



The HPWBANA News

Volume 5, Number 10

October 2009

www.hpwbana.org

Message From The Board

Speeders Beware! In an effort to make our streets safer for drivers and pedestrians, the board has hired a constable to do a limited patrol of the neighborhood. Please slow down and be a considerate driver.

Volunteers Needed! The board will have a few vacancies next year, and we need concerned neighbors to step forward and volunteer. Board members are required to be present at monthly meetings and help out with projects throughout the year. We are particularly in need of a newsletter editor. If you are interested in learning more, or if you want to volunteer, or if you want to volunteer your neighbor or spouse, please contact Carolyn Robinson at 750-4072 or carrob99@hotmail.com.

Thanks to all the neighbors who attended the August meeting to voice concerns about the re-zoning and traffic concerns. We appreciate your involvement.

Annual Meeting

Join us for a Fun Filled Evening with Neighbors
Wednesday, October 28th
5:30 p.m. at The Hub on the "Back Porch"
3815 Dry Creek Drive

LET'S...

Celebrate a Successful Year,
Elect the Incoming Board Members,
Share pictures and stories from your NNO party,

PLUS...

Help make HPWBANA a "Green Neighborhood".
We are so close, we just need . . . to see you at the
Annual Meeting!

August Meeting Highlights

A large number of neighbors gathered at the August HPWBANA meeting. Two important topics were the focus of most of the meeting. First, neighbors heard from the owners and developers of the property located on Balcones Drive near Russell's. The developers are requesting a zoning change from commercial to MF3. The plan they presented to the board and neighbors include a design for a four-unit condominium project. The zoning hearing is currently set for October 6. The owners of the property are James David and Gary Peese. The developer is Alan Muskin, and the project architect Michael Hsu. Most neighbors generally agreed that the project was acceptable to the community, but some neighbors were concerned about the impervious cover the project would include. A few neighbors were opposed to the project completely.

The board will continue to monitor the project, as will several neighbors. The board, based on feedback from neighbors at the meeting, will not oppose the project as it was presented at the meeting. The board will work to ensure that the city zoning committee clearly understand that the neighborhood will not support a project larger than that presented to the neighborhood on August 26.

Additionally, the board heard from concerned neighbors who have asked the board to hire on a temporary basis a constable to do additional speed patrol in the neighborhood. Speeding has been a big problem for neighbors on Perry Lane and Hancock. Neighbors have conducted private fundraising efforts to help pay for the constable.

If you are interested in more information about these issues, please contact Carolyn Robinson (carrob99@hotmail.com 750-4072 or Tonia Soster te883@austin.rr.com).

Highland Park West Balcones Area

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Austin Citywide Information Center 974-2000 or 311
Emergency Police911
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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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

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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

Enjoy an evening with your street or block. 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 if your street or block is getting together.



HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

The Hub on the Back Porch- 3815 Dry Creek Drive

5:30 pm (This is our annual meeting.

Please note different location and time!)

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Dear Neighbors,

As you may know, we have been working to make our neighborhood an official Green Neighborhood through Austin's new Green City Challenge program. So far this has incorporated a variety of projects and efforts, but we are now on our last stages!

First, we have invited a water conservationist speaker, David Turnage, to speak at the HPWBANA meeting on October 28th. He will be giving tips on conserving water and the best ways to irrigate your yard. The meeting starts at 5:30 pm at The Hub on the Back Porch (3815 Dry Creek Drive) – please come!

The second and final step to becoming a Green Neighborhood is to sponsor a neighborhood tree planting through the Neighbor Woods program. It is a program sponsored by Austin Energy in which the TreeFolks staff go to participants' yards with a set of criteria for placing trees with maximum benefit but without interfering with utilities. Once an opportunity to place a tree is spotted, a flag is placed in the identified spot and an order form is left with the property owner. The order form explains the program and offers the potential participant a menu of trees to choose from. The participant fills out an attached, postage-paid card ordering the trees and agreeing to plant and water them until they are established. TreeFolks then delivers the trees to participants' doors with detailed planting and care

instructions. The program is completely free to participants. If you'd like to participate in this program, please sign up at <http://tr.im/xYsA> and we'll alert them for you, or do it yourself by e-mailing your street address to scott@treefolks.com.

Once we complete these final steps our neighborhood will become Austin's fourth and second largest Green Neighborhood. As a reward for becoming a Green Neighborhood we will receive the following: a council certificate for the neighborhood association, web-site recognition on the Green Neighbor web page, an article in Austin's neighborhood newsletter, a 2-hour landscape design for a neighborhood common area, Green Neighborhood signs for posting in the neighborhood, a Scoop the Poop Box, and a neighborhood tree giveaway.

If anyone wants to certify their households as Green Neighbors and receive some personal awards, you can now do so on-line at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/greenneighbor/default.htm>. Go to the "Action Items" section for the actual questionnaire, and to the "Tally Sheets" section to tally up your points and send them in. For the actual booklets, you can pick them up at the Yarbrough library.

