

Don't Prune *February through June!*

February through June is the most active time of year for the spread of Oak Wilt. Should your oaks require trimming or pruning, please do so before February arrives. Your cooperation is appreciated by everyone in our neighborhood. Thanks for your help keeping our neighborhood green and healthy.

SOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

- www.texasoakwilt.org
- www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt
- www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees (a good source about native tree selection, planting, care, and much more)

Thanks for your help keeping our neighborhood green and healthy.



Check out the new and improved HPWBANA.org!



Thanks to our uber talented neighbor, Lauren Cunningham of The Creative Parasol, HPWBANA has a completely redesigned and much improved website! The new user friendly HPWBANA.org will better connect neighbors with activities of interest and events happening in and around the neighborhood.

Please feel free to contact Lauren at webmaster@hpwbana.org to offer feedback about anything on the new site. We welcome your input.

Crime and Safety

As most of you know, two homes, (one on Valley Oak and one on Ridge Oak) were recently burglarized. Due to the recent increase in residential and automobile burglaries in the neighborhood, many concerned neighbors have shown interest in getting involved with our neighborhood watch program. Contact HPWBANA at volunteer@hpwbana.org to see who in your area is already involved. We would like to maintain a crime network email list to distribute information to as many residents as possible.

In addition, our APD Central West District Representative Officer Darrell Grayson will be attending one of our HPWBANA meetings in the near future to talk to the neighborhood about what we can do to reduce crime in our neighborhood. Once we have a date set, we will publish it in the newsletter, Yahoo Group, and on HPWBANA.org.

Call For Volunteers

Are you interested in getting more involved with what goes on in your neighborhood? Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association is looking for prospective board members and volunteers.

If you are interested in joining the board, drop an email to Trey McWhorter at tmcwhorter3@yahoo.com.

Unable to attend monthly board meetings? The board is also looking for volunteers! You can work on an area of your choice, including crime and safety, wildfire prevention, events, and neighborhood beautification.

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
APD REP. - Officer Darrell Grayson .. 512-974-5242

'I BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chereen Fisher chereen@austin.rr.com

The HPWBANA Board meets on the third Monday of each month except December. Please go to HPWBANA.org for our current meeting location or contact president@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.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

*Have a favorite neighborhood photo?
Do you love to write?*

We are looking for HPWBA residents of any age to contribute photos, stories, articles, or poems that may be of interest to our neighborhood readers. If you are interested in contributing to the HPWBANA newsletter, please send your submissions to: newsletter@hpwbana.org.

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community newsletters



City of Austin *Composting Class*

- Wednesday, February 08
- 6:30 - 7:30pm
- Yarborough Branch Library

HPWBA residents can pledge to reduce waste in their homes and start composting by taking advantage of an upcoming free composting class. The next class will take place at the Yarborough Branch library on Wednesday, February 8th from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

The classes are part of Austin Resource Recovery's composting rebate program, which challenges Austinites to complete a free composting class, downsize to a 32-gallon trash cart and purchase a home composting system. Austin Resource Recovery curbside customers who do these three things are eligible for a rebate of 75 percent off the cost of their new home composting system, up to \$75.

To sign up to attend a class, visit the [freecompostingclassfebruary8.eventbrite.com/or austinrecycles.com](http://freecompostingclassfebruary8.eventbrite.com/or/austinrecycles.com).

Additional classes will be scheduled in 2012, and the schedule will be updated at austinrecycles.com. Residents with composting-related questions may email composting@austinrecycles.com.

Recycled Reads

3rd year Anniversary Open House

- Saturday, February 25th
- 5335 Burnet Road

Recycled Reads, the Austin Public Library's used bookstore, is an excellent resource for anyone building or enhancing their home or classroom library. To celebrate their third anniversary, Recycled Reads is having an Open House on Saturday, February 25th from 12:00-6:00p.m.. Come and join the festivities, including live music, a puppet show, a special sale and drawings for gift certificates and book art. For more information, call (512) 323-5123.



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wed & thu 10a - 7p
fri & sat..... 10a - 8p
sunday..... 11a - 5p

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must present ad at time of service.

Highland Park West Balcones Area

Tips for Hiring a Contractor

In light of the recent HPWBANA Yahoo Group discussion regarding disreputable tree trimming contractors, we thought it would be helpful to provide some tips on how to choose a contractor.

- **GET RECOMMENDATIONS:** Ask friends, neighbors, or even your realtor for recommendations. Nothing is better than an unbiased testimonial from someone you trust who knows the quality of the contractor's work.
- **GET ESTIMATES:** Once you have a list of recommended companies, get at LEAST three estimates, and don't always go with the lowest bid. While this might be tempting, always remember that you get what you pay for. It is worth paying a little more to be sure you receive quality professional work. It is also important to realize that a low bid may be just that...a low bid.
- **GET REFERENCES:** In addition to the recommendations you get from friends and neighbors, have the contractor provide you with at least three additional client references. If you are hiring a contractor for a home improvement project, ask to see their work in person. Be sure to ask previous clients specific questions about their projects, including whether the project was on time, on budget, and if they encountered any unexpected costs or problems along the way.

