

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

www.main.org/bca

Summer 2006

Newsletter

FOCUS ON CRIME PREVENTION

Editor's Note:

We are fortunate to live in an area that is generally peaceful, where the incidence of crime is relatively low, especially for violent crime, which includes murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. However, we cannot afford to lower our guard, especially as many property crimes are committed in our geographical area each year, including burglary, theft, and auto theft.

As we move into summer, we move into a time when many of us will be going on vacation. Children will be out of school, and running in and out of the house to play. Some of you will be moving, and will open your homes for showings and open houses. It is during this season that we especially need to be cautious about putting our homes and ourselves at risk for crime.

Here is a VACATION CHECKLIST, courtesy of the Austin Police Department:

1. Lock all doors, including the garage door. (Check your exterior door to make sure the hinges are on the inside, rather than on the outside of the door.)
2. Lock all windows, including basement and garage windows.
3. Cancel all deliveries such as mail, newspapers, food services, etc. (or arrange for a neighbor pick up all of your mail and newspapers while you are gone).
4. Arrange for someone to pick up all of the handbills, doorhangers and throw-aways while you are gone.
5. Never leave a note on the door that would indicate your absence.
6. Arrange to have the lawn cut while you are gone.
7. Let a neighbor know where you can be reached in the event of an emergency.
8. Place a light or two on automatic timers.
9. Remove ladders from sight and secure them in a safe place.
10. Never "hide" keys under doormats or flowerpots (or similar places).
11. Secure items such as jewelry, furs, cameras, credit cards and checkbooks
12. Arrange for a house-sitter, if possible, or for a neighbor to keep an eye on your property and report anything suspicious to police.
13. Adjust blinds to make your home appear occupied.
14. Ask a neighbor to leave his or her car parked in your driveway, or in front of your home.
15. Leave a radio on just inside your doorway. Lower the ringer tone on your telephone.

Please join us!
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 21, 2006 7:00 PM
July 19, 2006 7:00 PM
August 23, 2006 7:00 PM

BCA Officers 2005-2006

President	Tom Arbuckle	454-9003
Vice President	Stanley Moos	345-4594
Secretary	Rotating position	
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
& Ann Trentin	346-6974
Elizabeth Gunter	343-1218
Susan Joiner (Editor)	340-9943

Sector 2

Joe Makeever	345-0800
John Rhodes	345-0778
Carol Stapper	342-1865
Amy Welborn	351-9391

Sector 3

Tom Arbuckle	454-9003
Watson Howell	346-6042
Jack Jennings	231-1032
Rahel Kahlert	345-4704

Sector 4

Cecil Jones	346-1819
Stanley Moos	345-4594

At-Large Representatives

Thomas Hudson (webmaster)	527-9972
Dixie Sims-Turnbow	346-6089
Gwynn Carpenter	231-0869

Advisors

Jim Hooser	345-0817
Bill Pierson	343-9122

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Non-Emergency number

31

Main Switchboard	974-500
WebSite www.cityofaustin.org/police	
Northwest Area Command	974-550
Abandoned Vehicles	280-007
Auto Theft Info (H.E.A.T. & VIN etching)	974-571
Crime Stoppers	472-847
Graffiti Removal	974-102
Community Liaison Office	974-470
Traffic Office	974-578
Victim Services	974-503

CITY OF AUSTIN

Main Switchboard	974-200
WebSite www.cityofaustin.org	
Animal Control	972-606
Dead Animals (Solid Waste Services)	494-940
Dogs running loose	972-606
Flooding Complaints	974-335
Garbage Pickup (Solid Waste Services)	494-940
Handicapped Curb Ramps	974-642
Home Chemicals Collection	974-434
Illegal Dumping	494-940
Mosquito Infestation	972-569
Night Watchman Lights Installation	505-761
Noise Complaints	31
Pothole Complaints or obstructions in roadway	440-844
School Sidewalk Safety	974-724
School Zone Light Malfunction	457-485
Stop Signs	457-488
Street Light Installation	505-761
Street Light Repair (Austin Energy)	505-761
Street and Bridge Repairs	440-844
Street Signs Down	457-488
Traffic Signal Malfunction	457-485
Weeds & Trash on private or city property	972-560

Watershed Protection Dept.

