



The HPWBANA News

Volume 7, Number 1

January 2011

www.hpwbana.org

2011 Membership Dues Update

In a few weeks, HPWBANA neighbors will receive their membership letter for 2011. One thing you will notice is that dues have increased this year. For at least the last ten years (and maybe more), our neighborhood dues have remained \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a household. This year, they are increasing to \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a household.

The HPWBANA board has increased dues to enable us to embark on some new projects and additional events for the neighborhood. One project is to improve our communication with neighbors which may include updating our website so that it is user-friendly and contains more needed information. We also plan on returning the family-friendly Movie in the Park and possibly making that a twice a year occurrence. This year we are introducing the Mid-Century Modern Homes Preservation Tour to highlight the unique architecture in our neighborhood. And as always, we are looking at continuing and expanding beautification efforts in our medians and parks.

Should you have any questions about these projects or wish to get involved with one, please feel free to contact a board member. As always, we welcome your input!

Message from the Board

By the time you read this letter, the holidays will be over and a new year will be on the horizon. I am usually not that big into resolutions, but there is one that I seriously plan to make this year, and I hope you will try to make it too. My resolution is to get to know my neighbors!

Over the last year, crime prevention has been on the minds of many of us. While there are many things we can do, I believe the best way to fight back is to get to know those around you. Learn the names of neighbors who live on your street. Wave hello as you come and go. Keep an eye on your neighbors' homes when they are at work or out of town. Just look out for each other.

Some of us may already do this. Some of us may just not have had time to meet the newest neighbors on the block. We live in a great neighborhood, and we have wonderful neighbors. At the very least, I am sure we will make lots of new friends.

May you have a happy, healthy, and safe 2011!
Andrea Torres President, HPWBANA

Mid-Century Modern Homes Preservation Tour

The neighborhood association, in conjunction with individual and business sponsors committed to our neighborhood, is hosting a tour which will feature 10-12 homes that exemplify the architectural design and characteristics of mid-century modern in a celebration of the mid-century architecture our neighborhood is both rich in and known for. Our goal is to maintain that image and preserve an architectural design that has been admired since the mid 20th century.

Mid-century modern is an architectural, interior and product design form that generally describes mid-20th century developments in modern design, architecture, and urban development from roughly 1933-1965. The term was coined in 1983 by Cara Greenberg for the title of her book, *Mid-Century Modern: Furniture of the 1950's* (Random House), celebrating the style which is now recognized by scholars and museums worldwide as a significant design movement.

The tour is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 26th, 2011 from 1-5pm. For more information or to include your home in this tour please contact Tonianne Soster, vice president of the neighborhood association and chair of the Home Preservation Committee.



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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

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 for ad information and pricing.

HPWBANA BIOS - 2011

Andrea Torres, President

Andrea has lived on Highland Terrace East for 16 years with her husband Lawrence Lyman and their dogs. She enjoys neighborhood events, especially the Fourth of July parade. She has served as a board member for four years, previously as secretary and treasurer. Her goal as president is to increase both neighborhood association membership and participation in various neighborhood committees. She also aims to improve how the association communicates with neighbors. Andrea is vice president for development at Meals on Wheels and More. When not working, she enjoys training and competing with her dogs in obedience. She's also a fan of really good chile con queso.

Tonianne Soster, Vice President

Tonianne and her husband, Kurt, have lived in the Highland Park neighborhood with their son Paul since the summer of 2005, at which time she also joined the board. Paul is 7 and a half years old and attends Highland Park Elementary. Tonianne is owner and general contractor of TAS Construction, a residential remodeling company specializing in inner-city old home restoration projects. When she is not devoting her time to neighborhood issues, managing her construction crew or spending time with her family, she enjoys Austin's live music scene, especially during the SXSW Music Festival, where she volunteers her time and works as a stage manager. In addition to serving as vice president on this board, Tonianne also serves as representative, zoning chair and crime and safety coordinator with the Austin Neighborhood Council. She has been working on a traffic calming project with the City of Austin Transportation Department in an effort to address speeding and safety concerns on Perry Lane. This project is near completion, with new speed cushions installed and an upcoming traffic circle at the intersection of Perry Lane and Fairview Drive. In the coming year, Tonianne would like to continue to see residents join together in creating a safer environment for neighborhood families and friends.