Thank you for your support,

Kyle Obermann, Grant McClure

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Hazardous Waste Collection a Success!

On Saturday, September 5th, one young neighbor undertook a tremendous task. He volunteered to collect the neighborhood's hazardous waste and transport it to the City of Austin Hazardous Waste facility for disposal. This wasn't an eagle scout project or a church project. It was just something that Cameron Thum felt needed to be done.

The collection began at 7am and neighbors were already waiting to participate bright and early in the morning! Board members Carolyn Robinson, Erin Hansen, and Andrea Torres helped collect the materials, note the addresses of households participating and load the trucks with hazardous waste.

At the end of the morning, we had approximately 100 neighbors bring their paint cans, spray paints, oil, batteries, and compact fluorescent bulbs to the Highland Park Baptist Church. Five truckloads later, the hazardous waste found its way to the City disposal facility.

Many neighbors came together to make this happen and deserve a heaping amount of praise:

- Thank you so much to Cameron Thum and his father, who spearheaded the effort to make our neighborhood just a little cleaner.
- A big thank you also goes out to the Highland Park Baptist Church for allowing us to use their parking lot for the event. Alana Mallard and Rusty Shelton from the church greeted neighbors with yummy pumpkin bread and coffee. And if that wasn't enough, Rusty also helped load the trucks that morning.
- A couple of neighbors also stepped up to help transport the waste to the city facility because we ended up having more than we expected. Craig Hughes, Drew Bixby and Lawrence Lyman graciously used their vehicles to caravan the waste down south.

This was truly a neighborhood effort and we could not have done it without you!

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Constable's Notebook – September 2009

By Constable Bruce Elfant

Several issues discussed in recent Constable's Notebook columns that impact our community were debated during the last legislative session. This notebook will provide a brief summary of actions taken by the legislature regarding issues that have appeared in this column since the 2007 legislative session.

Cell Phones – Dozens of bills ranging from prohibiting all use of cell phones while driving to prohibiting minors from use while driving were filed but only one bill passed. HB 55 prohibits the use of cell phones in school zones unless a "hands free" device is used. Fines could be as high as \$200.

Handicap Parking – Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act nearly 20 years ago, violations of state handicap parking laws are as high as ever. HB 3095 doubles the first offense fine for illegal parking in handicap parking spaces from \$250 to \$500.

Identity Theft – The theft of driver's licenses and other forms of identification have become increasingly common and frustrating for those who have to get them replaced and clean up their credit record, etc. Theft of a driver's license or personal identification will increase from a Class C Misdemeanor to a Class B. Efforts to increase the penalty to a Class A were unsuccessful.

Graffiti – Current law defines a graffiti offense only as markings

made to another person's property with spray paint. HB 1633 expands the graffiti offense to markings made by any type of paint and increases the amount of community service judges may order.

Domestic Violence – HB 1506 authorizes judges to require defendants to wear GPS monitoring devices. HB 2240 establishes the offense of Continuous Family Violence. The occurrence of two domestic violence incidents within a one year period could be charged as a 3rd degree felony. SB 83 authorizes victims of domestic violence to terminate residential leases if the perpetrator is also on the lease.

Veterans – Last year I wrote about the number of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who suffer a wide range of physical and mental impairments. Many veterans for a variety of reasons do not seek treatment. According to a recent study conducted by the *Travis County Veterans Intervention Program* an average of 150 veterans are in the Travis County jail at any given time with charges ranging from public intoxication to intoxication manslaughter and other violent offenses. SB 1940 requires county courts to establish deferred prosecution programs for veterans. Those who complete court ordered treatment and stay out of trouble can have their charges dismissed.

More information about these and other bills can be obtained at www.capitol.state.tx.us/ or by calling your state representative or senator.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Yellowjackets

By Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

As summer winds down, yellowjackets seem to pick up their activity. They can commonly be seen around garbage cans at this time of year. Yellowjackets are often confused with paper wasps and sometimes honey bees. Wasps can be differentiated from bees by looking for hairs on the body- bees have hairs while wasps do not. Paper wasps are colored differently than yellowjackets and make a open-faced paper nest.

Yellowjackets are small, about ½ an inch long, with yellow bodies that have black markings. They create a paper-like nest out of chewed wood fiber. The nest is completely enclosed with a single opening for the wasps to enter. Nests can become fairly large in size and may contain up to 20,000 adult wasps. Usually nests are found in the ground, but sometimes the nests will be attached under the eave of a structure, on a tree branch, etc. Nests are typically abandoned in October or November as next years queens fly off to locate suitable overwintering locations. Abandoned nests typically decompose and are not used the following year.



