

Officer Darryl Grayson TO SPEAK AT MARCH BOARD MEETING

Officer Darryl Grayson, Our neighborhood APD representative, will be speaking at this month's board meeting on March 19th at 7pm at the Crenshaw's Cottage between Crenshaw's Athletic Club and Balcones Drive. The official address is 3301 Hancock. Officer Grayson will present a neighborhood crime report, including trend data for our neighborhood as well as comparisons of 2011 data with other years and surrounding neighborhoods. With the recent increase in crime in our neighborhood, we encourage residents to attend this meeting.

New Board Meeting Location

Thanks to the generosity of Crenshaw's Athletic Club, the HPWBANA has a new Board meeting location. The HPWBANA board will now meet at Crenshaw's Cottage, located at 3301 Hancock between Crenshaw's Athletic Club and Balcones Drive. Meetings are held every third Monday of the month, except for December. The next Board meeting will be on February 20th at 7pm. *Please note that Board meeting specifics may change due to scheduling conflicts. Remember to check HPWBANA.org for any changes to the date, time, or location of monthly meetings.

Support Mt. Bonnell Improvements

With the active support of both HPWBANA and WANG, the West Point Society submitted a \$50,000 grant request to the Austin Parks Foundation to make a number of significant improvements to Covert Park at Mt. Bonnell, including a more durable granite replica of the current marker (paid for by the Covert family) as well as additional enhancements to the pavilion.

Initially, WPS proposed that the current worn and broken limestone marker be removed and stored until the city can restore it and display it in a protected environment. In response, the Committee Chair, Laurie Limbacher, took the position that the original, decaying limestone marker should be reconstructed on the current site, even if it would continue to deteriorate in the future.

Other Committee members, Terri Myers and Meghan Kleon, were less insistent on this approach. Ms. Kleon, in particular, seemed reluctant to adopt such an extreme view and seemed to see the wisdom of replacing the original marker with a more durable and permanent replica of the marker commemorating the 1938 Covert family gift of the park to the people of Austin and Travis County.

With respect to the creation of a dais around the marker: steps, hand rails, benches and paving, Ms. Limbacher again opposed the initiative citing "historical creep" of the various changes since 1938, to include the pavilion and surrounding stonework detracting from the historical origins of the site.

The Covert family's contribution along with other in-kind contributions provide the basis for the request for a \$50,000 grant of Austin City Limits funds, and if a new replica marker were not allowed, then matching funds would not be available to support any restoration or improvement of the park, except at taxpayer expense.

If you believe as we do, that the Covert family should be allowed to commemorate their gift to the City with a permanent marker at their expense, please let that be known to Ms. Limbacher at llimbacher@gmail.com and copy Steve Sadowsky, the City Historic Preservation Officer at Steve.Sadowsky@austintexas.gov. If you favor the idea that additional enhancements should be allowed, funded by contributions and in-kind support from private sources rather than at taxpayer expense, please make your feelings on that subject known as well.

Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated by all wishing to see the park's condition enhanced for all to enjoy. For more information about the West Point Society and the proposed improvements,

go to <http://www.west-point.org>



PROPOSED REDESIGN FOR MT. BONNELL

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

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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.

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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Join The HPWBANA Yahoo Group

The HPWBANA Yahoo Group is a neighborhood listserv intended for discussion and announcements of interest.

It is also the best place to find out about activities in the neighborhood, lost or found pets, crime, & recommendations.

Membership is free...to join, go to
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HPWBANA/>

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Perry Park Spring Egg Hunt Saturday, April 7 | 9:30am

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3&4
5-7
8 & UP**

*Only elementary age children are invited to participate, please.
Older children can volunteer to hide eggs.*

SEE THE EASTER BUNNY!

FIND THE GOLDEN EGG!

**GUESS THE NUMBER OF
JELLY BEANS & WIN A PRIZE**



JOIN US FOR GOLF AND A GREAT CAUSE!

DATE: Wednesday, April 18th

11:00 am Registration - 1:00 pm Start

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FORMAT: 4-person scramble

COST: \$165 per golfer*

*Includes lunch, dinner, shirt & goodie bag

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City of Lakeway Chief of Police: **Todd Radford**

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

ATTN: PROCRASTINATING GARDENERS!

Cody Garrett, HPWBA resident

You might not have noticed, but it's been a pretty mild winter so far. That doesn't rule out any future freezes, but certainly the gardeners and would-be gardeners among us HPWBA residents are starting to think about stirring up some soil.

If you're like me, you get the urge to put your seeds in far too late (around early March when the weather gets just ridiculously beautiful). Unfortunately, if you're going to start from seed, chilly February is the month to do it. So, like me, while your neighbors are pruning knee-high tomato plants and planning for late spring, you're just getting spindly little youngsters peeking out of half-dollar-sized cups – and there you are, behind the curve again.

