



# The HPWBANA News

Volume 5, Number 9

September 2009

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

## Hazardous Waste Collection

*September 5th, 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
Highland Park Baptist Church*

On Saturday, September 5th two young men will be leading a pick up of hazardous materials in our neighborhood as part of a community service project. The hazardous waste facility is very far south of our neighborhood, and the young men believe that because of this many hazardous materials are not taken to the facility to be properly recycled. They are asking that on Saturday, September 5th residents interested in having their materials recycled take these materials to the Highland Park Baptist Church (near the intersection of Balcones and Hancock). The young men will be at the church from 7am-10am.

The following materials can be accepted and must be in a labeled container:

- car and regular batteries
- motor oil
- spray paint or paint in cans
- anti-freeze
- fluorescent light bulbs
- electronics (cell phone, charger, gameboys, PSPs)

(Electronic items must be placed in Ziploc baggies)

Unfortunately they are unable to accept herbicides, pesticides, or insecticides of any sort.

All materials be placed upright so that none of the contents are spilled, and they should be placed in a cardboard box with your address on it (required for recycling in bulk).



For more information about the project, please visit [cleanthecreek.tumblr.com](http://cleanthecreek.tumblr.com), or [cleanthecreek.org](http://cleanthecreek.org). You may also contact Cameron Thum at [cameron.thum@gmail.com](mailto:cameron.thum@gmail.com). For more information about hazardous waste recycling, please visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/hhw.htm>.

Thank you and hope to see you there!

## Message From the Board

As summer ends, your neighborhood association is already thinking about next year. Specifically, we have been discussing who will be leaving the board and who will continue to serve. At this time, we know that some board members will no longer be able to continue and for some, terms will end.

The projects that the neighborhood association undertakes would not be possible without neighbors who join the association and who generously volunteer their time. We hope that you will consider service to your neighborhood by volunteering for events, or committees, or possibly even a board seat. If you are interested in joining the board in 2010, we'd love to talk to you. Please contact Carolyn Robinson at [carrob99@hotmail.com](mailto:carrob99@hotmail.com) or Chereen Fisher at 459-3203 or [chereen@austin.rr.com](mailto:chereen@austin.rr.com).

## 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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#### VICE PRESIDENT

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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](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, September 23, 2009**

Yarborough Library- 2200 Hancock Drive

7:00 - 8:30 pm

**Dear Fat,**  
**It's over. I'm leaving you.**  
**And this time, I mean it.**

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## July Meeting Highlights

The July meeting was held on Wednesday, July 22. The board discussed the bids for toddler swings and the goal to have the work complete by the beginning of the school year. The board also discussed the pros and cons of funding the fall traffic campaign. Two particular events were mentioned: Hazardous Waste pick up on September 5 and Crime and Safety Seminar on September 22. The board president also asked board members to think about whether they planned to return to serve on the board in the coming year.

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!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! CRIME AND SAFETY MEETING



*Wednesday, September 23, 2009*  
*7:00 PM -*  
*Yarborough 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, fba100@juno.com, 454-2113.

*Don't want to wait for the mail?*

**View the current issue of the Highland Park  
West Balcones Area Neighborhood Newsletter on  
the 1st day of each month at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)**

An advertisement for iPod and iPhone services, featuring a smartphone displaying the text. The background has a stylized orange and yellow sunburst pattern.

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An advertisement for Centex Plaster Pool Specialists, featuring a pool and a discount offer. The background is a black and white photo of a pool with a waterfall.

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### Constable's Notebook – August 2009

*By Constable Bruce Elfant*

Law enforcement officials have long understood how integral healthy neighborhood schools are to ensuring vibrant and safe communities. Police officers who serve as school resource officers and mentors and who patrol around schools understand the direct relationship between healthy schools and safe neighborhoods. Closing schools as a strategy to improve academic performance could result in similar unintended consequences on communities as when community or retail centers are shuttered. A void is left where there used to be activity and energy.

Like so many others, I was caught off guard last month when the Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced Pearce Middle School would close due to unacceptable academic performance. The Texas Legislature had just provided TEA with additional flexibility to help keep schools open. Overall student test scores at Pearce had improved significantly even though eighth grade science scores were weaker than hoped. On June 10, TEA awarded Pearce a \$50,000 grant. Inexplicably less than a month later TEA Commissioner Robert Scott announced Pearce would close.

