



The HPWBANA News

Volume 5, Number 1

January 2009

www.hpwbana.org

Message from the Board

Decorated bicycles and snow cones on the Fourth of July. Enjoying all that Perry Park has to offer. Neighbors watching out for each other.

Each of these is part of what we love about living in this neighborhood and contribute to the sense of community that we feel every day and the common experiences that we all share. All year long, your Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association (HPWBANA) works to ensure that this good neighborhood feeling continues to thrive. We plan community events, advocate for our neighborhood with the City of Austin, coordinate beautification projects in the neighborhood, and strengthen our crime prevention efforts.

But we couldn't do it without you and your support! Your participation, whether through involvement on a project or through membership dues, helps our neighborhood continue to be a great place to live. Together we have accomplished some important projects this year — organizing neighbors to strengthen our neighborhood safety program, securing an Austin Parks Foundation grant for toddler swings in Perry Park, and organizing residents to help combat traffic concerns, to name a few.

In a few days you will receive a letter asking for your support of HPWBANA, via your 2009 Membership Dues. Or you can fill out the membership coupon in the back of the newsletter. Our dues remain a low \$15 for a household, or \$10 for a single-member household. For more information, visit www.hpwbana.org or contact Krista Saeger, Treasurer, at kristasaeger@yahoo.com.

Your involvement IS important. We hope you will join us in 2009 for another productive and rewarding year!

November Meeting Highlights

On November 19, the board held its monthly meeting. There were no community comments. The minutes from the 2008 annual meeting were approved with slight changes. Updates were given on the neighborhood association's finances, toddler swing status, and wildlife certification. The board discussed the speeding and traffic issues that affect many streets in the neighborhood.

Board meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7pm at the Yarborough Library on Hancock. Neighbors are encouraged to attend and present any ideas or concerns they may have. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Important Meeting Notice

The HPWBANA will consider adopting the city's Restricted Front Yard and Side Yard Parking Ordinance. The ordinance prohibits parking a vehicle in the front or side yard unless a paved area for parking is provided. The Board will discuss the adoption of this ordinance at the January 28 Meeting and will vote on its adoption at the February 25 meeting. Voting will be in person or proxy at the February meeting. For more information, contact Carolyn Robinson at carrob99@hotmail.com or call 750-4072. Both meetings will take place at the usual meeting place of HPWBANA, the Yarborough Library (on Hancock) at 7:00 p.m.

Carolyn Robinson, HPWBANA, 302-5417

HPWBANA Wins 3rd Place in Habitat Challenge!

Congratulations to the Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association for taking 3rd place in the City of Austin's Neighborhood Habitat Challenge. And thank you again to Jessica Winslow and all the neighbors who certified their yards as wildlife habitats and contributed to the beauty of the neighborhood. The first place winner in the challenge was the Jester Estates Homeowners Association; second place went to the Allandale Neighborhood Association.

HPWBANA is wild!



Council Member Lee Leffingwell, with the winners of the Neighborhood Habitat Challenge, including Carolyn Robinson, Jessica Winslow, Harriett and Ken Choffel, and Carol Brady (all of HPWBANA).

Highland Park West Balcones Area

Helpful Phone Numbers

Austin Citywide Information Center974-2000 or 311
Emergency Police 911
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.)..... 311
Social Services (during work hours)..... 211
Dana Munguia, Senior Patrol Officer974-5440
Ricardo Vargas, Senior Police Officer 974-5801
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line 210-698-1709

2008 HPWBANA Board of Directors

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Newsletter Editor Andrea Torres

The HPWBANA Board meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month except December. Meetings are held from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. at the Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive. All neighbors are invited to attend. www.hpwbana.org

HPWBANA is bordered on the north by 2222, on the south by 35th St., on the west by Mt. Bonnell Rd., and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Rd. between Hancock Dr. and 45th St.

Mail your membership dues to HPWBANA, P.O. Box 26101, Austin, Texas 78755

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Camp Mabry Update

Texas Military Forces wishes you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

The Texas Military Forces Museum will be closed from Dec. 15 to Jan. 31 for renovations. During this period, visitors may still come to see the museum's outdoor exhibits, conduct research, donate objects, or meet with the museum staff. Museum volunteers may come to the museum during this period as well.

All visitors should give the museum advance notice so that they can inform security prior to the visit. Please call 512.782.5659 to make arrangements.

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2008

Yarborough Library- 2200 Hancock Drive

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Designing for Wildlife

Would you like to see more colorful butterflies and melodic songbirds flitting around your yard? You are invited to a Gardening for Wildlife Design workshop offered by the City of Austin's Wildlife Austin program, which is the neighborhood's prize for winning third place in the Neighborhood Habitat Challenge. You will discover how to transform your yard into a thriving wildlife habitat by providing just a few essential elements: food, water, cover and places to raise young. The basic principles of landscape design will also be covered and will include a hands-on activity to sharpen your design skills.

