

4th of July Celebration Brings Neighbors Together

The Independence Day Celebration was truly wonderful this year. Thanks to cooler temperatures and new signs advertising the event, at least 200 neighbors were in attendance, including an impressive number of festively decorated bikes, strollers, scooters, and wagons. After walking the block with Engine No. 19, neighbors enjoyed snowcones and grilled hotdogs, and brushed up on history as children from the neighborhood read the Declaration of Independence.

Chereen Fisher was the driving force behind the event, but we also have her husband Carl and her two sons, Will and Ben to thank for working the snow cone machine. Nadene Morning was responsible for the "count the jelly bean" contest, which will never, ever cease being a hit, and HPWBA neighbor Debbie Besch signed up one voter at her voter registration table, reminding us that "every vote counts"! And finally, we have Carolyn Robinson to thank for orchestrating the recitation of the Declaration of Independence, along with her husband Rhett and son Cash for grilling the hotdogs.

We appreciate so many neighbors coming out to celebrate with us. It was a great day!



Best stroller at the 4th of July Parade!



Best wagon at the 4th of July Parade!



4th of July Parade participants head down Highland Terrace.



4th of July Parade participants head down Highland Terrace.



Rhett Robinson mans the grill at this year's 4th of July Celebration.

HPWBANA DUES REMINDER

Don't forget to submit your dues for 2013! It's never too early (or too late) to join or renew your membership with HPWBANA, and with dues starting at just \$20 (\$25 per family), it truly is money well spent. Please take a moment to fill out the form included in the newsletter

and return with a check at your convenience. Additional donations are also welcome to help us increase the size and scope of our work.

We hope you will join us in 2013 for another productive and rewarding year...HPWBANA needs you!

Highland Park West Balcones Area

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Austin Citywide Information Center. 974-2000 or 311
Emergency Police 9 1 1
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.) 311
Social Services (during work hours) 211
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line 210-698-1709
APD REP. - Officer Darrell Grayson 512-974-5242

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Nadene Morning.....

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.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area



Please select the appropriate form below and send with your check to:

HPWBANA
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Austin, Texas 78755

2013 NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

- ☐ 2013 Family Membership (\$25) ☐ 2013 Single-Member Household Membership (\$20)
(Only one adult in household) ☐ Additional Donations to HPWBANA

NAME _____ NAME OF SECOND ADULT _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please detach form and send with a check (\$25 for family, \$20 for single-member household) made payable to HPWBANA to:

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If you have any questions about membership or HPWBANA, please feel free to contact Trey McWhorter:
president@hpwbana.org

2013 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

- ☐ 2013 Family Membership (\$25) ☐ 2013 Single-Member Household Membership (\$20)
(Only one adult in household) ☐ Additional Donations to HPWBANA

NAME _____ NAME OF SECOND ADULT _____

ADDRESS _____

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Please detach form and send with a check (\$25 for family, \$20 for single-member household) made payable to HPWBANA to:

PO Box 26101
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If you have any questions about membership or HPWBANA, please feel free to contact Trey McWhorter:
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION!

Third Annual Bigger Faster Stronger Training's 9/11 Memorial Climb at Mount Bonnell

On September 11th, veterans, first responders and participants of all ages and abilities will take part in the THIRD Annual Bigger Faster Stronger Training's 9/11 Memorial Climb at Mount Bonnell.

Mike O'Hara of Team Red, White, and Blue (Team RWB) started the event to pay tribute to the brave men and women who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 attacks and to support the efforts of Team RWB, a Veteran support organization that aims to transform the way wounded veterans are reintegrated into society. Team RWB hosts athletic events such as this one to build awareness, fundraise & inspire others to join in their support of America's Veterans.

O'Hara came up with the idea three years ago, just a few weeks before the 10th anniversary of the attacks. He wanted participants to challenge themselves by climbing the same number of stairs in each of the Twin Towers combined, which O'Hara determined to be equivalent to 44 trips up and down the 99 stairs of Mount Bonnell.

Participants will meet at the top of Mt Bonnell at 8:00 am on Wed 9/11 and start shortly thereafter. The climbing will stop briefly at 8:46am to observe a moment of silence and pay tribute to all the innocent lives lost on that tragic day. While some may choose to climb all 44 flights, most will form teams to combine their efforts. For more information, contact Mike O'Hara at BiggerFasterStrongerTraining@gmail.com.



2nd Annual Bigger Faster Stronger Training's 9/11 Memorial Climb at Mount Bonnell.