- **GET ANSWERS:** Interview your potential contractors. After all, you will be hiring one of these people for a JOB, so why not interview them? Asking plenty of questions will allow you to get a sense of whether or not the contractor is a good fit for your personality and your project. To start, ask them how long they have been in business, how many projects like yours they have completed, if they will be using subcontractors, and what type of insurance they carry. It is also important to know if the person you interview will actually be the one working on your project, and if so, to what extent.

- **GET IT IN WRITING:** Once you have picked a contractor, get everything in writing, no matter how small the job. If changes are made along the way, be sure to add them to the written contract.

A standard contract should include:

1. A payment schedule (including subcontractors and material suppliers)
2. An estimated start and completion date
3. The contractor's obligation to obtain permits
4. Change order procedures
5. Materials and workmanship warranties
6. Contractor responsibilities (including clean-up)

(Continued on Page 5)



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Tips for Hiring a Contractor - (Continued from Page 4)

GET ORGANIZED: Keep detailed records along the way, including any correspondence with your contractor, and be sure to take notes during meetings to avoid any misunderstandings regarding project details. It is also important to ask for copies of all original estimates and invoices from any subcontractors, not just builder invoices.

- **GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR:** Make payments contingent upon completion of a defined amount of work. Therefore, if the work is not proceeding according to schedule, you will not be paying for work that has not yet been completed. Do not make your final payment until the job is complete and you are fully satisfied.
- **GET SATISFACTION:** If problems do arise with your project, try to resolve the issue with your contractor before you take any action. If they are honest and reputable, they will do what they can to fix the problem.

If you can't resolve the problem, consider contacting the following organizations for further information and help:

- Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott
- Texas Association of Builders
- The Better Business Bureau
- Local newspaper, TV, and radio stations

At no time will any source be allowed to use the HPWBANA Newsletter contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from the HPWBANA and Peel, Inc. The information in the HPWBANA Newsletter is exclusively for the private use of HPWBANA Neighborhood residents only.

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ACROSS

1. Tails
5. Tableland
9. Billy or nanny
10. Expressing dislike word
11. Capital of Norway
12. Dote
13. Eludes
15. Beverage
16. Crime
18. Crayon name
21. Cause of sickness
22. Merchant
26. Arc
28. Dwell
29. Ballerina skirts
30. Among
31. Dueling sword
32. Fly alone

DOWN

1. Id's counterparts
2. Eat
3. Painter of melting clocks
4. Breezy
5. Soil
6. Show emotions
7. Lark
8. In the lead
10. Fuss
14. Booths
17. City
18. Social position
19. Shred (2 wds.)
20. Having wings
23. Fancy car
24. Vile
25. Do it again
27. Regret

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View answers online at www.peelinc.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to HPWBANA residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail andreatorres11@yahoo.com.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

Austin Newcomers Club February Luncheon

Austin Newcomers Club is a non-profit social and recreational organization of 500 member- households celebrating its 60th year. It is dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends.

The February luncheon speaker will be Daris Word Hale, who was a lecturer and researcher in Tanzania as a Fulbright Scholar from the United States for the 2010-2011 academic year. She taught music at Makumira University in Arusha, and collaborated with East African composers to create new music for western orchestral instruments. Just freshly repatriated, Daris teaches music at Texas State University, and is a bassoonist in the Austin Symphony Orchestra and Austin Lyric Opera Orchestra. She is a founding member of the international touring groups Wild Basin Winds and Trio 488 which have released four albums.

- **When and Where:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 West Live Oak Street, pre-payment \$20.00. Reservations are required.
- **Time:** 11 a.m. Social Hour, Luncheon begins at noon.
- For Luncheon Reservations Email: LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com
- **WELCOME BACK!** To the 67 members who enjoyed the ANC Western Caribbean Cruise in January.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for our March 2012 Luncheon Speaker, Austin Police Chief Art Asavado

To Join Austin Newcomers Club: Any person who has a zip code beginning with 787 is eligible for a new membership with the annual dues payment of \$40.00. Membership includes The Welcome Mat, the monthly newsletter, and the annual Members' Directory. Contact Dotti Thoms, New Member Services, at (512) 314-5100. You are invited to attend a morning or evening Welcome Coffee and Orientation. For more information visit the website at: www.AustinNewcomers.com.



CHEERS for Children

Mardi Gras Style

WINE, SCOTCH AND FOOD TASTING

- February 23, 2012 6:30 – 9:00pm
- Twin Creeks Country Club
- Benefits Dell Children's Medical Center

Northwest Austin Circle of Friends presents our 13th Annual CHEERS for Children event benefiting Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. This exciting event, a premier wine, scotch, and food tasting, will be held Thursday, February 23, 2012, 6:30 to 9:00 pm at Twin Creeks Country Club (3201 Twin Creeks Club Drive, Cedar Park, 78613), nestled in the lovely hill country setting between northwest Austin and Cedar Park.