The cure for this affliction of course is to buy plants that someone else has nursed to a point where they can survive a good transplant. And that's what many of us end up doing.

While there are several great nurseries and plant businesses in our neighborhood, there's another resource you may not know about that provides organically grown, ready-to-plant vegetables of almost every variety. It's also a non-profit, situated on the grounds of one of West Austin's great resources and medical centers, and staffed and run in a sustainable way entirely by volunteers. I'm sure you've driven past the football-field-sized patchwork of wonder that is Sunshine

Community Gardens on the corner of 49th St. and Sunshine Drive, nestled between the various buildings that make up the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

They hold a plant sale every year in early March where you can get anything from thai basil to heirloom tomatoes that have been nurtured from seed in their big greenhouses. Proceeds go to fund the operations of the community garden year-round. There's music, fun for the kids, gardening how-to's, and a general outdoor event that everyone can enjoy. I discovered the sale about two years ago when I moved into my Allandale home, and I simply fell in love with the idea, the vegetables and flowers, and the availability of inexpensive seedlings at this cool event in our own backyard.

Sunshine Community Gardens' 2012 plant sale will be held Saturday, March 3 at the garden (4814 Sunshine Dr.). Times are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsors include the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, LCRA EUC, The Natural Gardener, Organics By Gosh, Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop, and more.

They'll have anything and everything you could want for your spring garden, and you can have fun and support a great cause at the same time. I wouldn't miss it – and you just watch: I'm going to have the best tomato crop on my block this year again.



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IS THAT A FOG MACHINE IN YOUR YARD?

Austin Water supplies water to customers at varying degrees of pressure due to elevation changes and differences in infrastructure. In cases of excessive supply pressure, the builder, plumber, irrigator or homeowner is tasked with regulating the pressure down to the optimum pounds per square inch (PSI). Water pressure inside a house should be around 65 PSI, but automatic irrigation systems are a different story.

The typical pop up sprinkler head has an ideal operating pressure of around 35 PSI, yet many installed systems' actual head pressure is much higher. If the actual head pressure exceeds the manufacturer's recommendation, the end result is misting and distorted coverage. Misting is water that is being treated, pumped and paid for—only to waft away even on a still morning. Excessive misting in an irrigation system is considered water waste within the City of Austin and can result in warnings and even citations.

There are multiple ways to regulate pressure, but in cases where the entire system is operating at high pressure, it is a good idea to install

a pressure regulating valve (PRV) on the irrigation mainline. This will not affect anything in the house, but will make the irrigation system more efficient meaning less water is needed to maintain the landscape. Bigger drops will hit the landscape, wear and tear on components will decrease and the system will have better spray patterns overall. Correcting high pressure in an irrigation system is a win, win, win scenario. Your landscape, irrigation system and pocketbook all benefit. In many cases a PRV can pay for itself within a couple of years. If you suspect your irrigation system is operating at high pressure, talk to your irrigator about the issue or if you are a customer of Austin Water, set up a free irrigation evaluation through Austin Water's Conservation Division. All evaluations are performed by licensed irrigators and properties that have had an Austin Water evaluation may be eligible for certain rebates, including partial rebates on irrigation PRVs and pressure regulating heads. Call 974-2199 or visit waterwiseaustin.org to schedule a free irrigation evaluation.

*Jacob Johnson, Austin Water
LI#17528*

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Be a Winner in the Savings “Game”

Like dieting, budgeting your expenses only works if you have a long-term commitment to sticking with the plan. However, human nature leads many of us to become frustrated when we can't immediately have the things we need or want. As a result, the best-laid budgeting plans can become ineffective. That's why adopting a “pay yourself first” attitude can have a positive impact on your long-term budgeting, spending, and saving practices.

Following these simple steps can help you take control now and pave the way for a bright future:

- **Look closely at what you spend.** Begin the process by recording all your expenses, such as rent or mortgage and utilities; services such as childcare; and necessities such as food, clothing, and medical expenses.
- **Include a line for “savings” with expenses.** If you treat savings as an expense that must be made on a weekly or monthly basis, you may be more likely to set the money aside regularly.
- **Allocate income in terms of percentages.** This exercise helps identify how each expense relates to your total income. Determine what percentage of your income goes to each expense, and then categorize them as either fixed (e.g., mortgage, utility bills, insurance premiums) or discretionary (e.g., dining out, travel, entertainment). You have discretion over the latter, but not the former. It is generally the discretionary expenses that erode earnings. Aim to trim these percentages wherever possible. It may be possible to make large gains in savings by reducing many expenses by small percentages.
- **Prioritize.** Take your list and rank your expenses as “important,” “moderately important,” or “unimportant.” Eliminate those items you can do without. You will probably have the most leeway with discretionary expenses. The savings you generate may be enough to begin a modest savings program. If it isn't, move toward eliminating some of your moderately important expenditures to save even more.
- **Pay yourself first.** Here's the key to success—once you've ferreted out all the savings you can, write yourself a check for the amount you saved and “pay yourself first.” How you save the money

depends on how much you have. For instance, if you begin with a few hundred dollars, you might put it into a savings account. If you're planning for retirement and are under age 70 ½, you could consider contributing regularly to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Or, better yet, in some circumstances, you can make pre-tax contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k). Earnings in retirement savings vehicles generally accumulate on a tax-deferred basis.

