



# THE HPWBANA NEWS

Volume 11, Number 3

March 2015

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

## HPWBANA Membership Drive

*by the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association Board of Director*

Greetings, Neighbors! The 2015 HPWBANA Membership Drive is underway, and we'd like to ask you to take a moment and renew your membership. Or, if you have never officially joined the neighborhood association, please do so, and know that your membership dues are put to good use throughout the year.

There are approximately 1,800 homes within our boundaries, but only a small portion of those household residents are members of the association. One goal of the HPWBANA board is to increase the number of household members. Please help us reach this goal! Join, or renew, and mention the HPWBANA to your neighbors, too! The more neighbors involved in the association, the better.

We need your support to continue the neighborhood events, projects and advocacy. Our Board of volunteers is hard at work making neighborhood improvements in the following areas:

**HIGHLAND PARK ELEMENTARY/ PERRY PARK.** Ongoing maintenance and improvements to this neighborhood gem. Recent projects include the fitness station located on the north side of Perry Park, the Girl Scouts "Learning Circle" project, and the proposed art sculpture to be located in the upper section of Perry Park along Balcones Drive.

**EVENTS.** Putting on the popular neighborhood events we all know and love, including: Movie in the Park, Spring Egg Hunt and our 4th of July Celebration and Parade.

**TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY.** Ongoing efforts to improve the overall safety of our streets and neighborhood. This includes working with the City of Austin to identify problematic intersections, re-striping street lanes and the inclusion of bicycle

lanes. The "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" sign campaign and the speed monitor trailer located on Perry Lane are very recent examples of this committee at work.

**NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION.** Extensive time and effort goes into maintaining multiple neighborhood green spaces and public areas, including Perry Park and a number of adopted medians throughout the neighborhood.

**COMMUNICATION.** A printed monthly newsletter, website and neighborhood listserv all help to spread the word and communicate important neighborhood news and events.

**ADVOCACY.** Representing HPWBANA on a broad spectrum on city issues, such as the 10-1 Redistricting process and the Bull Creek Road Coalition.

Membership funds are critical to the accomplishment of these neighborhood projects. Your membership dues and donations will help us continue these efforts throughout 2015. Keep in mind you're welcome to contribute more than the standard membership amount if you like – additional funds allow us to do more for the neighborhood! You can even designate where you would like these additional funds to go. Look for your membership letter in the mail and send in the attached form, or join online via PayPal at: <http://hpwbana.org/get-involved/join-hpwbana>

The Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association Board is comprised of volunteers that give freely of their time to help better our amazing neighborhood. Do your part by joining today. Thank you!

## 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

## '15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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[board@hpwbana.org](mailto:board@hpwbana.org)

The HPWBANA Board meets on the first Monday of each month except December. Please go to [HPWBANA.org](http://HPWBANA.org) for our current meeting location or contact [president@HPWBANA.org](mailto: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](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com) for ad information and pricing.

# Perry Art Park Update

*by Jessica Winslow, Friends of Perry Park*

Thanks to the generosity of all the individuals, families, children and businesses who donated to the Perry Art Park, the fundraising goal for the first phase of the project was met in mid-January. The vision of creating an art park to enrich our beautiful neighborhood will soon become a reality! This project is a unique collaboration between the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Art in Public Places, The Contemporary Austin, and the Friends of Perry Park.

In addition to these donors, other major supporters are the HPWBANA Board of Directors, the Highland Park Elementary PTA, and the Austin Parks Foundation. These organizations provided significant financial backing for the Perry Art Park.

The first sculpture to be installed is "Dayton," by Jim Huntington, which will be on long-term loan from The Contemporary Austin. Installation is planned for the spring of 2015, which will be the culmination of almost two years of discussion and planning for the project.

More information about the Perry Art Park can be found on the Friends of Perry Park website, [friendsofperrypark.org/](http://friendsofperrypark.org/).



*The first Perry Art Park sculpture, "Dayton" by Jim Huntington.*

# MARCH 2015

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## TRENDS FOR 2015

White. White. White. White kitchens are in! This means white cabinets, topped with white counter tops, surrounded by white back splashes and white trim.

