

## HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## THE HPWBANA NEWS

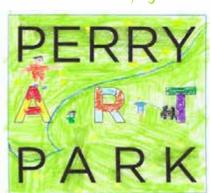
Volume 10, Number8 August 2014 www.hpwbana.org



Zoe Lynch, age 10



Milo Connor, ago 8



Tate Rile, age 5



Judging was performed by Emily Clayton who is the Associate Educator for Teachers and Docents for the Contemporary Austin. All the entries were just wonderful and they can be viewed at the Friends of Perry Park website: <a href="http://friendsofperrypark.org/perry-art-park-contest-winners">http://friendsofperrypark.org/perry-art-park-contest-winners</a>

This contest runs through August and each month three winners will be selected. Visit this webpage for information and the form. http://friendsofperrypark.org/art-contest

Here some tips from Emily:

Artists find ways to communicate ideas through images. When

starting your design, think about what comes to mind when you think of Perry ART Park:

- What do you like to do at Perry Park? What plants and animals live in Perry Park?
- Play with the space! How can you fill the square with patterns, colors, symbols, doodles, or...?
- Use your imagination! What would you imagine a brand new Art Park to look like?

The contest is to bring awareness to the upcoming Perry Art Park project. http://friendsofperrypark.org

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#### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Austin Citywide Information Center. 974-2000 or 311
Emergency Police911
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

#### **'14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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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.

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**

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## Fun, Family Friendly 4<sup>th</sup>!



We had another successful Independence Day Celebration, thanks to our enthusiastic HPWBANA residents and volunteers!

The kids really went all out this year with their decorated bikes, strollers, scooters, and wagons, making the judging particularly difficult! Approximately 150 neighbors walked the block with Engine No. 19 and Malcolm Milburn's 930 Ford Model A leading the way. After the parade, neighbors enjoyed snowcones and grilled hotdogs, and brushed up on history as children from the neighborhood read the Declaration of Independence. Kids also enjoyed making paper "Yankee Doodle" hats, old glory Flags, and having their turn at the patriotic bean bag toss.

It's so nice to gather together as a community and we really appreciate so many of you coming out to celebrate!

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# August 2014

#### **GOT EQUITY?**

Many of us have lived in our neighborhood for a while now, and we may be sitting on quite a bit of equity. What a great problem to have! With equity, you have choices. Thinking about downsizing, moving up or remodeling? Or are you just curious how much equity you actually have? Now is a great time to assess the value of your home. Contact us today for your free equity evaluation!

### CALL US AT 512-532-5550!

#### **AUGUST AUSTINAOUS ACTIVITIES:**

8/2 at 10 am

Black Star 10k fun run and beer tour

8/6 at 8 pm

Blues on the Green – Charlie Mars

9/9 at 7:30 am

Keller Williams Red Rally Day benefitting Austin Pets Alive

8/10 from 10 am-7 pm

Austin Ice Cream Festival @ Feista Gardens

8/20-24 at 7 pm

Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus

8/25

First day of school - AISD



Picture your favorite yard here! Simply send Yard of the Month nominations to jennifer@smartservicesold.com

#### FOLLOW MY BI-WEEKLY VIDEO BLOG AT SMARTSERVICESOLD.BLOGSPOT.COM





Want to know what's going on with real estate in our neighborhood? Check it out here.

JENNIFER SMITH, REALTOR, GRI, CLHMS

(512) 532-5550 jennifer@smartservicesold.com www.SmartServiceSold.com



#### HPWBANA YAHOO GROUP NEWS

## Protect your Pets in the Summer Heat

In a recent discussion on the HPWBANA Yahoo Group, neighbors had some great reminders about caring for your pets during the hot summer months.

Remember that your dog's cooling system is much less efficient than yours. Pay attention to your dog's breathing - panting is his only way he can cool down. Walking/running in the cool of the early morning or evening helps, but also watch for high humidity as it makes cooling from evaporation more difficult.

Panting dehydrates your dog. Be sure your dog has water 24/7, including while you run with him.

If your dog is breathing hard, then allow him to rest. If he stops during a workout, stop and pay attention. He may have pulled a ligament or muscle or have symptoms of heat stress.