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Highland Park West and Balcones Area Home Sales Prices Continue to Increase

<i>METRIC</i>	<i>FIRST HALF OF 2012</i>	<i>FIRST HALF OF 2013</i>	<i>PERCENT CHANGE</i>
Single Family Homes Sold	52	41	-21%
Average List Price	\$545,473	\$779,334	+43%
Median (mid-point) List Price	\$478,500	\$694,000	+45%
Average NET Sold Price	\$524,948	\$758,419	+44%
Median (mid-point) NET Sold Price	\$462,750	\$674,025	+46%
Average List Price per Sq.Ft.	\$239	\$270	+13%
Median (mid-point) List Price/Sq.Ft.	\$230	\$256	+11%
Average NET Sold Price per Sq.Ft.	\$229	\$263	+15%
Median (mid-point) NET Sold Price/Sq.Ft.	\$222	\$254	+14%
NET Sold Price Range	\$151,000 - \$1,350,000	\$215,000 - \$3,700,000	
NET Sold Price Range/Sq.Ft.	\$129 - \$412	\$120 - \$502	

The most striking statistic during the first half of 2013 shows that the NET Sold Price Per Square foot is up an average of 15% compared to the same period last year, and up a median (mid-point) of 14%. One would have to go back many years to find a time when prices have increased in the double digits. Sellers in our neighborhood have been very pleasantly surprised with the net proceeds that they've been able to realize upon selling their homes. Not only are houses selling for record high prices, half of the homes sold during the first half of this year, sold in 16 days or fewer, with the average days on market being 64 days. As has been the case for the past several months, the inventory of homes available on the market has remained very

low. The number of homes sold during the first half of 2013 was down 21% compared to the first half of 2012. This low level of inventory has not kept pace with the increasing demand for homes in our neighborhood, and has been a significant factor in pushing sales prices to the current high levels.

The summer months are the seasonal peak sales months in our market, as well as in most markets nationally, so home inventory is expected to increase during the first part of third quarter prior to the start of the fall school term, but is not expected to keep pace with demand. Therefore, projections indicate that prices will remain high during the peak sales months as well as through the end of 2013.

Information provided by Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin.



A GLOBAL CONNECTION THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Would you like to bring the world to your children, or make the dream of a lifetime come true for an international high school student? If so, consider being a host family for a foreign exchange student!

When you volunteer as a host family, you'll gain a new brother or sister for your child, a son or daughter, a grandchild. The new energy and understanding that fills your home will initiate a ripple effect that extends to the local school, community, and ultimately the world.

Ayusa, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization is looking for host families to open their hearts and their homes to foreign exchange students. The deadline for placement is August 15, 2013 and we still have over 300 students to place nationwide. If you would like to help out in this wonderful effort, please visit www.ayusa.org and complete the online application. You only need to provide a bedroom and three meals a day. The students come with their own medical insurance and spending money.

If you have any questions, please visit www.ayusa.org or call (888) 552-9872 for more information



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CELEBRATE AAUW-AUSTIN MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

*Sunday, August 18, 2013
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd,
intersection of Windsor & Exposition
3:00 - 5:00 PM*

The annual Membership Social for the Austin Branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women) on Sunday afternoon, August 18th, will be a time to celebrate. Members, friends, and prospective members are invited to visit, explore our Interest Groups and volunteer projects, and help us celebrate 125 years of offering fellowships to deserving women around the world, 90 years of history for the Austin Branch, and 50 years of the Equal Pay Act guaranteeing paycheck fairness. For more information about Austin AAUW, see <http://austin-tx.aauw.net>.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

YAHOO GROUP MUSINGS

Q: Any suggestions for walking a dog that insists on being on the street? I've wondered about dog shoes -- do they exist? Thanks for any suggestions. I love my puppy.

A: Hi Pam -- yes, there are lots of dog boots/shoes options. I'm not sure what size dog you have, but if you do a Google search on 'dog boots' you'll come up with numerous possibilities. One other thought -- if your dog is accustomed to walking on pavement, and even Austin-hot-pavement, then maybe he/she might already be accustomed to it and won't need boots. We have rough-finish concrete walks in our back yard and my dogs are used to running on them -- when we head for the hill country and rough terrain, they don't seem to have much of a problem getting foot-sore. Friends' dogs, however, do get footsore in the same environment. I also noticed you say your dog prefers the street, which would seem to indicate that he/she's not uncomfortable. If you go with boots, it'll probably take a while for your dog to become accustomed to them, but a puppy should adjust faster than an older dog. And, a final plea to everyone -- Austin summer is about to bear down hard on us -- please keep water and shade available to your pets (if not a/c)...they'll need it in the coming weeks.

--- Donna (who's loved Rhodesian Ridgebacks for over 40 years!)

