



HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES  
AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# THE HPWBANA NEWS

Volume 10, Number 11

November 2014

[www.hpwbana.org](http://www.hpwbana.org)

## CAMP MABRY NEWS UPDATE

*By Trey McWhorter*



► *The gates at Camp Mabry.*

Camp Mabry is a unique asset to our area, and many area residents may not realize that it is open to the public and features extensive outdoor activities for visitors of all ages, including an excellent museum. And Camp Mabry is making numerous improvements to enhance that experience.

**Camp Mabry is a great place to get some exercise.** Initiated over the summer, a project is underway to improve the walking / jogging track. Improvements include widening it, replacing the crushed granite and installing a concrete curbing around its edge. Additionally, the one-mile track will be completed with a new rubberized running surface prior to its re-opening. Work is expected to be complete by early November. By the time you

are reading this, it may be done. Go try it out!

**The Mopac Improvement Project and impact to Camp Mabry.** There are no changes to Camp Mabry's boundaries due to the project. There will not be a sound wall along the frontage to Camp Mabry, so no impact to the view of the parade field. There is a major 42-inch waterline that will be relocated across the parade field as part of the expansion but will not impact the integrity of the track. Camp Mabry hopes to maintain access during this project with only minimal interruptions.

**What other improvements are happening at Camp Mabry?**

- There is an ongoing project to work on a trail system near the ponds thanks in large part to AmeriCorps. A team of eight young men and women has performed over 1,000 hours of work to clear invasive trees and develop phase one of the trail system. The AmeriCorps team is expected to be back again in 2015 for phase two.
- Work was recently completed on a thorough cleaning of the exterior of the warehouses along MoPac, as well as a total renovation of one of the buildings. They look brand new!
- A large project is underway to repaint all of the static display aircraft on the parade field and the tracked vehicles and tanks at the museum.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## 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  
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line ..... 210-698-1709  
APD REP. - Officer Darrell Grayson ..... 512-974-5242

## '14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **PRESIDENT** (THROUGH OCT. 2014)

Carolyn Robinson ..... president@hpwbana.org

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

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Laura Jones.....newsletter@hpwbana.org

### **BOARD MEMBER**

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Jason Lindenschmidt.....

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

## 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.

### *Camp Mabry (Continued from Cover)*

• Camp Mabry has a new display aircraft! "Army One", the CH-34C Choctaw presidential helicopter that served Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, is now in possession and in the process of being restored. This helicopter came to Texas when President Johnson's presidency ended and was once in Camp Mabry's inventory. It



► *A helicopter on the grounds of Camp Mabry.*

was discovered in the boneyard at Edwards Air Force Base in California last year and now it's back home!

**What's coming up at Camp Mabry?** Here are a couple of upcoming events scheduled for November and December, open to the public:

• **November 8-9** Close Assault 1944 Battle Reenactments (11am & 2pm, both days, rain or shine)- Admission is free.

• **December 5** Camp Mabry Christmas Tree Lighting (time TBD, check website for updates)

So drop in for a workout on the new track, visit the Texas Military Forces Museum, or check out the battle re-enactments on November 8th and 9th and Christmas Tree lighting December 5th. Information about activities, events and museum hours and exhibits is available at [www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org](http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org)

## Perry Park Tennis Court Update

The tennis players in the community will be glad to hear that we are trying to get the two tennis courts at Perry Park resurfaced. Thanks to the hard work of Dave Woods, we have a good understanding of



*The Perry Park tennis courts that may be resurfaced soon.*

the scope and costs. The Friends of Perry Park applied for an ACL Austin Parks Foundation Grant to help fund the project. We will know in mid-December if we are awarded the grant. If so, a community tennis tournament may be a great way to help raise matching funds. We will keep you posted!



# NOVEMBER 2014

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NEIGHBORHOOD!!  
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TO EACH OF YOU!!**



## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS NOVEMBER?

