

Balcones Civic Association
P.O.Box 26864
Austin, Texas 78755-0864

www.main.org/bca

Summer 2003 Newsletter

BCA Traffic Committee Spurs Crackdown on Speeders

The BCA Traffic Committee has been extremely active this year in trying to find solutions to the perpetual speeding problems on two of our main arteries, Adirondack Trail and Wildridge Dr. In early April, with approval of the BCA Exec. Committee, the Traffic Committee enlisted the services of one of the Deputy Constables in Precinct 2 to conduct "directed patrols" on both Adirondack and Wildridge in an effort to reduce the severe speeding problems on both streets. Results of these patrols are listed below. This project was undertaken by the BCA Traffic Committee because of so many requests for action, and because the Austin Police Dept. has been stretched so thin since 9-11-01, due to increased homeland security programs and a shortage of officers.

Results Traffic citations (speeding tickets) and warnings given in early April for violations of the 30 mph speed limit on Adirondack Trail and Wildridge Dr.: speeding tickets on Adirondack Tr. = 6; speeding tickets on Wildridge = 11; warnings on Adirondack = 4; warnings on Wildridge = 1. Speeding tickets were issued for speeds > 40 mph; warnings were given for speeds between 30 and 39 mph.

We are pleased to note that the "directed patrol" program in our area has now been taken over by the Police Dept. after a lot of hard work by Officer James Hellums in conducting traffic monitoring studies that have shown some of our local streets do have excessive speeding on them. We also want to recognize the members of the BCA Traffic Committee who have expended so much time and effort on this project the past 12 months: Belinda Herrera, Bob Howell, Bob Latsha, Sam Smith, and Ann Trentin.

We Need to Talk ...

Recently, there have been a few situations where communications between concerned residents and the BCA Executive Committee could have been improved. Good communications are especially necessary in instances where residents would like help from the BCA on zoning, development, etc. The City of Austin is required to send notices of proposed zoning changes, sign ordinance variance requests, etc., to residents whose properties lie within 300 ft. of the subject property. However, the City is *not required* to notify the BCA of all proposed zoning changes, etc. For a specific zoning or sign variance request, residents should not assume that the BCA has received the notice. If you want our help in opposing a proposed zoning or sign ordinance change, we need to hear from you. This is also true of other issues such as traffic problems, crimes, etc. Let us know what your concerns are. We may not always have an immediate answer/solution, but we can probably suggest a City employee or Dept. to call.

For zoning issues or any item to be discussed at an imminent public hearing (e.g., a hearing of the City Planning Commission, Sign Review Board, City Council, etc.), residents need to contact Mary Tannahill, Jack Jennings or Tom Arbuckle. For other items, please contact your Sector representatives or a BCA officer. Our phone numbers are on p. 2; e-mail addresses are listed on our web site. For an item that is a long-term or long-standing problem, please write a letter to the President of the BCA and mail it to our official address. **Please help us** to preserve our excellent quality of life here in NW Austin.

Beverly Kimbrough

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

June 18, 2003	7:00 PM
July 16, 2003	7:00 PM
Aug. 20, 2003	7:00 PM

BCA Officers 2002-2003

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
	Bill Pierson	343-9122

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		
Bill Gardner		345-1343
Beverly Kimbrough		372-8713
Sam Robertson		343-7659

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS (updated)

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.)	

BCA Website is Now Up-to-Date!

Thanks to a new webmaster, **Karen Fardella**, the BCA website is now current and is being updated on a regular basis. It also contains links to many other useful websites. Log on and check it out! Many thanks to Karen for all her hard work.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR AREA ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Senator, District 14

Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos

Capitol 3E.18

P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78767

Off. 512-463-0114

www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/members/dist14

State House of Representatives, District 48

Rep. Todd Baxter

Capitol Office Extension E2.802

P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78767

Off. 512-463-0631 FAX: 512-236-1065

www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist48/baxter.htm

Courtesy Beverly Kimbrough

Vandalism at Westover Hills Church of Christ Feb. 25

Police need your help in identifying suspects who vandalized the Westover Hills Church of Christ on Mesa Dr. on Feb. 25. This was the day when most Austin residents were iced in and classes were canceled for area schools. The vandals threw knives into the walls and ceiling of the family room, foyer and baptistery, coated the worship center with white powder from fire extinguishers, and smoked pot in one of the rooms of the church. They also cooked food and ate it on communion trays, and did other acts of vandalism. Cleanup of the white powder from the fire extinguishers was a massive job and cost the church in excess of \$60,000. If you have any information regarding this vandalism, please contact our area APD liaison, Officer James Hellums, at 974-5554 or FAX # 974-1280.

Useful Web Sites & Phone Numbers

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:

www.equifax.com or www.transunion.com or www.creditmatters.com (was Experian).

Texas No-Call List

Sign up to limit telemarketers from calling your home for three or five years. Cost is \$2.25 or \$4.80, respectively. To sign up on-line or print the consumer registration form to mail in, just log on to the site at: **www.texasnocall.com** The phone number is 1-866-896-6225.

Junk Mail and Telemarketing Calls

To stop receiving junk mail and telemarketing calls for up to five years, write the Direct Marketing Assn. (DMA) and request to be deleted from their customer mailing lists.

To stop junk mail write:

Direct Marketing Assn.
Mail Preference Service
P.O. Box 643
Carmel, NY 10512

To stop telemarketing calls write:

Direct Marketing Assn.
Telephone Preference Service
P.O. Box 1559
Carmel, NY 10512

Website for the DMA: **www.dmaconsumers.org**

Travis Central Appraisal District

To look up appraisal values for properties near you, log on to **www.traviscad.org**.

Better Business Bureau, Austin area: Call 512-445-2911 or visit **www.centraltx.bbb.org**

Volunteers Needed for Trash Pick-up on Spicewood Springs Rd. West

We commend resident **Douglas Riley** and his family for single-handedly trying to keep trash picked up on the west-bound side of Spicewood Springs Rd. between MoPac and Mesa Drive.

They are now requesting some help once per month in doing this much-appreciated job of helping to beautify and preserve our area. If you can spend an hour or so per month picking up trash, please contact Doug at 437-8876 (bus.) or at rileydm@earthlink.net Thanks!!

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P.O. Box 26864
Austin, Texas 78755-0864

The Balcones Civic Association

Purpose: The BCA is a neighborhood organization which encourages orderly community development and growth, and seeks to preserve and improve the quality of life in our area. The organization was founded in 1967 and has operated continuously since then.

BCA Executive Committee: Composed of approximately 20 people who are residents of this area and who were elected to serve on the Executive Committee at one of the last two annual meetings. The term for each Exec. Committee member is two years. Officers are elected in October of each year from the members of the Executive Committee.

Current Newsletter Editor: Mary M. Tannahill

BALCONES CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 1– December 31, 2003

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ **Work Phone** _____

E-Mail _____ **FAX** _____

Enclosed is my \$10 residential dues payment _____

Enclosed is my special donation of \$ _____ **to support traffic calming & other projects**

What community subjects interest you? _____

Would you be interested in helping to address them?

Mail this form and your check to: Balcones Civic Assn., P. O. Box 26864, Austin, TX 78755-0864