

# Hill Country Estates and Westview Estates Community Newsletter

The Official Publication of the Hill Country Estates HOA & Westview Estates NA

Volume 2, Number 12

December 2007

## H-E-B Presents First Night Austin 2008

Explore the artist in you

[www.firstnightaustin.org](http://www.firstnightaustin.org)

First Night Austin's Mission: To provide the people of Austin and Central Texas with a free, family-friendly, public New Year's Eve celebration in which we showcase our city's unique culture through the arts.

The Vision:

- To support the visual and performing arts in Austin
- To bring visitors to Austin
- To display and celebrate the full range of cultural and ethnic diversity in Austin
- To bring our community together in a family-friendly celebration without alcohol
- To inspire creativity and hope for a New Year
- To reflect the true spirit of New Year's celebration through art and creative expression

First Night Austin is a public celebration of the arts that transforms our downtown parks, plazas, building facades, indoor lobbies, streets, and bridges into a showcase for works of extraordinary imagination by our city's emerging and established artists.

Join us on Monday, December 31, 2007 for the following:

- A Family Festival with hands-on children's activities, children's performances, and more!
- A Grand Procession that ends at City Hall with a countdown and fireworks just for kids (photos)
- Large-scale visual installations
- Evening performances of dance, music, spoken word, theater and film projections
- A Grand Finale of fireworks over Lady Bird Lake at the strike of midnight

How to get there: Bike Valet service is available at Auditorium Shores for a small donation to Austin Cycling Association. Free CapMetro bus service is available at Waterloo Park from 1:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Parking is free in the State Garages near Waterloo Park.

First Night Austin is a non-profit, 501c3 organization that is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors and supporters.

## DreamCity Development Update

*From your neighborhood DreamCity Working Group*

The DreamCity Working Group is endeavoring to check on the status of this development, and they welcome input and help from everyone. Please contact D. Armentrout ([dalomala@earthlink.net](mailto:dalomala@earthlink.net)) or Paula Jones ([pjones78746@yahoo.com](mailto:pjones78746@yahoo.com)), or speak with your Neighborhood Association representative.

## HCE HAPPENINGS

The HCEHOA Chili Cook Off was a fun time for all who attended. The decision on who made the best Chili was very close. The competitors provided such good samples that the winning order was decided by just one vote each over each entry. Here are the results: Super Star ribbon went to Kitten Blickhan and Buddy Farrell, 2nd prize went to Rod & Carolyn Klassey, 3rd prize went to Smokey & Janie Doll, and Great Effort award went to Steve Aubin and his lovely companion Sharon Mims. Everyone attending had a vote, and the neighbors who participated in judging were Beak & Marlene Warner, Dixie Schroeder, Carolyn Barkley & Tom Painter, Gary & Tammy Greear, Dan & Khai Gully, Matt & June Julian, and Ponder & Dorothy Sessums. And we can't forget the three precious children, Ethan and Aspen Greear and Hudson Mims, who loved eating Dixie's cookies. Thanks to the four chili chefs, it was a great evening. We are now thinking of having a soup cook-off sometime in January, which should be interesting.

Here's Kitten's Super Star recipe:

### FAVORITE "YANKEE" CHILI

- 1 – 2 pounds extra lean ground beef (I like mine meaty)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- one 46-ounce can tomato juice
- one 28-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 3 stalks celery chopped
- 1 green bell pepper chopped
- two 32-ounce cans kidney beans undrained
- 2 -3 Tablespoons chili powder
- one 10-ounce can Rotel tomatoes with peppers
- one 4-ounce can Hatch diced green chilis

Cook ground beef, onion, and garlic until beef is browned. Drain. Add to large stew pot containing all the other ingredients. Heat to boiling, simmer 1–2 hours, stirring as needed, or until desired thickness. (I let mine stew most of the day, stirring occasionally.)  
GOES WELL WITH QUESO AND CORNBREAD.....ENJOY ON THOSE "COLD" TEXAS NIGHTS!!!

## Important Numbers

### Hill Country Estates HOA Officers

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Catherine Toran, Vice President ..... pringleCat@aol.com  
Charlsa Bentley, Secretary & OHAN Rep  
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## Classifieds

**Want to buy:** Car seat for infant to small child, stroller (easy to work). Call Stephanie Werner @ 288-5135.

**For Sale:** Motorcycle, 2000 Honda Shadow Ace Deluxe, low miles, extra seat & footboards. \$5,500. Call 288-2989(hm) or 476-4200 (wk) (Jayne Wooten).

**Want to Buy:** Adult (small) wheelchair. Call 288-5135.

**For Sale:** Baby & Youth Furniture by Simmons in beautiful light Maple hardwood. The complete set includes baby bed w/ mattress, 3-drawer dresser w/changing top, twin bed w/matching headboard, frame, and mattress. Call for appointment, 632-9675.