Also, using rubbing alcohol on the pads of a dogs feet, the inner thighs/belly and along the inside flap of their ear (anywhere the alcohol can make contact with skin, not fur) immediately cools a dogs internal body temperature, specially cooling the blood that enters the brain (the

reason for applying to the skin of the ears).

If no rubbing alcohol is available, putting/pouring water on the dogs chest/stomach/inner legs should be the first area the water is focused on, not their back or head. And try not to use ice cold water and avoid submerging your pet in a cooler full of ice/water, as it can shock them into an entirely different state.

If and when your dog will drink, avoid giving ice and ice cold water, as it can cause the stomach muscles to spasm and cause bloat (which is deadly) and/or induce vomiting which will further cause dehydration.

Please remember that when temperatures rise outside your pet doesn't necessarily have to be exercising to induce heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Just being outside in the heat can elevate their body temperature rapidly. And NEVER leave your dog outside alone or locked in your car for any amount of time during our hot summer months!

To join the HPWBANA Yahoo group, go to HPWBANA.org and click on the "Join the Yahoo Group" tab.

### **Vote Margie for Austin City Council District 10**





#### Save Tax Payers Hard Earned \$\$\$'s

- City homestead exemption
- Tax apartments with lower rates
- Zero line accounting for City Hall

#### **Utility Fee Relief – Demand Transparency**

- Cut corporate utility subsidies
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- Eliminate non-utility items
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Go to www.margieforaustin.com to see Margie's stand on all the issues.

Margie4Austin

@margieforaustin

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## **SLOW DOWN:**

#### IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

Although residents should observe speed limits throughout the year, we want to remind everyone to watch out for young riders and walkers on their way to school in the coming weeks. Remember...the speed cushions on Perry Lane are not just obstacles for you to drive around on your way to Mopac. They are designed to help reduce the overall speed of vehicles to no more than 30mph, with a recommended maximum speed of 20mph over the speed cushions. Interestingly enough, driving 40mph rather than 30mph only saves a driver 30 seconds per mile driven. Potentially endangering the lives of our residents to shave a few seconds off your commute is certainly not worth the risk, so please slow down while driving in the neighborhood! For more information, go to http://hppta.org/.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR HIGHLAND PARK ELEMENTARY

August 22: Rally day - Highland Park Elementary. 2:30-3:30. Meet your teacher and connect with friends, old and new!

August 25: First Day of School (AISD)

August 27: Happy Birthday Beth Finkle!

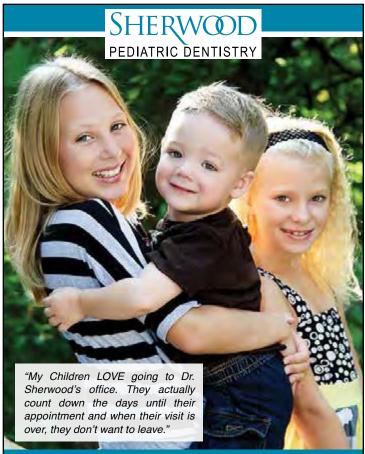
Sept 3: Student Service Council (3rd-5th grades)

Sept 9: Student Service Council Applications Due to Mrs. Finkle

Sept 11: Join Cub Scouting Night

Sept 15: Happy Birthday Pam Gonzales!





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## Highland Park West and Balcones Area Homes "Sold Price per Square Foot" Continues to Increase

By Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

As a "glass is half full" type of person, I like to think of it as "we have a half of 2014 ahead of us"...and a LOT more real estate to buy and sell. But, the best predictor of the future is the past. If you have been watching the home prices in our neighborhood for the first six months of 2014, it will come as no surprise to you that prices continue to rise. The Average and Median NET Sold Prices have both increased by 6% compared to the same period last year.

The number of homes sold during the first half of 2014 is down by 17%, primarily because there are fewer homes on the market. As has been the case for the past few years, the demand for homes in our area has increased while inventory

has decreased. I have started tracking the "days on the market" in our neighborhood and found that the average days has not changed and the Median Days on the Market has increased from 16 days to 27 days. Still, it is amazing to think that homes are selling within a month or two.