Quartz-based kitchen countertops instead of granite. Quartz requires less maintenance and it comes in a wide variety of colors.

Call me if you have any remodeling questions, I'm happy to help!

## MARVELOUS MARCH EVENTS

**MARCH  
1-16**

Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo  
Travis County Exposition Center  
[www.rodeoaustin.com](http://www.rodeoaustin.com)

**MARCH  
9**

Zilker Park Kite Festival  
The nation's oldest kite festival is free!  
[www.abckitefestival.com](http://www.abckitefestival.com)

**MARCH  
7-16**

SXSW® Music, Film, & Interactive Conference  
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**MARCH  
29-30**

Zilker Garden Festival  
Zilker Park  
[www.zilker garden.org/about/events/ZGF2014](http://www.zilker garden.org/about/events/ZGF2014)

## Q&A WITH JENNIFER

**Q** Is now a good time to refinance my home loan?

**A** Now is a great time to refinance! Rates are near historic lows so it is an excellent time to consider lowering your monthly payment, taking cash out for home improvements, or reducing the term of your existing mortgage. If you are interested, please contact Eric Weiss at 512-913-5384.

Eric Weiss, Residential Mortgage Loan Officer, NMLS # 321475. Ameripro Funding, NMLS # 131699, 8300 N. Mopac Expy #120, Austin, TX 78759

## TIP FROM THE ONE THING:

**BE A MAKER IN THE MORNING  
AND A MANAGER IN THE  
AFTERNOON.**



4805 BALCONES DRIVE

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

# Migration

By Peter English

## MARCH NATURE NOTES

*Mark your calendars: Nature Notes author Peter English will be speaking at the Travis Audubon Society's monthly meeting on April 16 at 7pm at the Hyde Park Christian Church, 610 E 45th Street. Free to all.*

March signals the start of migration, when roughly 5 million birds move from warmer wintering grounds down south to food-filled forests and tundras up north where they raise their young. Migration is an amazing event, and in this article we are focusing on the changes that allow birds to complete feats of endurance as they fly back north.

The Spring migration is a hurried, tense process for birds. In many cases the males arrive back north before the females to set up territories. If the male arrives too early, he will likely freeze in a late-season storm. If he arrives too late, he will find all the best territories occupied by other males. A poor territory typically means either no mate or a poor mate (fewer offspring, less ability to care for offspring, etc.). Not breeding during the breeding season is the worst thing for a bird, because the average migratory bird has only a 50% chance of making it back alive for next season. Migration is tough.

One species found here in Austin has been particularly well-studied: the Eared Grebe is a duck-like water bird that eats mostly fish. Like all other migratory birds, it needs energy to migrate. Almost all birds put on extra fat just before leaving to head north (or south in the Fall) because fat is the energy source for the hours and hours of flying. The Eared Grebe, however, does this in an amazing way.

As the time for migration nears, the muscles that power the wings degenerate down to less than half their original size, the intestines

nearly double in length, and the leg muscles also nearly double in size. In this state the grebes cannot even fly, but they can swim down to eat more fish than usual and their longer intestines allow them to get more energy per fish. That adds up to more fat, which is necessary for what comes next.

Just before the migration flight, big changes happen again. First, the things that are not necessary for flight decrease in size: intestines decrease in length to less than half their original length, the leg muscles

atrophy to less than half their original size. Similarly, the things necessary for flight increase in size: the flight muscles double from their original size (so 4 times their current size) and the heart doubles in mass.

Then it is time to make the big flight. Eared Grebes typically do their entire migration in one flight. In some cases, that can mean flying from southern Mexico to southern Canada without stopping. Once they arrive at their destination, the flight muscles and heart return their original size, and everything is back to



*Eared Grebe*

normal.

The birds that migrate all have amazing feats of endurance. Smaller birds can fly up to 100 hours at a time and lose up to 50% of their initial body mass during the flight. The incredible energy output of these birds has a caloric equivalent in humans of running 45 marathons back-to-back at a 4 minute/mile pace. Even tiny hummingbirds get in on the action: Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fly directly across the Gulf of Mexico without stopping once every Fall and again every Spring.

