



# The HPWBANA News

Volume 5, Number 12

December 2009

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

## MESSAGE FROM *the Board*

2009 has been a busy year for all of us. As another year comes to a close, the board would like to take a moment to reflect on the highlights of the past year.

Beautification of the neighborhood has and will continue to be a high priority. Neighbors spearheaded efforts to garner HPWBANA 3rd place in the Neighborhood Habitat Challenge and certification as a Green Neighborhood. The association has also supported efforts concerning non-native plant removal and maintenance of median and green spaces. And let's not forget the soon-to-be-installed toddler swings at Perry Park.

In addition to beautification, we have also focused on neighborhood crime and safety. We organized a safety seminar, supported Neighborhood Night Out parties, and focused on reducing speeding in parts of our neighborhood. We have also helped notify neighbors of proposed zoning plans.

And would a neighborhood association be without fun get-togethers. HPWBANA has organized the annual Egg Hunt, 4th of July Parade and Picnic, and the Annual Meeting. We even helped with a special hazardous waste collection.

But with all these accomplishments, there is still more to do. We hope you will consider joining us in 2010, as a member, a volunteer, or both!

## Meet The Board

### CAROLYN ROBINSON, BOARD PRESIDENT



Carolyn has lived in the neighborhood (on Lucas Drive) since 1999. She is married to Rhett Robinson and has two children, Cash and Montana. Carolyn first became involved in the neighborhood association in 2003 through the beautification committee. Carolyn's primary goal in joining the neighborhood association was to start an annual Easter Egg Hunt for the neighborhood! She accomplished that goal and the Perry Park Spring Egg Hunt is well attended every year--*rain or shine, blustery day, or sunny day!* Since then she has volunteered in many different roles in the neighborhood association. Outside of the neighborhood association, Carolyn works as a paralegal. Although there is not much of it, in her spare time, Carolyn enjoys reading.

### TONIANNE SOSTER, VICE PRESIDENT



Tonianne Soster, her husband Kurt and son Paul moved to the neighborhood in the summer of 2005. Tonianne and Kurt are both in the residential construction business, and Tonianne is also a licensed real estate agent and mortgage broker. During the last 4 years Tonianne and her husband Kurt have renovated 13 homes in the neighborhood. This will be Tonianne's 4th term on the board. She joined the neighborhood association in 2005 to address issues related to student housing facilities in city neighborhoods. She is currently involved on zoning and traffic calming committees for the neighborhood. Tonianne intends to spend her time on the board constructively and is always willing to hear any individual concerns that are affecting her neighbors and the community.

### ANDREA TORRES, TREASURER



Andrea Torres and her husband, Lawrence Lyman have lived on Highland Terrace (East) since 1994. Andrea became formally involved with the neighborhood association in 2007 when a day care facility was interested in opening on her

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# 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

### PRESIDENT

Carolyn Robinson ..... carrob99@hotmail.com

### VICE PRESIDENT

Tonianne Soster..... tasconstruction@austin.rr.com

### TREASURER

Andrea Torres, ..... andreatorres11@yahoo.com

### MEMBERS

Chereen Fisher ..... chereen@austin.rr.com

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

David Obermann ..... humbug@texas.net

Krista Saeger..... kristasaeger@yahoo.com

Kirby Walker..... kirbywalker@austin.rr.com

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** ..... TBD

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

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### Meet the Board - (Continued from Cover Page)

street. Before that she and her husband (and dogs) enjoyed the annual HPWBANA Fourth of July parade and picnic. Andrea is currently the Treasurer and formerly the editor of the neighborhood newsletter. Professionally, Andrea manages fundraising efforts for a local non-profit. Outside of work, Andrea enjoys training and competing with her dogs.

#### CHEREEN FISHER, BOARD MEMBER



*Chereen Fisher*

#### DAVID OBERMANN, BOARD MEMBER



*David Obermann*

David and Stacy Obermann and sons have lived in this neighborhood since 1983.