10/31/14 - 11/02/14  
Formula 1 United States  
Grand Prix  
Circuit of The Americas™

11/7/14 - 11/9/14  
Fun Fun Fun Fest  
Auditorium Shores

11/19/14- 11/23/14  
Junior League's A Christmas  
Affair  
Palmer Events Center

11/28/14- 12/24/14  
Blue Genie Art Bazaar  
Marchesa Hall & Theatre

11/29/14  
Chuy's Christmas Parade  
Congress Avenue

## 3RD QUARTER HPBWANA REAL ESTATE STATISTICS

Homes for sale – 9	Average price per sq. ft. - \$294.76
Pending sales – 6	Average price per sq. ft. - \$366.04
Homes sold – 8	Average price per sq. ft. - \$279.17

Want to know the latest real estate trends? Sign up for my biweekly real estate blog at [smartservicesold.blogspot.com](http://smartservicesold.blogspot.com)



4805 BALCONES DRIVE

## Q&A WITH JENNIFER

Q. What is the importance of buying a home in an area with good schools?

A. A lot of people are skeptical, wondering if a home's location near respected schools really affect it's value. We think that finding a home near good schools is extremely important, and here are 3 reasons why:

1. Good schools give local real estate stability. Stability equals better appreciation and better resale value in the long term.
2. There will always be a demand for your home. In the event of another economic downturn, you will see less of a fall in prices in areas with good schools nearby
3. Good schools partner with the community. A lot of times, schools and the community work together to build a great neighborhood and this adds value to whoever is living there.

If you happen to have any questions about this topic or anything else real estate related, please give us a call or send us an email. We'd love to help!

Jennifer Smith, Realtor, GRI, CLHMS

(512) 532-5550  
[jennifer@smartservicesold.com](mailto:jennifer@smartservicesold.com)  
[www.SmartServiceSold.com](http://www.SmartServiceSold.com)



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



# Imagine...

## a New Landmark Park in Our Own Backyard

*By Nadene Morning and Juliee Beyt*

The Friends of Perry Park have a vision, to enrich the Highland Park West neighborhood by creating a community sculpture park.

Located behind the bluffs of Highland Park Elementary School and flanking Balcones Drive sits the future home of Perry Art Park. Currently referred to as "Upper Perry Park", this generous open field stands neglected and empty.

Envision an outdoor space where neighbors can gather in a setting that connects nature, art, and community. Enjoy a serene stroll down natural pathways, gather for neighborhood celebrations, and experience the quiet moments of your day surrounded by inspired art and green space.

This is our vision for the new Perry Art Park – an expansion of our neighborhood Perry Park enhanced with outdoor sculptures & art



park trail. This innovative space will enrich the quality of life for residents of all ages, & will make our community more desirable for homeowners and businesses. We would love your help in making this vision a reality.

► *The soon-to-be art park space.*



## Vote Margie for Austin City Council District 10

**"TAX CUT LADY"**

### Transportation - A Quality of Life Issue:

- Reduce housing & transportation costs - from current 63% to national avg of 40%
- Provide comprehensive bus system - immediate solution & cheaper than rail
- Improve traffic congestion - HOV lanes, timed on-ramps & re-timed traffic lights

### Public Safety – Austin's First Line of Defense

- Reduce crime - increase police patrols
- Fund 911 call center - improve response time
- Prevent wildfires - implement fire mitigation
- Avoid loss of property - build 360 fire station

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We are fortunate to live in a beautiful place, and enriching our park in this way says that we in Highland Park West - Balcones care about our community.

Please join us in this vision by making a business or family contribution. Fundraising for the Perry Art Park extends from October 15 through November 15. All donations are tax deductible, and go directly to the installation of the art and trail in Perry Park.



► *Proposed art park sculpture Dayton by Jim Huntington*

Business sponsorships will be acknowledged by placing the business logo or name on the Perry Art Park project web page: <http://friendsofperrypark.org/sponsorship-businesses>.

#### **We're almost there. Here's what we have in place:**

- **Artwork:** A partnership with our cultural neighbor The Contemporary Austin - Laguna Gloria for a long-term loan from their collection
- **Maintenance:** Laguna Gloria will routinely inspect and maintain the art
- **Approvals:** Plans have been reviewed and approved by the Land and Facilities Board, the Arts Commission Board, Art in Public Places, PARD, and the Highland Park Balcones West community
- **Grant Funding:** Partial funding is being sought, via an Austin Parks Foundation / Austin City Limits Music Festival Grants Fund Application
- **Learning Community:** Support by both Highland Park Elementary and The Contemporary Austin to raise "Creative Awareness"

#### **We need to raise an additional \$16,000 to cover art installation**

Donations can be made simply by clicking the Donate button on the Friends of Perry Park website: <http://friendsofperrypark.org/> or by mailing a check to: Austin Parks Foundation, 507 Calles Street, Ste 116, Austin, TX 78702 / Perry Art Park in the subject line.

We are excited about the future of our neighborhood, and hope you will join us in embracing this unique opportunity.

All we need is you. Donate today!