Trey McWhorter, Secretary

Trey has lived in the neighborhood for eight months with his wife, Sarah, and children, Saylor, 7, and Archer, 2, and has served as secretary since his arrival. He works as a product marketing manager for National Instruments and enjoys mountain biking, paddle boarding and photography. As secretary, Trey hopes to update the HPWBANA website and help out with the Mid-Century Modern Home Preservation Tour this spring.

Susan Fannin, Newsletter Editor

Susan's family has owned their home on Crestway since 1968. She states that some of her first memories of the neighborhood were attending the first grade at Highland Park Elementary School. Although she moved around as a young adult and pursued a career in Kentucky, Virginia, and Oklahoma, she always called Austin home. In 1992, she moved back to the neighborhood. Susan is retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs where her division developed software to support the VA home loan program. Susan looks forward to serving the board as the newsletter editor.

Becca Cody, Board Member

After spending four years remodeling their home, Becca and her

(Continued on Page 3)

Highland Park West Balcones Area

HPWBANA Bios, 2011 - (Continued from Page 2)

family finally moved to the neighborhood in March of 2010. She and her husband, Divit Tripathi, have two children, Bodhi, 7, and Chandler, 4. They love the neighborhood and are looking forward to meeting more of their HPWBANA neighbors. In her first year on the board, Becca will be helping out with this spring's Mid-Century Modern Home Preservation Tour. She is also particularly interested in helping with neighborhood events to help foster community involvement and forge lasting relationships between neighbors. Before having children, Becca worked in environmental consulting as a geographic information systems analyst. She hopes to re-enter the workforce once Chandler enters kindergarten next year and would love to return to consulting or possibly explore a career in graphic design. She enjoys running, biking (both road and mountain), ceramics, traveling and cooking. She once swam across a channel in downtown Stockholm at dawn, much to the shock of cheering onlookers who never thought she would actually do it.

David Obermann, Board Member

David and his wife, Stacy, have lived in the neighborhood since 1983 and have two sons, Luke and Kyle. 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. He feels it's a blessing to live in this neighborhood and an honor to serve on the board.

Scott Rogillio, Event Chair

Scott and his wife, Shay, have lived on Perry Lane for ten years. The couple has twin daughters, Sarah and Claire, who are in second grade at Highland Park Elementary, and a golden retriever named Casey. This will be Scott's second year on the board. He was responsible for last year's movie in Perry Park featuring Madagascar and hopes to make it a biannual event, potentially showing a G-rated movie in the fall for younger viewers and a PG or PG-13 rated movie for older kids in the spring. Scott works as the director of applications and development with the Department of Family and Protective Services. He also coaches his daughters' sports teams and enjoys cooking, particularly Louisiana cuisine. Scott and Shay both grew up in Slidell, Louisiana and have known each other since third grade.

Kirby Walker, Board Member

Kirby has lived on Beverly Skyline since 2006 and has been a board member for almost one year. He married his wife Maureen in 2008, and between the two of them the couple has three grown children, all of whom live away. He was attracted to the neighborhood association because he is fascinated by community and how it can enhance our lives. As a board member, he is particularly interested in facilitating communication and contact between neighbors. Kirby runs a software business, Manedge Software, from his home. His hobbies include music, travel and photography (both still and video). He and Maureen enjoy entertaining and have three cats, a dog and, like many of us in the neighborhood, plenty of squirrels.

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Congrats Neighbor!

Median and Green Space Update

We need your help!

