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# Bryker Woods

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Newsletter of the Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association

April 2009 Vol. 29

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Spring is here! It's a great time to be outdoors. Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association (BWNA) has embarked on the process of beautifying the island at 34th and Jefferson Streets. BWNA member Jerry Balaka, Vice President Derek Barcinski and immediate past President Edward Tasch have taken on the task of leading this project. Be sure to read Edward's article 'A New "Triangle Park" for Bryker Woods' on page 7. We look forward to seeing the final beautification plans Jerry, Derek and Edward will present to us.

Thinking of making your house more energy efficient? "The greenest house is the one already built. But you can still make your old house even more eco-friendly," is the word from the Heritage Society of Austin. "How to Green Your Historic Home" a three-part education series sponsored by the Heritage Society began March 30th with Part I that introduced the concepts of green building and sustainable preservation. Part II (Summer) will offer green choices for historic interiors and Part III (Fall) will offer sustainable, historically appropriate landscaping strategies. Visit [www.heritagesocietyaustin.org/GreenHome.html](http://www.heritagesocietyaustin.org/GreenHome.html) for details.

The Neighborhood Planning process continues as stakeholders decide the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) for our neighborhood. Once the FLUM is completed, the process will focus on Zoning issues. It is not too late to get involved and I urge you to do so. Drafts of sections of the Central West Austin Neighborhood Plan are at [www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/central\\_west\\_austin.html](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/central_west_austin.html). For more information contact BWNA Board Member Michael Curry at [mmediate@msn.com](mailto:mmediate@msn.com).

The City of Austin has opened the Neighborhood Assistance Center to address the needs of neighborhoods. Neighborhood Advisors Carol Gibbs and Jody Zemel have been hired to assist neighborhoods in dealing with Zoning, Ordinance and Land Development Code issues. They will be introduced to the public at the Austin Neighborhoods Council meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd, 7 pm at the Austin Energy Headquarters, 721 Barton Springs Road.

Burglaries (mostly of vehicles) and vandalism continue to increase throughout West Austin. Cord Dover, BWNA's Social and Public Safety Chair, recommends following the Austin Police Dept. (APD) tips at [www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/autotheft.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/autotheft.htm) to help prevent burglary of vehicles. Cord has been working with APD Officer Troy Schouest to set up a Neighborhood Watch Program. Officer Schouest invites all of us to join his Yahoo group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/centralwestdr/>. The West Austin Neighborhood Group will sponsor a West Austin-wide Crime Prevention Meeting later in April. The neighborhoods of Central Austin (including BWNA) through the auspices of the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) are putting together a more proactive neighborhood approach in preventing and fighting crime. I recommend reading APD's "Who's Watching Your Neighborhood" at [www.ancweb.org/city\\_notices.htm](http://www.ancweb.org/city_notices.htm) for more information.

The BEST crime prevention is a good neighbor! Thank you for keeping a watch out for each other.

Joyce Basciano, President  
Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association

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## BRYKER WOODS PLAYGROUP

All neighborhood kiddos and their caretakers invited! Get to know other fun families at our informal playdates. All ages welcome to meet at the Bryker Woods Elementary school playground. April 7 - May 26 we'll meet from 3:30PM-5PM on Tuesdays; after school is out, we'll meet 9:30AM to 11AM Tuesday mornings. These playdates are open to all West Austin neighbors - bring your own picnic blankets and snacks. We will schedule three or four playdates over the summer for incoming Bryker Woods Elementary Kindergartners to get to know each other. Contact Lesli Mosser at [mosser@austin.rr.com](mailto:mosser@austin.rr.com) if you would like to learn more or get involved in planning. See you on the playground!!