As these statistics indicate, it definitely continues to be a seller's market...but buyers need to be aware that buying sooner, rather than later, could benefit them. As Austin's population growth estimates continue to show enormous growth, and demand for close-in neighborhoods increase, it's hard to imagine property values will do anything but increase in the coming months and years.

Metric	First Half of 2013	First Half of 2014	Percent Change
Single Family Homes Sold	41	34	-17%
Average List Price	\$779,334	\$666,641	-14%
Median (mid-point) List Price	\$694,000	\$556,750	-20%
Average NET Sold Price	\$758,419	\$664,593	-12%
Median (mid-point) NET Sold Price	\$674,025	\$556,750	-17%
Average List Price per Sq.Ft.	\$270	\$280	+4%
Median (mid-point) List Price/Sq.Ft.	\$256	\$273	
Average NET Sold Price per Sq.Ft.	\$263	\$279	+6%
Median (mid-point) NET Sold Price/Sq.Ft.	\$254	\$270	
NET Sold Price Range	\$215,000 - \$3,700,000	\$294,000 - \$2,154,000	
NET Sold Price Range/Sq.Ft.	\$120 - \$502	\$175 - \$417	
Average Days on Market	64	64	Same
Median Days on Market	16	27	+69%



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## UPCOMING EVENTS AT YARBOROUGH LIBRARY

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

2 PM There is something fishy going on in Texas! Join Bill Balboa from Sea Grant Texas (a Texas A&M University and NOAA affiliated program) and learn about marine and coastal habitats. You'll learn who, and what, lives there! This includes the different animals animals on the Texas and Gulf Coasts, as well as sharks and rays. You'll even get to touch and see several common Texas marine species (and yes, that includes...gulp...sharks and rays!). Additional dates and locations at other Austin Libraries. See website for details. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2014

12:30 PM Super Smash Bros Brawl Tournament 2:00 PM Super Smash Bros Brawl Tournament

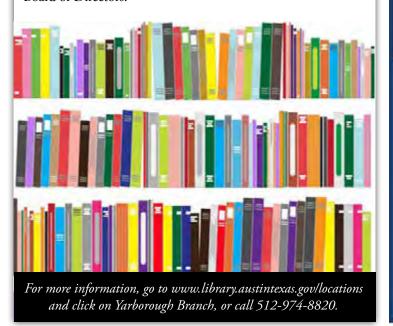
#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2014

6:30 PM Based on Books Movie: Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters, PG

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Hummingbirds of Central Texas

- A Presentation by Sheila Hargis of Travis Audubon Society. Shelia has been birding for 17 years. She teaches the beginning birding classes for Travis Audubon, surveys birds for the City of Austin and the USGS Breeding Bird Survey as well as private landowners, regularly leads birding field trips, and is Past President of Travis Audubon. She is currently on the Travis Audubon Habitat Conservation Committee, the Travis Audubon Education Committee, and the Texas Ornithological Society Board of Directors.



## Rebecca's Listings



### 5110 Crestway Drive

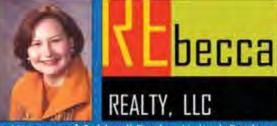
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms, 3,157 sq.ft. per TCAD Offered for \$830,000



### 3204 A Maywood Avenue

3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 1,385 sq.ft. per TCAD Condo Offered for \$375,000

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## **What's Planned for Mount Bonnell?**

### SUMMER 2014 UPDATE

Dear Neighborhood Leaders and Friends of Mount Bonnell:

Thank you all for your support of our continuing efforts to effect improvements to Covert Park at Mount Bonnell. Here is an update of our ongoing plans. Although FOMB and PARD will hold a community meeting in July to present proposed improvements, FOMB would be happy to conduct additional briefings for neighborhoods upon request.

**Covert Marker Restoration.** PARD has secured a \$25,000 grant from the Texas Historical Commission to restore the historic marker atop Mount Bonnell, which commemorates the Covert family's gift of the land for use as a park in 1939. The City of Austin has matched that with an additional \$25,000. The city plans to accomplish the restoration this year.

