



THE HPWBANA NEWS

Membership Survey Preliminary Results

On the 2016 Membership Application, residents were given the opportunity to rate the five categories of interest or concern for the Association to concentrate on: Neighborhood Preservation, Transportation and Safety (Constable Patrol), Beautification, Events, and Other. Each category is rated from 1-5, with 1 representing the

greatest interest and 5 representing the least interest.

Sixty-eight surveys were received by June 5. The results indicate that Transportation and Safety is the area of greatest interest followed by Neighborhood Preservation.

	Neighborhood Preservation	Transportation & Safety (Constable Patrol)	Beautification	Events	Other
Number of Times Selected as 1	18	27	5	5	1
Number of Times Selected as 2	20	14	13	7	0
Number of Times Selected as 3	11	5	30	5	2
Number of Times Selected as 4	5	3	6	24	3
Number of Times Selected as 5	0	2	0	4	9
Number of Times X is selected	7	12	6	3	0

Hancock from Bull Creek to Valley Oak - Project Description and Background

According to The Neighborhood Partnering Program there are some welcome improvements coming to Hancock. The plan noted below was recently sent out to nearby residents.

Hancock from Bull Creek to Valley Oak - Project Description and Background

Hancock Drive from Valley Oak Drive to Bull Creek Road, as indicated in Figure 1, is planned to be upgraded to protected bicycle lanes to improve both the route to Highland Park Elementary and the city-wide all ages and abilities bicycle network, as called for in the City of Austin Bicycle Master Plan (Ordinance No. 20141106-118). The planned project was initiated through the Department of Public Works Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) and expanded through partnership with the Austin Transportation Department (ATD).

Figure 2 and 3 shows planned improvements at the intersections on the east and west side of the Hancock bridge over Mopac (Loop

1). Community members initiated the request to add the two-way protected bicycle lane connection on the south side of the bridge through the NPP. The two-way protected bicycle lane on the south side of the bridge solves the problem of providing a safer crossing of Hancock Drive to get to the school. Through a study of opportunities to improve access to the school for all roadway users, the opportunity to provide protected bicycle lanes between Bull Creek and Valley Oak Drive as well as a bicycle refuge island at Francis Place was identified and is also planned. The planned bicycle refuge island will enable people riding on the all ages and abilities route to make a safer two-stage crossing of Hancock and will have additional safety measures including advanced warning signs and yield signage for bicycle users. The planned improvements will have no adverse impacts to motor vehicle operations including turning movements for large vehicles such as fire trucks and school buses.

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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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The HPWBANA Board meets on the first 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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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.

Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association Membership Drive Continues

The 2016 HPWBANA Membership Drive got underway in early May with the mailing of Membership Applications to all addresses within HPWBANA. As of June 5, there are 243 paid members and two business members.

If you have misplaced the Membership mailing, you can use the following application to send in to HPWBANA. Please also complete the survey portion of the Application.

2016 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP FORM

WE WANT TO KNOW! WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Please rate from 1-5, 1 = greatest interest

- Neighborhood Preservation
- Transportation & Safety (Constable Patrol)
- Beautification
- Events
- Other (please list)

2016 MEMBERSHIP FORM

2016 Family Membership (\$25)

Additional Donation Amount:
\$ _____

2016 Single Member Household Membership (\$20)

Name _____

Area of Interest:

Name of 2nd Adult _____

Neighborhood Preservation

Address _____

Transportation & Safety

Phone _____

Beautification

Email _____

Events

Please detach form and send with a check made payable to:

General

**HPWBANA to:
PO Box 26101
Austin, TX 78755**

Thank you for your continued support!

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Thank you,

Board of Directors - Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association (HPWBANA)

Please join the HPWBANA Yahoo Groups to keep up to date on information from your Board and from your neighbors. Recent posts have been about the new water line in Perry Lane, between Valley Oak and MoPac to serve the proposed Grove PUD, a new proposed water line in Balcones, between Crestway and Far West Boulevard, and critical fire danger information and emergency alerts.

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HPWBANA/info>

Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston

TROUBLESOME ITEMS TO RECYCLE

We often have things we want to get rid of but don't know how to recycle or reuse them. We don't want to throw these things into the garbage can and ultimately have them end up in the landfill. Below are suggestions for recycling or reusing some of these troublesome items.

