



T · H · E

Bryker Woods

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Newsletter of the Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association, Austin, TX

Vol. 17, No. 2, July 1999

Susan Handy and Matt Richter, Editors

National Night Out

August 3, 1999

On Tuesday, August 3, join your Bryker Woods neighbors to participate in **National Night Out**. This annual event, which takes place across America, is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, to generate support for and participation in local anticrime efforts, to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police and community partnerships, and to send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

As a local neighborhood association, we feel it is important to participate in **National Night Out**. Neighbors are encouraged to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors, and gather in front of Bryker Woods Elementary School, 3309 Kerby Lane, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. This is a wonderful time to meet your neighbors and enjoy free frozen yogurt treats courtesy of the TCBY on Crawford land.

Last year, seventy-five Bryker Woods neighbors gathered to visit, meet new neighbors, and enjoy TCBY treats. They also met with local firefighters and inspected a fire engine. We hope that local law enforcement officials, firefighters, or other emergency personnel will be able to visit again this year.

National Night Out is a great way to build neighborhood unity and strengthen policy-community partnerships. We hope to see you there!



Current BWNA Officers and Board

Please feel free to raise neighborhood issues and concerns with anyone on this list.

President: Bill Woods (454 - 9180)

Vice President: Joyce Basciano (454 - 0207)

Secretary: Alexandra Spradley (322 - 9869)

Treasurer: David Boenisch (453 - 0304)

Newsletter Editors:

Susan Handy and Matt Richter (480 - 0800)

Members at Large:

Jerry Balaka (453 - 1072)

Greg Chico (482 - 8755)

Michael Curry (453 - 7512)

Betty Gross (453 - 3504)

Tom Shefelman (477 - 9176)

Edward Tasch (478 - 1337)

Barbara ten Brink (482 - 0532)

Irene Pickhardt (451 - 6820)

Donald Zappone (477 - 4395)

Seiders Springs Park

A message from Bill Woods, BWNA President

Very few neighborhoods are fortunate enough to have their own park. We are one of the fortunate neighborhoods. The little park area behind Bryker Woods Elementary School, bordered by 34th Street and Shoal Creek, is the focal point of many enjoyable times by our neighbors, joggers, and walkers who pass through. This past year it has undergone extensive beautification since Charles S. has dedicated himself to planting beautiful gardens along the trail. If you haven't seen these beautiful gardens, I encourage you to do so soon.

Recently, however our park has seen controversy. While the park is designated as an "on leash" area for those who walk their dogs, some allow their pets to run free. As a dog owner myself, I know how much fun it is to watch my dog when she runs and frolics freely. I don't know why, but it's just something about watching your dog have fun off leash which brings joy and helps us to have fun, too. Maybe it's that moment of watching our dog, as it becomes "free" of all constraints, if only for a few minutes.

But, regardless of how much pleasure having our dogs off leash brings, it's still against the law, and it sometimes poses serious problems. In our neighborhood park it poses the problem of destruction of the beautiful landscaping as the dogs run through the flowers and native plants, sometimes stopping to do their business among the flowers. Their additions to the flowerbeds are not very attractive, and can be very offensive. The second potential problem is that dogs off leash have been known to attack children and adults. Oh, I know, we all say, "my dog would never do that!" But we cannot with certainty predict exactly what any dog will do when it's not under direct control. I have been told that parents with small children are particularly reluctant to take their children to parks where dogs are permitted to run free.

We are not the only neighborhood with this conflict of interest. Immediately north of us, on

the School Annex, neighbors there are facing the same problem and are looking for solutions.

The City's Park and Recreation Department (PARD) has posted Seiders Springs Park as an "on leash" area and PARD Police and APD are warning residents that they will begin handing out citations (up to \$200 per ticket) to those who let their dogs run free. If you want to allow your dog to run free, please call PARD to locate areas where this is permitted. I suggest that everyone apply the basic principle of consideration when using our neighborhood park, whether it's to walk your dog, take your children on a picnic, jog along the trail, or take time out for meditation in a very special place.

Neighborhood Watch

Although Bryker Woods is one of the safest neighborhoods in the city, we are not immune to crime. On the nights of June 26th and June 28th, the tires on as many as 30 vehicles were slashed. The vandals struck mostly around the school and along Jefferson Street. The Austin Police Department increased patrols in the area in response. As of this writing, they had no suspects, however. To help fight all kinds of crime, Officer Tim Atkinson recommends that residents install flood lights with motion sensors. Please call Officer Atkinson at 480-2121 if you have questions or information that might lead them to the vandals.

A Bryker Woods Resident... Your Bryker Woods Realtor.



Leslie Whitsit
JB Goodwin Realtors
502-7652 (office)
796-7463 (mobile)

Tree Mulching Day at Shoal Creek, July 17, 1999

A group of neighbors and Bryker Woods Park users are getting together to mulch some of the 200 trees planted in February 1998 during Tree Week on Shoal Creek. Mulching will help our park's little trees get through the long hot summer. We could use more help and equipment. **Won't you please join us Saturday, July 17, beginning at 6:30 am at 34th Street and Shoal Creek.** Come when you can. We plan on working until noon, or until all the mulch is gone. Please bring wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes and/or pitchforks. If you would like to help out in any way (labor, equipment, refreshments) **please call Joyce Basciano at 454-0207.** Please leave a phone number with your message so that Joyce can contact you in case there is a change in plans.

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Events Calendar

The BWNA Newsletter will include an events calendar in each issue to keep residents informed of upcoming activities. If you have submissions for the Calendar, send them to Susan Handy and Matt Richter at 1701 W. 30th St.

July 17: Tree Mulching at Shoal Creek. 6:30 am to noon
(see opposite column)

August 3: 2nd Annual BWNA sponsored National Night
Out Ice Cream Social.

Additions to the Bryker Woods Community

Just moved to Bryker Woods? Had a baby? Gotten married? Share these events with your neighbors. Contact Matt Richter (480-0800 or 1701 W. 30th Street).

**A M E R I C A N & E U R O P E A N
F I N E A R T**



Gallery at Shoal Creek