



The HPWBANA News

Volume 5, Number 8

August 2009

www.hpwbana.org

Independence Day Celebration!

July 4 Festivities rolled forward this year led by Engine 19, although called away for a brief emergency returned in time to lead the HPWBANA around the parade route. Bringing up the rear was Travis County Constable Vince (and HPWBANA Neighbor), who later distributed candy to the children in the crowd. Thank you fireman and Constable Vince!

The Declaration was read by 17 Brave Americans, including State Representatives Elliott Naishtat and State Representative Donna Howard. Each person reading the declaration was awarded a genuine \$2.00 bill!

Prizes were awarded for Best Costume, Bicycle, Scooter, Wagon, Tricycle, Stroller, Four-Wheeler, and a special category was created this year for HPWBANA resident Gabby Jones who rode her pogo stick to the parade! Julia Kay Smith's bicycle won a blue ribbon for the outstanding patriotic decorations (Pictures on Page 5).

The boy scouts helped by presenting the flag. The boy scouts in attendance were Bennett Archuleta, James Young, Linden Henry and Wyatt Amerboy. Thank you, scouts.

Many thanks to Ben Friedman, Montana Manske, Andrea and Lawrence Torres, Frances Allen and Lonnie who all volunteered to work at the event. And a special thanks to Chereen Fisher, HPWBANA vice president for organizing this year's event!

Have an idea for next year's July 4th Celebration?
Email Chereen Fisher at chereen@austin.rr.com
or Andrea Torres at andreatorres11@yahoo.com
now while it's fresh in your mind!

Welcome Officer Gray!!! New APD Central West District Representative

To: Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association

Please allow me to introduce myself, I am Senior Patrol Officer Nicole Gray #3466 your Central West; North Area Command, District Representative. I just want to take a moment of your time to let you know how motivated we all are to work with you in building a strong community and a pro-active working relationship as we address the concerns of your neighborhood.

If there is anything the Austin Police Department can help you with please do not hesitate to call me at 512-974-5241, or e-mail me nicole.gray@ci.austin.tx.us and I or my fellow District Representatives from the North Bureau Central West area will be more than happy to work with you in reaching a solution toward a safer neighborhood and city.

The Austin Police Department is committed to making Austin the Safest city in the nation for you, your family and the community as a whole. Together we can accomplish great things and enhance the quality of life for all of our diverse citizenry. The District Representatives are here because of that commitment, the individual District Representatives are here as they believe in that commitment and that together we can and we will accomplish our goals.

Sincerely,

Senior Police Officer Nicole Gray #3466

Austin Police Department

Central West District Representative - District 4

512-974-5241

Hazardous Waste Pick Up Day Saturday, September 5

A hazardous waste pick-up day will be held Saturday, September 5. You may drop off your material at the Highland Park Baptist church parking lot from 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. For questions or for more information, please contact HPWBANA Board Member Andrea Torres at andreatores11@yahoo.com or call Carolyn Robinson at 750-4072.

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

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Tonianne Soster..... 825-3773, te883@austin.rr.com

Frances Allen Fba100@juno.com

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

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 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 or phone 974-4900.

Please contact Frances Allen, fba100@juno.com, HPWBANA, and let us know you are getting started.

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Yarborough Library- 2200 Hancock Drive

7:00 - 8:30 pm

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Constable's Notebook – July 2009

By Constable Bruce Elfant

Much has been written and broadcast in recent weeks regarding an incident where a Precinct 3 deputy constable tasered a 72 year old woman during a traffic stop. Even though my office (Precinct 5) was not involved with this situation, I received hundreds of e-mails from Travis County residents and people around the nation who shared their opinions about this case and the general use of tasers by law enforcement officials.

Tasers were first developed for use by law enforcement officers as a less lethal weapon intended to subdue people who pose a threat to themselves or others without causing serious injury or death to officers or suspects. Law enforcement officers began using tasers on a widespread basis in the late 90s. Today about 12,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies, including many in Texas, authorize tasers. Taser Inc. claims that tasers have saved tens of thousands of lives because police did not have to reach for or fire their weapons. Critics of tasers point to the couple hundred suspects who have died after being tased, the disproportionate number of minorities who have been tased in some jurisdictions and instances where officers clearly should not have tased a suspect.

Virtually all law enforcement agencies have policies that govern the use of tasers, but their placement on the use of force continuum

varies widely. A Government Accountability Office report found that some agencies restrict the use of tasers to situations where batons would be used. Some agencies, including the Austin Police Department (APD), authorize tasers when "the officer perceives the situation as volatile" where chemical spray would be used. Other agencies authorize use when suspects are passive but not responding to verbal commands. APD prohibits the use of tasers "on pregnant women, children under 14, the elderly or disabled or suspects fleeing from officers for a misdemeanor or non violent offense unless the suspect is armed and poses an immediate threat to the officer or another person or using the weapon when flammable liquids or gasses are present." APD officers are also required to warn suspects before firing tasers. State law does not require officers who use tasers to be trained but for safety and liability reasons practically all agencies do require up to 16 hours of training. Some agencies require periodic re-training and many agencies require officers who carry tasers to be tased so they can better understand the impact.

Most law enforcement officials believe that tasers are legitimate law enforcement tools that when properly used reduce or prevent injuries and save lives. Unlike the use of firearms where specific rules

(Continued on Page 4)

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

HPWBANA Traffic Campaign

HPWBANA has created a task force to attempt to deal with speeding and other traffic problems in our neighborhood. One area of focus is traffic on Perry Lane and Hancock Drive. In the coming months the task force will be attempting to capture your attention regarding driving habits on these street. Please watch for an increased police presence, neighborhood signs, and APD speed trailers that reflect your rate of speed.

