

# Mesa Park MESSENGER

Volume 18, Issue #3

August/September 2011

## National Night Out 2011

Neighborhoods throughout Austin are invited to join with thousands of communities nationwide on **Tuesday, October 4, 2011** to participate in the 28th Annual "National Night Out." APD officers, EMS and fire fighters will join City Council Members and other city officials in attending neighborhood parties throughout Austin.



### NNO 2010 Award Winners for Category 1 = 300,000+ Population

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. San Antonio, TX           | 6. Los Angeles, CA         |
| 2. Minneapolis, MN           | 7. Arlington, TX           |
| 3. Houston/Harris County, TX | 8. Columbus, OH            |
| 4. Austin, TX                | 9. Chesterfield County, VA |
| 5. Los Angeles County, CA    | 10. Travis County, TX      |

National Night Out is designed to:

1. Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
2. Generate support and participation in crime efforts
3. Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations
4. Send the message that your neighborhood is a safe place to live
5. Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

National Night Out is a great opportunity for citizens, law enforcement and other public safety officials to join forces. Events are planned to promote crime prevention and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen the police/community partnership. We encourage neighborhoods to come together and send the message that we are all working together to prevent crime and keep our neighborhoods safe. On October 5, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., residents are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, EMS, and fire fighters. Officers will be out in neighborhoods attending block parties from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Events in the past have included cookouts, block parties, parades, flashlight walks, contests, and youth activities. You are limited only by your imagination. If you register your party, you MAY receive a visit from public safety officials. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a visit by police, fire or EMS because we typically have over 400 registered parties.

For the past 14 years, Texas had led the nation in citizen and police involvement. Your participation in the Austin area National Night Out will show neighborhood strength, increase the police officer/citizen bond and help to make our community a safer place to live.

*If you want the Police, Fire, EMS, or Code Compliance to visit your street, we need your information before September 10th.* Each street that participates needs to have a "Host"/Contact Person, and needs to finalize participation by **September 10, 2011** with the Mesa Park HOST Contact, Susan McVicker

& the Mesa Park's National Night Out Captain, Gina Mattiza. **Please email them at: [susanmcy@att.net](mailto:susanmcy@att.net), with Subject Line: NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** and Susan will get the required info from you, and all applications will be submitted to APD together. **The DEADLINE for ALL applications is: September 10, 2011.**

Every street that participates will have the opportunity to request a 1st Responder stop by their street for a brief visit: Police Officers, Firefighters, or EMS. This is a great way to teach our kids at an early age how important these people are in our community!

**Please be aware that unforeseen circumstances may limit the number of 1st responders available to attend even those parties that register early.**

Each street participant will also receive a National Night Out bag that contains crime prevention information, posters, party invitations, and other items to use at your party.

For additional info, please go to [www.ci.austin.tx.us/police](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police)

**Let's make a Mesa Park IMPACT and come together as a neighborhood and community by participating in the 28th Annual National Night Out!**

***This is done block party style in the front yard and can be a potluck, BYOM (bring your own meal) or a simple meet and greet. Mark your calendars and start planning the fun!***

Street	Host
Duval	NEEDED
Wind River	NEEDED
Natrona/Natrona Cove	NEEDED
Dull Knife	Gina Mattiza
Powder River	NEEDED
Elk Park/Elk Park Circle	NEEDED
Fast Horse	NEEDED
Big Trail/Big trail Cove Big Trail Circle	NEEDED
Running Deer	NEEDED
Blackhawk	NEEDED
Shoshone	NEEDED
Running Fox	NEEDED
Beaver Creek	NEEDED
Gray Fox	NEEDED
Santa Cruz	NEEDED
Spotted Horse	NEEDED
Zuni	NEEDED
Red Cloud	NEEDED
Pyreneese	NEEDED
Catalonia	NEEDED
Murcia	NEEDED
Toledo	NEEDED

# Your Neighborhood Realtor

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Email: susanmcv@att.net

Resident of Mesa Park

28 years as a Realtor in Austin, TX

21 years with Coldwell Banker United Realtors

*Between 5/1/2011 to 8/10/2011. Ten properties "Sold" avg price \$197,675. Ten properties currently active, avg. \$193,110 with avg. 77 days on market. No properties under contract as of 8/10/2011. Contact me if you need further information.*

## Commander's Forum

The Austin Police Department breaks the city into four regions, and then each region is further broken down into sectors. Mesa Park Neighborhood belongs to Region 2 and we are in Sector Adam 2. Each sector has its own District Representative within the police department. Our district rep is Officer Mike Whetston (Michael.whetston@ci.austin.tx.us, 512-974-5553.) For community needs, he is a good first point of contact. Of course, in an emergency situation, 911 should ALWAYS be your first call.

The Commander for Region 2 holds a community meeting once every quarter to discuss crime trends and to update citizens on what is happening in the police department. At the quarterly Commanders Forum on July 12, the police shared a comparison of the reported crime statistics from April – June of 2011 and compared them to the same of April – June 2010. According to the charts they shared, violent crime in our region has decreased 24%, and property crime has decreased 12%.