# Perry Park Tennis Court Resurface Project

*by Friends of Perry Park*

The Friends of Perry Park is working with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and our local tennis community to resurface the two tennis courts at Perry Park. These courts were last resurfaced in early 2000 so this is a very much needed project. Faint blended quickstart lines will be added to the courts for our younger tennis players. We are glad to report that the Friends of Perry Park was awarded an Austin Parks Foundation Austin City Limits grant to fund a major part of the work - MANY THANKS go out to APF and ACL!

Friends of Perry Park is fundraising for the community match of \$2000.

**Donations:** We encourage the tennis players in our community to make a donation to the project. Check out the project webpage at the Friends of Perry Park website for information: <http://friendsofperrypark.org/tennis-courts-resurface-project>.

**Project timing:** March/April at the earliest as warm consistent weather is needed.

Many thanks go out to Dave Woods for all his hard work on this project.

# Roadway and Pedestrian Safety

*by Laura Jones*

At recent HPWBANA Board meetings and on the HPWBANA list serve, a major topic of discussion has been driving speed and pedestrian safety. As construction continues to slow traffic on Mopac, many neighbors have noticed a significant spill-over of drivers using local streets as cut-throughs. Many times, these drivers are less cognizant of the speed limits and careful driving that many of our neighbors respect. How can our neighbors help out?

First and foremost, make sure that you are driving the speed limit (or slower!), especially heavily-traveled cut-through streets like Balcones, Edgemont, Perry and Crestway. Not only is this safer, it has the added benefit of making it less speedy for cut-through traffic.

As a pedestrian, make sure to follow best practices in pedestrian safety. Always cross the street at marked crosswalks or intersections. At night, it is critical to wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight. If a sidewalk is available, use it! Unfortunately, much of our neighborhood lacks sidewalks, and in this case pedestrians should walk or run facing traffic.

All homeowners can help by ensuring that trees, shrubbery and other landscape elements are well-trimmed and do not overhang the road, forcing pedestrians out into the street.

The HPWBANA Board is working to advocate for traffic, roadway and pedestrian safety within the city government and especially with our new City Council representative, Sheri Gallo. If you have further thoughts, you are encouraged to attend the monthly HPWBANA Board meetings to share them! They take place the first Monday of each month at 7pm at the Yarbrough Library.

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# THRIVING AND SURVIVING → IN REAL ESTATE ←

*by Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin*

Would you go into an unoccupied house with a complete stranger? Would you invite a complete stranger into your car so you could drive him around town? Would you invite a group of complete strangers into an unoccupied house with you? These seem like totally ridiculous questions, as nobody in their right mind would do any of these things....except, maybe, Realtors.

Every day Realtors are contacted by complete strangers with requests to show them properties, and most week-ends Realtors invite the public into open houses to show their listings. So how can this be safe? For many agents in recent years, it has not been safe at all. About 20 Realtors each year, who do not take proper precautions, pay with their lives.

After a recent attack on a San Antonio Realtor and the murder of an Arkansas Realtor, there has been a renewed interest in the safety of all Realtors as they conduct business. They do their best to serve their clients and the public while being very mindful of situations in which they may find themselves. As a client of a Realtor, you may be asked to do some things that seem like a hassle or unnecessary to you, but are very important to the safety of the Realtor. For example, as a buyer, you may be asked to do some of the following things:

- Meet your Realtor for the first time at the Realtor's office. While there, you may be introduced to the office manager and various colleagues who can identify you and take note of what you are wearing. In addition, you may be asked for your driver license so a copy of it can be left at the office. The Realtor will leave her schedule with the office staff, so they know where she will be, what properties she will be showing and when she expects to be back.
- Your Realtor may take a photo of your car and license plate and send them back to her office and to a significant other.
- Your Realtor may take time to check you out on the Internet and

on social media before meeting you.

- You may be asked to follow your Realtor in your own car instead of riding with her.
- Your Realtor will let you into each house ahead of herself so she never has someone between her and the door.
- At open houses, you will be asked to introduce yourself and sign-in with your name and contact information. In some cases, Realtors

ask for some sort of ID when you enter an open house. Some people resist these requests because they are concerned that the Realtor will later inundate them with unwanted e-mails and phone calls. If you make it clear that you do not want to be contacted, the Realtor will respect your request. They all have very full schedules and have no interest in spending time and resources contacting people who do not want to hear from them.

