



Angus Valley Advocate

September 2009 #8

WWW.MAIN.ORG/AVANA

ANGUS VALLEY AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board News

General Meeting and Election of Officers

John Baylor, President

The Angus Valley Area Neighborhood Association will hold its annual General Membership Meeting on October 20, 2009, from 6:30 -8:30 pm at Davis Elementary. All positions on the board are open for election in accordance with the bylaws of the association. The bylaws provide for anyone wanting to be on the ballot to provide their name to the Secretary 45 days before the meeting. Anyone not meeting the deadline may still be nominated from the floor on the night of the meeting.

AVANA continues to experience changes in its make up of the board. The positions on the Board of Directors gives residents or owners in the area an opportunity to serve the citizens of Angus Valley. Both the office of President and Vice-President and perhaps others will be open for residents to assume these positions and provide new leadership to our area.

The agenda for the meeting will be published on the AV website five days prior to the meeting at www.main.org/avana or www.angus-valley.org.

The agenda will include a report on the activities of the association during the year, opportunities for residents to address the meeting, and the election of officers for 2010, and a list of persons whose names have been submitted for positions on the board and such other matters that may appropriately come before the meeting.

Announcing election of officers for AVANA

Anyone desiring to hold an office on the AVANA board can submit their name to the secretary of the association by Sept. 5, 2009, at the following address or hand delivery to the secretary. Indicate the position on which you wish to serve.

AVANA Secretary
P.O. Box 200542
Austin, Texas 78720-0542

Should you wish to recommend someone for the board, please confirm with that person their interest in serving before doing so.

Neighborhood Watch Program

The AVANA Neighborhood Watch Program is headed by Chuck Pace. The program is a way for residents to "look out for each other" when time is of the essence. If you are interested in organizing a Watch Program on your street contact Chuck at rcp54@hotmail.com or call him at 257-9636. Once a Watch Program for your street is identified and a brief instructional meeting held, a NW sign can be installed on your street.

Yahoo Group

Residents of Angus Valley are welcome to join the AVANA Yahoo group. To receive an invitation to join contact John Bramlett at jjbramlett@aol.com with your name, address, phone number, email and contact information. You will receive an "invitation" and will require you to log on with a name and password. If you have questions or need help signing up, call John at 512-258-3789.

UPRR Siding Update

In 2008, the Union Pacific RR submitted a site plan for the McNeil Siding Improvements which would allow an additional set of tracts along the UPRR (MOPAC) tracts from North of Parmer Lane to several hundred feet North of Duval Road. The site plan review has been ongoing by the city. The UPRR and their engineers have been meeting the various issues raised by the city. For those interested in following their progress a website has been set up for this purpose. Log onto www.ci.austin.tx.us/devreview/index.jsp The Case No. is SP-2008-0564D. Nikki Hoelter is the case manager for the project and can be reached at 974-2863. Earlier AVANA asked to be an interested party to stay abreast of the review. The most recent review was done in July 2009. The deadline for final completion of the review has been extended by the city to Nov. 21, 2009.

Stage 2 Watering Restrictions

Weather takes toll on yards, and trees

Residents are cautioned to not only keep an eye out for grass which is suffering under this summer's unusually hot and dry temperatures, but to water shrubs and trees. The loss of a major tree could not only mean a loss of shade, but also value to your landscape.

Beginning Monday, Aug. 24, the Austin Water Utility (AWU) will enact Stage 2 Mandatory Watering Restrictions because of the exceptional drought in Central Texas and recommendations made by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).

Stage 2 Watering Restrictions are in line with the 2009 Drought Contingency Plan authorized by Council earlier this year. The plan states the City Manager may order additional water restrictions when the combined lake storage levels of Lakes Travis and Buchanan is less than 900,000 acre-feet. That level was reached on Aug. 12.

Austin residents and businesses may only water one day a week:

- Residential customers (4 or fewer units) with addresses ending in an odd number may water on Saturday.
- Residential customers (4 or fewer units) with addresses ending in an even number may water on Sunday.
- Commercial and multifamily customers (including common areas of condominiums or homeowners' associations) with street addresses ending in an odd number may water on Tuesday.

- Commercial and multifamily customers (including common areas of condominiums or homeowners' associations) with street addresses ending in an even number may water on Friday.
- You may schedule your system no earlier than 12:01 a.m. on your designated water use day. All cycles must be complete by 10 a.m. that same day.
- You may water with a hose-end sprinkler, a soaker hose, or drip irrigation only from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. on a designated outdoor water use day.
- You may water with a hand-held hose or bucket any time of day and any day of the week.

Stage 2 Mandatory Water Restrictions

- Requires residential and commercial water customers to follow a once-per-week watering schedule.
- Limits automatic irrigation systems to operation between the hours of midnight and 10 a.m. on designated days.
- Limits residential vehicle washing to designated days and times and prohibits charity car washes.
- Automatic fill valves for pools or ponds should be turned off.
- No outdoor fountains should be used except to provide aeration for aquatic life.
- No water to be served at restaurants unless requested by the customer.
- No washing of sidewalks, driveways, parking areas or other paved areas except to alleviate an immediate health or safety hazard.

To ensure that restrictions are followed, the AWU Water Conservation staff will begin stepped-up, around-the-clock enforcement and take a zero-tolerance approach to violations of the restrictions. Violating mandatory watering restrictions is a Class C misdemeanor with fines up to \$500. To report water waste, residents should call 3-1-1. For more information on water conservation visit www.WaterWiseAustin.com.