Cameras and photographic equipment:

Precision Camera will take old cameras, video cameras and SIM cards, even if they are not working.

Packing materials:

Bubble wrap (in good condition) and Styrofoam peanuts are accepted at the Pak Mail stores for reuse. Bubble wrap can also be placed in the plastic bag recycling bins at the grocery store.

Art and Office supplies:

Arts and crafts supplies, office supplies, sewing supplies and fabric can be recycled at Austin Creative Reuse. This is a nonprofit organization that collects, sells and distributes donated reusable materials. Please visit their website for hours of operation and more information. <http://austincreativeuse.org/>

Light Bulbs:

CFL bulbs and most other light bulbs can be recycled at all Home Depot and Lowes locations. Florescent bulbs are a little more challenging to recycle. They can be taken to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. They can also be recycled at Batteries Plus stores (for a fee).

Hard plastics:

In addition to plastic bottles and containers, you can now put many other hard plastics into the blue curbside bin. The City's recycling program now accepts hard plastics such as buckets, lawn chairs, laundry baskets, pet carriers, milk crates, non-battery operated toys, totes and lids, tubs, flower pots and trays, dish drainers, plastic coat hangers and trash cans. Be sure the metal is removed from all these items. Only hard plastics are accepted; plastic foam, plastic bags, and plastic wrap are not.

Metal coat hangers are not accepted. Please take those to your favorite dry cleaners.

Multimedia and books:

Playable CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, records, e-readers and books are all accepted at Recycled Reads <http://library.austintexas.gov/recycled-reads/about-us>

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS (AND THE ANSWERS):

I want to get rid of a bunch of audio cassettes. They aren't worth playing but I hate throwing them into the trash can. Is any part recyclable? YES! Even though the jewel cases from CD's are not recyclable, the plastic cases that audio cassettes come in can be placed into your blue curbside bin.

Is Saran Wrap recyclable? Yes, as long as it is clean and dry, it can be placed in your plastics recycling bin at the grocery store.

Our pullout kitchen garbage bin and recycling bins are next to each other and sometimes the kids put wet garbage into the recycling bin by accident and get the paper wet with food product. Is this paper still recyclable? Once paper is contaminated with food product (especially anything oily), it is no longer recyclable. That is why cardboard pizza boxes cannot be recycled. It is also the reason we are encouraged to rinse out our jars and bottles so that jars that might get broken in the recycling trucks don't contaminate paper with food product.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: recycling@hpwbana.org.



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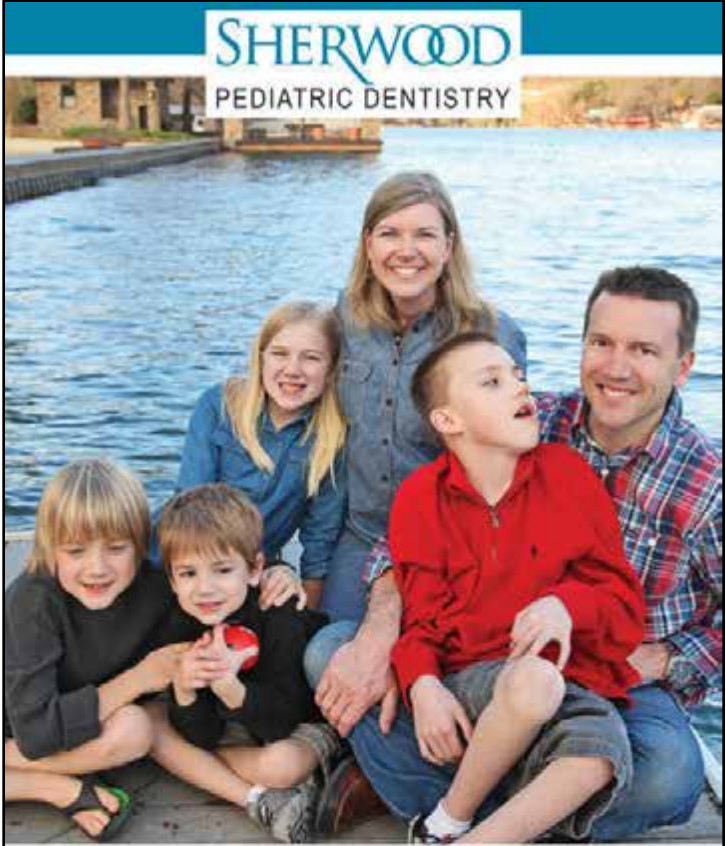
What Home Buyers Want

by Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

It is a well-established fact that the sellers' market remains strong in Highland Park West and Balcones Park area neighborhoods, as well as throughout Austin. That does not mean, however, that buyers are willing to pay any price for which sellers are asking. Features and styles of homes come and go, just as do fashion and auto styles. In my experience, many (by no means all) buyers continue to look for these key features:

- Hardwood floors throughout the home, often, even in the kitchen. Fewer and fewer buyers want any carpet in their homes due to pet dander and allergies.
- Kitchens open to the main family room. Buyers want to be able to interact with family and guests during meal preparation and clean up.
- One-story homes are in high demand. With the "greying of American," baby boomers are looking for homes where they can age in place, and also accommodate visits from elderly parents who may have mobility issues.
- If homes are two or more stories, buyers usually want the master suite as well as another bedroom with en suite bathroom on the main level of their homes.
- High ceilings are still popular, especially in smaller homes where the height gives rooms a feeling spaciousness.
- Our hot summers have made pools very popular. While not all buyers want pools, there has been and increase in buyers wanting pools, or room to build pools.
- Homes with high-end renovations and upgrades throughout are selling quickly and for top dollar. Sellers need to be very careful when doing updates, however, as partial or cheaply done updates will probably not command higher prices, nor provide good returns on investments.
- Homes with easy access to flat back yards are in high demand for families with pets and kids; and for individuals who like to relax and entertain outside.
- Flex space is highly desirable. This is usually a room or area that can be used for multiple purposes, depending on buyers' current and changing needs. Examples are areas that can be used as an office, a play room, a study space, a music room, a hobby room, an art studio, etc.
- With the mosquito population, screened porches have become very popular.
- Great flow of rooms is important. Buyers do not like "weird" layouts, such as having to go through a bedroom to get to the laundry room, or having no direct access to the back yard, or having main living spaces chopped up into multiple small rooms.
- Kitchens and master suites still sell homes. Buyers want large open kitchens with newer appliances, natural stone, silestone or concrete countertops, gas stoves or cook-tops, built-in or counter-depth refrigerators and large single sinks (such as farm sinks). Master

(Continued on Page 6)




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Highland Park West Balcones Area

(Continued from Page 5)

bedrooms need to be spacious, have oversized walk-in closets and spa-like bathrooms with tubs, separate showers and double sink vanities.

While there is no such thing as a cookie-cutter buyer, there are definite trends in desirable home features. Most homes will not have all these features, so buyers will make compromises based on what is most important to them. The more boxes you can check on the list above, the better chance you will have to sell your home quickly and at a premium price.

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Honoring Donna Edgar (1945-2016)



The HPWBANA Board lost a wonderful board member last month — Donna Edgar. Donna passed away on June 13th after a brief battle with cancer.

Donna joined the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association as a board member in 2011 and

served multiple roles including: secretary, treasurer, representative to the Bull Creek Road Coalition and member of the planning and zoning committee.

Donna's commitment to our neighborhood was reflected in the quality of and commitment to her work. Under her leadership, the board's financial status was monitored closely and held to high standards. She also was a tireless advocate for neighborhood preservation and protection. Donna's dedication, intelligence and the sheer force of her personality were always apparent in her efforts to strengthen and maintain neighborhood preservation and quality of life in our neck of the woods.

The board was well aware of the amount of time she devoted to her responsibilities and were always impressed and grateful that she accomplished so much in addition to her roles as mother, grandmother, dog owner, ranch owner and her additional volunteer work.

The board and the neighborhood will truly miss her advocacy, her many contributions, her spirit and her friendship.

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The best ways to improve your home's curb appeal are the most obvious ones.

It doesn't make a lot of sense to add ornamental flowers if your lawn is yellow and dead. A new door knocker won't do much if your home's paint is chipped and falling off. Taking a nice long look at your house will make it clear what project you should tackle first.

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