



# The HPWBANA News

Volume 6, Number 6

June 2010

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

## SCOTTIE CAMP IS HERE!

Everyone loves Scottie Camp! During the first 3 weeks of summer, Highland Park teachers will lead carefully selected, one-week enrichment courses designed to integrate different curriculum areas and to be a non-traditional, multi-aged experience for students. The price of the one-week course includes tuition and fees. Core Camp hours are 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Campers can take advantage of our flat-rate child care. The camps are available to Austin area children. Campers are challenged to push the limits of their learning while working in small, cooperative, multi-age groups. Read about the camps at the new Scottie Camp web site: <http://web.mac.com/highlandparkscotties/iWeb/Camp/Welcome.html>

## OAK WILT SIGNS

There is some confusion about the right time to trim oak trees. According to the City of Austin Arborist, those of us who live in the Highland Park Balcones Area Neighborhood should NOT trim oak trees from February thru June to prevent the spread of Oak Wilt. You may have noticed signs popping up at various intersections detailing this information. A member of the neighborhood Board of Directors saw a similar sign in another neighborhood. After a discussion at last month's neighborhood meeting, the board voted to create signs for our neighborhood. Although the signs went out a little late for this season, they will be collected and stored at the end of June. Next year, they will be put out in February, the beginning of the "no-trim" period. The board thanks the neighbors who allowed signs to be placed in their yard.

## AWARDS PRESENTED FOR GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD

At the May 15th HPWBANA neighborhood meeting, the Board presented a copy of the Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor Lee Leffingwell and the Austin City Council to Grant McClure and Kyle Oberman for their work to gain recognition of our neighborhood as an Austin Green Neighborhood. Information about this program can be obtained in the Green Neighbor booklet available at all Austin libraries. Or on the Internet at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/greenneighbor/default.htm>

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I saw Tim's Tree Service working at a neighbor's and asked them to trim our trees. We paid them in advance and have had a large pile of logs and trash in our driveway since the second week of March. I wish we had checked out [angieslist](http://angieslist.com) or [Austin/citysearch.com](http://Austin/citysearch.com).

Angieslist Austin's best and worst contractors of 2008, Published on January 1, 2009 by Brooke Reynolds said: "In addition to our nationwide list, here are the Austin contractors who have earned the distinction of being the best or worst in the Austin area.

"The Worst: Tim's Tree Service Austin

"Homemade "Don't use Tim's Tree Service" signs have sprouted up in an Austin neighborhood, one of several efforts to warn people about a company that homeowners say does bad work. Tim's Tree Service has a total overall grade of "F" on the List with 12 reports and landed in the Penalty Box in January.

"Customers say they paid up front, but owner Tim Pruett often failed to complete the work properly — or at all. "I repeatedly left Tim messages, but he'd never show," says Austin member Karen Pennell. "I had to clear the tree refuse from my yard and driveway myself." Pruett told Angie's List Magazine that if customers are unhappy, they should call him, and he'll make it right. Customers have logged 14 complaints about the company with the Better Business Bureau, earning it an unsatisfactory rating."

[Austin/citysearch.com](http://Austin/citysearch.com) displayed 8 reviews (All give a rating of one out of five stars), Tim's Tree Service, 12928 Modena Trail Austin, TX 78729.

**-SUBMITTED BY ELI COX**

## 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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Scott Rogillio ..... scott@rogillio.com

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

The HPWBANA Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month except December at the Yarbrough Library on Hancock. Meetings are held from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. All neighbors are invited to attend. [www.hpwbana.org](http://www.hpwbana.org)

HWPBANA 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.

## COMING SOON TO A PARK NEAR YOU!

Movie Night will be back in Perry Park Quarry early this Fall. Gather with your friends and neighbors for a Family Friendly Movie under the Stars!

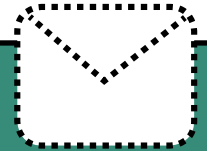
Keep checking the newsletter and the neighborhood web site ([www.HPWBANA.org](http://www.HPWBANA.org)) for the latest details.