974-255

Call to report environmental spills or deliberate dumping
 (e.g. dumping of used motor oil, etc.)

Austin Police Department Northwest Area Commander's Forum

APD management discusses recent crimes & arrests, and solicits input from attendees regarding neighborhood crime and quality of life concerns. Interesting and informative.

Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2006, 7:00 PM
Covenant United Methodist Church
4410 Duval Road

IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION (Guarding Your Social Security Number)

Identity theft has become increasingly (and alarmingly!) common. With the help and input of First State Bank, we offer these suggestions for protecting your social security number:

Question: When should I give out my Social Security number?

Answer: Your employer and financial institutions need your Social Security Number (SSN) for wage and tax reporting purposes. Other businesses may ask you for your SSN to do a credit check if you are applying for a loan or signing up for utilities. Sometimes, businesses simply want it for general record keeping. If someone asks for your SSN, ask:

1. Why do you need my SSN?
2. How will my SSN be used?
3. How do you protect my SSN from being stolen?
4. What will happen if I don't give you my SSN?

If you don't provide your SSN, some businesses may not provide you with the service or benefit you want. Getting satisfactory answers to these questions will help you decide whether you want to share your Social Security number with the business. The decision to share is yours.

Crime Report

Temperatures are rising and so are **thefts of AC Units/Compressors**, according to our APD liaison, Officer Mike Dunn. Most thefts have occurred at homes under construction; some have occurred at residences. (Thieves are after copper wiring, which has gone through the roof in pricing.) If you see anything suspicious, please call 911.

Stolen Rims/Tires: Another hot item is wheel tires and rims, mostly from Honda and Acura's. Officer Dunn advises residents to keep their cars in their garage.

Speaking of the garage, **you can protect yourself from theft largely by keeping your garage door closed.** Officer Dunn says that leaving the garage door open is the main cause of theft in our neighborhood.

Let's Crack Down on Speeders!

Once every month, thanks to BCA officers, Ann Trentin and Belinda Herrera, the BCA has hired a law enforcement official to ticket speeders and other traffic violators on Wildridge Drive and Adirondack. **Unfortunately, the BCA is too short on money to continue this beneficial practice. We need your contributions, however small!** Consider joining the BCA. Your \$10.00 contribution will help keep the BCA running, and help keep our neighborhoods safe. (See back page for member enrollment form.)

The Balcones Civic Association

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. The first BCA President was **Jack Kelley**, who still resides in our area.

CAMPS FOR KIDS

If you have children at home for the summer, you may be wondering how to keep them occupied. Here is a smattering of local kids' camps, courtesy of Land America Austin Title. (For a complete list, please email Becky Hopkins: bhopkins@landam.com.)

Arts & Crafts/Music

Dougherty Arts School	Ages 3-12	512-397-1458
Austin School of Music Rock & Jazz	Ages 8-19	512-331-7666
Bee Cave Art School	Ages 5-14	512-263-0138
Hilltopper Music Camp	Ages 6-12	512-428-1297

Dance & Gymnastics

Alisa's Dance Camps	Ages 6-12	512-327-2150
KidsDance (Dancers Workshop)	Ages 3-12	512-349-7197
Tapestry Dance Summer Prog.	Ages 9-18	512-474-9846
Tinka's Dance Camp	Ages 5-12	512-251-9161

Variety Camps

Forest Creek Country Camp	Ages 5-12	512-244-1500
Camp Doublecreek	Ages 4-13	512-255-3661
Spicewood Country Day Camp	Ages 4-10	512-346-2992
Splash-Splash Summer Camp	Ages 4-12	512-477-7178
Wet & Wild Adventure Camp	Ages 8-15	512-892-2224

BALCONES CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 1– December 31, 2006

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