75th Anniversary Marker. The Covert family has agreed to fund the installation of a new granite marker at the base of the stairway on Mount Bonnell Road commemorating the 75th anniversary of the gift of Mount Bonnell in 1939. The signage now at that site will be relocated. This has been approved by the Historic Landmark Commission. We hope to have the work completed and a dedication ceremony in the September/October 2014 time frame.

Site Restoration. PARD and the Historic Landmark Commission have expressed strong interest in a new major proposal to restore the site to a more natural condition. The plan proposes the removal of seven of the huge view-obstructing pillars that support the pergola, reducing and cantilevering the covering on the remaining innermost pillars, and constructing steps on the down slope side for

visitors to sit and enjoy the views. The concept will be submitted for approval through the Historic Landmark Commission. Funding is being sought through the Public Works Department and other sources, with work to be commenced as soon as the plan is approved and funding is available. Private donations in support of this restoration project can be made to the Mount Bonnell/Covert Park Friends – Austin Parks Foundation account at: https://www.austinparks.org/adopter-donations.html

Site Improvements. Improvements to the area around the pergola have been approved by the HLC. They include lowering the garden wall and installing hand rails, a partial dais and two limestone benches between the adjacent pillars. Fund raising and Implementation of these improvements is deferred pending accomplishment of the marker restoration planned by the city and the site restoration project.

Summit Fencing. As part of its effort to preserve the park's bracted twistflower habitat, the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve will install metal fencing similar to the existing fencing along the trail between the pergola and the north overlook. Its purpose is to restrict access to the existing steep western edge of the summit. The plan is to be presented to the HLC for approval and discussed at the July community meeting.

We'll be sending more information as it becomes available. Let us know what you'd like to know!

Thank you again for your continuing support.

Stan Bacon Friends of Mount Bonnell 512-345-5964





## RESIDENTALERTI

I hired a tree pruner, Edward Bruton of "Tree Pruning & Landscaping Services" to prune a large mulberry and redbud. The redbud was not pruned at all. The mulberry had large branches left hanging which fell in my yard and on my neighbor's roof. I paid him before he'd finished-my fault!

Mr. Bruton drives a red pick-up truck and goes from door-to-door seeking work. He refuses to come complete his work or to give me a portion of his fee back.

I'd hate to see others in our neighborhood taken advantage of as I was. I like to support entrepreneurship when I can. But feel that as an older woman, he did a scam. Well ... it would have been a scam no matter what my age was.

Annoyed, Beverly Voss

## **APD Hosts Commanders' Forum**

On July 1, 2014, an Austin Police Department Commander's Forum was held at the Cornerstone Church on Reinli Street. Commander David Mahoney, Region 1 Commander (which includes Baker and Ida Sectors-HPWBANA is part of Baker Sector), opened the meeting by introducing several staff members- Commander Jessie Brown, Property Crimes; Commander Chris McIlvain, Organized Crime (seized \$6 million dollars' worth of drugs, year to date); Elaine Cray, Community Liaison, Blue Santa (over 5,000 families served Christmas 2013), National Night Out (early October); and Talia Schneider, Crime Statistics. The Region 1 area is undergoing an organizational adjustment to allow more patrol time for the street officers. This has increased the case load on detectives in the various divisions. The emphasis is more visibility, but the Police Department is understaffed on all levels and will be seeking additional officers in the upcoming City budget.

The Allendale neighborhood, also a part of Baker Sector, had a huge problem with the theft of high end bicycles. Concerned Allendale residents attended the preceding Commander's Forum and the neighborhood worked on a plan together with the Police and the thefts have stopped. It does appear that the crime group moved on to a South Austin neighborhood where bicycle thefts have increased. The next Commander's Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2014 - 6:30 - 8 p.m. - McCallum High, 5600 Sunshine Drive





WATER SAFETY TIPS AT WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG



At least 37 Texas children have fatally drowned this year.\*
Keep your children and families safer in, near and around all bodies of water.

