

THE HPWBANA NEWS

Volume 10, Number 12

December 2014

www.hpwbana.org

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

HPWBANA 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

by Carolyn Robinson

The Annual Meeting of the neighborhood association was held at La Mancha on October 20, 2014. Election of the 2015 board members was held, and a review of the association's activities was presented. Neighbors voiced concerns regarding development at the Bull Creek TX DOT property, traffic at specific intersections within the neighborhood, proposed development at Mopac and Spicewood Springs. Neighbors offered suggestion for the board's consideration. Those suggestions include: increase awareness for need of water conservation (and adherence to COA schedule watering days) and support for the Perry Art Park Project. Another neighbor voiced concern over the neighborhood association spending funds on legal fees on zoning issues, and another neighbor suggested that we organize a District 10 coalition to facilitate communication with our (future) city council member. The idea of a sign announcing "You are entering HPWBANA" was suggested, and we even received the fun suggestion to start a "book share" drop box for neighbors to trade books.

The presentation by the board also thanks to the many neighborhood volunteers who have worked on beautification committee projects with a special thank you to our long-time friend and champion of the green spaces, Nadene Morning. Perry Park will miss Nadene greatly!

WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN 2015:

Some of the activities the board will focus on this year include: increasing membership for HPWBANA, keeping a watchful eye on zoning issues with attention to preservation of neighborhood character, establishing a forum of communication with our new District 10 representative, and continued participation in the Austin Neighborhood Council.

We plan to host the following events: Crime and Safety Awareness and prevention meeting, Movie in Perry Park, our annual Egg Hunt in Perry Park, July 4 Celebration, and there is talk of partnering with Highland Park Elementary to host our first Bike Rodeo for children and adults.

All of the events and activities of the HPWBANA would not be possible without your generous donations and your volunteer time! Watch for the membership request letter in early January, or pay online at hpwbana.org. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Carolyn Robinson at (512) 750-4072 or email president@hpwbana.org. You can also visit our website and email the committee chairs directly.

HPWBANA
NEW BOARD MEMBERS



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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

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Mike Ditson
Chereen Fisher
Pieter Sysbesma
Jason Lindenschmidt

board@hpwbana.org

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

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HPWBANA RESIDENTIAL SALE PRICE RANGES

By Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

Homes in our neighborhood sell for a wide range of prices. During the period between January 1 and October 31, 2014 homes sold for prices ranging from \$294,000 to \$2,156,000. This time period had a bi-modal distribution with the highest percentage of home sales in the \$300,000 to \$399,000 range, representing 20% of the homes sold and averaging \$358,783... and 18% of the homes sold for an average of \$1,219,000. This is a significantly different pattern than the sales during that same time period in 2013, when 19% of home sales where between \$300,000 and \$399,000 and 28% sold for between \$500,000 and \$699,000. While the accompanying chart indicates that the overall average sale price declined in 2014, it actually increased by a little over 3% when the \$3,700,000 outlier is removed from the average sale prices in 2013. As older homes are purchased and renovations are completed, we can anticipate a significant increase in price per square foot as well as overall sale prices.

As current and prospective home owners in our neighborhood anticipate real estate transactions, the distribution of home prices can provide clear indicators of the competition one might expect as well as the likely time on the market.

Comparison of Sales Price Ranges

	January 1— October 31		January 1— October 31	
	2013		2014	
	# 5 0 1 4	Average	# Sold	Average
	# Sold	Sold Price		Sold Price
\$200K — \$299K	3	\$252,333	1	\$294,000
\$300K — \$399K	15	\$367,593	12	\$358,783
\$400K—\$499K	6	\$449,250	8	\$440,917
\$500K — \$599K	11	\$543,725	9	\$555,942
\$600K—\$699K	11	\$659,039	6	\$666,000
\$700K — \$799K	8	\$737,186	6	\$737,998
\$800K—\$899K	5	\$848,260	5	\$844,680
\$900K—\$999K	7	\$951,286	2	\$913,128
\$1.0M —\$1.99M	10	\$1,170,755	11	\$1,219,000
\$2.0M—\$2.99M	1	\$2,075,000	1	\$2,154,000
\$3.0M —\$3.99M	1	\$3,700,000	0	n/a
TOTAL/AVERAGE	78	\$724,066	61	\$707,653



MEET YOUR 2015 HPWBANA BOARD

At the October Annual Meeting, the new board members for 2015 were all unanimously approved. Please take a moment to learn about your neighbors who are serving on the board. Contact them with questions, comments or ideas at board@hpwbana.org.