Our sons are Luke and Kyle (you may know Kyle from his active work in our neighborhood with environmental programs); Luke attends St. Olaf college, and Kyle is a senior at McCallum. David

has been active with HPWBANA since the mid-80s, and his advancing age finally weakened him to accept a board position. He looks forward to continued work on neighborhood parks, beautification, traffic, zoning, and other quality-of-life concerns. It's a blessing to live in this neighborhood and an honor to serve.

#### BEN FRIEDMAN, BOARD MEMBER

#### SCOTT ROGILLIO, BOARD MEMBER

Scott has lived on Perry Lane since 2000. Scott is married to Shay and has twin daughters, Sarah and Claire. Both children attend Highland Park Elementary. Scott is joining the neighborhood association board this year and will



*Ben Friedman*



*Scott Rogillio*

work on various projects as they present themselves. Professionally, Scott spent 10 years in Information Technology (IT) Consulting and the last 5 years working for the State of Texas. Outside of work Scott is involved with coaching and volunteering for his daughter sport teams.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

*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)**

# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Meet the Board - (Continued from Page 2)

### KRISTA SAEGER, BOARD MEMBER



Krista has lived in the neighborhood since 2000. She is married to Peter Saeger, and has two young children, Clara and Andrew. She has been on the Board since 2006, serving as the Treasurer during this time. She is also in charge of Resident Membership and has also helped residents with planning and zoning concerns. Krista became active in the neighborhood association in response to a developer seeking to violate deed restrictions in the neighborhood. Aside from these areas, she has also taken a special interest in Perry Park, initiating efforts to install toddler and additional youth swings at the playground. Outside of the neighborhood association, Krista is actively involved in her children's schools, and is a member of the Court Reporter Certification Board of Texas. She is an avid Blue Devils basketball fan from her graduate business school years at Duke.

### KIRBY WALKER, BOARD MEMBER

Kirby has lived in Austin since 1988 when he moved his aviation products business to Austin. In 1999 he developed a software business that he currently operates out of his home. He moved to

the neighborhood in 2006 and married the former Maureen Florence in August of 2007. Kirby enjoys live music (both playing and as a fan), football and boating. He got involved with the neighborhood association because he enjoys living in a neighborhood where people communicate and participate in their community.



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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### MAYOR LEE LEFFINGWELL *Visits Mayfield Park and Preserve*

October 23rd was a beautiful day to celebrate trees in Austin! The very old persimmon tree that graces the entrance of Mayfield Park and Preserve was awarded the City of Austin 2009 Small Tree of the Year Award. Mayor Lee Leffingwell (HPWBANA neighbor) was on hand to unveil the plaque.

The persimmon tree is special in its location and its beauty. The many thick trunks branch out to form a compact beautiful canopy. It is not that tall but what captures the eye is the overall shape and visible grayish trunks. It is quite lovely. As a native plant to this area it receives no special regular care or watering and thrives in these hot Texas summers. The persimmon tree was nominated by Mayfield Park and Preserve volunteer Nadene Morning.

The Tree of the Year program is managed by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department Forest Department. Professor Michael Benedikt helped launch the program a few years ago. Every year people from all over the city nominate trees that are special in some way. It could be the size, the overall beauty, or atmosphere they create, or just a favorite tree. There are two categories – a Large Tree of the Year and a Small Tree of the Year. A huge bald cypress tree at Red Bud Isle won the 2009 Large Tree of the Year.

The 2009 Tree of the Year event occurred a day before Austin Arbor Day. Treefolks provided saplings for the Good Sheppard kindergarteners and trees were provided for a small planting in Mayfield

Preserve. It was a good day for trees in Austin and those who appreciate the urban forest and its beauty.

Do you know a tree that is particularly beautiful? Applications for the 2010 Tree of the Year and past winners are posted on the City of Austin website: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/treeoftheyear/>. - **NADENE MORNING**



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## Be a Mayfield Preserve Steward

*Volunteers are needed to help keep Mayfield Preserve ligustrum free.*

During 2008 and 2009, Friends of Mayfield Preserve and American Youthworks E-Corps removed every last ligustrum from Mayfield Preserve - a gargantuan task!