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## DELIVERY: IT'S NOT JUST FOR PIZZA ANYMORE!

by Celeste Cooke Hubert

The fabulous central location of Bryker Woods makes it easy for local family-owned businesses to deliver directly to our doors. From soup to dry cleaning – here's a good sampling:

☐ **Reid's Cleaners** will pick up your dirties and return them clean – with NO delivery fee and the same low price the store offers! They are in Bryker Woods every Monday and Thursday. Call to set up your account: 420-8320 [www.reidsdrycleaners.com](http://www.reidsdrycleaners.com)

☐ **The Soup Peddler** will bring more than just his fabulous soup: quiche, salads, entrees, veggies, even desserts can be delivered to your Bryker Woods front door every Monday between 1pm and 5pm. \$15 minimum food order for delivery. [www.SoupPeddler.com](http://www.SoupPeddler.com)

☐ [www.FarmHouseDelivery.com](http://www.FarmHouseDelivery.com) will bring you a bushel of Austin's freshest local produce – plus cheeses, eggs, grass-fed meat and sweet favorites such as Texas French Bread and Miles of Chocolate – every Tuesday. Specific preparation tips for the fabulous vegetables are an added bonus. One bushel minimum, no delivery fee, and order online by Thursday at 12 noon.

☐ **Hill-Bert's Hamburgers** boasts some of Austin's best milkshakes, onion rings, and cheeseburgers that others drive miles to savor. Bryker Woods residents get them delivered for free! Call 452-EATS (3287). [www.Hill-BertsBurgers.com](http://www.Hill-BertsBurgers.com)

☐ **Dishalicious** will bring you an array of succulent desserts or a whole week's worth of healthy, delicious, locally-bought pre-cooked meals. 45 seconds in the microwave and you're a gourmet! \$25 minimum order but no delivery fee. Call 912-6784 or order online Fridays by 5pm for a Wednesday delivery–via their own coolers. Easy, healthy and YUM! [www.Dishalicious.com](http://www.Dishalicious.com)

☐ **Greenling Grocery** will deliver locally grown and organic groceries – everything from barbeque sauce to a bison ribeye to a freshly-picked bunch of basil. Order online before midnight on Monday for your Thursday Bryker Woods delivery. [www.Greenling.com](http://www.Greenling.com)

☐ **The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy**, for a \$7.50 surcharge, provides same-day delivery 5 days a week, as well as “Caring Beyond Prescriptions” – call owner Sharon Moore at 454-2653 between 9am and 6pm for all that ails ya! [www.MedicineShoppe.com](http://www.MedicineShoppe.com)

☐ [www.LonghornDelivery.com](http://www.LonghornDelivery.com) delivers 22 different restaurants and an assortment of fun drinks (from Red Bull to Mocha Frappuccino) for a low \$2.99 delivery charge. Order online or call 323-0206.

☐ [www.UTXMart.com](http://www.UTXMart.com) is an online everything store – their site boasts delivery of any item from charcoal to power bars to printer paper. Delivery charges vary with total order, and no phone calls. Order online before noon for same day delivery.

☐ **Dine on Demand** delivers your breakfast, lunch or dinner from any restaurant within 10 miles of Bryker Woods. 20 “Partner” restaurants have lower delivery fees and online menus; all deliveries require a \$15 food order. [www.DoDNow.com](http://www.DoDNow.com) or call 973-0333.

*Know of other cool businesses that deliver to Bryker Woods? Your neighbors want to know too! Email info to [Newsletter@BrykerWoods.org](mailto:Newsletter@BrykerWoods.org).*

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# BRYKER WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## 2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

- Yes, I want to become an active member of the BWNA       Please renew my active membership

I am enclosing my **2009** annual dues for:     \$100 Bryker Woods Supporter     \$50 Bryker Woods Friend  
 \$10 regular household membership     \$5 retiree household membership     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form along with a check to: Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association,  
c/o Bill Woods, 3211 Funston St., Austin, TX 78703, or you may drop it off in the drop box on his front porch  
(thank you for not putting in the mailbox).

Please indicate your interests below:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications/Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Planning        | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Parks & green spaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social gatherings         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Sidewalks | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Safety                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning issues             | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic District matters    |  |
- I/my family would enjoy helping deliver the newsletter or other neighborhood information in my area!

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### LANDSCAPING WITH LIGHT BY BILL WOODS

Lights are both a blessing and a nuisance, and can even be hazardous to our health. So says National Geographic (Nov. 2008): "Light pollution in the broad sense refers to any nighttime artificial light that shines where it's not needed. This nocturnal brightness can disorient humans and a host of other animals, confounding eyes and biological rhythms that evolved in a world without such light."

