

Redistricting and HPWBA

In November 2012, City of Austin voters approved a city-wide redistricting amendment commonly referred to as “10-ONE”. The amendment provides for the election of City Council Members from 10 geographic single-member districts with the Mayor elected from the City at-large, beginning with the November 2014 election.

The amendment also called for the creation of a 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission that will work to develop the 10 districts. The maps will be drawn using the following criteria as quoted from the 10-1 website:

The Citizens Redistricting Commission is charged with drawing the district boundaries in compliance with federal and state requirements through an open and transparent process that enables full public consideration and comment. In addition, the Commission should ensure that the districts are geographically contiguous and compact, minimize the impact on local neighborhoods or communities of interest, use existing election precinct boundaries, and have geographically identifiable boundaries.

The commission is in the process of hosting community outreach meetings from now until November to solicit input from neighborhoods as they work to configure the districts.

Given its size and location, our HPWBA neighborhood will be grouped with other neighborhoods to form a single-member district. It is important that we provide input to the 10-1

commission about which district our neighborhood should be placed, given our demographics, geographic location, and priorities. Our district could include areas from the Northwest, West, or Central Austin. In fact, our Highland Park West Balcones Area could be split into more than one district.

Issues of particular interest in our neighborhood include:

- In-fill development (McMansion ordinance, Preserving the character of the Neighborhood)
- Stealth dorms
- MoPac Improvement Project
- Wildfire risks
- Future development of state-owned properties
- Short-term rentals (STR)
- Our AISD schools (Highland Park Elementary, Lamar Middle School, McCallum High School)
- Green spaces, including public parks
- Water Conservation

This is an important issue and the HPWBANA board truly both wants and needs the input and participation of our neighbors as we go through this process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Dawn Lewis, HPWBANA Secretary at dawnlew@sbcglobal.net



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
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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.

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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Little Helping Hands in Perry Park

Little Helping Hands encourages volunteering for the whole family and organizes volunteer opportunities all over Austin. With so many ongoing beautification projects in our neighborhood, we are excited to announce their offer to help out in Perry Park.

Their first Perry Park project was on September 7th and involved spreading mulch on oak trees near the tennis courts. These trees get lots of food traffic and keeping them mulched is extremely important for the health of the trees.

In addition, LHH organized a workday on Sept 28th, National Public Lands Day. Volunteers groomed the nature trail in the woods by helping to cut back the trailinglantana that was taking over. Since the nature trail was put in by Highland Park Elementary students, it is great to see the kids continue to take care of it.

Regular monthly workdays for Little Helping Hands at Perry Park start up in October and will take place the 3rd Saturday of every month from 9-10.

Sign up and information about the group is on the Little Helping Hands website. <http://littlehelpinghands.org/>

Questions? – Contact Friends of Perry Park at beautification@hpwbana.org

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Green Scotties

Earn Green Ribbon School Award for Highland Park Elementary

Congratulations are in order for our very own Highland Park Elementary! Thanks to a dedicated team of parents, teachers, and "Green Scotties", Highland Park Elementary was recently awarded the status of Green Ribbon School. One of only 41 schools chosen from across the country, the award was based on the group's ability to meet the four cornerstones of a Green Ribbon School, including:

Environmentally-friendly Campus (Eco-Campus):

Conserving natural resources and creating green spaces for a healthy, energy-wise school.

Nature Adventure:

Encouraging outdoor recreation, skills and play during and after school.

Health, Fitness and Nutrition:

Providing wholesome nutrition, fitness opportunities and life-long healthy habits.

Natural Classrooms:

Integrating nature and natural systems to facilitate learning across the curricula.

Highland Park was awarded the status of Green Ribbon School for the following projects completed over the last year:

- Jack-o-lantern composting after Halloween
- Workdays on the trails at Perry Park with Friends of Perry Park and HPWBANA beautification team
- Permanent bins at the school for specialty recycling (pens & markers, beauty products, cork, ink cartridges, e-waste, chip bags, batteries)
- Post Halloween candy wrapper recycling
- Styrofoam recycling drives
- The annual "Fall Fitness Festival" focusing on fitness and a healthy lifestyle
- Daily eco-conscious events during Earthweek

They plan to keep their GRS status with additional Fall and Spring workdays along with other eco-friendly projects. Go Green Scotties!



Highland Park West Balcones Area

New Proposal for Fitness Stations at Perry Park

For years, neighbors have inquired about the possibility of having fitness stations along the track. If things go as planned, this dream may soon become a reality. Encouraged by the success of HPWBANA sponsored fitness workouts at Perry Park last spring, The Friends of Perry Park formed a small committee, talked to PARD, and started firming up plans for the proposed equipment. The current plan is to create two fitness stations, both next to the track.