Is there a median or green space close to where you live that have been landscaped by the neighborhood? If so, please consider getting involved with its upkeep. The beautification committee relies on help from the community to keep these medians looking nice. Medians need to be watered in dry periods, weeded, trimmed and mulched. Some of you may remember what these spaces looked like before the community adopted them. And yes, help is needed maintaining these spaces so please contact me if you want to help out. And for those medians that require city mowing note there have been changes in how and when the city mows these green spaces and we are working with them. Check out all the medians and green spaces tended by the community on the HPWBANA website as we have a webpage dedicated to beautification efforts, hpwbana.org.

Nadene Morning

ntmorning@hotmail.com

Beautification and Parks Committee

Spring Baseball and Softball Register Now!

Open to ages 5-15 for baseball and grades K-12 for softball, Northwest Little League is accepting online registrations through February 2nd.

TO GET MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER ONLINE,

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Courage, Loyalty and Character

Six Tips for keeping your Home Safe during the Holidays

Did Santa bring you new electronics or other expensive gifts that might tempt thieves? Here are a few things we can do keep to keep our homes secure.

- 1. When traveling, set a timer for lights. Or, if you're friendly with your neighbors, consider asking one or more to bring in your mail and turn lights on and off.
- 2. It's exciting to get a new flat screen television, and once you turn it on it's easy to get distracted and just plop the box outside for the garbage. You may as well hang out a sign that says, "FREE TV HERE." Break down your boxes and stash them in the recycling can or put them in large bags before you set them outside.
- 3. Deadbolt your door every time you leave home, even if you're just leaving for a few minutes to walk down to a neighbor's house.
- 4. Be sure to use window treatments and close them after dark so that the interior of your home is not visible to the outside. If you got a new computer and it's by a window be sure to turn the screen off at night so the light doesn't draw attention to someone who might be lurking around looking for an easy grab.
- 5. I love social media as much as the next person, but does everyone need to know that you're out of state at your grandma's house for the next week? Keep your exact location offline. Advertising that your house is empty is not a good idea. Avoid leaving messages on your answering machine saying you are out of town.
- 6. If you're going to be away from home for more than a few days, place a hold on newspaper and mail delivery. A stoop littered with newspapers or an overflowing mailbox are sure signs that someone is on vacation and no one is looking after the homestead.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

3 Steps to Kick-Start your Career in 2011

By Amy Wolfgang, M.Ed.

It's a new year and many of us spend this time evaluating different aspects of our lives: our health, our finances, and our career. Below are the 3 most important actions you can take to kick-start your career in 2011!

IDENTIFY YOUR CAREER GOALS

Before you can begin to make changes in your career, you need to identify what you are looking to change. Identify a few career goals that you want to achieve in 2011. Sample goals include:

- Develop new skills in a particular area
- Make a lateral move at your company
- Earn a promotion
- Start a new job in a different industry

Once you know what you want to achieve you can begin the work to make those changes happen.

Action Item: Write down your career goals for 2011. This does not need to be a formal document, but write them down on paper or type them into a document.

GET YOUR RESUME IN SHAPE

When was the last time you updated your resume? For some it was years ago when they last applied to a job. For others, it was only a few months ago. Regardless of when you viewed your resume last, now is the time to review it and make sure it includes all of your latest accomplishments.

Look at the bullet points on your resume and ask yourself the following questions:

- Do they describe your responsibilities or do they focus on results? A good resume focuses on what you accomplished rather than the tasks that filled your day.
- Is your resume attractive to read or is it too dense with information? Sometimes it can be hard to edit your own work.

We feel a personal connection to what we have accomplished and we should, however, we do not need to include every accomplishment for every position we have ever held.

Action Items: Review the bullet points on your resume and make sure your accomplishments jump out. Then make sure your resume is easy to read. Ask others to help you decide what you should and should not keep on your resume.