The article continues, "**WASTED LIGHT IS WASTED MONEY**, and the switch to more conscientious lighting can put not just the night sky overhead in the black but also balance sheets. The International Dark-Sky Association figures that about a third of outdoor lighting is wasted because of poorly designed and inefficient fixtures."

At the same time, lights in the yard can be one of the most esthetically pleasing landscape additions, from the low-wattage glowing walkway lights illuminating our pathway to those which highlight our beautiful

trees. And, of course, there are those we attach to our homes or garages to protect us from unwanted visitors. For security, the Austin Police Department recommends using Wireless Motion Security Lighting that allow us to use multiple sensors with one or more lights.

Outdoor and security lighting, however, also can be a nuisance to the neighbors, especially when placed high up in the trees or on the house pointing outward, thus "illuminating" neighbors' backyards and bedrooms.

When thinking of yard lights, please be mindful of how far the light extends beyond your own property, and take your neighbors into consideration. They may not feel comfortable saying something to you if their night's rest is disrupted, but they may resent your artful "lightscaping."

It is also suggested that if using lights for landscaping, use solar or low-wattage fixtures in order to conserve electricity. Also be sure to put your lights on a timer so that they go off no later than 11:00 p.m.

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## Butterfly Gardening 101

Butterfly gardening is a wonderful way to watch the life cycle of insects and add some beauty to your backyard. The best butterfly gardens provide a wide variety of food sources for both adults and immature stages. Adults feed on nectar, so you should try utilizing plants that will provide blooms in each season as well as providing a variety of color. Larvae will eat the foliage of plants, but some are very particular about what plants they will eat. You can find some ideas of plants you can use at the bottom of the article.

It is also a good idea to provide open areas in the garden to allow butterflies to bask in the sun as well as shaded or protected areas so they may hide from the elements. Butterflies also need a water source. Using a shallow dish filled with pebbles or sand to hold water can allow butterflies to drink without the problem of drowning.

Be careful about using pesticides around your butterfly garden. Remember, butterflies are insects and can be killed by many common insecticides that are used to manage insect pests. Also, be aware of pesticide drift that may occur when applying pesticides to other areas of your yard.

Some plant ideas for caterpillars (food sources): milkweed, butterfly weed, cottonwood, poplar, willow, parsley, dill, fennel, spicebush, sweet bay, sassafras, Dutchman's pipevine, citrus, Hercules club, canna, nettles, thistles, pecans, walnuts, passionflower vines, mistletoe, legumes, hackberry, elm, shrimp plant, dicliptera, ruellia, hollyhock and snapdragon.

Some plant ideas for attracting adult butterflies (nectar sources): aster, blazing star, butterfly bush, butterfly weed, cone flower, flame bush, goldenrod, ironweed, lantana, loosestrife, Mexican heather, Mexican milkweed, Mexican mint marigold, mist flower, phlox, salvia, verbena and zinnia.

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

Before starting a butterfly garden, realize that caterpillars, the immature stage of butterflies will eat plants, so if you do not want the occasional tattered plant in your yard, you might want to skip butterfly-attracting plants.

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## Community Comings and Goings...

Russell's Bakery, a favorite of our neighbors in Northwest Hills, has moved into Jefferson Square occupying the beautiful spot that once housed Vin Bistrot. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner! One neighborhood favorite, Flying Tomato Pizza, has closed its doors after a 45% drop in business, but Austin's Pizza quickly moved in. Stay tuned for more Booming Bryker Businesses in the August edition!

**The Bryker Woods Neighborhood  
also now has a blog!**

**Visit the website**

**<http://www.brykerwoods.org>**

**& subscribe to the neighborhood RSS**

**feed and/or the**

**Bryker Woods email listserve.**

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Reflections...

by Bill Woods

In our neighborhood we recently were asked to help literally a “cat up a tree”. Poor Pudding had been chased by a dog, and didn’t stop until he was higher than the power lines of Beverly Street. It reminded me of when I was a boy, one time my Mom climbed ‘way up in a tree house my brother and I built and was afraid to come down. My father told her he was going to call the fire department to come get her down. As he headed into the house supposedly to call the fire department, my mother suddenly realized how embarrassed she’d be if that happened -- and climbed down the tree quicker than my brother or I! I just couldn’t resist telling this story which has given my family a lot of laughs over the years. BW