When: Saturday, February 28, 2009, 1-3pm


Where: Yarborough Library, 2200

Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756, (512) 454-7208

Registration: To register for this **FREE** workshop or for more information please contact, Alice Nance alice.nance@ci.austin.tx.us or 327-8181 x29. **Registration deadline is February 20, 2009.**

Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Granada Hills residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail andreatorres11@yahoo.com.

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<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;"> <h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">14</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">LOCATIONS</p> </div>  </div>		
ACCOUNTS ARE NOW INSURED TO AT LEAST \$250,000.		
<small>*Annual Percentage Rate. All rates expressed are "as low as". **Austin Telco will pay all standard closing costs on Home Equity loans below \$100k. Additional non-standard fees will be the responsibility of the member. Credit qualifications apply. ***Rate applies to 1st lien commercial real estate loans with a loan to value of 80% or less, construction/development loan rates/terms may be different. No Pre-payment penalty. Please call for details. **Annual Percentage Yield. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. Actual rate may vary depending on credit qualifications. All APRs, APYs and terms are subject to change without notice.</small>		

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

It's Dues Renewal Time! Support HPWBANA with your Membership

It's important for neighbors to join and stay active in HPWBANA. A growing membership makes us a stronger force with the City of Austin and allows us undertake projects that directly contribute to the quality of life in our neighborhood:

Neighborhood Beautification Efforts
Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th Parade and Picnic
Advocates for Neighborhood on City Issues
Strengthen Neighborhood Safety Network

We need your support! Please renew your membership or become a new member of HPWBANA today. Send \$15 for a Family membership of \$10 for a Single-Member Household membership (only one adult in household) to:
HPWBANA, PO Box 26101, Austin, TX 78755

Name _____ Name of Second Adult _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

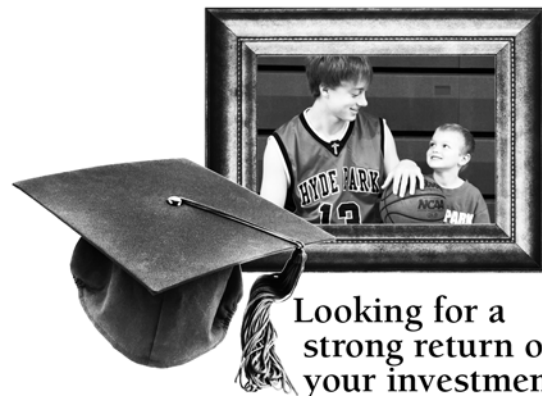
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Details and Locations at www.hpbs.org

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Hollywood Comes to HPWBANA!

In mid-November, neighbors on Shadow Lane were treated to a film crew shooting a commercial for St. Louis Hospital. Keep your eyes open for a familiar neighborhood on your television!



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Constable's Notebook – December 2008

By Constable Bruce Elfant

This year's presidential and congressional elections mattered more than perhaps any in my life time. Our new president will confront two wars and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Unlike some elections, there was a real difference between the candidates. I have written more than a few columns that urged citizens to participate in their democracy by voting for candidates and issues that represent their interests. I expressed dissatisfaction that less than 10% of registered voters have determined who is elected to city council, school board and community college boards. I railed about the fact that presidential elections in the United States have attracted far fewer of its citizens than almost any other democracy. I used guilt and even shame to encourage more citizens to exercise their constitutional right and responsibility to vote.

Did the most closely watched and historic and exciting presidential election in generations live up to the expectations of historic voter turnout? The good news is that the national percentage turnout in the presidential election was the largest since 1968. But while more than a record 125,000,000 Americans cast votes this year, turnout only exceeded the 2004 voter turnout by about 3 million votes. Travis

County voters again led Texas counties in voter turnout. Though the total number of votes cast increased by almost 50,000, the turnout percentage only increased from 64% in 2004 to just over 66% this year. Five voting precincts including 237 (Highland Park Baptist Church) and 256 (Casis Elementary School) exceeded 80% turnout but less than half of the registered voters turned out in 11 Travis County precincts.

We all hope that the incoming administration and congress will quickly and effectively address the challenges they inherited. This holiday season local officials and our non-profit community, also hit hard by the economic downturn, need help in order to respond to an increased need for shelter, food, clothing, toys and medical assistance. All the great religions speak to our need to help the least among us. I am proud that my employees have decided to dramatically downsize our office holiday party in order to sponsor several families who are in crisis. There can be no better gift than to assist others who have not been blessed with health, wealth, or stable family lives.