As a Seller:

- Sometimes when meeting with a potential seller for the first time, a Realtor may

bring her broker or a colleague so she's not entering a stranger's home by herself.

- You may have a request to secure your pets when a Realtor visits.
- The address and time of the meeting will be reported to the office, and the time of departure noted so if the Realtor does not return back at the office as planned, someone will call and check on her.

Although most of the time Realtors work with no fear and thoroughly enjoy meeting and working with their clients and the public, they do so without forgetting the risks that the profession presents. So when you are ready to buy or sell your next property, or visit an open house, keep in mind that some things the Realtors will ask you to do may seem a bit strange or unnecessary to you, but do serve a serious purpose. Your cooperation in helping your Realtor stay safe is a true sign of respect and is always appreciated.



## SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email the picture to [codytripathi@yahoo.com](mailto:codytripathi@yahoo.com) Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

Pictures will appear in color online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).



## Rebecca Realty, LLC Current Listings

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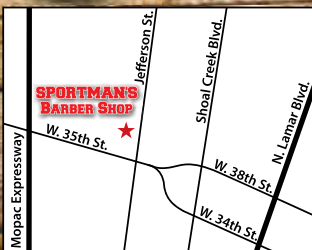
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# AUTO BURGLARIES

by Ofc. Darrell Grayson, Austin Police



The last thing you need is to find your vehicle's window broken or items missing. We suggest taking these simple but important steps to maintain your car's safety:

Don't leave valuables in your car.

That sounds like "common sense", but drivers/passengers do leave items of value in plain view every day. If you leave valuable items visible in your car, your car is automatically a target.

If you must leave valuable items in your car while out and about, place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously. This includes packages, backpacks, gym bags, GPS units, MP3 players, and so forth. Someone may be watching when you put items under a seat or throw something over them. An opportunistic thief is on the lookout for trunk-packing, and can break into your car the minute you're out of sight.

If you can't take them with you, at least lock the items in your glove compartment (if capable of locking and large enough) or your trunk (if you have one).

One reason SUVs and pickups are common auto-burglary targets is because they don't have a "trunk" to hold valuables — the driver/passenger generally just "hides" their valuables "out of sight". The thieves know this, and do check glove compartments, behind seats, and under seats. It only takes a few seconds to check all the "usual" hiding places.

Unobtrusively locking everything valuable "in the trunk" (if you have one) may be difficult when you're combining errands at multiple destinations. Certainly avoid leaving packages or shopping bags visible in your car — lock them in the trunk out of sight if you have to leave packages in your car unattended. Plan your shopping/errands so that you don't load your trunk until you are ready to drive to another destination; never open a trunk, fill it full of valuables, close it, and then just walk away.

TEXAS A&M  
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EXTENSION

## INDIAN MEAL MOTHS



Indianmeal moths can be found in dogfood, birdseed, cereals, dried fruit, nuts, powdered milk and candy. Adults are small with grayish wings tipped in copper. Larvae are creamy yellow to yellow-green to pink and often crawl along pantry walls. Spun pupal cases are often found along corners and edges of wall areas.

To eliminate a pantry pest problem, the first step is to locate and remove all infested items. Removing infested items is the easy part; finding the infestation is not always so simple. Begin with the oldest food items, usually in the back of the pantry. Inspect everything, including unopened food items since these can also be a source. If you find an infested item, do not stop your inspection, more than one item may be infested.

Throw away infested items. If you don't feel that you can throw away food, place the infested food in a ziptop plastic bag and place it in the freezer for about 5-7 days or spread the infested food item on a baking sheet and bake at 250 degrees for 4-6 hours to kill any insects. Once all the insects are dead, you can sift the food item or pick out the insects. Of course, you can always just leave the insects in the food and get a little more protein with your meal!