*Experienced neighborhood specialist and Bryker Woods resident since 1994.*



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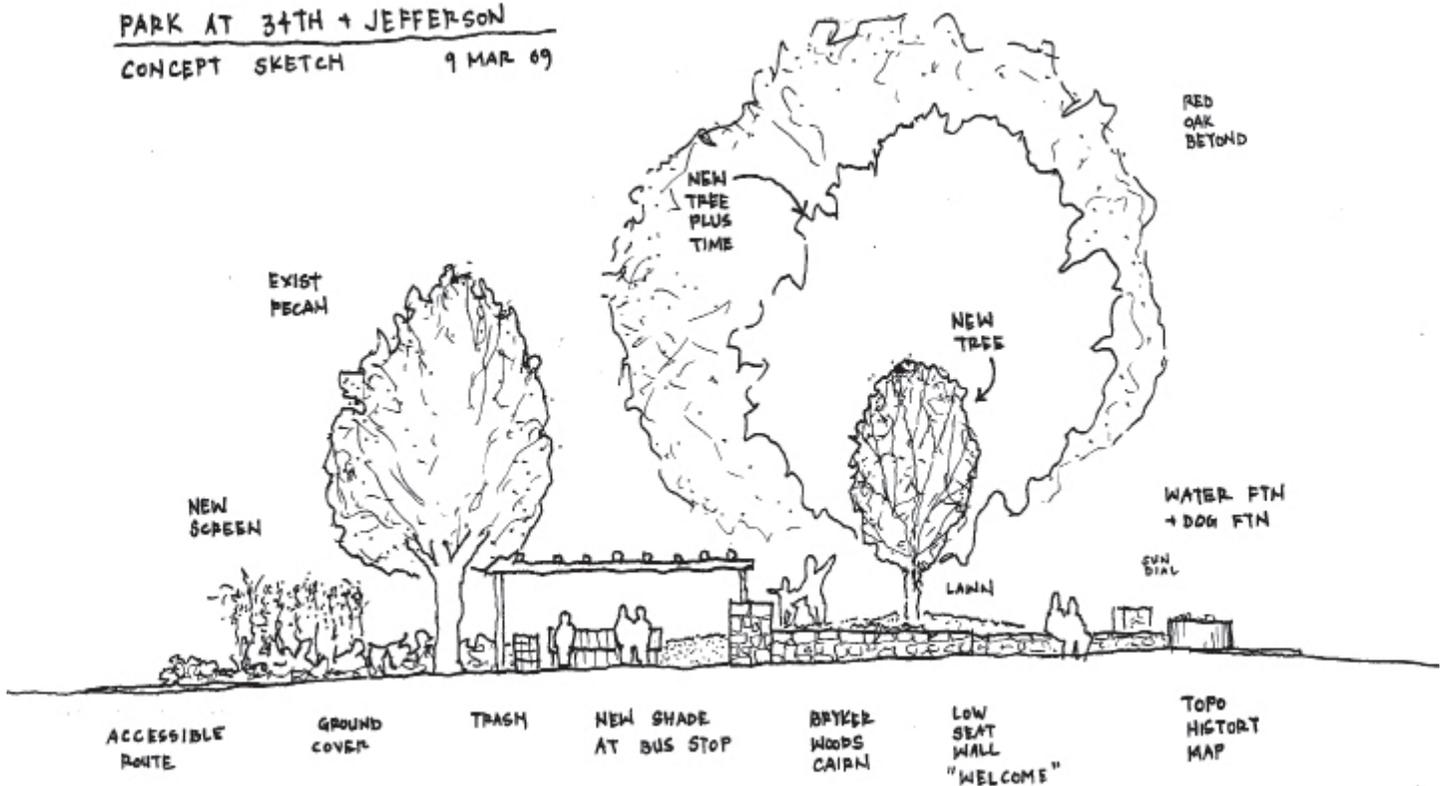
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PARK AT 34TH + JEFFERSON  
CONCEPT SKETCH 9 MAR 09



## A NEW "TRIANGLE PARK" FOR BRYKER WOODS

by Edward Tasch

Plans are progressing on the 34th/Jefferson Triangle greenspace. Thanks to the hard work of volunteer Jerry Balaka and architect Derek Barcinski, our neighborhood will have a much improved public greenspace at a major gateway into Bryker Woods. The Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association (BWNA), with the input of neighbors, has developed a set of tentative plans for the 34th/Jefferson triangle green space – location of the former grand Sycamore tree.