## Classified Ads

**Personal classifieds** (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Hill Country Estates/Westview Estates residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail [cbentley@austin.rr.com](mailto:cbentley@austin.rr.com)

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-989-8905 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

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### **FOR SALE:** 1998 Black Mustang GT



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## CritterTalk

["CritterTalk" is a regular monthly column that contains helpful and interesting information about pets and local wild animal populations. If you have items to contribute, please send them to [cbentley@austin.rr.com](mailto:cbentley@austin.rr.com). Many thanks to Mark Bentley (HCE) for this month's column.]

### **PHEEW! My dog got skunked!**

One morning last summer, I got up in the dark when my alarm went off and, as usual, stumbled off to the front of the house to feed the dogs and get the morning started. When the dogs finished eating, again as usual I let them out in the back yard and then I went to the front drive to get the paper. I came back in, and as I let the dogs back into the house, I smelled a strong, pungent odor in the back yard.

Rosie, our brown and white mutt (as distinguished from our white mutt, Maya), took her usual opportunity to run back to the bedroom and spend some quality time with Charlsa, who was still sleeping. Now the pungent odor seemed to be all around, so I walked back toward the bedroom sniffing all the way.

Rosie beat me back to the bedroom, and when I got there Charlsa was sitting up and asking "What's that smell?" We both started searching for the source through the house, but we ultimately realized that the smell was skunk. We threw Rosie out in the back yard and got busy opening windows and airing out the house.

First, sheets and everything else Rosie had touched went into the washing machine, and we started researching what to do next.

First, let me say that fresh, concentrated skunk spray does not smell the same as when you catch a whiff of it from a distance. It wasn't immediately apparent what had happened. Daughter Erin joined in the search, but soon all signs were pointing to Rosie. Rosie wasn't talking. But all the signs were pointing to her, and in the morning light on the back patio, a big yellow stain was apparent across her white chest. One whiff confirmed the diagnosis.

The striped skunk is found in a wide range across North America, from Manitoba to Mexico. In the northern reaches of the range, skunks hibernate through the winter, but here in the southern parts of the habitat they are active year-round. They can be found anywhere, and in fact enjoy the developed areas. I'm sure they are beneficial and beloved just like all of Mother Nature's creatures, but that morning we were not feeling loving and charitable. Our only thought was what we had to do to get rid of that awful smell.

At times like this, everyone you know has an anecdote or a remedy they want to share, ranging from commercially available products to tomato juice. We went to the internet, and thankfully found a recipe that actually worked.

The secret seems to be to mix a quart of hydrogen peroxide with half a cup of baking soda and add a teaspoon of dishwashing detergent. Sponge this on liberally, soaking the affected area (or should I say affected dog?). Various instructions had us leaving it on the dog to dry or rinsing. I think it just needs to stay on long enough to work. The peroxide and baking soda sets up some sort of chemical reaction that neutralizes the odor. Make sure the dog suffers properly for her unjustified curiosity. We found that vestiges of the odor lingered for about a month, particularly when she got wet, so we did a follow-up treatment just to get rid of that "je ne sais quoi" that surrounded her at those times.

Oh, and the tomato juice. That just makes your dog smell like tomatoes. And skunk.

## Didjaknow... We're a traveling bunch of folks!

**Carolyn Barkley** (on Streamside) resumed her traveling in a big way, with a trip to New Guinea! **Beak & Marlene Warner** (on Midwood Parkway) went to Virginia for Thanksgiving. **Ponder & Dorothy Sessums** (on Midwood Parkway) went to Dallas for Priscilla's thirtieth anniversary. **Mark & Charlsa Bentley** (on Midwood Parkway) made another trip to the DFW area to visit parents. **The Toran Family** (on Midwood Parkway) stayed home for Thanksgiving but played host to 12-1/2 other Torans visiting down here from the New York area..... **Happy Anniversary** to **Beak & Marlene Warner** (on Midwood Parkway) who celebrated their 41<sup>st</sup>! ..... **Lost Puppy Now Back Home!** Last month's newsletter had a classified ad for a "Found Dog"—a sweet chocolate lab puppy that the **Torans** (on Midwood Parkway) found wandering in HCE. We're happy to report that, thanks to an alert reader, the puppy has been returned to its owners in Westview Estates! ..... The "Didjaknow" column is a monthly collection of random information and observations by your newsletter editors. We're always looking for interesting tidbits that may not be big enough for a full story but nevertheless deserve the spotlight. Please send your contributions for this column to [cbentley@austin.rr.com](mailto:cbentley@austin.rr.com).



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