For years the overall academic performance of Pearce students has been unacceptable. No one suggests otherwise. Ninety-five percent of Pearce students are considered economically disadvantaged

which compounds their challenges. Some community leaders have expressed their belief that AISD officials share some blame for the closure as a result of years of neglect and because of failure to provide the attention and resources that Pearce needed to remain viable.

While many people take issue with closing struggling schools, it has been understood that schools should only be closed as a very last resort. If the academic scores at Pearce had not measurably improved this school closure would probably not be so controversial. Pearce students, teachers and parents developed a plan to improve academic performance and for the last two years test scores increased significantly. One would have expected TEA and AISD to praise and embrace this progress while pledging to aggressively attack the weaker science scores. Instead, even with other options at his disposal and a contrary recommendation from staff, Commissioner Scott chose to give up on Pearce.

The Texas Education Agency should vacate this decision to close Pearce and instead challenge them to build on their progress. AISD officials should commit the necessary resources and enlist community partners to help ensure success. Academically underperforming Texas schools which demonstrate meaningful academic progress deserve to know they will be supported and assisted, not shuttered.

## The Original PowerBook



Go back to school this year more prepared than ever.

### 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)

10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, TX . 78759 | [www.ghbc.org](http://www.ghbc.org) | 512.343.7763



## Recipe of the Month

### Dream Delight

Sandy Dinges



- 6 egg whites
- 1 cup pecans
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 tsp. cream of tartar
- 2 cups crackers (Club or Waverly)

Beat egg whites until stiff. Gradually add sugar and cream of tartar. Add vanilla. Fold in crackers and pecans. Spread in a 9 x 13" pan cake pan. Bake at 350° until light brown about 20-25 minutes. Cool completely. Top with your favorite fruit and Cool Whip.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to [articles@peelinc.com](mailto:articles@peelinc.com).*

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**15 AUSTIN METRO LOCATIONS**

## Highland Park West Balcones Area

# It's Not Too Late to Get Organized for the New School Year

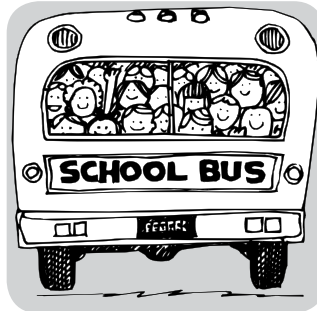
*Submitted by Kelly Butcher*

School has just begun and you probably feel like you are drowning in the sea of papers, activities, and homework. As a professional organizer, I work with a lot of busy families who need help setting up routines for handling the abundance of paper from school, the mail, and for getting homework done. I hope to offer a few suggestions about routines to set-up and implement to help you have smooth sailing through this school year.

### SOME GENERAL SYSTEMS TO HAVE IN PLACE INCLUDE:

- Calendar
- Incoming papers
- Homework

A large wall calendar with room enough to write each family member's activities is a must. Display the calendar in a location easily accessed by all family members. If you track your calendar



electronically, have a centrally located computer with easy access for all family members. Assign a color to each family member and color-code activities.

Papers consisting of incoming mail, school papers, both school work and items that require a response, and activity-related items (schedules, release forms, etc) are always an issue. Set up an action file system for handling the incoming paperwork such as a desktop hanging file organizer with files for each child or school. Teach your children to get into the habit of

putting important papers or papers requiring a signature in a folder marked with "Mom" or "Dad". After you have signed the paper, either place the paper in a folder to return to school or have your child put directly into their backpack. Also set up an archival system for the treasured school work that you want to save.

Fitting homework into our busy schedules is often difficult. Designate an area for your children to complete their work. For

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## Introducing

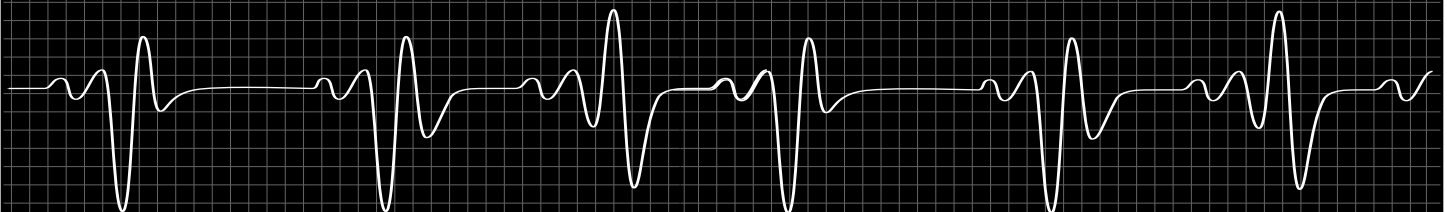
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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### It's Not Too Late to Get Organized - (Continued from Page 6)

younger students, the kitchen table is probably where most of the homework is completed, so make sure all of the necessary supplies are available, so there is no excuse not to get started. I recommend using lidded plastic shoe-box size containers to hold markers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, etc. Label the containers for ease in cleaning up. For older students who may complete their homework at a desk in their bedroom, ensure they have the necessary supplies available as well. A well-lit, clutter-free area away from distractions will help them stay focused on their work.