Improvements include  the planting of another tree  
 improvement to the bus stop  
 installation of flower beds  
 a dog waste bag dispenser  
 a drinking fountain  
 a stone bench designating "Bryker Woods Neighborhood."

Earlier this year the stump of the former Sycamore tree was ground out and in March a Burr Oak was planted. The BWNA has provided initial funding for the purchase/planting of the Burr Oak as well as the installation of a water tap. The water tap will not only provide water for the tree but also allow for convenient installation of an irrigation system at a later date. Interestingly, research of original neighborhood plat maps shows this public greenspace originally being designated as a Park. Expect to see some improvements to our small neighborhood greenspace this upcoming year - keep watch for more updates and a fund raising campaign and/or event. And when taking a walk through the neighborhood, make a visit to our very own Bryker Woods Neighborhood Park!

We Want YOU... to give us newsletter feedback. Know a Nifty Neighbor to profile? Frequent a Booming Bryker Business that you want highlighted? Want to contribute a column about our neighborhood? Spot a blatant error? We want to hear from you! Please email Newsletter@BrykerWoods.org or leave a message for the Editor at 206-4956.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN STATUS REPORT: GETTING CLOSE TO HOME

by Michael Curry

**Background.** The City's neighborhood planning process continues as a series of "Town Hall" meetings where folks who live, work or own property in the planning area -- and some who do not -- meet to discuss future land use in West Austin.

The Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association's (BWNA) goal is to make sure that the plan as a whole -- and the land use map in particular-- protects Bryker Woods so that it remains a great place to live.

**Current Status.** So far, the discussion has largely focused on land use on either side of us: west of MoPac and east of Shoal Creek. Beginning this month, the discussion will deal with land use in our neighborhood, including property on the south side of West 35<sup>th</sup> Street and the blocks between 34<sup>th</sup> Street and 35<sup>th</sup> Street near Bryker Woods Elementary School.

**Why This Matters.** The properties on the south side of W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street back-up to single family homes and the non-residential properties on Glenview and Kerbey are separated from the school and single family homes only by W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street. The height and density of future development on those properties will directly impact the livability and desirability of nearby homes and will determine the amount of cut-through traffic and on-street parking generated by businesses, as well as the look and feel of our neighborhood.

**How This Works.** At the upcoming meeting, city staff will present land use options for consideration by the group.

The options presented typically either maintain the current general land use pattern (e.g. existing neighborhood office use) or increase the intensity or density of the land use (e.g. mixed-use retail buildings). **Those present at the meeting vote** on the options and if there is a strong majority it is considered a working consensus and is adopted. Barring a change in schedule the next meeting will be:

**April 8, 2009 Land Use—West 34<sup>th</sup>-35<sup>th</sup> Street area:**

### Discussion & Decision Meeting

at 6:30 p.m. at the LCRA Red Bud Center, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., the building on the west side of Lake Austin Blvd next to the dam.

For more information you may consult the City's planning website at [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/central\\_west\\_austin.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/central_west_austin.htm) or email BWNA Board Member Michael Curry at [MCMediate@msn.com](mailto:MCMediate@msn.com).

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## Who The Heck Was “Bryker”, Anyway?...

There is no single date marking the beginning of what is now known as Bryker Woods, since our neighborhood is actually a composite of many small subdivisions (and some “resubdivisions”) which were platted at different times. The origins of the neighborhood can be traced at least as far back as **1886** when a fourteen-lot subdivision was platted within a stone’s throw of Shoal Creek. At that time, West 35th Street was labeled as “The Burnet County Road”.

By the early 1900s, The Burnet County Road had become known as State Street, perhaps because of the amount of property on the street owned by the State of Texas. Early subdivisions abutting “State Street” included Camp Mabry Heights. Many of the street names reflected a patriotic theme: Pershing and Funston Streets named after American Generals and Jefferson, Harrison and Madison Avenues named after US Presidents.