Of course, those old ligustrums left lots of seeds behind in the soil, and it will take several years of follow up work to ensure the park returns to a native ecosystem.

Volunteers are needed to monitor the park and pull up new sprouts as they appear.

Mayfield Stewards need only commit to a couple of hours a month, on your own schedule. Come walk the park, identify baby ligustrums, and pull them up by hand before they become too big to remove easily. Report your hours and findings via email. Training will be provided.

Wandering Mayfield Preserve is a restorative activity. Get refreshed, and do the earth a good turn! Mayfield Preserve is at 3505 West 35th St., next to Laguna Gloria. Sign up to help on the Austin Parks Foundation website: <http://austinparks.org/volunteer.php>

*Many thanks, Nadene Morning, Friends of Mayfield Preserve*

## OCTOBER MEETING

### Highlights

On October 28, the board held its Annual Meeting at The Hub (on Dry Creek). The annual meeting is always a fun way for the neighbors to get together while discussing neighborhood business. This meeting is also an opportunity for everyone to meet the new board members as well as hear the accomplishments made by the previous board. This meeting also presented the board with an opportunity to recognize Frances Allen, a longtime resident and board member for her service to the neighborhood. HPWBANA also recognized neighbor Nadene Morning for winning the Dennis Hobbs Individual Achievement Award from Keep Austin Beautiful in recognition of her efforts to remove invasive plants from Mayfield Park. To close the meeting, neighbors Kyle Obermann and Grant McClure organized a presentation by David Turnage of the Austin Water Utility Conservation Division.

In 2010, board meetings will be held the fourth Monday of every month at 7pm at the Yarbrough 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!



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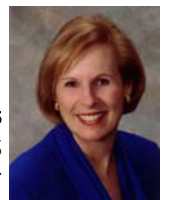


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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### Decorate for the Holidays!

This year, HPWBANA will be conducting a "Best Decorated House" contest during the holidays. If you'd like to participate, please contact Carolyn Robinson, Board President, 302-5417 or [carrob99@hotmail.com](mailto:carrob99@hotmail.com) and decorate your home by December 11th. The winner(s) will be featured in the January newsletter.



### COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S ANNUAL

*"Advent Event: Journey to Bethlehem"*

December 2, 2009 from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Eaton Hall  
3003 Northland (at the corner of 2222/Mopac)

Bring the whole family to step back in time and explore the chaotic and extraordinary events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Stroll through the marketplace and participate with shopkeepers as they make bread, dye cloth and weave baskets. Sample exotic fruits, nuts and spices at the Farmer's Market. Make wooden toys, stamped leather projects and scented oil to take home to remember your experience. Visit the stable and help the shepherds care for the animals. All are invited to this event. This is especially designed for children to participate with their parents and grandparents.

For more information, call Gayla Zachry at [gzachry@covenant.org](mailto:gzachry@covenant.org) or 512-334-3042.

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## LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER

### December Events



#### WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT

*9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5 - Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, December 6*

Find the perfect gift in the garden. Sales, discounts, demonstrations and book and ornament signings. On Saturday and Sunday some 14 artists and artisans display their work for sale. Sponsored by Majic 95.5.

#### LUMINATIONS

*Members Night, 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, December 11 - Public, 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13*

Thousands of luminarias and twinkly lights, music, taste treats and children's crafts, all for the donation of two canned goods for the Capital Area Food Bank. Sponsored by Samsung, Silicon Labs, Majic 95.5 and the Austin American-Statesman

#### ART EXHIBITS

Nature inspired sculpture in the gardens through March 7. Collage and mixed media by artist Mary Frasher in the McDermott Learning Center through December 6. Water Sparks by sculptor Damian Priour--a joint exhibit with the Umlauf Sculpture Garden through December 20.



#### CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Wildflower Center will be closed from December 21 through January 1

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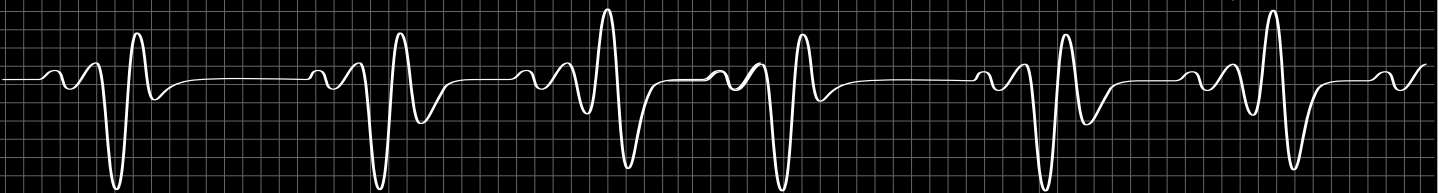


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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## NATURE WATCH

### *The Simple Beauty of Sparrows*

Coming from the Anglo-Saxon word 'spearwa' and literally meaning 'flutterer', sparrows often conjure up images of the ubiquitous and non-native House sparrow and the House finch, which isn't a sparrow at all. While most sparrows are generally small to medium brown birds with streaks, the differences between sparrows can best be determined by their relative size, head markings, and habitat.

All sparrows have conical bills that they use to shell seeds, a primary component of their diet year-round, but especially so in the winter months. There is little difference between the males and the females in terms of appearance, but males are on average larger than females. As a group, most sparrows are birds of grasslands, prairies, and marshes, and seem to prefer weedy fields and woodland edges in the winter. Of the sparrow species that migrate, none travel further than the southern United States or northern Mexico.

One of our most common winter sparrows is the Chipping sparrow. Small and slim, with a long notched tail, rusty cap, white stripe over the eye and a black line through the eye, this sparrow moves in loose flocks and frequently feeds in short grass and open woods. While still fairly abundant, this sparrow is declining in due to habitat and winters in the the United States. identified in 1810 ornithologist, it 'the social sparrow' approached and human habitation.

A fairly large White-crowned distinguished by its striped head, unmarked gray breast, and dark pink bill. It is found in large groups in thickets and weedy areas, foraging on the ground. Discovered in 1772 by a German naturalist, this sparrow was originally named the 'white-eyebrowed bunting', for in the Old World, sparrows were usually called buntings.

Found in a variety of grassy habitats, and often in small flocks, is the Savannah sparrow. Streaked on both their back and their breast, Savannah's have pink legs, yellow above the eye, a thin white median crown stripe, and a short notched tail. First described by a British ornithologist in 1790, it was called a 'sandwich bunting' due to the first specimens being collected from Sandwich Bay in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska.

Lincoln's sparrow is a medium-sized bird with a rather short tail, broad gray stripe above the eye, buffy moustache stripe, and a buffy upper breast with crisp, blackish streaks. Found in winter in brushy edges of ponds and other moist areas, this sparrow was named by John James Audubon in 1833 after his research companion, Thomas Lincoln, shot the first specimen in Labrador.

Sparrows are gregarious and are often our most hardy winter visitors. Adorned in various shades of brown, gray, black, and white, they reflect the subdued hues of a winter landscape. Often dismissed as 'little brown birds' when seen with the naked eye, these birds invite closer inspection and are nature's way of reminding us that subtle colors and patterns can be beautiful, too!

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

Jim & Lynne WEBER



*Chipping Sparrow*



*White-Crowned Sparrow*



*Savannah Sparrow*



*Lincoln's Sparrow*



## Tips for Teaching Children about Table Manners

*Submitted by Rebecca Beavers*

Teaching your children table manners may sound old fashioned, but it never goes out of style. Having good manners shows your respect for other people, and it's more than saying "please" and "thank you." It's about helping your children develop habits and behaviors that will help them relate to adults and other children in a positive way. "To make your family mealtime time special and relaxing, slow down, sit and talk with your children and expect good behavior. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much easier and enjoyable it will become," said Dr. Mary Zurn, vice president of education for Primrose Schools. "This is important because children with good manners often find it easier to make friends and get along with others at school and at home."

