



# Angus Valley Advocate

March 2009 #7

WWW.MAIN.ORG/AVANA

## ANGUS VALLEY AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### Board News

### Annual meeting held *John Baylor, President*

Angus Valley held its general meeting and election of officers for 2009 on October 21, 2008, at Davis Elementary with over 100 of the residents in attendance.

Among the items on the agenda was a bylaw change to clarify the election process of Board members of the organization.

John Baylor recapped the progress of the association for 2008 among which was the Police Appreciation Night in conjunction with Mesa Park and Balcones Woods associations, reports by Chuck Pace on the traffic and crime issue in the area and the four Yett Park Clean up efforts reported by Brad Arndt. The Yahoo Group Message Board now has over 90 participants, three newsletters were published in 2008, and plans are underway to include more links to expand the website. A first for Angus Valley was the area-wide National Night Out at Davis School on Oct. 7th.

AV now has a welcoming committee for new residents headed by Karen Evertson, and is working with a sign committee to better communicate with the residents on upcoming projects.

The board will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the Milwood Library to get feed back from the residents or residents may call any board members to discuss items they have an interest in. The board still seeks volunteers to help with upcoming projects.

See page 3 for survey results.

### Dear Champions Forest Neighbors:

It is with great pleasure that we deliver to you the most recent edition of the *Angus Valley Advocate*. We hope that you will find the publication informative and that you will look forward to receiving future editions. As neighbors, we have common goals and interests which can be enhanced by sharing information. We invite you to offer suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed in the Advocate and would certainly welcome written contributions for the publication. Please contact Marissa Little at 217-2309 or [marissa@earthtech.org](mailto:marissa@earthtech.org) with your ideas.

**ANGUS VALLEY ADVOCATE** is published by:  
Angus Valley Area Neighborhood Association (AVANA)  
P. O. Box 200542, Austin, TX 78720-0542

SEE [WWW.MAIN.ORG/AVANA](http://WWW.MAIN.ORG/AVANA)

### AVANA BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Position	Phone
John Baylor	President	258-2511
Bob Zane	Vice-President	
Jim Lorance	Treasurer (AV liaison)	250-5177
Stacey Peterson	Secretary (bylaws)	250-9570
David Brown	Member (traffic & safety, code issues, long-term issues, AV liaison)	627-5780
John Bramlett	Member (yahoo group)	258-3789
Chuck Pace	Member (traffic & safety)	257-9636
AV Ootsey	Member	918-2410
Judy Pooler	Member	
Marissa Little	Member	
John Bramlett	Member	
Gaye Thompson	Member	

### CITY CONTACT NUMBERS

See [www.ci.austin.tx.us](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us) for Austin information

**Emergency** phone number – Help is needed ASAP.....call 911

**City of Austin services** for dangerous situations (pot holes, brush in right of way, low-hanging limbs, blind corners, illegal dumping, missing street signs, etc. call 311

**Street Light Malfunction** .....call 505-7617

**APD AV District Rep.** Sr. Patrol Officer Dunn.....974-5553

# AVANA Code Enforcement Policy *Gaye Thompson, Board Member*

Our board has adopted a formal policy regarding City of Austin Code Enforcement in our neighborhood:

*It is against the policy of the AVANA Board of Directors for a board or committee member to participate in any official capacity regarding City of Austin code enforcement activity, to include letters to residents and communication with City of Austin code enforcement officers to report violations. To further clarify this position, the board hereby rescinds all prior motions and resolutions that conflict with this statement.*

Individual property owners who are concerned about code violations

can contact the city directly and the city will investigate reports of possible zoning violations. To report a violation, the city recommends you take the following actions:

1. Call the Code Enforcement Division of the Solid Waste Services Department by dialing 311

2. Make as complete a report as possible including the description of the suspected violation, complete address, date and time (if applicable), how long violation has been occurring and any other pertinent information for the investigator

3. When you make a report, you will be given a reference number. If

you wish to follow-up on your call, refer to this reference number when calling the investigator back.

4. Examples of code violations include dangerous structures, sub-standard living conditions, tall weeds and grass (over 12 inches), illegal dumping, accumulations of trash and debris, improper storage of RVs and boats, illegal home businesses, signs in the right of way, tree limbs in the right of way, stagnant water, garbage carts left at the curb, improper location of adult-oriented businesses and work without permit.

# Crime in our neighborhood *Chuck Pace, Board Safety & Traffic*

After our recent annual neighborhood meeting, many residents expressed their concerns about crime in Angus Valley. In fact, this may be understandably the number one concern of most residents of AVANA.

Of course we all want to live in a safe neighborhood. But do we? According to statistics provided by the Austin Police Department, we do. While APD doesn't rate one neighborhood against another (one reason being they don't want to encourage bad guys to go where there is less crime and therefore less police protection) an analysis of recent crime statistics provided by APD shows our neighborhood's crime rate (see box).

So, what are we to conclude from this? The first thing to notice is how low these numbers are. The average is 1.5 reports per month. This is really low. (By the way, if you

have witnessed but not reported a suspicious event – shame on you! APD schedules resources based on need. Please call to report suspicious activity.)