In 1935 a portion of Camp Mabry Heights was resubdivided as “Happy Hollow”, so named by its

developer Dr. “Hap” Brownlee, whose 35<sup>th</sup> Street estate is today inhabited by his great-grandnephew, Happy Harris.

The first subdivision with the name “Bryker Woods” was platted in 1936. Its name is said to have been derived by combining the first three letters of the last names of two of its developers, J.C. Bryant and McFall Kerbey. Over the next 15 years, subdivisions labeled Bryker Woods “B” and “C” and Bryker Woods Annex 1 and 2 were platted. During this period, the Woods Addition adjoining Bryker Woods School was platted, and the Westwood Ridge Addition (the area around Churchill Drive) was formed in 1940. The final subdivisions in the neighborhood were the Belmont 1 and the Belmont 2 subdivisions formed in 1951 and 1955, respectively.

Bryker Woods has served as home to such notable personalities as LBJ (in his law school days), Coach Darryl Royal, sports figure Rooster Andrews, and former Mayor/current Senator Kirk Watson, who was President of the BWNA. What a cool history for our hip neighborhood!

# Brick Oven on 35th Street

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  - Materials: \$30
  - Tutor Rental: \$5 for two weeks
  - Optional Piano Rental: \$45 for 2 weeks (includes local/no stair delivery & pickup)
- ⇒ **Instrument Advice:**
  - Students with an 88-note acoustic or digital piano with a fully weighted hammer action at home tend to be successful. Capital Music Center offers the best rental rates and sale prices to our students. A Roland digital piano with a built-in Music Tutor is the teacher recommended instrument as it provides the best tone, best touch, and best educational features of any type of piano.
  - Acoustic pianos should be tuned every 6 months when someone is taking lessons

Other Camps: "Piano Band Camps" for children who already know how to play; adult piano lessons, piano lessons for children 4.5 to 6, and Kindermusik for birth to 4



**Don't forget to visit us at [www.capmusic.com](http://www.capmusic.com) to see our other camps: Radio Disney, Guitar Hero, Motown and Jazz, Hip Hop and Broadway!**



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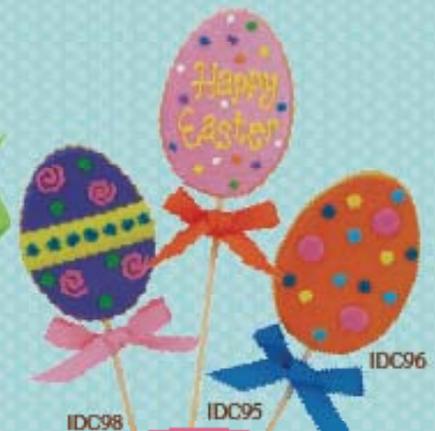
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Nifty Neighbor Profile:

## Austin's Famous Polka Dot Yard!

By Celeste Cooke Hubert



Although Bryker Woods encompasses multiple unique qualities, one attribute our neighborhood boasts hands-down is the only Polka Dotted Yard in Texas. The fun family living at the intersection of 29th and Glenview has been entertaining passers-by for years with the whimsical designs spray painted on their front lawn. From red hearts and white peace signs to brightly colored polka dots, Texas native Beth Thom is an artist by trade and has discovered the most unique canvas ever – right outside her kitchen window. Other than the occasional inebriated group of college kids using her dotted yard to play “Twister” in the middle of the night, the Thom family has had terrific feedback from their artistic experiment. "People honk and wave when they drive by," grinned Beth. "It's fun to give them a mental respite for a moment -- just make them smile." But the Thom family of six (3 kids still at home, one in college, and two busy parents) does more than just paint dead grass. As owners of the fabulous Thom's Market (1418 Barton Springs Rd., 479-9800, open Monday-Saturday, 8am-10pm; Sunday, 2pm-6pm), they are merchants of all types of food: fresh, local, organic, even gluten-free (try a very cool Organic Root Beer!). As Austinites, they pulled the kids out of school and embarked upon a yearlong tour of the world – by boat. Your Bryker Woods neighbors since 1994, the Thom family brings a breath of funky, fun and fabulously Austin air to our little community. Keep a watch for what gets painted next!