The police department also announced the creation of a new city-wide burglary unit. The department is really trying to focus on cracking down on burglary of residence crimes. If your property is burglarized, they will send out an officer (instead of just taking a report by phone.) You will get contact information regarding how to follow up on your case. They are hoping that by centralizing the officers who work on these crimes, they will be able to find trends and be better able to apprehend the suspects.

The police department is continuing to offer the "Neighborhood Watch Train the Trainer" series. This is a great series (3 nights, about 1 1/2 hours each night) for any citizen who is interested in better protecting their home. They talk in very plain language about what you can do to improve your own personal safety. The next series will be Aug. 9, Sept 13., and Oct. 11.

The next Commander's Forum will be on October 11 at the beginning of the 3rd session of the Train the Trainer series. You can attend just the forum (about 30 minutes) then leave, if you do not have time to stay for the whole meeting.

# the Quarries

ALL MESA PARK NEIGHBORS WELCOME!

Want a FUN way to exercise?

Join us for an encouraging fitness class!

Members are free and  
Non-members are only \$3/class!

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:30 a.m.	Shape N Tone					Basic Pilates
9:00 a.m.			Shape N Tone			
9:30 a.m.	Step Senior-Cise		Senior-Cise		Bootcamp Senior-Cise	Intermediate Pilates Spin
5:30 p.m.		Step		Spin		
6:00 p.m.	Strength n Stretch			Cardio Impact		

Check out our website to see more of what we have to offer!



www.hpbc.org/quarries



### Special Fitness Membership Rates

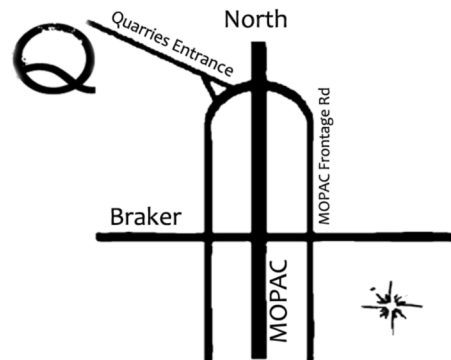
for our Mesa Park Neighbors!

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:

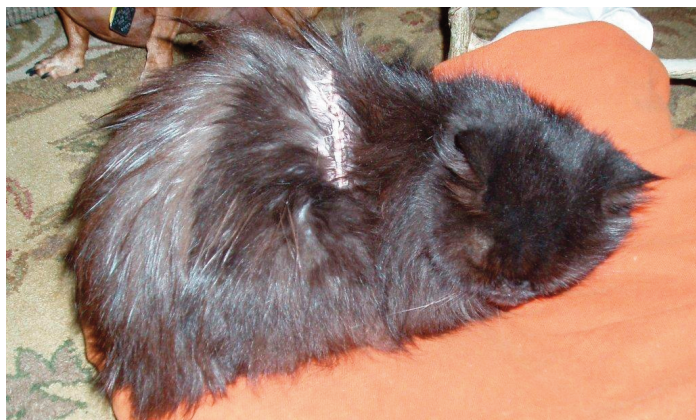
From Braker go north on the service road. The service road will turn to the left under Mo-Pac Expy and you want to be in the right hand lane. Immediately after crossing under Mo-Pac, take the first right into The Quarries. The Fitness center is toward the back of the complex behind the fields.

## Moo's Big Adventure

by Pati Dukett, Powder River Rd

The morning of June 15 started like any other morning except for one thing, my black Persian cat, Moo, did not greet me in the kitchen. I looked and called, no Moo. When I noticed her food had not been touched my heart stopped. I knew she was either not in the house, or worse, had died. I turned my house upside down looking for her. She was nowhere to be found. And the worse part, I was leaving town the next day. I retraced my steps from the night before. It was trash day the next morning so I had gone in and out of the house numerous times. Obviously, Moo had scooted out the door. She has never been outside in all her 12 years, never. That morning I went up and down my street looking and calling and stopping everyone I saw asking if they had seen a black fluffy cat with gold eyes. The answer was no. I put up flyers on everyone's door on my street and at the park and my dear friend, Laurie, posted flyers all around the neighborhood. I also put a notice on Mesa Park Yahoogroups. A few days later while I was out of town, Jonathan on Dull Knife, called and said he saw my cat. My heart jumped for joy! He put out a live animal trap with food to try to catch her. Over the next few days he saw her come and go but could not trap her. And I received many calls and emails from neighbors saying they saw her. The night I got back in town my neighbor, Greg, and I went up and down Dull Knife. There she was, sitting in someone's driveway! I ran to her and called but she ran off. My heart sank. For the next 2 weeks she hung out on Dull Knife, living in the sewers and eating food the sweet people on Dull Knife left for her. I continued to get calls from concerned neighbors and I looked for her every morning and night. On July 6, I received a call from Cathy, on Dull Knife, saying she had my kitty! I ran over to her house and there was Moo. I picked her up and she buried her head under my arm and purred and purred. We all cried. Cathy said she sat on her porch and softly talked to Moo while she ate, then gently picked her up. After running wild for 3 weeks I could not believe Moo let her pick her up. As it turned out, Moo had been severely injured. She had a large open wound on her side and was extremely emaciated. I did not know how serious the wound was until I got her home and bathed her. We both tried to sleep that night, the only way Moo would sleep was with her head resting in my stretched out hand. At 7:00 a.m. the next morning we were at the vet. Dr Woods, Balcones Animal Hospital, said he has never seen such a horrible wound on a cat, and the cat lived, yikes! Dozens of stitches and staples later, from backbone to belly, Moo was put back together. Dr. Woods said it looked like a large animal got a hold of her (coyote?). It is now 2 weeks later and Moo is back to normal; greeting me in the kitchen, fussing at me for more food, and sleeping on my copy machine. I wanted to write this letter to let everyone know how it "took a village" to get my cat back. It would have never happened without the kindness of my Mesa Park neighbors, especially Cathy, Jonathan, and Greg. I truly believe Moo would not have survived if it weren't for these wonderful people. They will always be Moo's Angels!