Volunteer Help Needed  
Sponsorship Opportunities Available  
Chereen Fisher 512-507-9065 or [chereen@austin.rr.com](mailto:chereen@austin.rr.com)  
Scott Rogillio at [scott@rogillio.com](mailto:scott@rogillio.com)



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## AVOID AUTO BREAK-INS

Each year, \$1.255 billion in personal items and accessories are stolen from vehicles in about 1.85 million thefts; and for every theft, experts estimate, there are several break-ins and attempted break-ins. Unfortunately, several of our neighbors are part of that statistic and have had their automobiles broken into, some twice.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau is a not-for-profit organization that receives support from approximately 1,000 property/casualty insurance companies. The NICB partners with insurers and law enforcement agencies to facilitate the identification, detection and prosecution of insurance criminals. The NICB recommends the following steps to help prevent auto break-in.

### 1. Lock Your Doors

While this piece of advice should be a no-brainer, up to a quarter of vehicle thefts are from unlocked cars, according to some law enforcement agencies. Even if you're running into the store for a Coke, that's too long to leave your vehicle's contents open for the taking. Simply locking the doors will deter those who might just be waiting around for an easy target.

### 2. Keep it Tidy

Almost any worthless personal item that's visible from the outside-

-even an empty shopping bag--could be seen as a valuable or a carrier of valuables. If you have a wagon or SUV that leaves your cargo area on display, consider getting a cover. Most of these vehicles can be fitted with inexpensive retractable covers to help keep shopping bags or other belongings out of sight.

### 3. Conceal all the evidence

Don't leave any bait out for thieves; stow your electronics and accessories well out of sight--or better yet, bring it with you. The evidence alone might be enough to pique the interest of thieves, so hide that too, including power plugs, telltale iPod adapters, or nav-system windshield suction-cup mounts, and even put the cigarette lighter back in place.

### 4. Stash Before (Not After) You Park

Get in the habit of putting shopping bags in the trunk right when you return to the vehicle, rather than after you park at the next place. According to National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) spokesman Frank Scafidi, thieves sometimes linger in busy parking lots looking for valuables being moved out of sight. Don't display to them what you have.

### 5. Completely Close Windows and Sunroofs

*(Continued on Page 4)*



**Participate this June 12th - 20th in *Chalk Art from the Heart* and help us promote water safety. Drowning is Preventable!**

.....

Check out our website for details, contest rules and PRIZES!

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**COLIN'S HOPE**

# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Break-Ins - (Continued from Page 3)

No, it's not just because thieves might reach in through the gap and open your locks with a coat hanger. Open windows will disable the pressure sensor in some car alarms, leaving the vehicle more vulnerable to break-in and potentially giving thieves more time before the alarm sounds.

### 6. Get an Alarm

If you don't have an alarm system, get one. The noise alone may be enough to scare away an inexperienced thief and prevent the break-in. Factory-option alarm systems are generally best, but a carefully installed, properly calibrated aftermarket system can provide just as much safety. Beware, many less-expensive new cars have remote entry but not a true alarm. In some instances you may be eligible for an auto insurance policy discount from the installation of your alarm as well.

### 7. Stick With Your Original Audio System

Thefts of car audio components are on the decline, but having an aftermarket system still makes a car more attractive to thieves thinking of breaking in. There's no black market to speak of for factory stereos, and they've become much better sounding in recent years. Beyond that, an original audio system can often fall under your auto insurance policy during a theft claim, where a custom unit is more difficult to file in a claim (if at all).

### 8. Park for Visibility

Park in a busy, well-lit area, and avoid concealment from larger vehicles, fences, or foliage. Except for the most brazen thieves, the greater the chances are that someone might see a crime in progress, the lower the chances are that the potential thief will attempt it.

### 9. Get physical

A significant portion of vehicles are broken into with the intent of stealing the vehicle itself, so combining several visible simple, inexpensive physical theft deterrents like steering wheel locks (The Club), steering column collars, or brake pedal locks may discourage the would-be thief from breaking in and trying.

### 10. Layer your Defenses

That's the strategy recommended by the NICB; layers include warning devices such as alarms, wheel etching, or decals; immobilizers; and even tracking systems (LoJack is one). "None of them are foolproof, but if they're used in tandem they can really keep the chances down," agrees Loretta Worters, vice president of the Insurance Information Institute.



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## PERRY PARK – LIGUSTRUM FREE!