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# NATURE NOTES Talking Turkey

by Peter English

Last month we talked about Mississippi Kites and their amazing 5500 mile migration. It turns out that they are not alone in the hawk world with that tremendous migration. Swainson's Hawks are even more amazing, as they travel from as far north as Alaska to the plains of north-central Argentina - south of where the Mississippi Kites end up stopping. All that distance to spend Thanksgiving in a place that has better weather and better food than they would find if they stayed in North America with us.

Speaking of Thanksgiving - one of the iconic parts of the holiday revolves around a bird. Turkeys are native to North America and are found in all of the lower 48 states. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the number of Turkeys dwindled as people shot pretty much anything that moved in the wild. Passenger Pigeons and Carolina Parakeets ended up going extinct from all the shooting, but Turkeys made it. Their wide distribution today is primarily the result of reintroduction programs and rational hunting laws.

This round of reintroductions in the 1940s and onward was actually the second big reintroduction of Turkeys in the US. Back in the 1500s and 1600s, explorers from Europe were shipping all kinds of things back to home from the New World. Among these were Turkeys from Mexico. The Europeans of the time found the Turkeys to be delicious, and soon figured out how to domesticate them. When British settlers came to North America in the 1700s they brought domesticated Turkeys here with them.

But the Turkeys the Europeans had domesticated were the Western US/Mexican subspecies, and it has white tips to the feathers at the base of the tail and the tail itself. The other four North American subspecies that are found in most of the US have brownish tips to the tail. So the domesticated Turkeys the Europeans brought had white feathers where the native turkeys had brown. As domesticated turkeys escaped and joined the local wild populations, bits of white started turning up in the tail feathers. To this day you can tell if a Wild Turkey has domesticated blood in it by the color of its tail.



*The brown tail feathers indicate that this is a true wild turkey.*

## Fall Family Fun

By Laura Jones

At long last, the weather has finally cooled off and we can get outdoors again and enjoy our beautiful Austin area. Here are some ideas the whole family will enjoy.

### Barton Hill Farms

<http://bartonhillfarms.com/>

Located about 30 minutes east of Austin near Bastrop, Barton Hill Farms offers many fun activities for families. With a pumpkin patch, corn maze, barrel train and pirate-ship sandbox, it's worth a drive and a visit to this picturesque farm, located on the banks of the Colorado River. The Fall Festival goes on weekends through November 9, and it's worth checking out the website ahead of time for more information and \$1 off ticket prices.

### Sweet Berry Farm

<http://www.sweetberryfarm.com/>

Sweet Berry Farm, located out in Marble Falls, offers fruit and vegetable picking throughout the year. Their fall festival includes hay rides, a barrel train, pick-your-own flowers, sand art and face painting, but is only going on through the first weekend in November. Check the website for more details.

### Mueller Fall Fest

[www.facebook.com/MuellerAustin](http://www.facebook.com/MuellerAustin)

A bit closer to home, the Mueller Fall Fest will take place on November 8 at the Mueller Hanger. The event will include a petting zoo, pumpkin bowling, pumpkin decorating, a cake walk, a temporary tattoo booth, and much more family fun.

### Aki Matsuri - Japanese Fall Festival

<http://www.jasga.org>

The Japanese American Society of Greater Austin hosts it's eighth annual fall festival on Saturday, November 15 at O. Henry Middle

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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

School from 12-4 pm. This unique festival will include taiko drums, traditional Japanese dance and martial arts as well as Japanese food, sweets and drinks. A raffle and silent auction will also take place.

### Zilker Botanical Garden Plant Pressing

Learn how to press plants at Zilker Botanical Garden on November 16 from 1-4 pm. Preserving flowers is an elegant way to collect the memories of the garden you and your children fostered together. Create a simple plant press to add a colorful touch to your post cards, bookmarks, gifts, and nature journal. Choose from pressed plants for a nature journal or to make a charming piece of natural artwork by bringing different pressed leaves and petals together! The event is free with your admission fee to the garden, but you do need to register in advance by contacting 512-477-8672 x 10 or [reservations@zilker garden.org](mailto:reservations@zilker garden.org)

### Domain Tree Lighting

The first Christmas tree lighting of the season will take place at the Domain on November 22. The celebration starts at noon with face painting, balloon animals, crafts, holiday music and shopping deals. At 6pm, special holiday musical performances will begin and the 40-foot tree will be lit.

## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### REMINDER

Perry Park is an On Leash Park where a dog should be on a leash or lead and under control/under restraint at all times. Violations should be reported to 311.