A Big Thank You to Everyone!



# BACK TO SCHOOL!

## Davis Elementary

**Ice Cream Social:** August 18, 5:00 pm (Check on your purchase or pick up your Davis t-shirts, pre-order your yearbook(s), meet your teacher, check out the class roster, join PTA, learn about different volunteer opportunities while enjoying ice cream)

**First day of school:** August 22, 7:45 am

**Back to School Night for parents:**

PreK - 2nd grade: August 31

6 p.m. Learn about volunteer opportunities (Cafeteria)

6:30-8 p.m. Principal's Message (Cafeteria) followed by meetings in the individual classrooms

3rd-5th grade: September 1

6 p.m. Learn about volunteer opportunities (Cafeteria)

6:30-8 p.m. Principal's Message (Cafeteria) followed by meetings in the individual classrooms. Note: 5th grade will remain in cafeteria and will include a TBarM information session.

## AUSTIN-AREA TREE CARE DURING A DROUGHT

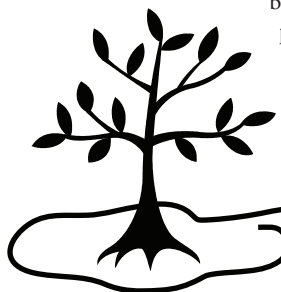
*From Tree Folks and City of Austin.*

**Our trees are valuable and provide shade. They need to be watered on a regular basis.**

**How to Water:** Use a soaker hose or slow drip out of an open hose. Slow application rates are best.

**How Much to Water:** Water slowly and deeply once every two weeks. Trees need 1 inch of water per week in a 2-3-foot area that straddles the drip line. The drip line should be aligned with outer edges of branches. Water 2 to 3 feet wide around the drip line. Allow the ground to dry between waterings, but always water in the same place to keep the same roots refreshed. Avoid watering the area around the trunk of mature trees.

**Mulch your Trees:** Mulching can be more important than watering. Spread mulch 2 to 4 inches away from the trunk of the tree.



# Fire Ant Awareness

AgriLife Extension • Texas A&M System

The second week of September is Fire Ant Awareness Week. While there hasn't been a lot of fire ant activity lately due to weather, be aware that they will be back.

When it's hot and dry outside, people may have fire ant activity and get stung but not see mounds to treat. Under hot and dry conditions, fire ants dig deep into the soil to find cooler temperatures and to be closer to the water table. Fire ant mounds often return after rainfall or with regular irrigation.

When temperatures are at the sweltering range, it's a good idea to bait for fire ants since the

mounds may not be seen. Fire ants will still be out to forage for food and will pick up bait as a food and take it back to the colony to share with others. It is best to bait in the early morning or evening when temperatures are cooler.

Make sure that bait is fresh—it should have a nutty smell—and that it does not get wet from rainfall or irrigation. Read the label for the proper application rate and use the correct application equipment. Also, consider sharing some bait with your neighbors so their fire ants don't move into your yard.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out her blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the 2nd annual Mesa Park Watermelon Social on Saturday, June 25! We had about 40 neighbors come out to mingle with each other and enjoy cool, sweet watermelon. It was a great success, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

## 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](mailto: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**, [susancmv@att.net](mailto:susancmv@att.net) or 917-3018

Neighborhood Meeting Coordinator: **Melissa Conant**, [celestembrown@gmail.com](mailto:celestembrown@gmail.com)

Board Members: **Cindy Lindsay**, 346-2232, [TreeTopProp@prodigy.net](mailto:TreeTopProp@prodigy.net); **Gina Mattiza**, [gmattiza@austin.rr.com](mailto:gmattiza@austin.rr.com); **Terry Tevis**, 736-8469, [mpnapres@yahoo.com](mailto:mpnapres@yahoo.com); **Claudia Ullrich**, [claudia.mpna@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.mpna@gmail.com); [paulp.mpna@gmail.com](mailto:paulp.mpna@gmail.com), **Mary Kay Tiernan**, [mkbarber1@gmail.com](mailto:mkbarber1@gmail.com)

*Mesa Park Messenger* design: **Julie Kennedy**, [julie@digitalcitydesigns.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!