This question was raised on the HPWBANA Yahoo Group. Not a member? Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HPWBANA/> and sign up now!





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APD STRIVES TO REDUCE PEDESTRIAN INJURIES AND FATALITIES

Our neighborhood is a mecca for pedestrians, however, with very few sidewalks in our neighborhood, it is important to follow some basic rules when walking along our busy streets.

According the Austin American Statesman, there were 158 accidents involving pedestrians in Austin from January 1 to May 1, 2013 and included 12 fatalities. In the hopes of reducing the number of pedestrian injuries and fatalities, APD recently launched a new enforcement initiative, asking pedestrians to take the following precautions:

- Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road. Facing traffic, and keep as far to your left as possible.
- Cross at designated crosswalks and look both ways for oncoming traffic. Remember: Drivers must yield to pedestrians at a crosswalk. It is state law (yes, even in Texas)
- Obey all traffic signals and make sure traffic has come to a complete stop before attempting to cross the street
- Wear bright clothes (and wear or carry a light) at night to make yourself as visible as possible to oncoming traffic.
- Beware of vehicles backing out of driveways.

In addition to these recommendations, it is best to walk "as if you are invisible". Never assume a vehicle sees you coming and always attempt to make eye contact with drivers. Never pass in front of a car at a driveway or intersection unless you get a wave from the driver to cross, and be sure to watch for other cars turning into the driveway or intersection you are crossing.

Officers will be issuing citations to both pedestrians and drivers who violate the law, so be safe and follow the rules of the road.



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Ongoing: Volunteers needed to distribute water safety packets, info@colinshope.org
August 19: Got2Skate for Colin's Hope Fundraiser, 6:30-8:30pm at Playland Skate Center
August 29: Colin's Hope Got2Swim Lake Austin 10K/10 miler, <http://www.tinych.org/got2swim>
September 8: 5th Annual Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon, <http://www.tinych.org/KidsTri>
October 19: Sharkfest Austin Swim benefitting Colin's Hope, www.sharkfestswim.com



ALERT: 36 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year.
 Many more have survived non-fatal drowning incidents.
 Be a Water Guardian and Watch Kids around Water.
 Drownings are preventable!

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**WEAR LIFE
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**MULTIPLE BARRIERS ON
 ALL POOLS & HOTTUBS**



**KEEP BACKYARDS &
 BATHROOMS SAFE**



LEARN CPR



**CHECK POOLS/HOTTUBS
 1ST FOR MISSING CHILDREN**



**VISIT US
 ONLINE**

Highland Park West Balcones Area

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TAKE THE PLEDGE HONEY BEES NEED YOUR HELP!

Bees are responsible for pollinating one in three bites of food we eat...and they're in trouble. Since the mid-1990s, they've been dying off in droves around the world. Colonies have been mysteriously collapsing with adult bees disappearing, seemingly abandoning their hives.

This phenomenon — known as Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD — is likely caused by a variety of interacting factors, including pathogens, loss of habitat and increased exposure to systemic and other pesticides.

Policymakers have yet to make pollinator health a top priority, and current regulations don't provide adequate protection for bees. But a groundswell of concerned citizens, gardeners and beekeepers is building to protect bees.

Join the movement! Take the pledge to provide a honey bee haven with access to pesticide-free food, shelter and water. It doesn't take much space — a few containers of the right kinds of plants tucked into your garden, on a balcony or front stoop, will get you started.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Protect bees from pesticides. Pesticides kill beneficial insects including pollinators and natural enemies that control common pests like aphids. Certain pesticides, including neonicotinoids, are highly toxic to honey bees in particular. Instead of using pesticides, explore organic ways to grow healthy plants, such as using compost for healthy soil and controlling pests with homemade remedies and biocontrols like ladybugs.

Provide a variety of food for bees. Consider clustered plantings with staggered blooming times so there is food throughout the year and particularly in the late summer and fall. Native plants are always best, and inter-planting and hedgerows provide additional forage on farms.

Provide a year-round, clean source of water for bees. This can be a river, pond, irrigation system, rainwater collection system or small-scale garden water features. Shallow water sources can provide more than enough water for bees, without creating opportunities for mosquitoes to breed.

Provide shelter for bees. Leave some ground undisturbed and untilled and some dead trees and plants on the property for wild bees to nest in.

People across the U.S. are taking a stand for honey bees, and pledging to provide a safe, pesticide-free haven with access to food, water and shelter. Do you have a Honey Bee Haven in your yard, or have bee-friendly plants in containers on your stoop?

Go to <http://www.honeybeehaven.org/> and add your home to the map to show your support for the pollinators that play a key role in providing our food.



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