



# The HPWBANA News

Volume 5, Number 7

July 2009

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

## Message from the Board

2009 has seen many issues presented to the HPWBANA: proposed bike lane on Balcones, noise ordinance violations, speeding problems on Balcones and Perry Lane, cosmetic changes to HP Elementary, an increase in car-break-ins and home break-ins. These issues and more continue to require our attention and your attention as neighbors.

Please consider volunteering to serve on the board or to help organize or serve on a HPWBANA committee. Also, we are seeking contributions to the newsletter on a regular basis, and would welcome the addition of an "assistant" editor.

As we enter summer, the board is planning a wonderful July 4th Celebration (volunteers needed!) and a Crime and Safety Seminar for the fall.

If you are interested in volunteering in any way to help the on-going efforts to improve our neighborhood, please contact Carolyn Robinson or Chereen Fisher to discuss ways you could help. All volunteers are appreciated!

## Calling All Young Writers!

Looking for something interesting to do this summer? HPWBANA needs your help! Please send us a paragraph or two about something interesting you did this summer, hope to do this summer, or wish your parents had let you do this summer! Or, you could write a few paragraphs about your summer job. The topics are endless! Include a photo if you'd like (if your parents don't mind.) Stories will be published in the HPWBANA news. Submit your stories to newsletter editor Andrea Torres at: [andreatorres11@yahoo.com](mailto:andreatorres11@yahoo.com). Happy Summer!

## A Salute To OLD GLORY

### 4th of July Celebration

*Come join us for the annual  
HPWBANA Independence  
Day Celebration!*

Walk in the parade and stay for the festivities!

**Saturday, July 4th**  
**Under Shade Pavilion on South side of**  
**Highland Park Elementary**  
**Judging begins at 9:15 sharp!**  
**Parade steps off at 9:30**  
**Led by Fire Truck and Pack 59 Scouts**

Awards will be given for Best . . .  
Stroller, Trike, Bike, Dog, Costume & More

Snow Cones and Activities under the Shade Pavilion  
after the Parade.

Special Thanks to our 2009 Business Sponsors and  
Members for making this event possible.

Volunteer opportunities begin at 8 am day of event.  
Contact Chereen Fisher at [chereen@austin.rr.com](mailto:chereen@austin.rr.com) or  
507-9065 to help.

## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Austin Citywide Information Center 974-2000 or 311  
Emergency Police ..... 911  
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.) ..... 311  
Social Services (during work hours) ..... 211  
SPO David J. Knutson  
Central West District APD Rep..... 974-5917  
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line .... 210-698-1709

### 09' BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Trey Blundell..... trey\_blundell@yahoo.com

Ben Friedman..... bfriedman@landmtg.com

Eric Hansen ..... ech@flash.net

**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](http://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

### ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the businesses that advertise in the HPWBANA Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter at no charge. No neighborhood association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com) for ad information and pricing.

## Save the Date!

NNO

*National Night Out 2009*

*Tuesday, October 6*

Organize your street or block. Now is the time start planning for the best NNO neighborhood gathering ever!

Let's work together and increase the number of HPWBANA NNO parties in 2009.

For more information and registration, visit [www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno.htm) or phone 974-4900.

Please contact Frances Allen, [fba100@juno.com](mailto:fba100@juno.com), HPWBANA, and let us know you are getting started.


### HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meeting

**Wednesday, July 22, 2009**

Yarborough Library- 2200 Hancock Drive

7:00 - 8:30 pm




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### Constable's Notebook – June 2009

*By Constable Bruce Elfant*

Nearly 20 years after passage of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, and in spite of aggressive enforcement efforts, handicap parking violations are as widespread as ever. In 1995, my office established Texas' first county volunteer handicap parking enforcement program. During that first year, volunteers wrote more than 1,000 tickets throughout Travis County. Since then the Texas Legislature has provided additional enforcement tools and increased fines. Local media outlets have widely publicized the need for handicap parking spaces by people with disabilities. My officers and volunteers have also worked with other law enforcement agencies to conduct periodic sting operations. This year we will write more than 1,500 tickets.

Three years ago a study conducted by my office found that 65% of those who used handicap parking placards to park in the downtown area were actually using someone else's placard to park for free in handicap parking spaces or at meters. We estimated that the City of Austin loses as much as \$500,000 per year in parking meter revenue. Recently during the Legislative Session, deputy constables wrote 22 handicap parking tickets around the State Capitol Complex. Twenty tickets were written to state employees. All 22 tickets were written to

people who were using other peoples' handicap parking placards to park in handicap parking spaces or at meters for free. The deputies said that with additional resources they could easily have written dozens more tickets.