JASON LINDENSCHMIDT

Jason and his wife, Katie Moran, have called HPWBANA home since 2003. He is the owner and broker of LindenDwell Real Estate since 2009, and has been working in real estate since 2006. He is both an Aggie and Longhorn, with a BA in Business Management from A&M and an MS in Engineering from UT. Jason will serve the board by chairing the membership drive and will be an active member of the preservation committee.



DAWN LEWIS

Dawn has lived in the neighborhood since 1993. She has three grown children who attended AISD schools, including Highland Park Elementary. A former teacher and development director, she currently works at Austin Partners in Education where she manages their mentor and partner programs. She served on the HPWBANA board back in the '90s and came back on board two years



ago. She also serves on the boards of the Austin Friends of the Library Foundation and Texas Gun Sense as well as on committees for AISD and her church, St. John's United Methodist Church. She loves to read, jog, and watch Florida State football.

DONNA EDGAR

Donna has been a HPWBANA board member for the past four years, having served two as board secretary and two as treasurer. She and her husband Tom have lived in the Highland Park West neighborhood since the mid-1970s, and their children grew up here, attending Highland Park School. As treasurer, Donna has advocated



for responsible budgeting of the neighborhood association's funds by identifying important activities and allocating appropriate percentages of our income to each. She is also deeply interested in neighborhood preservation, and along with several other board members, is working to re-establish the zoning committee as a focal point for preserving the qualities of our neighborhoods most important to residents.

BRANDON MCBRIDE

Brandon and his wife, Elizabeth, have lived in the neighborhood since 2012 after moving back home from the Washington, DC, area. They were both born and raised in Austin and have three children, Emma (11), Charlie (9) and Teddy (6). Brandon works as a strategy consultant. He will serve the board by working to increase



the HPWBANA membership numbers and will work to coordinate neighborhood events.

CAROLYN ROBINSON

Carolyn has been active on the HPWBANA board for many years, and after a brief absence, has returned to serve. Her interests in the board surround beautification and neighborhood events. Carolyn's son, Cash, is currently a member of the beautification committee. Carolyn believes that neighborhood events are important, not just



because they are fun, but because they serve to bond neighbors and build a sense of community. Carolyn and her husband, Rhett, have lived in the neighborhood since 1999.

MIKE DITSON

Mike and his wife Shelley have lived in the neighborhood for three years. They have one daughter in college in Massachusetts. Mike has served on the board since 2013, and will volunteer his time to increase HPWBANA membership. Mike and Shelley are both marketing executives at separate software startups here in Austin.



PIETER SYBESMA

Pieter grew up in Andrews, Texas where his family owned a motel. He moved to Austin in 1968 and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BA in Government in 1970. He earned his Master's in Business Administration Degree in 1994 through participation in the rigorous UT Option II Executive MBA Programs.



Pieter Sybesma was employed by the City of Austin for 33 years where he worked in management and executive positions in the Parks and Recreation Department, the City Manger's Office, the Office of Energy Conservation and Renewable Resources as its first Administrator, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, and the Austin Fire Department as its Principal Planner and Fire Contracts Administrator. He is a member of the Community Emergency Response Team for Austin, has authored two magazine articles for the fire service, has served on local and national boards within the fire service, is a member of the West Austin Rotary Club where he serves as President in 2005-2006, and consults on fire station location and justification studies.

CHEREEN FISHER

Chereen has served on the HPWBANA board for many years. Her focus has primarily been on planning and organizing neighborhood events, but is interested in neighborhood development issues as well. Chereen and her husband, Karl, have two children, Ben and Will, and have lived in the neighborhood for more than eleven years.



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DECEMBER NATURE NOTES Winter Hawks by Peter English

Do you ever see the hawks perched on the streetlights along MoPac? If you've noticed them, you've probably noticed that there are more this time of year. Those are the Red-tailed Hawks, back from Canada and other points north to spend the winter in Austin.