### **Dr. Zurn offers five table manners tips to get parents started:**

1. Start early: Don't wait until you think your child is "old enough" to learn polite behavior. Just as children learn to crawl before they learn to walk, they also learn manners in stages. Even infants watch parents for rules of expected behavior. Very young children can learn to sign key phrases such as "please" or "thank you" and then transition to the spoken words around age two. By age three, children should be able to stay seated at mealtime if you sit down with them.

2. Give specific feedback: Children learn best when they receive specific feedback about their behavior which is far more effective than generic praise. For example, instead of saying, "Good job," you can say, "I'm so glad you set the table."
3. Encourage polite conversation: Children as young as two can learn to engage in polite conversation at the dinner table with the right kind of guidance. As you are at the table eating together, show them how to take turns listening, talking, and asking questions.
4. Set a good example: Make sure your words and actions match. Children watch parents all the time for behavior clues. For example, if you want your child to eat broccoli because it's a healthy food choice, you will need to let them see you enjoy eating it as well.
5. Create a routine: Children learn best from consistency because it helps them know what to expect. Start with the repetition of a few simple steps such as putting a napkin in your lap when you sit down. Create a routine that is easy for them to repeat and remember. For more tips from Dr. Zurn and a list of book suggestions on teaching your children table manners, visit [www.Dr.ZandMe.com](http://www.Dr.ZandMe.com).

## Christmas is...



something different to everyone. What is it to you?

We invite you to celebrate with us this year.

**LightFest** | December 6 - 6:15pm

**Christmas Is... Program** | December 12 & 13 - 7pm

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** | 5pm

**Christmas Weekend Worship** | December 27 - 11am

### **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

### **We Need A Newsletter Editor!**

The HPWBANA newsletter is published each month by Peel, Inc. Peel specializes in neighborhood newsletters throughout Austin and provides the newsletter free of charge to the association. In return, we provide the content to the publisher. The HPWBANA newsletter editor gathers articles, sometimes writes articles and ensures that calendar items appear in the newsletter in a timely manner. This job does not take a lot of time, but it is very important to ensure timely newsletters to our residents.

If you think you may be interested in this fun, but important job, please contact Carolyn Robinson, Board President, 302-5417 or carrob99@hotmail.com.