DEVELOP CONNECTIONS

Finding a new job typically takes more than just applying for a position on a website. You need to tap into the hidden job market by making connections with other professionals. These connections can often help get your resume on top of the pile in front of the hiring manager. Additionally, knowing people at the company you are applying to can help you understand the culture better and the type of individuals that succeed at that company. Developing relationships now will help you in the future, even if you are happy at your current job.

Are you already using professional social networking sites? Great. Are you utilizing them effectively? Have you recently added connections to your sites? Have you joined all relevant groups on the sites?

Professional social networking sites are an important tool to use in a tech-savvy town like Austin, Texas. Once you are connected virtually, it's time to start making an effort to connect with people in your network. Take them to coffee or schedule a phone conversation. You want individuals to keep you in the front of their mind for when an opportunity comes up. Remember, part of developing relationships is reciprocating. It's a two way street. Think about how you can help the individual you are connecting with and offer that help.

Action Items: Join professional social networking sites and "invite" those you know to join your network. Then search for good contacts to have personal meetings and conversations with.

In a tight job market, you need every advantage you can get. These actions will give you a leg up and lead to a great career in 2011!

Good Luck!

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Thinking about Trees

Autumn always seems to get me thinking about trees. The changing colors, falling and raking leaves, cleaning the gutters - all call attention to our trees. And there's little doubt that the trees in our neighborhood are one of our most important assets, and the envy of many folks around Austin. So it's good to pause and think about these trees and to educate ourselves on how to nurture them so that they continue to enhance our neighborhood and lives.

I'm not an arborist, but have talked to several over the years, and here are a few nuggets of wisdom they have passed along:

- DO NOT PRUNE oaks between February and June, because this is when our oaks are most at risk for the spread of Oak Wilt. If you have oaks that need attention (eg., pruning, dead wood removal, cabling), do it before mid-Feb.
- Oak Wilt does not respect property boundaries. If your neighbor gets it, so will you. It is the responsibility of all of us to practice proper tree care.
- Use a reputable tree service that provides references, and call those references to verify the service and quality of work performed. Your trees are worth thousands to your property value; keep that in mind before accepting a low-bid tree service.
- Fall and winter are the ideal months to plant or transplant trees

and shrubs, as the roots have time to get established before the stresses of spring foliage and summer heat arrive. Water regularly until established.

- Remove invasive species in the fall and winter, and replace with native species to restore landscape and habitat balance. Wax leaf lustrum, nandina, and chinaberry are over-running our neighborhood yards, greenbelts and parks.
- The City of Austin maintains an excellent source for learning about trees, shrubs and other plants ideally adapted for our neighborhood soils, climate and challenges (insects, disease, deer), plus much more about healthy landscapes.



Go to www.growgreen.org.

Thanks in advance for your help keeping our neighborhood trees healthy. We all benefit from your efforts.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Mt Bonnell November Cleanup

Thanks go out to Stan Bacon, Fred Bothwell and Sel Graham of the West Point Society of Central Texas for organizing a successful cleanup of Mt Bonnell/Covert Park just in time for the fall holiday season. It was a great turnout as volunteers trimmed trails, weeded beds and picked up trash throughout the entire park. A special thanks go out to the AFD firefighters Lieutenant Scott Bartell and Specialist Jeffrey Deane who volunteered to repel down the cliff to help clean up those tough areas.

The West Point Society of Central Texas adopted Mt Bonnell/Covert Park and they have a handful of projects planned. They are calling this park group the Friends of Mt Bonnell and area working with PARD, Austin Parks Foundation and the community to open up the incredible views which draw many park visitors. These views have become blocked with vegetation growth over the years, and it will take a professional crew to open them back up. They have other projects planned as well. We will be keeping you posted in this newsletter as we want your involvement. More information can be found on the APF website Mt Bonnell park page <http://austinparks.org> and on the WPSCT website: http://www.west-point.org/joseph_bonnell/mount_bonnell.

To contact this group directly please email Stan Bacon at sbacon58@sbcglobal.net.

Watch for the next workday which is already being planned!

