhood Problems

Loose dogs; leash law for dogs	Violations of deed restrictions and covenants
Fence codes (max. height, materials)	Building codes for additions & renovations
Noisy neighbors	Hazardous materials storage
Speeding and traffic signs	Tree limbs on power lines
Parking of vehicles in yards	Occupancy restrictions for unrelated residents
Dead animal pick-up	Detached storage building codes
Abandoned or inoperable vehicles	Potholes in streets
Storm sewer blockage	Dumping
Weeds & trash on private or city property	Trespassing
Deer removal (Parks & Wildlife Dept.)	Firecrackers

Jack Jennings, Treasurer

Put Your Plumbing on a 'Fat-Free' Diet

Many of Austin's sewage overflows are caused by grease blockage. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered Austin to eliminate sewage overflows caused by grease and aging sewer lines by Dec. 2007, or face serious fines. The Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP) has begun an extensive initiative to repair or replace old sewer lines to meet the EPA deadline.

You can help protect homes, yards, etc., from sewage overflows by keeping sewers fat free:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. Grease comes from meats, butter, margarine, food scraps, sauces and dairy products.
- Place grease in the garbage in a plastic bag or other sealed container (to prevent bugs).
- * Use a strainer in sink drains to prevent food scraps from going into the garbage disposal.

To report sewer overflows, call 512-972-1000.

from "At Your Doorstep," Nov. 2002