### **HPWBANA Board Meetings**

*There is no December Board Meeting.  
Please make plans to join us in January!*

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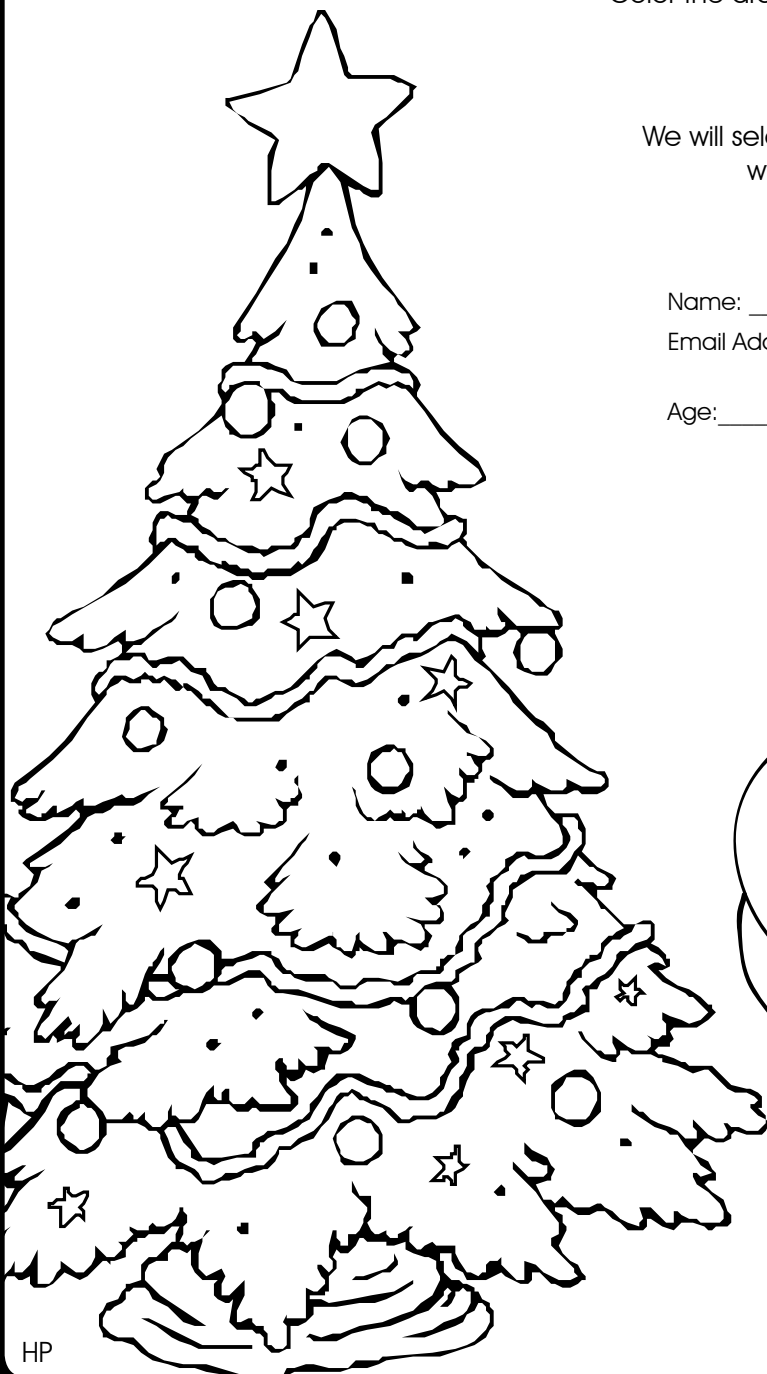
We will select the top few and post their artwork online at  
[www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com). DUE: December 31st

Be sure to include the following  
so we can let you know!

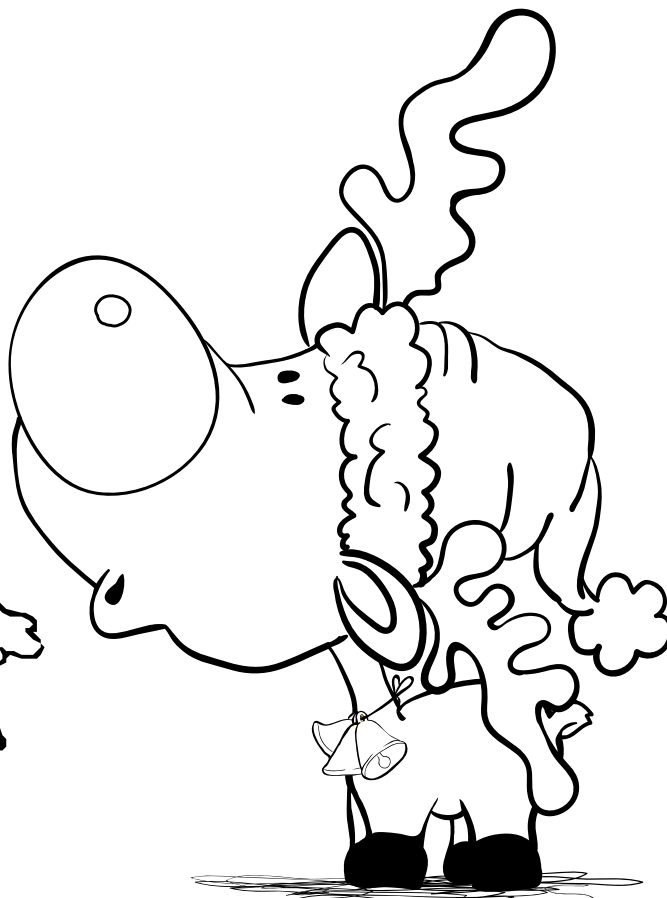
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first name, last initial)

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ [This information will only be used to notify you  
or your parents if your artwork was selected.]



HP





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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

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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.