We have two types of hawks that spend their winters in Austin that I see almost everyday this time of year: Red-tailed Hawks and Cooper's Hawks. Red-tailed Hawks are big, bulky hawks with splotchy brown backs and cream-colored fronts. Adults have a rusty red tail, but juveniles do not, so as is often the case with birds, the name is not necessarily helpful in identification. Red-tailed Hawks have broad wings and a relatively short tail, and this design is best for floating above fields waiting for a mouse or rat to move, then pouncing on their lunch.

Red-tailed Hawks are found in virtually all parts of the United States and in almost all habitats. The ones that live in thick forests, like in the northeastern U.S., are a deep brown on their backs, while the ones from the western plains tend to be a much lighter color of brown. They all come to our area to winter, and it is fun to see a bright one and then a dark one as you drive down MoPac and know where each bird lives the rest of the year (ed.note: but do keep your eyes on the road as well!).

Cooper's Hawks are much smaller than Red-tailed Hawks and have a very different design. These guys have short broad wings and a long tail and are designed to chase other birds though the trees. The short wings help them fit between places and the long tail gives them maneuverability. Cooper's Hawks are also found in almost every state of the US, but they do not really show much variation based on where they live the rest of the year.

Do you ever notice groups of pigeons flying around in a tight little ball? The reason is almost certainly a Cooper's Hawk. While they are designed to chase birds through the trees, grabbing a nice fat pigeon out of the air works for them too. So when a Cooper's Hawk comes into the area, the pigeons all take off together. By staying in a group, each individual has a lower chance of being grabbed - even better if the individual is at the center of the group! So each pigeon is trying to be as close to the others as possible, thus the really tight group. The Cooper's Hawk floats above waiting for one of the pigeons to get out of position and when that happens, the hawk dives down and make a grab for the pigeon.

I see Red-tailed Hawks pretty much everyday on MoPac. I see Cooper's Hawks all over the place, but particularly on Burnet Road and on the UT campus. Look on the light posts of MoPac and above tight flocks of pigeons and I bet you'll see them too.





Cooper's Hawk

Red Tail Hawk



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PERRY ART PARK UPDATE

by Friends of Perry Park

The Perry Art Park Project is progressing nicely and it is so exciting to see the community come out in support of this neighborhood-enriching project. These business sponsors have joined the ranks of many families wishing to improve the future of the neighborhood:

- Strub Residential
- Crenshaw Athletic Club
- Highland Park West Shopping Center
- Charles McVey PhD, Psychologist
- Rebecca Spratlin Realty, LLC
- Realty Austin
- Michael's Hair Salon

We invite more businesses join our efforts, http://friendsofperrypark.org/sponsorship-businesses. We have had some lovely lemonade stands with neighborhood children which have brought friends out into the neighborhoods to learn more about Perry Park and contribute. These lemonade stands have been successful fundraising events and are listed on our family fundraising page http://friendsofperrypark.org/sponsorship-individualsfamilies

We thank all the families who have supported as well as we work as a community to enhance Perry Park with outdoor sculptures and art park trail. We also

very much appreciate the support of Highland Park Elementary PTA. Imagine... a new landmark park in our own backyard.









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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Stage 2 Watering Restrictions Still in Effect

by Laura Jones

Just because summer has come to an end doesn't mean the drought has as well. In fact, Stage 2 watering restrictions are still in effect. Until the water levels in lakes Travis and Buchanan rise substantially, Austin will follow the city's Drought Contingency Plan.

This means that we can water only one day per week. For the residential properties that make up most of the Highland Park West/Balcones Area Neighborhood Association, the watering schedule is based on your address and the kind of watering you intend to do. There are also restrictions on when you may water as well.

For hose-watering and hose-end sprinklers, odd addresses may water on Saturday, even addresses on Sunday. Hose-watering must be done before 10am or after 7pm.

Sprinkler systems, or what the city calls automatic irrigation, may be run at odd addresses on Wednesdays and even addresses on Thursdays. These systems must be run before 5am or after 7pm.

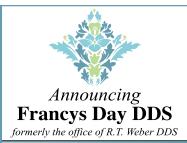
A few other important points to note include:

Drip irrigation and vegetable garden watering are exempt from these schedules. Washing vehicles at home is currently prohibited — you must take your vehicle to a commercial carwash. Restaurants are not allowed to serve water unless specifically requested by a customer.

