

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

[www.main.org/bca](http://www.main.org/bca)

## ***Winter 2005*** ***Newsletter***

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF BCA ANNUAL MEETING SEPT. 21, 2004**

An interesting and varied program was presented at the September annual meeting, including information about urban wildfires and urban deer and coyotes. A sample of information given by the various speakers is listed below.

#### **Randy Farrar - Wildlife Biologist, Texas Cooperative Extension Service– Wildlife Services Dept.**

[When Mr. Farrar spoke to us, there was no active coyote management program in effect in Austin. However, during the past two months, this situation has been rectified. Travis County has contracted with the Wildlife Services Dept. of the Texas Cooperative Extension Service to provide a coyote management program in our area.]

- Coyotes are very territorial in nature, with each family needing its own space, and each male/female combination returning to its own space. A coyote will attack a dog to protect its space. Each female coyote has 5-6 pups per year, born in March- June. The parent coyotes are very aggressive this time of year in protecting the pups.
- Coyotes are not normally shot or trapped in urban areas. Consequently, urban coyotes do not perceive humans as threats.
- To prevent attacks on dogs and cats: 1. Don't provide any food for coyotes. 2. Throw a rock or stick at a coyote to harass it. (Cayenne pepper spray also works.) 3. Keep cats inside, especially at night. 4. Fenced yards help protect dogs. However, coyotes can climb chain length fences, like dogs.

#### **Penny Nixon—Game Warden, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.      Office: 389-4848**

- Some coyotes have rabies. Coyotes are also very smart. If you see menacing behavior by a coyote in your area, call 311 to report it.
- City regulations prevent a person from discharging a firearm within the city. Bows and arrows are also prohibited. If a coyote is trying to attack you or your dog, you should call 911 for immediate help. Just remember, though, that police officers will be reluctant to shoot a coyote within the city limits because of the tremendous amount of paperwork involved in reporting the discharge of a police firearm.

(for more information from the annual meeting go to p. 4)

**BCA Monthly Meetings**

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

**Feb. 16, 2004      7:00 PM**  
**March 16, 2004    7:00 PM**  
**April 20, 2004    7:00 PM**

**BCA Officers 2004-2005**

President	Tom Arbuckle	454-9003
Vice President	Louise Epstein	502-0300
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
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		340-0030
Rick Bradstreet		338-9907
Stanley Moos		345-4594
Bill Walters		231-0866

	At-Large Representatives	
Sam Robertson		343-7659

Advisors:	Jim Hooser	345-0817
	Bill Pierson	343-9122

**USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS****AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

<b>Non-Emergency number</b>	<b>311</b>
Main Switchboard	974-5000
WebSite	<a href="http://www.cityofaustin.org/police">www.cityofaustin.org/police</a>
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	<a href="http://www.cityofaustin.org">www.cityofaustin.org</a>
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

<b>Watershed Protection Dept.</b>	<b>974-2550</b>
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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, Feb. 8, 2005 7:00 PM

**Location:** Westover Hills Church of Christ  
8332 Mesa Dr.

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

### Update, MESA-GREYSTONE UTILITY PROJECT

Staff members of the City of Austin Public Works Dept held a meeting Jan. 12 at Doss Elementary School to update residents of the Northwest Hills area on the progress of the Mesa/Greystone transmission mains project. Recall that the goal of this project is to improve water capacity to over 1,000 NW area residents by installation of additional water transmission lines along Mesa and Greystone Drives in the area between Spicewood Springs Rd. and Far West Blvd. Existing water lines will also be cleaned after the new lines are operational.

The day before Thanksgiving, after approximately 80% of the project had been completed, an unexpected thing happened: the here-to-fore reputable contractor ceased to answer phone calls from City staff, and abandoned the construction site. Shortly afterward, Public Works was informed that the contractor had filed for bankruptcy.

#### Current Status; Work to be Completed

The bonding company for the City has taken over responsibility for the remainder of the project. This company has hired a consultant to re-bid the project to completion. Prospective contractors are being interviewed. A new contractor should be in place by late February. Barricades will be back up after the new contractor has been chosen. New pipe is in the ground from Greystone to Far West, and has been pressure tested. About 200 linear feet (LF) of new 24" pipe needs to be laid and pressure tested on Mesa Dr. and wet connections need to be made at Far West Blvd., Deepwoods Dr., Cat Hollow, Honeycomb Rock and Greystone Dr. (A wet connection is when the contractor turns off the water in the old line, drains

Mesa-Greystone Utility Project Update, cont.

the line, and connects the new pipe to the old one.)

Additionally, a 48" pressure tap at Spicewood Springs & Mesa will be done, as well as a pressure tap at Far West & Mesa. (Pressure tap is when they drill into an existing line to make a connection.) Bacteriological testing of the new line will be done after pressure testing is completed. Bacteriological testing will be done on the [isolated] new line and must be done several times to assure that the new line is free from bacteria. Each test takes almost one week to complete. During these tests, it will appear that no work is going on at the project site. The old 20" water transmission line running along the east side of Mesa Dr. will be isolated and cleaned after the new 24" line is operational. Paving of the affected streets will be the last item completed. Traffic on Mesa Dr. will be affected again from Spicewood Springs Rd. north approx. 200 feet. Two-way traffic will be maintained, but there will be lane closures, especially during paving.

Information from Patricia Wadsack, Project Mgr.

### New BCA Webmaster Sought

The BCA is seeking a volunteer to take over the responsibilities of updating our already-established BCA web site. Our current webmaster has moved to Virginia and no longer has time to manage the web site. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Mary Tannahill at e-mail [m2tannahill@att.net](mailto:m2tannahill@att.net) The job should not take more than one-to two hours per month. Please consider helping!

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

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM SEPT. ANNUAL MEETING

Approximately one month after the BCA annual meeting, with its focus on coyotes in our area, the City of Austin put together a bulletin about how residents can deal with urban coyotes to help keep them at bay. You can access this bulletin by going to:

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/bm\\_urban\\_coyote\\_info.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/bm_urban_coyote_info.htm) You can also get to this information by going to Brewster McCracken's web address on the City web site, which is:

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/mccracken.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/mccracken.htm) then scroll down to "Urban Coyote Education and Prevention."

### Everett Thomas—Austin Fire Department

With regard to potential urban wildfires, our western Austin canyons are hot spots. We are number three in the U.S. for the potential of having an urban forest fire, just behind southern California and parts of Colorado. People living in or near forested canyons need to clear out the ground cover, dead branches, and dead trees from around their houses. We also need to prune overhanging trees from our houses. Our neighbors need to do the same. What we need around our houses is "defensible space." The Austin Police Dept. cannot, and will not, put its firefighters and equipment in danger by trying to fight a fire in and around a house that they feel is not "defensible."

The Austin Fire Dept. has distributed a bulletin entitled "Living in the Urban-Wildland Interface," which describes "defensible space" and gives a formula for determining what that space should be for a structure of a specific height. Defensible space needs to increase if a home is built on a hill, because fire travels more rapidly uphill than on flat land. Firefighter Thomas recommends that we read the bulletin carefully and apply the suggestions given therein so that our urban homes in beautiful forested terrain can be saved in case of wildfire.

## BALCONES CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 1– December 31, 2005

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*