## Join the HPWBANA Yahoo Group

Readers of the HPWBANA News can be kept more up to date on neighborhood issues by joining the HPWBANA Yahoo Group. It is easy to do and all recipients of the News are encouraged to join. Just go [HPWBANA.org](http://HPWBANA.org) and click on the "Join the Yahoo Group" tab, then in the lower left of the page Click Here to join the HPWBANA Yahoo Group.



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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

# How Interest Rates Impact Home Sales/Purchases

by Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

I recently read an article about how interest rates have impacted home sales and home purchases on a national basis. That made me curious to find out the impact of interest rates in our local market. In doing the research I used the homes sold in Austin and compared those numbers to the monthly average interest rates of 30-year fixed-rate mortgages with no points. The results provided no huge surprise. See the chart below:

As you can see, there is an almost perfect inverse relationship between homes sold and the level of the interest rates. Consumer behavior does not always follow a logical path, but we find that during the past twelve months in Austin, the lower the interest rates, the higher the home sales, and inversely, the higher the interest rates, the lower the home sales. This is important information for both home buyers and home sellers as they make their decisions on how rates impact their residential transaction timing. For buyers, the lower the mortgage rates were, the more their money was able to buy and the more they could borrow for the same cost to them compared to times of higher mortgage rates. This is also good for sellers who are ready to sell their homes quickly and at the top of

their asking prices.

If you are considering buying or selling a home, be sure to keep track of the current interest rates and listen to knowledgeable economists with good insights into how the Fed's actions will impact future mortgage rates. This knowledge could serve you very well in determining the best time for you to buy or sell your next property.



# FLASH FLOOD AWARENESS

by Pieter Sybesma

Austin lies in the heart of Flash Flood Alley. Whether or not you live in a floodplain, it is critical that you be alert to the dangers of flooding both in your home or around town. Since 1960, 60 people have died in flash floods in Travis County. About 75% of flood fatalities occur in vehicles. Don't drive during heavy rainfall. If you must, check ATXfloods ( <http://www.atxfloods.com/> ) first to see if any roads on your route have already flooded, look for water over the road, avoid low water crossings, and turn around if a road is barricaded or if there is water over the roadway.

Keep in mind that at night, during heavy storms, it may be difficult to see that a road is flooded. There are many other dangers during a flood as well. In general, stay away from creeks and drainage infrastructure during rainfall. If you live in a flood-prone area, monitor the weather and move to higher ground if floodwaters start approaching your house. Higher ground may be a second story in your house or your roof. In many cases, you are safer staying at your home than trying to leave.

Turn Around-Don't Drown.

And, a most helpful website for current emergency information is the City of Austin's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Website ( <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/homeland-security-and-emergency-management> ) which has links to current Austin and Travis County Fire incidents, APD and TCSO Law Enforcement incidents, Flooding information and Austin Energy power outages.

Be Safe. Be Prepared.

## GOODWILL DONATION PICKUP SERVICE

Goodwill of Central Texas is now offering a pick-up service for homeowners in your neighborhood! If there's a garage sale or community event on your calendar coming up in the fall, we'd like to be there. We can park a truck in a convenient location where residents can bring goods and donate with ease. Please contact us ahead of your event—pick-ups are on a first come, first served basis so get in early! We hope to hear from you soon!

For more information, contact:

**Suzette Lipford**

**Community Donations Manager**

**Goodwill Central Texas**

**1051 Norwood Park Blvd.**

**Austin, TX 78753**

**[suzette.lipford@goodwillcentraltexas.org](mailto:suzette.lipford@goodwillcentraltexas.org)**

**512.743.0186**



# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

## CARPENTER ANTS

Carpenter ants nest outdoors in dead wood (tree stumps or dead limbs, fences, firewood, etc.). They may also be found in wood siding, beams, joists, fascia boards or trim on structures. Damage is usually limited since carpenter ants tunnel and nest within wood; they do not eat wood. However, wood can become weakened by carpenter ant excavation.

Carpenter ants are large ants that can vary in color from all black to reddish to yellowish or a combination of colors. These ants have one node, no stinger and a circle of hairs at the tip of their abdomen.

Galleries in the nest are excavated following the grain of the wood and have clean, smooth walls. Nest locations may be discovered by searching for piles of sawdust-looking material under exit holes. Sawdust is coarse and may also contain soil or sand, uneaten insects as well as dead ants from the colony.

Carpenter ants are able to enter homes from tree branches or utility lines touching the home, through cracks and crevices around windows and doors, cracks in foundation walls, ventilation openings or heating and air conditioning ducts.