Proposal - Quarry Area:

- The quarry area location would be at the base of the quarry next to where the drinking fountain used to be.
- Includes three pieces of fitness equipment: parallel bars, pullup/dip combination, and sit up station.
- Direct bury mount to eliminate the need for a large concrete slab.
- Weed block and crushed granite surface.

Proposal - Woods Edge Area:

- The woods edge location would be near the woods/track edge by the upper soccer field (near the bench).
- Includes two pieces of fitness equipment: Assisted Row (has three levels of pushups/pullups) and a flat stretching area.

- Direct bury mount to eliminate the need for a large concrete slab.
- Weed block and crushed granite surface.
- Rubber based pad stretching area.
- Additional crushed granite trail connecting the fitness station to the track and the nature trail.

Once we discuss the feasibility with PARD, we will submit the project to Austin Parks Foundation for a grant. For questions or feedback, please contact us at: beautification@hpwbana.org

	
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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

HOMES SOLD in the HPWBA Neighborhoods

By Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

Home sale trends from the first quarter of 2013 continued through the second quarter and first month of the third quarter. The inventory of homes for sale continues to be below the demand for homes in our neighborhood, prolonging the "Sellers' Market." Clear evidence of this is the phenomenal 34% increase in Median List Price and Median NET Sold Price compared to the same period last year, and the 11% increase in the Median NET Sold Price per Square Foot.

Another indicator of the continued "Sellers' Market" is the rapidity of home sales. At this time last year, homes were on the market for a median of 17 days, but this year were on the market for a median

of 13 days. In fact, 34% of homes on the market in 2013, sold in a week or less compared to 30% sold in a week or less during the same period in 2012. The NET Sold Price as a percent of List Price has increased by a full percent, from 96% in 2012 to 97% in 2013.

During the past 12 months, October 2012 and May 2013 were the peak sales months. If history repeats itself, October 2013 should offer a great month for home sellers in the Highland Park and Balcones Park Area Neighborhoods. Any way you look at it, owning a home in this area of Austin offers not only a wonderful quality of life, but a great financial investment.

Metric	Year-to-Date August 31, 2012	Year-to-Date August 31, 2013	Percent Change
Single Family Homes Sold	67	57	-15%
Average List Price	\$701,313	\$741,566	+6%
Median (mid-point) List Price	\$499,000	\$668,900	+34%
Average NET Sold Price	\$675,598	\$722,871	+7%
Median (mid-point) NET Sold Price	\$492,500	\$662,000	+34%
Average List Price per Sq.Ft.	\$252	\$273	+8%
Median (mid-point) List Price/Sq.Ft.	\$242	\$264	+9%
Average NET Sold Price per Sq.Ft.	\$243	\$267	+10%
Median (mid-point) NET Sold Price/Sq.Ft.	\$233	\$258	+11%
NET Sold Price Range	\$151,100 - \$7,000,000	\$215,000 - \$3,700,000	
NET Sold Price Range/Sq.Ft.	\$129 - \$512	\$120 - \$502	

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Lucy's Fried Chicken Opens on Burnet Road: *Winner Winner Chicken Dinner!*

By: Laura Beck

Full disclosure, I was a fan of James Holmes already, having several great meals at his first Austin restaurant, Olivia, and digging the chicken, and much more, at his other shop, the original Lucy's Fried Chicken, both in South Austin. I loved that his first restaurant was named after his daughter, and then in late 2011, after the fried chicken at Olivia's brunch was so popular, he opened Lucy's, named after his other daughter. Cool! So I was pretty excited when the North Central ATX rumors started flying that the old Austin Diner was going to be a north location for Lucy's Fried Chicken.

Chatting with Holmes who made time to speak with me the week before the opening did not disappoint. I'm an even bigger fan, in part because Holmes' is a fan of ours too!

He said our funky, cool (his words!) neighborhood has been so welcoming before they are even open. He's loved learning the history and hearing the stories of Burnet Road, talking with long time customers of the Austin Diner, being right next door to icons like Ginny's Little Longhorn. Holmes is excited about this location



and the neighborhood families he hopes will be Lucy's customers.

Lucy's will fit right in with the other family friendly destinations my posse frequents often: Amy and Phil's, Pinthouse and more lately La Mancha. Holmes says the atmosphere will be very much like the south location, communal and laid back, picnic tables and juke box, grown ups enjoying good food – and drink – and kids running around. A true neighborhood hang out!