Remember, putting yourself first means placing your future financial well being at the top of your priority list. While it may be necessary to forgo purchasing some enjoyable, yet unneeded, items, paying yourself first can become its own reward. The “dividends” that a disciplined savings program can ultimately pay back will most likely outweigh the short-lived gratification received from current consumption.

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Rib Eating Contest 7:30 - 7:45 PM

- ★ Round Rock I-35: Round Rock High School
- ★ 620 Four Points: Vandegrift High School
- ★ 360 South: Westlake High School
- ★ 183 North: *Defending Champions* Anderson High School
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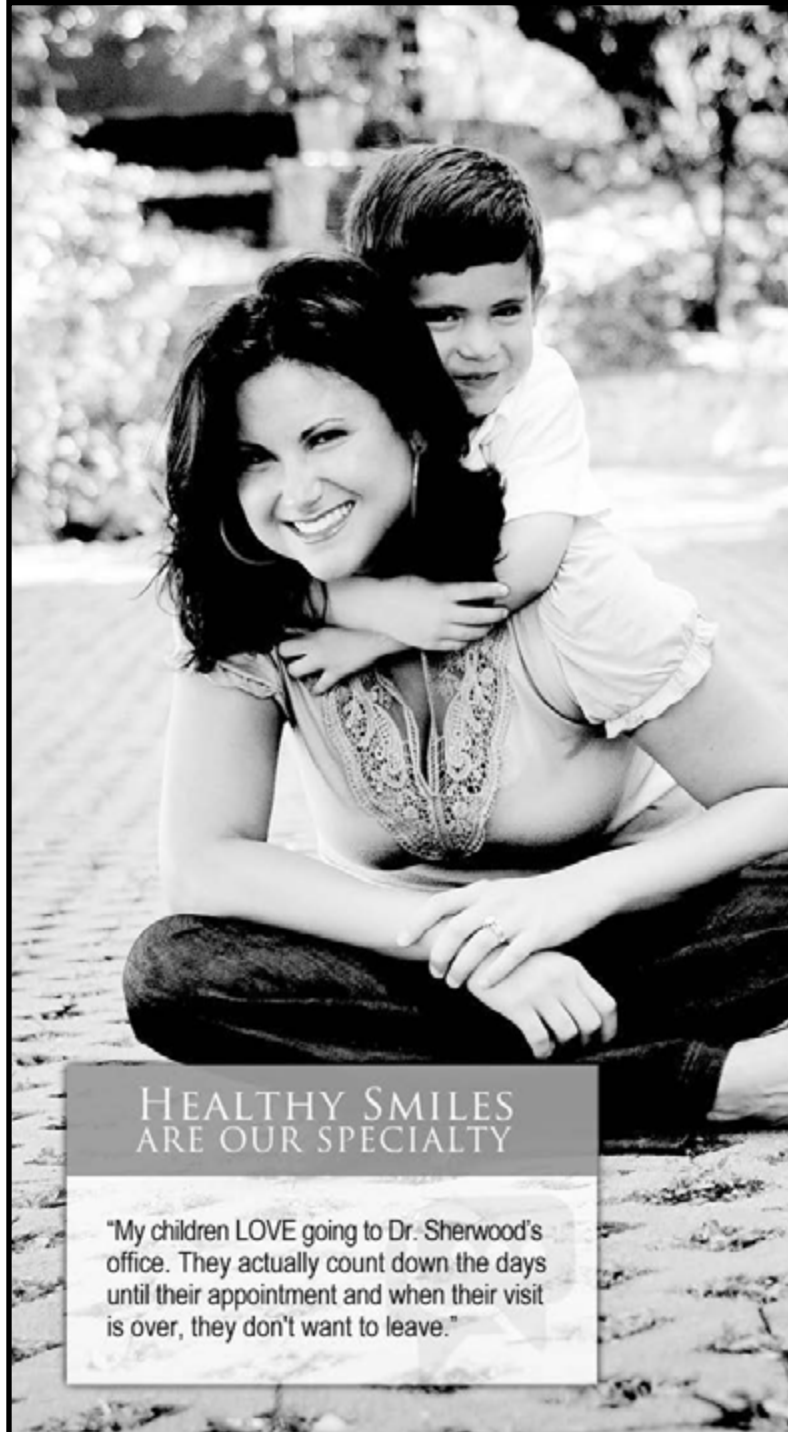


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