Residential fines start at \$75 per violation, so it's a good idea to stay in compliance! For more information about watering restrictions, rebates for water-saving measures or to learn more about the drought, visit www.austintexas.gov/department/water.



Despite some rain, Austin remains under Stage 2 watering restrictions.





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HEAVY SMOKER?

CT LUNG SCREENING SAVES LIVES

by Dr. Amy Salinas, Radiologist, Austin Radiological Association Smoking is believed to cause up to 90% of lung cancer cases - and lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the United States. The good news is that CT lung screening for high-risk people can reduce deaths from lung cancer by 20% compared to chest x-ray.

WHAT IS CT LUNG SCREENING?

Computed tomography (CT) lung screening is a simple radiological test done on people that are completely symptom free as a way of finding cancer before there are any indications. CT can distinguish between normal and diseased tissue based on changes in size, shape and appearance of the tissue. A CT lung screening can detect cancerous lung nodules at an early stage when they are more treatable, increasing survival chances.

The best way to prevent lung cancer is to never smoke or stop smoking now. If you are still smoking, talk to your doctor about ways to help you quit smoking.

AM IA CANDIDATE FOR CT LUNG SCREENING?

Austin Radiological Association and the American Lung Association recommend CT lung screening if you are:

- a current or former smoker
- and from 55 to 75 years old
- and with a smoking history of at least 30 pack years (this means one pack a day for 30 years, two packs a day for 15 years, etc.)

Together, these factors put you in the highest risk group for lung cancer and screening is recommended for you. If you do not fall into this group, consult with your doctor to see if you might benefit from CT lung screening.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CT scans do involve exposure to radiation (x-rays). But radiology is advancing rapidly and new low-dose CT scanners allow for an up to 60% reduction in radiation dose with improved image quality. Research has consistently shown that potential detrimental outcomes from CT are related to the undiagnosed or underlying medical condition that CT will detect rather than from the minimal radiation exposure of CT.

Now more than ever, CT lung screening for high-risk people is very much worth it.







David A. Bushore, M.D. Amanda N. Cooper, M.D. Robert M. Jackson, M.D.



David A. Bushore, M.D.

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Amanda N. Cooper, M.D.

OUR HOLIDAY COSMETIC SALE WILL BE STARTING DECEMBER 1st!

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Robert M. Jackson, M.D.

Please visit us at:

www.balconesdermatology.com for more information on our practice, physicians, and location

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Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name: _____(first name, last initial)

Age:



Highland Park West Balcones Area



GERMAN COCKROACHES

by Wizzie Brown

German cockroaches are most commonly found within homes and commercial food establishments, usually in the kitchen. The adults are about ½ inch long, tan and have two dark stripes above the head. The females will carry the egg case protruding from the abdomen until the day before hatching. The nymphs, or baby cockroaches, look similar to the adults, but are smaller and without fully developed wings.

German cockroaches may enter buildings through infested boxes, grocery bags, furniture and dried pet food. They may also enter around loose-fitting doors and windows as wells as through sewer lines, attics, and where pipes penetrate the structure. Cockroaches are associated with filth, but even well-maintained structures can become infested.

German cockroaches are active at night, and are usually only visible during the day if they are disturbed or there is a severe infestation. They like to rest in tight, dark spaces such as under or inside cupboards, behind loose baseboards or in bathrooms. They are omnivores, feeding plant and animal products such as meats, starchy foods, baked goods, leather, book bindings and wallpaper paste.

Inspection is important to any cockroach control program. Identify the type of cockroach and their location. Eliminate indoor hiding places such as paper or cardboard. Sticky traps can help to reduce cockroach populations without the use of chemical. Place traps against walls near cockroach feeding and hiding areas.

Some type of chemical control will be needed to eliminate cockroach infestations. Baits are a combination of toxicants and food attractant. Baits should be placed in areas where cockroaches are known to feed. Residual sprays are available in ready-to-use containers or concentrates that are mixed with water. Sprays are fast and easy to apply. Dust treatments should be used in cracks and crevices, wall voids, under refrigerators or around pipes. Dusts should be applied in a light, even coat that is barely visible. Do not apply dust or residual sprays to areas that have bait.

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