*- By Nadene Morning
Beautification and Parks Committee*



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- Neighborhood Beautification Efforts
- Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th Parade and Picnic, Movie in the Park and other events
- Advocates for Neighborhood on City Issues
- Strengthen Neighborhood Safety Network and Communication

We need your support! Please renew your membership or become a new member of HPWBANA today. Send \$25 for a Family membership or \$20 for a Single-Member Household membership (only one adult in household) to:

HPWBANA, PO Box 26101, Austin, TX 78755

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Questions about membership? Please contact Andrea Torres, HPWBANA President, at 302-4294 or via email at andreatorres11@yahoo.com

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Smart Financial Moves for New Parents

If you've just had a new baby, your life is filled with more joy (but less sleep). You're probably already aware of the time and effort you must invest in raising your child, but you may not have thought as much about another aspect — the financial one.

Consider this: The average cost of raising a child to age 17 is now \$222,360, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report on how much middle-income, two-parent families spend on their offspring. And this is the amount you might spend *before* your son or daughter heads to college. Clearly, you need to start making the financial moves necessary to take your child from diapers to a degree. Here are some suggestions for doing just that:

- **Purchase sufficient life insurance.** When it was just you and your spouse, it was a good idea for you to have life insurance — but now that you have a child, it's an absolute necessity. If you have any doubts about the value of life insurance, just look again at that \$222,360 figure above, and then tack on the costs of four years of college. If you or your spouse were to die unexpectedly, would the survivor earn enough to raise and educate your child? In this day and age, that isn't likely. So make sure that you have adequate life insurance in place.
- **Prepare a will.** Obviously, you hope to enjoy a long life — one in which you see your child grow to adulthood. But none of us can predict the future, so it's essential that you draw up a will to provide for the care of your child, both financially and physically. When you create a will, you can name a guardian to step in and take care of your child, if necessary, and you can make sure your child receives your financial assets. However, many people go



beyond writing a will and establish a living trust, which gives them more control over how and when they want their assets distributed. Your legal advisor can help you prepare a will and determine if a living trust is appropriate for your needs.

- **Maintain adequate cash.** To help pay for all those expenses related to child rearing, keep enough cash on hand. By having enough resources available in liquid accounts, you can avoid having to dip into your long-term investments to pay for short-term needs.
- **Save early and often for college.** It's never too soon to start saving for the high costs of higher education. A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged vehicle and may be a great option for your college savings. Contributions to a 529 plan are made with after-tax dollars, and have the opportunity to grow tax-free. Withdrawals used for qualified higher education expenses are also tax free. Furthermore, your 529 plan contributions may be eligible for a state tax deduction or credit depending on the plan and state.
- **Stay balanced.** As we've seen, it takes a lot of money to raise a child. But even as you're meeting these expenses, think about your own future, particularly your retirement. Strive to strike a balance between the money you spend on your child and the amount you invest in your 401(k), IRA and other retirement-savings vehicles.

You can't put a price-tag on your child's future, but when it comes to taking care of that child, you'll want to know the costs involved — and be prepared for them.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Sudoku

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		4	7				8	3
				2		4		
		3	9				5	
	4							2
8	1							
	7		3	8				
		7	8	3		6	2	
	5							9
2						1		

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TIM HAWKINS
in concert
saturday **February 26 2011** | 7:00 pm
tickets on sale now at www.ghbc.org

THE RADIANT CHURCH | WATCH LIVE services Sunday mornings or view any time at www.ghbc.org

Sunday Morning Schedule
9:30 - Blended Worship | 11:00 - Contemporary Worship | 9:30 & 11:00 - Bible Life Groups (all ages)

Great Hills Baptist Church | 10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, Texas 78759 | 512.343.7763



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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.

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OFFICE HOURS

Convenient office hours are
Monday 9 am - 5 pm

Tuesday - Thursday 8 am - 5 pm

Fridays are reserved for surgical procedures.