These efforts are an attempt to (1) make neighbors aware of their driving habits, and (2) Change your driving habits if appropriate.

With the beginning of the new school year, make a resolution to be a safer driver in our neighborhood. We owe it to our friends and neighbors to keep it safe while in the 'hood!

If you want to help with the efforts to tackle this problem, please email Tonianne Soster at te883@austin.rr.com or call Carolyn Robinson at 750-4072.

Constable's Notebook - (Continued from page 3)

and training requirements exist, thousands of Texas law enforcement agencies set their own taser policies and determine what training their officers should receive. As a result some officers are authorized to tase passive but non-compliant individuals while others are not. Some officers receive adequate training to properly handle tasers and make proper judgments while others do not. Given the public outcry over the latest taser incidents and others, the Texas Legislature should work with law enforcement officials to develop a state-wide taser policy and training requirement. A single state-wide policy would result in more consistent enforcement by officers when used throughout Texas and even within Travis County.

Crime and Safety Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

7:00 PM, Yarbrough Library

In response to concerns about recent home and vehicle burglaries in the Highland Park West Balcones Area neighborhoods, HPWBANA will sponsor an evening with representatives from the Austin Police Department, as well as other speakers on crime prevention. If you have topics you would like to have addressed, please contact Frances B. Allen, fbal00@juno.com, 454-2113.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Awesome Wagon by Garret & Kylie!



1st Prize Winner: Jackson Sutton as the Statue of Liberty!



Sisters Celebrate July 4!



Davy Crockett and His Alamo Bicycle!



Beautiful Bike!



Patriotic Dogs: Cindy, Honey & Gulliver Also: Gabby Jones (center) Pogo Stick Contest Winner!

4th
of
July



Fabulous Four Wheeler for the 4th! By Leo and Lucas

We recommend an even higher level of protection this summer.

Great Hills Baptist Church

Sunday Schedule:

9:30 & 11 am - Bible Life Groups (all ages)
9:30 am - Celebration-Connection
(Worship Choir & Orchestra)
11:00 am - Life-Connection
(Worship Band)

Classes Beginning September 20:

Hot Topics - Topics include: teen purity, empty-nesters, financial stability, parenting for greatness, defending your faith
Soul Mates - For couples who are newlywed, engaged, or seriously dating

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

June Meeting Highlights

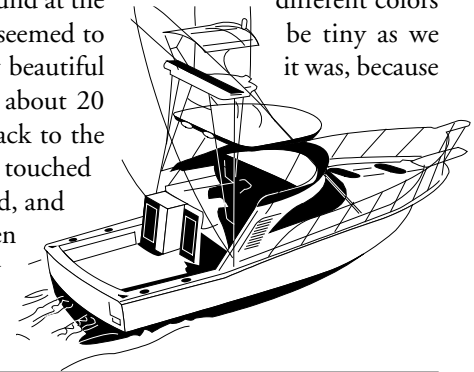
The June meeting was held on Wednesday, June 24. The board was introduced to Nicole Gray, our new APD District Representative. The board then discussed resurfacing and re-stripping for bike lanes on Hancock between Mopac and Bull Creek. Discussion regarding hiring a constable continued with a decision that funds would be raised among the neighbors and the neighborhood association would match that amount up to \$1500.

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!

Parasailing

By Lacey McLelland (12 years old)

My stomach seemed to be jumping as i sat quietly awaiting my turn to parasail in this giant boat. i had parasailed before, but the excitement was just the same. at the back of the boat, there was a big plat form, that you sat on as the man driving the boat, strung you 500 feet into the air, only attached to 1,000 feet of rope, and a small bar. the cayman islands are beautiful but everyone say's to get the full "effect" of cayman, you have to parasail. so, that is what my mother and i did, for the 2nd time. "NEXT!" the driver yelled, as he pulled the people in the air, back to the boat. the driver's assistant walked over to my mom and i, and told us to put our feet through a harness. we put our feet through the ropes, and then walked up to the plat form. we sat down, and the man attached our harness's to a metal bar. slowly we began to rise up off of the plat form and into the sky. i kicked my legs back and forth with excitement, as my mom just stared around at the of the Caribbean sea. i looked at the island, that seemed to got higher, and higher! i can't even describe how beautiful really..... there are no words to describe it. after about 20 minutes, we began to slowly begin our decent back to the boat. when we were about 20 feet from the boat we touched the water, and went in around waist deep. i giggled, and so did my mom when we got totally drenched. when we got back into the boat my dad asked me how was it.... and i was speechless.

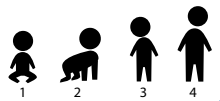


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DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

NO ONE is "drown proof" – no matter their level of swimming ability.

Falls, entrapments, and injuries lead to drowning regardless of swimming level.

A majority of people overestimate their own and their child's ability to swim, especially in a panic event.

DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



Most children are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents.



Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6-10 minutes.

Children who drown do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.

Highland Park West Balcones Area

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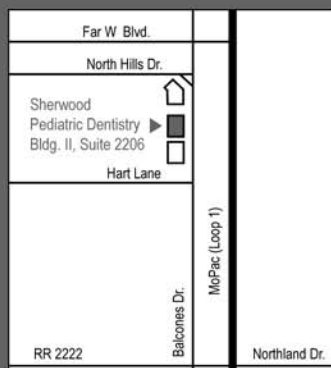
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