The community has been working on invasive plant removal at Perry Park for several years now. When we started the park was completely filled with the invasive plant ligustrum. I remember the ligustrum being so large and so dense that they completely hid the big beautiful oak trees. It was just everywhere. There was also a large area taken over with bamboo and nandina was on its way to becoming a problem. In the early years we had big workdays and it was slow going. Now the neighborhood uses American Youthworks Environmental Corps for invasive plant removal. For the past three years HPWBANA has hired E-Corps to spend a day or two in Perry Park to help remove these plants that were choking out the native species. This last pass was in mid April and we can now claim that Perry Park is ligustrum free, for now anyway. We also removed Chinaberry, photinia, bamboo and nandina, although by far it is ligustrum that was taking over the park. And there is more good news as the PARD Forest Department will remove the remaining big chinaberry trees at Perry. Perry Park is well on its way to being free of invasive plants.

Here is a quick summary for the Perry Park Invasive Plant Removal:

Total amount of funds used so far: \$6,000+

Total number of volunteer hours: 500+

It is great to claim that Perry Park is ligustrum free! But invasive plant removal doesn't stop with the removal of mature plants. There is a large seed base at the park from years of ligustrum growth. Volunteers will be removing saplings for many more years. If you can identify invasive plants while they are very small we would welcome your help by walking the park periodically and pull them out. Contact me if you are interested.

If you have ligustrum or other invasive plants in your yard you may want to consider looking at them to see if they are causing problems. Are they choking out native trees? Have they smothered the understory plants? Is your yard almost entirely filled with these invasive junk trees? Are they seeding your neighbor's yard? Are they seeding your local park or nature preserve as the birds eat and carry the seeds? This past year at Perry Park volunteers spent 21 hours just pulling up ligustrum seedlings. The best time to remove these plants is when they are small.

Check out the Texas Invasives website for information about the various invasive plants we look for: <http://texasinvasives.org/>

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- Preschool/Kinder Day Camp | July 26-30
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Day Camp | July 26-30
- Great Kids (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) at Camp Tejas | July 3-6
- Collide Student Camp | July 2-6

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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Austin Newcomers Club

### June Luncheon

Austin Newcomers is a social organization dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Join us at our monthly luncheon as well as take the opportunity to learn about and become involved in many of the varied fun Interest groups.

**Time:** 11:00 AM Social - 12 Noon Luncheon

**Date:** June 16, 2010

*(Reservations required by Thursday, June 10th)*

**Location:** Green Pastures Restaurant

811 W Live Oak Street, Austin, 78704

**Luncheon Cost:** \$20 per person

*For Luncheon Reservations email: LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com or contact Marilyn Amey, 473-0118*

*For other Newcomers information visit*

*www.austinnewcomers.com or call 512-314-5100*

### June Program: Wild Women of the Old West - originally scheduled for January

The Old West was difficult for women. Not all had brave husbands

who provided for them and made the family living. Frontier women without the protection of a husband or parents were left to do whatever they could to survive.

Many of the men who were outlaws have become legends with heroic stature. The women outlaws are not well known, but many had fascinating lives.

These are not the pioneer women with the sunbonnets who organized our churches, but women who made up their own rules and did what they had to do to live in a tough and lonely world.

Martha McLain will tell us the stories of these women. Marti's family has ranched in Sutton Country, Texas for over 100 years. She is a graduate of the University of Texas, did her graduate work in American Studies at the University of Texas Permian Basin, and studied Spanish and archeology in Mexico City and Guadalajara.

She has held various offices in the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and was named a Honorary Regent for Life in the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is the author of Love Letter of the Old West and April 1, 1902, a columnist, play director (won Best Direction of a Drama award), and speaker.

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## SAVE THE DATE

### *Stiletto Stampede*

Save the Date! The Stiletto Stampede for the Cure! is back at the Hill Country Galleria, Saturday, October 16, 2010! Presented by Ideal Heel and Dillard's, the Stiletto Stampede for the Cure benefits the Susan G Komen Austin Affiliate. The Stiletto Stampede for the Cure is a high heel dash (100 yards) with a mission to encourage young women and men to know and understand the risks of breast cancer and empower them to prevent the disease by utilizing overall Breast Self-Awareness through early detection, screening methods and education. More information is available online at [www.stilettostampede4thecure.org](http://www.stilettostampede4thecure.org)

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