Your are invited to join us for a fun and exciting Mardi Gras celebration filled with premier wines, single



malt scotches, delicious cuisine from local restaurants, funky jazz music on the veranda and complimentary Mardi Gras beads - all included in the ticket price - as well as live and silent auctions with unique and tempting items. Don your masks and costumes (if you dare), and join the fun – all for a good cause!

Tickets are \$55 in advance (\$65 at the door). 100% of funds raised benefit Dell Children's Medical Center and are directed to The Texas Child Study Center, the mental health program at DCMC.

For more information or to purchase tickets online go to DellChildrensCircleofFriends.org (listed under "upcoming events") or contact Elliott Weir, Chairman NWA COF, at eweir@austin.rr.com or 922-2231.

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| • Circle C Ranch | • Sendera |
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| • Highland Park West Balcones | • Travis Country West |
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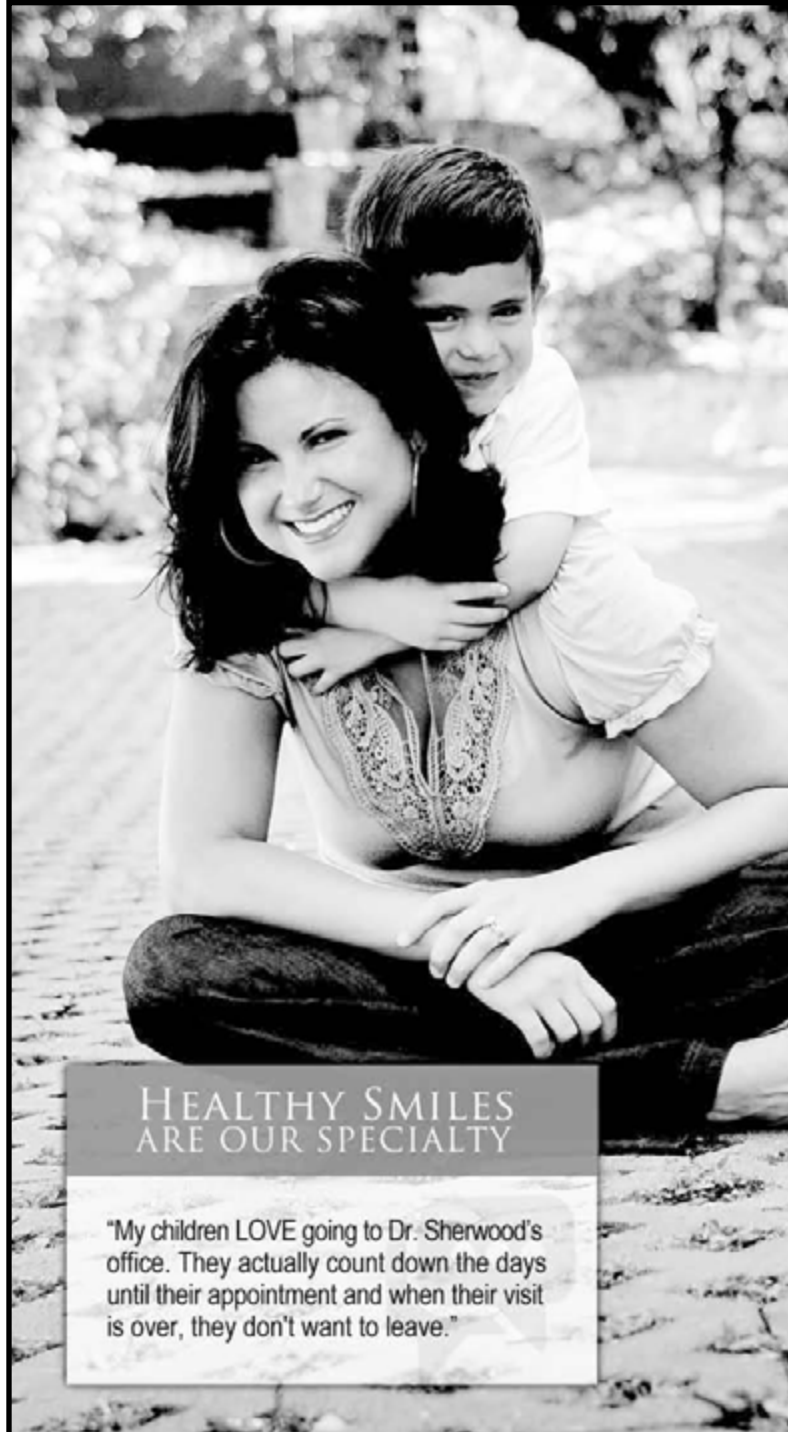


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