It is extremely important to find the source, and not all pantry pest infestations come from the pantry. Check rooms for items such as dried, decorative peppers, dried flowers, potpourri or rice heating packs.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)



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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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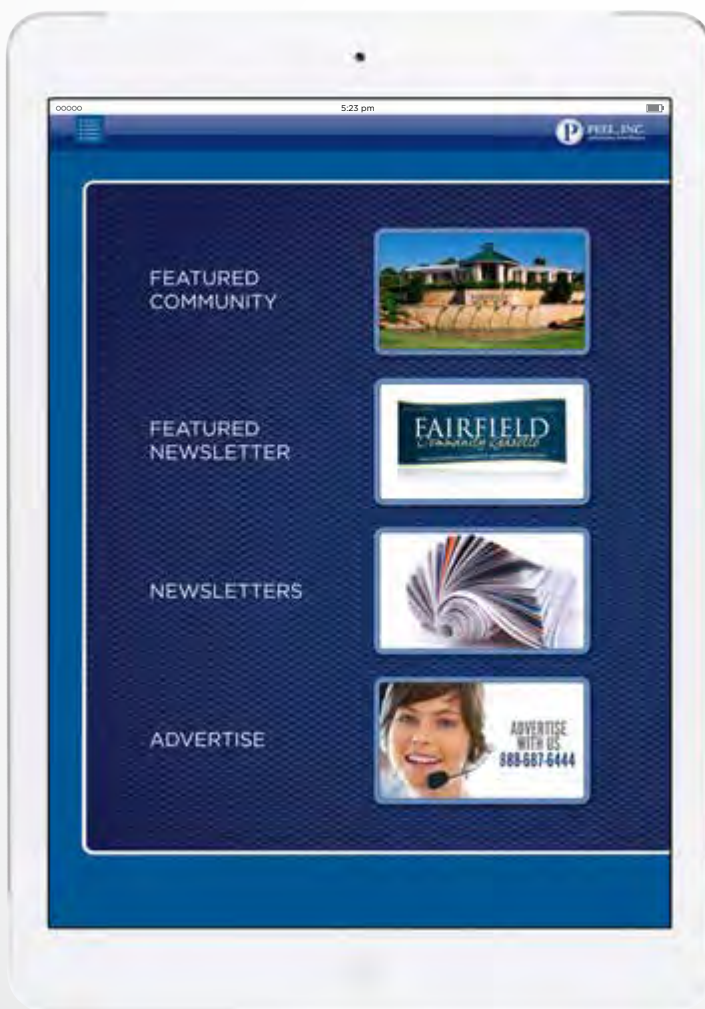


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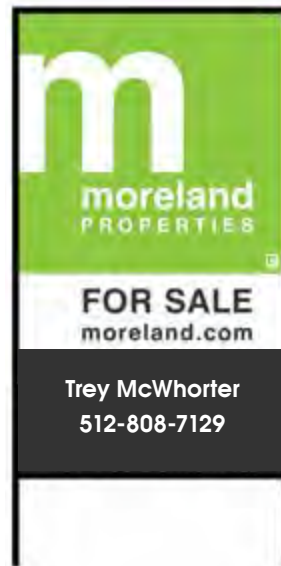
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# thinking about SELLING

## Tips to Get Your House Ready for Listing

- De-personalize and remove clutter
- Touch-up (cracks, marks, etc.)
- Odor control (pets, smoking, old carpet)
- Landscaping / curb appeal improvements
- Talk to me and let's build a plan



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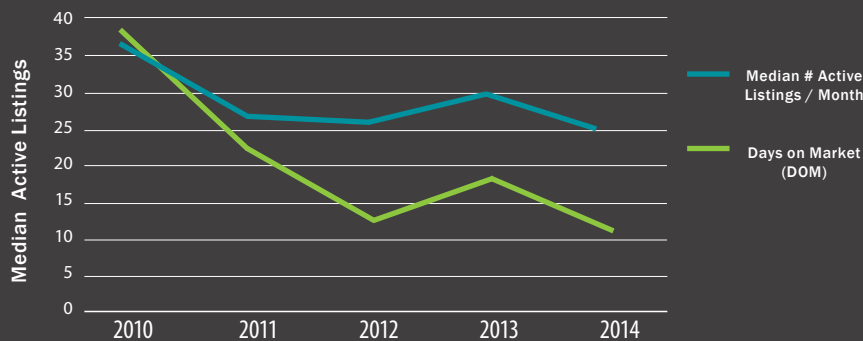
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