APD tracks and sends an appropriate response based on reports they get. Of course, no community is immune to crime. But in AVANA we have many advantages in our favor

- Limited access/egress to our community
- Concerned residents that have already formed several organized Neighborhood Watch Groups
- Neighbors that care about neighbors – even without an organized group.

Over the last 20 months, excluding issues such as reckless driving, credit card abuse, forgery and other non-location specific crimes of us, here are the numbers:

<b>5/10/07-2/10/08</b>	<b>2/10/08-11/08/08</b>
Burg of Vehicle.....3	Burg of Vehicle.....2
Auto Theft.....1	Criminal Mischief.....4
Criminal Mischief.....4	Family Disturbance.....2
Family Disturbance .....1	Harassment .....1
Public Intoxication.....1	Suicide .....1
Stalking.....1	Suspicious Person .....1
Theft.....2	Theft .....3
Unauth. use of Vehicle .....2	Theft/bicycle.....1

## Outgoing Mail Security Reminder

Outgoing mail has been removed from neighborhood mail boxes with checks stolen and attempts to cash altered checks. Please be vigilant by not putting your outgoing mail in your curb-side mailbox with the red flag up. This is a signal that invites unwanted criminal activity into our neighborhood and could jeopardize the security of your mail.

**Want to start  
a Neighborhood  
Watch?  
Contact Chuck Pace  
rcp54@hotmail.com  
257-9636**

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## Survey Results *Marissa Little, Board Member*

**T**hank you to everyone that filled out a survey at the general meeting. The results will help guide the board in the coming year to address the concerns of our neighbors.

The most frequently cited issue was crime and safety. Chuck Pace has written an article included in this newsletter addressing this issue.

Second on the list are issues with Yett Creek and Riata Trace Park. However, the neighborhood is divided on the issues concerning our parks. This is an important concern in our neighborhood and I strongly encourage anyone who would like to voice an opinion to contact Marissa Little ([marissa@earthtech.org](mailto:marissa@earthtech.org), 217-2309). While the City of Austin has reported that they have no immediate plans for our parks, we are keeping a close eye on the issue. The board will not advocate a position to the City without consulting the neighborhood at large in an appropriate way.

Another hot issue is the problem

with speeding in the neighborhood. If you walk in our neighborhood, you will be very aware that many people disobey the speed limit. The board has looked into this matter in the past and the Austin Police Department does not have the resources to set speed traps in our area. The board is currently looking into other options and welcomes any suggestions from the residents.

The last major issue involves the look of the neighborhood and code violations. The board has not actively pursued code violations for the better part of this last year and does not plan to pursue them. Included in this newsletter is the formal policy adopted by the board in January 2009.

And there were several other issues that only a few people expressed concern about.

One person asked that a "Do Not Block the Intersection" sign be erected at Duval and West Cow Path. I'm pleased to report that the board has already been instrumental

in getting that sign in place. However, it is a bit too far from the intersection and that might be why it doesn't appear to be as effective as hoped. The board has been in contact with the city to ask to move the sign.

Two people asked that the newsletter be only distributed online. While this would save AVANA a few hundred dollars a year, it would prevent our neighbors who do not own computers from receiving important news. We are considering ways to change our methods of delivery but we need to make sure everyone has access to the newsletter.

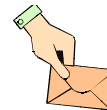
Again, thank you to everyone that filled out the survey. If you have any further concerns to discuss with the board, feel free to contact us or come to a board meeting.

### **AVANA DUES:**

*This newsletter, signs for Neighborhood Watch programs, post office box rental, supplies, printing, and other items are paid for by your dues to AVANA. Many neighbors paid their dues last year and some gave extra. Our voluntary dues are \$10 per year per household. If each of our 450 plus households contributed \$10 each year we could move forward with additional projects.*

*So please join us by paying your second-year dues. Send a \$10 check to:*

AVANA  
PO Box 200542  
Austin, TX 78720-0542



**Do you have a business that could serve your neighbors?**

You can advertise your business to your neighbors and help support this newsletter by purchasing an ad.  
Call Marissa Little at 217-2309 or John Baylor at 258-2511.

**Rates per newsletter** are: biz card ad is \$15 (3.5x2 inches), quarter page ad is \$30 (3.5x4 inches)

**Jessie Dingler Massage**

One half hour free with first visit only  
From relaxation to pain relief

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[www.jessiedingler.com](http://www.jessiedingler.com)

**Mike Burns**

**Certified Personal Trainer**

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12501 West Cow Path • ph 335-4613  
[mbscripts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mbscripts@sbcglobal.net)

*Specializing in personal training  
for both men and women*

**Have Your Home Cleaned**

References from your  
Angus Valley neighbors

**Jessica (20 years experience)**  
**415-4092**

**AVANA**  
**PO Box 200542**  
**Austin, TX 78720-0542**

*Help keep Angus Valley Unique!*



Foot and hand  
delivered by one of  
your neighbors in  
order to save on  
postage

**To Residents in Angus Valley:  
From Duval Road to Parmer  
Lane, east of US 183 to the  
railroad tracks**