Establish a set time for homework to be completed. It may not be the same time every afternoon or evening based on after school activities. Look at the week ahead on Sunday evening and map out with your child the time they should complete their homework for each day based on that day's activities and mark it on the calendar. Most importantly, help your child get into the habit of packing their backpack before they go to bed. That way during the morning rush, important papers and items needed for school will not be forgotten at home.

Remember that developing new habits requires consistency and time. Begin setting up and implementing new systems as soon as possible and this school year will be off to a great start!

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### Nature Watch - Amazing Arthropods

by Jim and Lynne Weber

From the Greek roots of arthron (meaning 'joint') and podos (meaning 'foot'), arthropods are animals characterized by their jointed limbs and repeating body segments, each with a pair of appendages. They are so versatile that they have been called the "Swiss Army knives of species", and make up over 80% of all described living species known to date. In central Texas, the most fascinating arthropods include the scorpion and the centipede.

Of the 90 species of scorpions identified in the United States, 18 of them occur in Texas and only one statewide. The number of species found increases as you move west and south in the state, with two species occurring in the Austin area (compared to 14 in Big Bend National Park!). Close relatives of ticks, mites, and spiders, scorpions are easily recognized by their shape, generally prefer dry habitats, hide during the day, and are most active at night.

The most common scorpion in our area is the striped bark scorpion, which has two broad, black bands running down the length of its back. Tan in overall color, this species can be easily identified



*Striped Bark Scorpion*

by its slender pincer-bearing arms (pedipalps) and long, slender tail, which is longer on males than females. While these scorpions can mate in the fall, spring, or early summer, gestation requires about 8 months. Litter size can vary from 13 to 47, with the average being 31! Immature scorpions molt up to six times before they mature, with the first being anywhere from 3 to 7 days after birth. Born

alive in semi-transparent sacs, once they shed these thin layers they spend their first few weeks riding on their mother's back, and have a life expectancy of about 4 years.

Like all scorpions, the striped bark scorpion has four pairs of legs with a comb-like structure called the pectines between its' last pair of legs. While scorpions also have two eyes on the top of the head and two to five pairs of eyes along the front corners of the head, they do not see well and must rely on the pectines to identify different surface textures and to help detect prey. Their nocturnal habits assist them in managing temperature and water balance which are important

*(Continued on Page 9)*



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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 8)

functions for survival in dry habitats. While the sting of this species is painful and can cause swelling, none of the species in Texas are considered deadly. However, a person who has been stung should be watched for any adverse reaction.

Known as the largest centipede in North America, the giant redheaded or Texas redhead is among the largest of any many-legged centipede in the world. These fast-moving and aggressive "titans" differ from millipedes by the presence of only one pair of legs per body segment, and those legs are attached to the sides of each segment rather than near the midline.

While not frequently observed, those Texas redheads that do make themselves known attract a lot of attention due to their large size and fierce appearance. They average about 6-8 inches in length and in rare cases may reach up to 10 inches! Their coloration is striking, where the head and the first two body segments are dark red, the wide trunk is black tinged with green, and the first 20 pairs of legs are yellow. The posterior end of the centipede holds the 21st

pair of legs, which are enlarged in size and mostly black with yellow tips. It is widely believed that this coloration plays a key role in warding off potential predators by clearly advertising its poisonous qualities and confrontational nature.

Like the striped bark scorpion, the Texas redhead is a predator whose prey (primarily other insects) is captured and killed by its poison claws. Again, its bite, while painful, is not deadly to humans, but the same precautions should be taken.

While arthropods like scorpions and centipedes can be the source of nightmares and phobias for many people, their role in the ecosystem is one of extreme versatility. By examining the ways in which they are adapted to survive in a wide range of conditions, we learn that they are largely beneficial to us by keeping the balance of harmful insects in check, and when encountered, make for a Texas-sized story or two!

*Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them.*



*Texas Redhead*

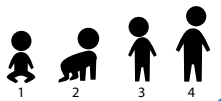


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Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in children ages 1-4



### DROWNING WILL AFFECT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

Drowning is the 2nd leading cause of unintentional injury-related death ages 1-14.

For more information, check out our website at

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

### 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

### 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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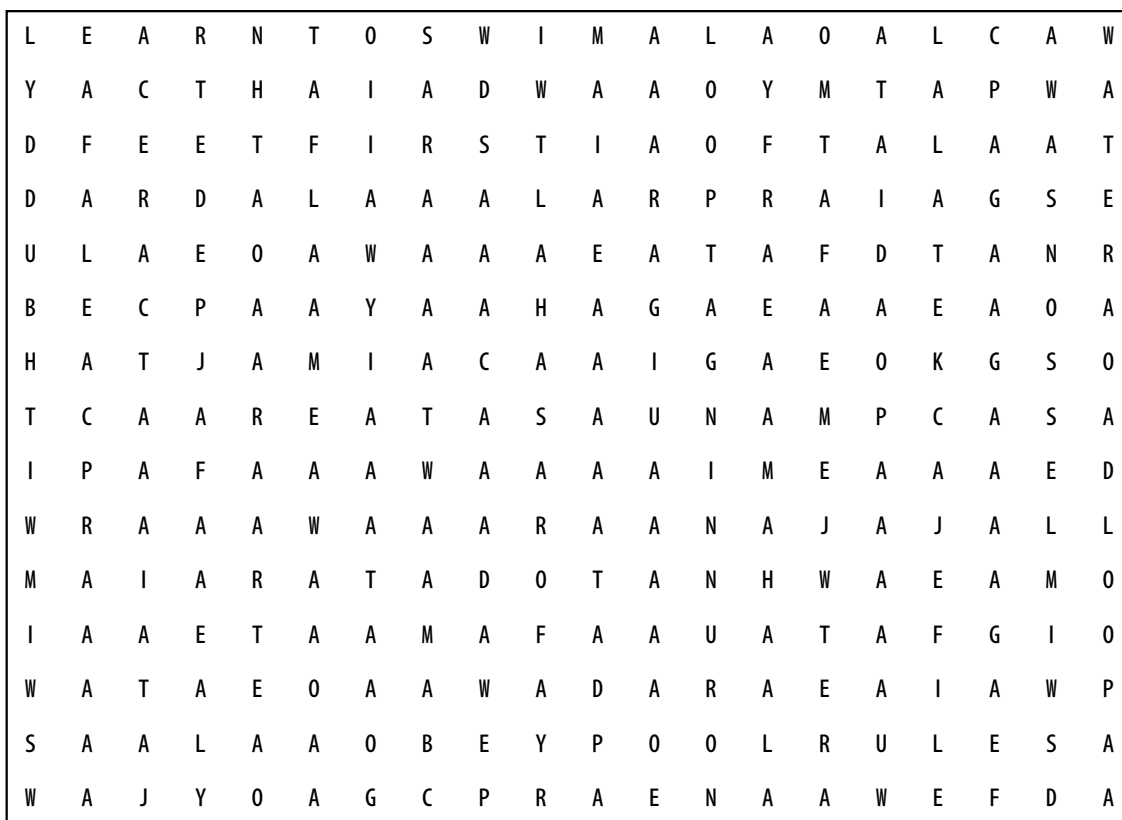
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For more information check out our website at:

**[www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org)**

Colin's Hope is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that creates and supports programs that aid in preventing children from drowning. Despite numerous sources for water safety, the number of children who drown per year is staggering. Colin's Hope of saving children from drowning is being achieved through increased water safety awareness and improved standards throughout the community.



# WELCOME TO *good health*



Take the first step toward your child's good oral hygiene—a vital part of your child's development. Your child's first visit is recommended between 12 and 18 months of age.

## YOUR CHILD, OUR PRIORITY

Your child is provided with the highest level of dental care in a friendly, caring and fun environment. Your child's dental needs will be evaluated regularly to provide the highest level of prevention and treatment.

## SMILES ALL AROUND

You are invited to visit our office or our website for more information. Our fun and friendly office is specially designed with kids in mind, including video games and toys for all ages.

Discover the difference. As always, thank you for your continued referrals to family and friends. We hope to see you soon.

*healthy smiles*

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Tel: 512.454.6936 Fax: 512.454.0437  
www.drsherwood.net



## OFFICE HOURS

Convenient office hours are

Monday 9 am - 5 pm

Tuesday - Thursday 8 am - 5 pm

Fridays are reserved for surgical procedures.