Lucy's North will of course focus on a great bucket of fried chicken and will have all of the south favorites like the oysters and my favorites, the deviled eggs and Sweet Tea pie (you must try both!). But Holmes said there are some new menu items coming, especially some kid-friendly items he created just for our hood, like the Fried Chicken Spaghetti, which he said his Mom made for him growing up, a gooey, cheesy casserole with pasta and chicken. My daughters will love it!

And Holmes has added some healthier, lighter fare choices too like the option for wood fire grilled gulf shrimp on your salad instead of fried chicken, or the Campachana, a Mexican take on shrimp cocktail.

I will stick to my favorites, and try the new Fried Chicken Nacho and homemade Moon Pies. Life is too short to eat healthy! ☒ Note: because so much on the menu is intended to be ordered and shared family style, there is no real "kids menu."

Lucy's opened at 5408 Burnet Road on of September 12, open pretty much 11 am to 11 pm each day. You can't miss it with the fun neon sign featuring a slightly changed up Lucy, a red-headed sister to the South location just for North Central! Stop in and say Hi to James Holmes and his awesome colleagues and enjoy some great eating right in our hood! <http://lucysfriedchicken.com/>

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Free Coffee Grounds for Composting Available at Local Coffee Shops

There is a great new resource available for FREE in our neighborhood. Ground to Ground is a city-wide campaign that diverts nutrient-rich coffee grounds from landfills and puts them back to work in our yards, farms, and gardens.

In our neighborhood, Upper Crust Bakery (4508 Burnet) and Genuine Joe Coffeehouse (2001 W. Anderson) give out buckets of free grounds - just ask for them at the counter! Then, after you've added the grounds to your compost or garden, rinse out the buckets and bring them back to the business. Feel free to keep exchanging buckets for more grounds! Your garden will thank you.

To use the grounds:

- Add grounds to your compost bin – they will speed up the process! (Worms like them as well.)
- Add them directly to the soil. Dig into the top couple inches, or just sprinkle on top.
- Incorporate up to 25% the volume of your soil to improve soil structure in the short and long term!
- Drop grounds off at one of the many drop sites (found on the Ground to Ground map).

Did you know that used coffee grounds are an immediate and slow release nitrogen source that plants love? They also contain

phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium & other trace minerals not found in most commercial fertilizers. Using grounds to fertilize reduces the chance of “burning” plants, polluting groundwater, or killing soil organisms that are part of a healthy ecosystem. Spent coffee grounds are slightly acidic (pH 6.2-6.8) - perfect for Austin’s alkaline soils! Plus, the organic matter helps our soils to retain moisture. In an oxygen-deprived landfill, these same grounds would become an ecological menace. They decompose anaerobically and give off methane, a greenhouse gas that is 20x more potent than carbon dioxide. If you need one more reason to participate, grounds also repel snails, slugs, and garden pests. Oh yeah, and they’re FREE.

Ground to Ground, a partnership between Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Compost Coalition, strives to build Central Texas soil, reduce waste, and strengthen local business. To see a map of all participating locations, visit www.AustinGroundtoGround.org. Check back often – sites are added every week. If you have questions, would like more buckets for the exchange, or would like to help bring Ground to Ground to another business, contact info@AustinGroundtoGround.org, (512) 660 – SOIL.

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November: Underwater Holiday Photos! Colin's Hope will be collaborating with Flashpool Productions and pool partners throughout the Central Texas area to capture your BEST Holiday picture Ever! Proceeds from photos will help us prevent drowning. Locations and dates will be posted at www.colinshope.org and our Facebook page soon.



Thank you to AG Real Estate Services for underwriting our Underwater Holiday Photo project.



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- Get to know your neighbors! Report suspicious activity immediately!
- Secure your vehicles, homes, garage doors at all times. (If you have an alarm, use it!) Remove garage door openers from your vehicle at night and when you are out of town.
- Utilize timers for lights, radios, and televisions to give the appearance that someone is home when you are out of town.
- Secure patio doors with a rod.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lit.
- Take pictures of valuables and keep them stored in a secure location.
- Keep an inventory of all serial numbers for valuable items that can be given to Law Enforcement to track your items if stolen.
- Never leave a vacation message on your answering machine.
- Have a friend or family member pick up newspaper and mail, or stop delivery until you return.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed, to prevent hiding places.
- Park in well-lit areas at night.
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight. Lock them in the trunk or take them inside.
- Organize a community watch program in your neighborhood.
- Secure all windows and doors at all times.

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