Take our Water Safety Quiz. www.colinshope.org/quiz/

**Aug. 28th:** Got2Swim 11k Lake Austin. View event details. www.tinych.org/Got2Swim Sept. 14th: Colin's Hope Kid's Tri! Registration is now open. www.tinych.org/KidsTri

Ongoing: Volunteers needed to distribute water safety packets. info@colinshope.org
Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed. www.tinych.org/AthleteAmbassador

\*Source: Texas DFPS, Watch Kids Around Water

### LAYERS OF PROTECTION CAN PREVENT DROWNING



















CONSTANT VISUAL SUPERVISION

LEARN TO SWIM

WEAR LIFE JACKETS

MULTIPLE BARRIERS TO WATER

KEEP BACKYARDS & BATHROOMS SAFFR

CHECK POOL & HOT TUB FIRST

STAY AWAY FROM DRAINS

AT THE BEACH

LEARN CPR & REFRESH SKILLS YEARLY

## WILDLAND FIRE PRECAUTIONS

With the approaching hotter temperatures and drying vegetation, residents need to be reminded of the need for wildfire/brush fire safety awareness and preparedness.

Do not park vehicles on the dry grass. The heat from the vehicle's exhaust system can cause the grass to catch fire.

Remove combustible materials from around your home. Keep grass mowed short.

Pack critical medicines, important documents, and family heirlooms to be ready to leave at a moment's notice.

Agree on an evacuation plan that includes what to do if you get separated and where you'll go in case of evacuation.

### TEN SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDLAND FIRE

Wildfire can strike home if you have not taken some steps to protect your house and property. The actions and precautions listed below are designed to help you prepare your home and lessen the threat of wildland fire damage to you and your property.

 LPG tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep area around the tank clear of

### A wealth of information to help you is available at:

http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan http://txforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article. aspx?id=8512

http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/ be-firewise/home-and-landscape.aspx flammable vegetation.

- Store gasoline in an approved safety can away from occupied buildings.
- All combustibles such as firewood, wooden picnic tables, boats and stacked lumber should be kept away from structures.
- Clear roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid build-up of flammable materials such as leaves and other debris.
- Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet or more.
- In rural areas, clear a fuel break of at least three times the fuel length around all structures.
- Have fire tools handy such as: ladder long enough to reach your roof, shovel, rake and a bucket or two for water.
- Place connected garden hoses at all sides of your home for emergency use.
- Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your home.
- Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your neighborhood. (Balcones Drive, 35th Street, Perry/45th Street, Hancock Drive, and RM2222)



#### Highland Park West Balcones Area

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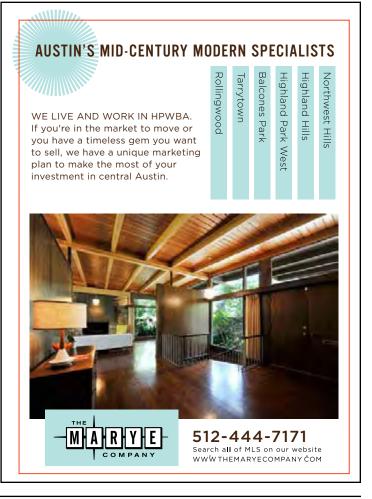
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## Squeeze in a little more fun these last few weeks of summer!

#### August Events

- 9<sup>th</sup> Austin 1ce Cream 7estival
  Fiesta Gardens www.icecreamfestival.org
- 15<sup>th</sup> *Home & Garden Show*Austin Convention Center www.austinhomeandgardenshow.com
- 16<sup>th</sup> August City-Wide Garage Sale
  Palmer Events Center www.cwgs.com
- 23rd Bat Fest

Congress Avenue Bridge www.roadwayevents.com

Run Rock Austin 5%

Travis County Expo Center www.co.travis.tx.us/exposition\_center

Le Garage Boutique Sale

Palmer Events Center www.legaragesale.net

- 24<sup>th</sup> Austin Chronicle Hot Sauce Testival
  Fiesta Gardens www.austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Market/HotSauce
- 30<sup>th</sup> Run or Dye 5K

  Travis County Expo Center www.runordye.com





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