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Angus Valley Area Neighborhood Association (AVANA)
P. O. Box 200542, Austin, TX 78720-0542

SEE WWW.MAIN.ORG/AVANA

AVANA BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Position	Phone
John Baylor	President	431-4911 (cell)
Bob Zane	Vice-President	
Jim Lorance	Treasurer (AV liaison)	250-5177
Stacey Peterson	Secretary (AV liaison)	250-9570
David Brown	Member (parliamentarian)	627-5780
John Bramlett	Member (yahoo group)	258-3789
Chuck Pace	Member (traffic & safety)	257-9636
AV Ootsey	Member (parks)	918-2410
Judy Poole	Member	
Marissa Little	Member	
Gaye Thompson	Member	

CITY CONTACT NUMBERS

See 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, etc.,call 311
- **Street Light Malfunction**call 505-7617
- **APD AV District Rep.** Sr. Patrol Officer Dunn.....974-5553

Advice from a burglar

There are several Internet sites that have security tips. The following is from "13 Things a Burglar Won't Tell You."

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.

2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.

3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste ... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.

4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.

5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.

6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.

7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom—and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.

8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and

you forget to lock your door—understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.

9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)

10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.

11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.

12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at faketv.com.)

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs crimedoctor.com; and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book *Burglars on the Job*.

Thinking About a Home Office?

The City of Austin's Home Occupations Requirements (§ 25-2-900) are listed below:

(A) A home occupation is a commercial use that is accessory to a residential use. A home occupation must comply with the requirements of this section.

(B) A home occupation must be conducted entirely within the dwelling unit or one accessory garage.

(C) Participation in a home occupation is limited to occupants of the dwelling unit, except that one person who is not an occupant may participate in a medical, professional, administrative, or business office if off-street parking is provided for that person.

(D) The residential character of the lot and dwelling must be maintained. A home occupation that requires a structural alteration of the dwelling to comply with a non-residential construction code is prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to modifications to comply with accessibility requirements.

(E) A home occupation may not generate more than three vehicle trips each day of customer-related vehicular traffic.

(F) The sale of merchandise directly to a customer on the premises is prohibited.

(G) Equipment or materials associated with the home occupation must not be visible from locations off the premises.

(H) A home occupation may

not produce noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odor, heat, glare, fumes, electrical interference, or waste run-off outside the dwelling unit or garage.

(I) Parking a commercial vehicle on the premises or on a street adjacent to residentially zoned property is prohibited.

(J) Advertising a home occupation by a sign on the premises is prohibited. Advertising the street address of a home occupation through signs, billboards, television, radio, or newspapers is prohibited.

For a list of businesses prohibited as home occupations, check the City of Austin website and search § 25-2-900.

Bike Path Cut-Through

Message from resident (Gaye Thompson) on a new cut-through from our neighborhood into Riata Park.
(Gaye is a member of the board of AVANA, but this is written in her personal capacity alone)

In May 2009, the AVANA board was notified that our neighborhood has been included in the City of Austin's Bicycle Master Plan. Without notice from the City of Austin of an official forum to discuss the matter, we have been told that we are now on track to ultimately have a cut-through to Riata Park in our neighborhood. The bike paths will run throughout Austin and come to us from Duval Road passing through our neighborhood to a new cut-through into the park behind the fence at the end of Jessica Lane.

As a general rule I personally support safe bike paths, but I strongly do not support a cut-through into Riata. Assurance had been given that there were no plans in the works to cut through into Riata Park and that "nothing further will [would] be done without first scheduling a meeting with the resident, the appropriate neighborhood associations and other stakeholders."

This did not happen. With no further notice, the city has effectively created a plan which ultimately will require a cut-through from Angus Valley into Riata. Having lived in Angus Valley since 1992, I have long been aware that limited access has kept this neighborhood fairly crime free throughout the years. I believe everyone needs to know about this development, in order to have the opportunity to express their thoughts to the City Council members and city staff. Here is the contact information:

Mayor - Lee Leffingwell
E-mail: Mayor Lee Leffingwell

Phone: (512) 974-2250
Fax: (512) 974-2337

Place 1 - Council Member Chris Riley
E-mail: Chris Riley
Phone: (512) 974-2260
Fax: (512) 974-6075

Place 2 - Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez
E-mail: Mike Martinez
Phone: (512) 974-2264
Fax: (512) 974-1887

Place 3 - Council Member Randi Shade
E-mail: Randi Shade
Phone: (512) 974-2255
Fax: (512) 974-1888

Place 4 - Council Member Laura Morrison
E-mail: Laura Morrison
Phone: (512) 974-2258
Fax: (512) 974-1886

Place 5 - Council Member Bill Spelman
E-mail: Bill Spelman
Phone: (512) 974-2256
Fax: (512) 974-7655

Place 6 - Council Member Sheryl Cole
E-mail: Sheryl Cole
Phone: (512) 974-2266
Fax: (512) 974-1890

Nathan Wilkes
Engineering Associate
Bicycle and Pedestrian Project
Phone: (512) 974-7016
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Annick Beaudet
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Eric Dusza, Planner
Pedestrian, Bicycle & Child Safety Program
Public Works Department | City of Austin
Phone (512) 974-6504 | Fax (512) 974-7222
eric.dusza@ci.austin.tx.us

Nadia M. Barrera
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512-974-7142
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Sara Hensley, Director
Parks and Recreation Department
Phone: (512) 974-6717
E-Mail: sara.hensley@ci.austin.tx.us

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



AVANA
PO Box 200542
Austin, TX 78720-0542

Help keep Angus Valley Unique!

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



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