Here are some tips for a carpenter ant infestation:

- Remove dead trees and/ or limbs and remove tree stumps from the landscape. Many times you can remove the (possible) nesting sites and get rid of the ants without using pesticides.
- Prune trees and shrubs that touch the home. Carpenter ants will often use these areas as a bridge to enter the home.
- Replace wood that is water damaged. Carpenter ants are drawn to moisture damaged wood, so make sure to repair any water leaks and replace damaged wood.

- Remove wood debris and firewood that is near the home. Carpenter ants may nest in firewood and when it is stacked right next to the home, it allows the ants to enter more easily.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

*The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.*

## Rebecca's HPWBAN Listings



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Host families can come in all shapes and sizes! We work with single moms and dads, empty nesters, families with young children, never marrieds and same sex couples. To qualify to host, you need to:

- Pass a background check
- Meet with a local Ayusa representative
- Received school permission to enroll the exchange student (handled by Ayusa)
- Be able to provide the student with room and board, and
- Provide a safe, supportive and loving home environment.

To learn more about hosting and how you can make a difference, please visit [www.ayusa.org](http://www.ayusa.org) or contact Vicki Odom at [vodom@ayusa.org](mailto:vodom@ayusa.org) or (832) 455-7881.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT YARBOROUGH LIBRARY

### Yarborough Library Events

Our local library branch has some great events coming up. Make sure to check them out, along with their regularly scheduled programming, which includes fantastic story hours for kids, a book club for teens and craft nights for adults.

.....

### BizAid Business Orientation

November 12, 10:30-noon

This course provides information on where entrepreneurs can find assistance at the idea, start-up and existing phases of their business.

.....

### Lego Lab

November 13, 3:30pm

Stop by the library for Lego fun! Come to the Lego Lab to see, hear, make and create different stories, all while building with Legos provided by the Library.

.....

### Literature LIVE! Not So Scary Stories

November 20, 3:30pm

"Not So Scary Stories" is a story spectacular that is anything but scary. Children ages 3 and up will have a marvelous time with these interactive stories and puppet tales.

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### **American Association of University Women (AAUW)** **Austin Branch promotes diversity in membership and equity in mission**

AUSTIN, TX -- American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a mouthful to say but its mission is simple – to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. The Austin AAUW was founded in 1923 by some of Austin's outstanding female leaders in religious, civic and cultural activities.

Reproductive choice, equal pay, domestic violence prevention, workplace discrimination and promotion of STEM education are just some of the issues that AAUW promotes on behalf of women in Austin and throughout the world.

The Austin branch of AAUW has appealed to new members over the last year, partly due to recent legislative priorities and court decisions at the state and national levels, which many view as a threat to women's empowerment.

Thirteen new members have joined last month alone. Members range from college age to active retirees. Many lifetime members joined during the height of their careers several decades ago—they were way ahead of their time! The 78731 zip code represents the largest faction of current members.

HPWBANA member and Highland Park parent, Bergan Casey, recently joined the AAUW because she says, "It's easy to get complacent because we know what freedom and choice feels like, but I believe that our generation has a responsibility to build upon what our mothers and grandmothers made possible for women."

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Some  
**FALL FUN**

# November

**8** 1944 Close Assault - Battle Reenactment • [texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org](http://texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org)

**14-16** Walking with Dinosaurs @ Cedar Park Center • [dinosaurlive.com](http://dinosaurlive.com)

**15-16, 22-23** East Austin Studio Tour • [east.bigmedium.org](http://east.bigmedium.org)

**16** Race for the Cure 5K • [komenaustin.org/komen-race-for-the-cure](http://komenaustin.org/komen-race-for-the-cure)

**16** Austin Chocolate Festival • [austinchocolatefestival.com](http://austinchocolatefestival.com)

**19-23** Junior League's A Christmas Affair • [jlaustin.org](http://jlaustin.org)

**22** Blacklight Fun Run • [blacklightrun.com](http://blacklightrun.com)

**23** School House Rock Live - The Paramount Theatre • [austintheatre.org](http://austintheatre.org)

**27** Thundercloud Sub's Turkey Trot • [thundercloud.com/turkey-trot](http://thundercloud.com/turkey-trot)

**28-12/24** Blue Genie Art Bazaar • [bluegenieartbazaar.com](http://bluegenieartbazaar.com)

**29** Chuy's Christmas Parade • [chuysparade.com](http://chuysparade.com)

**29-30** Renegade Craft Fair • [renegadecraft.com/austin](http://renegadecraft.com/austin)



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