I hope you and your family enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

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American Cockroaches a.k.a. Waterbugs

By Wizzie Brown

American cockroaches, also called waterbugs or palmetto bugs, are about 1 ½" long, reddish-brown with tan markings on the pronotum (the shield that covers the head). Nymphs look similar to the adults, but do not have fully developed wings. Like all cockroaches, females lay their eggs in a purse-like sac called an ootheca.

American cockroaches are not a common pest that breeds indoors in Texas. Typically these cockroaches move in from outdoors in search of food and water or to escape cold temperatures. They can enter structures around pipe penetrations, vents in the attic, through weepholes or cracks around doors and windows.

Exclusion is great method to keep the cockroaches outside. Check weather stripping around doors and windows to make sure there is a good seal. Use caulk to seal around pipe penetrations or any cracks and crevices that may lead into the home. If your home has a brick or stone façade, use steel wool or copper mesh to block the weep holes (steel wool should not be used on light color façade since it rusts when it gets wet).

Commonly used formulations for cockroach management include baits, sprays and dusts. Residual sprays and dusts should not be used in the same location as baits to avoid contamination of the baits. Sprays and dusts should be targeted to crack and crevice areas or wall voids. When using baits, old bait should be scraped away before new bait is placed out. Target baits to areas where cockroaches will be able to locate it easily.

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

Recycle at Austin Marathon

Join the Austin Marathon Green Team and help keep our marathon the greenest race in North America! Volunteers can help make this a great community event by collecting and separating recyclable items used by runners and participants. Volunteers will get 2009 event t-shirts, refreshments and a big THANK YOU from the marathon staff and runners! The Green Team is just one of the many volunteer opportunities at the marathon. For more information on shifts and locations or to register as a volunteer, visit: http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer2/jobs-by-date.tcl?event_id=159567

Date: Sunday, February 15th, 2008

Time: shifts vary

Location: locations vary but most are in Central Austin

Register: http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer2/jobs-by-date.tcl?event_id=159567



Indian Meal Moths

By Wizzie Brown

There are numerous insects that infest stored products; typically they are brought into the home by infested products. Food can become infested while in the field, warehouses or stores.

Indian meal moths can be found in dogfood, birdseed, cereals, dried fruit, nuts, powdered milk and candy. Adults are small with grayish wings tipped with copper. Larvae are creamy yellow and often crawl along pantry walls. Spun pupal cases are often found along corners and edges of wall areas.

To eliminate a pantry pest problem, the first step is to locate and remove all infested items. Removing infested items is the easy part; finding the infestation is not always so simple. Begin with the oldest food items, usually in the back of the pantry. Inspect everything, including unopened food items since these can also be a source. If you find an infested item, do not stop your inspection, more than one item may be infested.

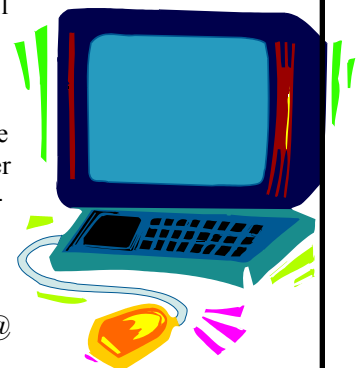
Infested items can be thrown away. If you don't feel that you can throw away food, place the infested food in a zip-top plastic bag and place it in the freezer for about 5-7 days or spread the infested food item on a baking sheet and bake at 250 degrees for 4-6 hours to kill any insects. Once all the insects are dead, you can sift the food item or pick out the insects. Of course, you can always just leave the insects in the food and get a little more protein with your meal!

It is extremely important to find the source, and not all pantry pest infestations come from the pantry. Check rooms for items such as dried, decorative peppers, dried flowers, potpourri or rice heating packs.

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

Join our ListServ!

The HPWBANA ListServ, hosted by Yahoo, is for members of the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association (HPWBANA) and residents of this neighborhood. The ListServ is used to disseminate information to all members, via email, on a variety of topics, such as: crime in the neighborhood, upcoming meetings and events, city service issues, etc. The ListServ is moderated, meaning that all posts are reviewed and approved prior to being distributed to the members, to eliminate any inappropriate posts. All posts by members are sent out via the ListServ email address to protect each member's email address from being seen or used for non-ListServ purposes, i.e. solicitations, spam, etc. Member email addresses are kept private and not used for any purpose other than distributing HPWBANA-related information to members of the neighborhood. To sign up for the list, please send an email to HPWBANA-subscribe@yahoo.com.



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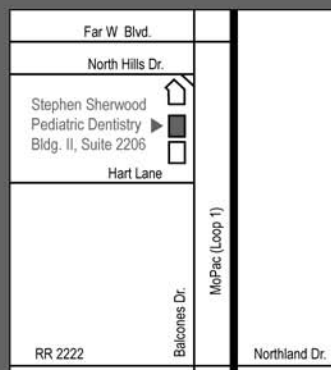
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