This abuse is not just occurring at the State Capitol. It is occurring throughout Texas. Violators prevent people who need these parking spaces from gaining access to public places and they are stealing parking revenue from their cities. A couple violators said receiving tickets two or three times per year would still be cheaper for them than paying for parking. It is clear that current state law and local law enforcement efforts have so far failed to achieve the expectations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Many disability organizations and law enforcement officials have asked the Texas Legislature to further increase handicap parking fines so violators won't continue to view getting a couple of tickets per year as a cheaper option. As of this writing it is not clear if increased handicap parking fines will pass, but you can be assured that my deputies and volunteers will continue to aggressively enforce access rights in Travis County.

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Great Hills Baptist Church

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Children's Fine Arts Workshop | **July 6-10**

Veggie Tales Day Camp | **July 27-31**

Middle / High School Camps - Baylor University | **July 27-31**

Celebrate Recovery | **Mondays, 7 pm, 2nd floor of building A**

#### Regular Sunday Schedule:

9:30 & 11 am Bible Life Groups for all ages

9:30 am \* Celebration - Connection | *Worship Choir & Orchestra*

11:00 am Life - Connection | *Worship Band*

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### Constable's Notebook - (Continued from Page 3)

We are currently accepting applications for handicap parking enforcement volunteers. Volunteers must live in Travis County, have no criminal history and complete a training class. Applications can be obtained at [www.Constable5.com](http://www.Constable5.com) or by calling 854-9100. Information regarding handicap parking abuses, inadequate handicap parking spaces or improper signage may be reported to my office at 854-9100 or [bruce.elfant@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:bruce.elfant@co.travis.tx.us).

When signing the ADA President Bush (41) said, "Every man, woman, and child with a disability can now pass through once-closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom." Nineteen years later many citizens are still not able to pass through the doors of equality because illegally parked vehicles stand in their way.

### BIKE LANE UPDATE

Last month, the HPWBANA reported that there may be a bike lane added on Balcones between Edgemont and 35th Street. The City of Austin has revised the master bike plan and there will be no bike lane on Balcones at this time.

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## May Meeting Highlights

The May meeting was held on Wednesday, May 27. A community member was present to discuss the PTA's plans for improving the landscape at Highland Park Elementary. The board also heard a presentation from a local Constable concerning crime and speeding in the neighborhood. The board then discussed the possibility of hiring constables to provide extra patrols of the neighborhood. A neighbor also brought to the board's attention a potential tenant problem on Hancock. Updates were given on the status of the PTA portable beautification process, the City's Master Bike Plan, the Fourth of July parade, and the toddler swings.

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!

## Pink Hibiscus Mealybug

By Wizzie Brown

Pink hibiscus mealybugs (PHM) are soft-bodied insects closely related to scale insects. PHM adult females are wingless with oval bodies and a white, waxy coating covering the body. The females have a couple of waxy filaments coming off the edge of the body and two buttons of wax on the abdomen. Male PHM have wings and two long waxy tails. Both have a pinkish to reddish body that exudes a reddish-brown fluid when pierced.

Damage occurs to plants in the form of "bunchy top" where new growth curls and the stems stop growing and become thicker. There is usually a white, waxy accumulation on the plant.

Currently, biological control is the best method to manage PHM populations.

The Texas Department of Agriculture is working on releasing beneficial insects in areas where PHM has been confirmed, so if you suspect that you have a pink hibiscus mealybug infestation, please contact me. Heavily infested plants can have infested areas pruned. Pruned areas should be double bagged and disposed.

*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)*



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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 or \$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 \_\_\_\_\_

*Questions about membership?*

*Please contact Krista Saeger at 380-9062 or via email at [kristasaeger@yahoo.com](mailto:kristasaeger@yahoo.com)*

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HP



### Go on Patrol with APD *Call for Volunteers to Participate in the Citizen Police Academy*

In preparation for the National Night Out (Tuesday, October 6), we would like for at least one HPWBANA resident to participate in the Citizen Police Academy. This Academy is an eleven-week program designed to educate Austin citizens with the Austin Police Department. The free program includes education about Cadet Training, Bomb Squad, Robbery, Homicide, Use of Force, Internal Affairs, Vehicular Homicide, S.W.A.T., Forensics, Recruiting and meeting the Chief.

The classes fill up quickly. Six of the 25 spots for the next class are already filled, so get your applications in. The next class begins on September 30th.

Please contact Frances Allen, fba100@juno.com if you get into the class. You can find the application and more information about the program at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/cpa.htm>



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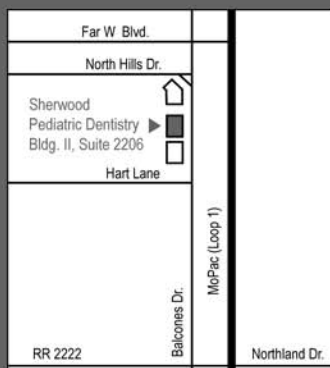
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