If nests are not near human activity, they should be left alone. If treatment is necessary, it may be best, and safer, for nests to be treated by a pest management professional. Underground nests are best treated with an insecticidal dust sprinkled around the opening. Aerosol sprays may also be used, but tend not to be as effective as dusts. If wasps are foraging around garbage cans, make sure that all cans have tightly fitting lids and are emptied on a regular basis. Garbage cans should be cleaned with soap and water periodically to remove build up of any debris.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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New Cell Phone Law

*"I'll Have to Call You Back;
I'm in a School Zone."*

THE LAST SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE PASSED A NEW LAW MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO USE YOUR CELL PHONE IN A SCHOOL ZONE. THE EXCEPTIONS ARE:

- if you are using a hands free device
- if your vehicle is stopped
- if you are calling 911 for an emergency.

The law took effect September 1, 2009. Soon you can expect to see new signage in school zones reminding drivers to hang up or face a fine of up to \$200.



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Family Walk	Sundays	11:00 am (parents)
Celebrate Recovery	Mondays	7:00 pm
Esther <i>Beth Moore</i>	Wednesdays	9:15 am or 6:30 pm (women)
Ephesians <i>Kay Arthur</i>	Wednesdays	9:15 am or 5:30 pm (women)

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 . Blended Worship | 11:00 . Contemporary Worship | 9:30 & 11:00 . Bible Life Groups (all ages)

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

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Healthier Homes Transmitting Smart Meters ... Is this Really Smart?

By: Charlie & Michelle Bubnis

Transmitting Smart Meters are being installed nationwide (already in some Austin neighborhoods) to monitor gas, water and electrical services. The purpose of these wireless meters is to monitor peak usage times and to allow the consumer to use services at "least peak times" to save money. Sounds great, right?

Well ... there is a downside. Transmitting Smart Meters have never been tested for their impact on human health. The human exposure standard's this technology is based on was adopted in 1996 by the FCC and measured the tissue heating caused by radiation on a medium sized adult male. Consideration was never made for non-tissue heating effects of radio frequency radiation or its effects on critical organs including the brain and eyes. Women, children, the elderly and disabled were never included in these 1996 standards.

These regulating guidelines are 14 years old and have not been updated since the roll out of multiple wireless microwave applications. Accurate safety standards are nonexistent.

According the Norbert Hankin, EPA Radiation Protection Division "in recent years the number of studies reporting effects associated with chronic low-level exposure to radio frequency radiation has increased." (see also: Bioinitiative Report 2007)

These Smart Meters often have ranges of over 2 miles. Many of them transmit from your home every few seconds night and day and will be located on every home in the neighborhood causing a large increase in neighborhood electrical pollution. People are already reporting sleep problems and headaches.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- 1) If you do not have a transmitting Smart Meter and do not want one for health reasons, contact your local utility company.
- 2) If you already have a Transmitting Smart Meter and your family is experiencing difficulty sleeping, headaches, fatigue, etc. contact the Food & Drug Administration. You can file a complaint through the Medwatch Program. www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/medwatch/. The same program that regulates medical devices, regulates consumer products that emit radiation.
- 3) Contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission who is responsible for taking dangerous products off the market at 1-800-638-2772. Be prepared with the meter manufacturer, model and/or serial number and the symptoms it causes.

Transmitting Smart meters ... is this really smart? You decide.

RESOURCES:

- 1) www.electricalpollution.org – current information on electrosmog
- 2) www.bioinitiative.org – a compilation by non-industry funded scientists of over 2000 research studies on electromagnetic frequency (EMF) effects on physiological processes
- 3) www.electromagnetichealth.org – e-book available: Public Health SOS: The Shadow Side of the Wireless Revolution

October Events at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

FALL PLANT SALE & GARDENING FESTIVAL

Members Sale 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, October 9, Public Sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11

Nearly 300 hardy native plant species on sale to help your yard recover from the drought. Hourly tours from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shirley and Brian Loflin lecture on Texas Cacti in the auditorium, 11:30 a.m. Friday. Book signings in the store.

ORIGAMI FINALE AND DAMIAN PRIOUR - *Sunday, October 4*

Sculptor Damian Priour lectures on his exhibit at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Artist Joan Son demonstrates this ancient craft from 1 to 4 p.m. in McDermott Learning Center.

MARY FRASHER ART EXHIBIT - *October 9 through December 6*

A mixed media exhibit, "My Back Yard: Life in Central Austin" in the McDermott Learning Center.

NATURE NIGHTS—BUTTERFLIES - *Admission \$1, 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, October 16*

Explore the flight of the monarch butterflies and their friends. Sponsored by KVUE.

WILDFLOWER ART MINI-EXHIBIT - *October 17 to 31*

Clara Newby watercolor exhibit in the store.

GOBLINS IN THE GARDEN- *4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, October 25*

Follow the Trail of Bones, see the scarecrow exhibit and watch pumpkin carving. Trick or treat around the gardens and check out the Haunted Tower. Wear a costume!



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15 AUSTIN METRO LOCATIONS

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 _____

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Questions about membership?

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Halloween!

HP

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