



HPWBANA

HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES
AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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www.hpwbana.org

THE HPWBANA NEWS

The Lost and Found Lollapalooza

**SAVE THE DATE
TO KEEP KIDS SAFE!**



Sunday, June 4, 2017 | 2:00-7:00 PM

Pecan Springs Ranch

\$35 for 12+

\$20 for 3-11 years of age



For sponsorship opportunities,
please contact: sponsorship@belydia.org
For general inquiries, please contact events@belydia.org

Calling all families! Join the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Refuge Ranch and beLydia for a day of music, markets, food and carnival games...all to benefit the fight to keep children safe. On June 4, 2017 from 2pm until 7pm, Pecan Springs Ranch will become the Lost and Found Lollapalooza. All proceeds from the event help provide prevention education as well as rescue and restoration of victims of child trafficking.

This G-rated event promises to be a safe, fun day for guests of all ages. Whether you want to create your own home cleaner, decorate a tee pee, play carnival games or just listen to live music and eat from the cool food trucks, the Lost and Found Lollapalooza has it all. You can even have your family's picture made, pull out your own fishing poles and fish the stocked pond or relax with a locally sourced refreshment. The marketplace will feature jewelry, children's books, freshly baked goodies, a coffee bar, festival gear and more.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children will be on hand to help parents install mobile safety apps, and The Refuge Ranch will have tiles for painting that will eventually decorate the shelter being built. beLydia young entrepreneurs will be hosting their microbusinesses all day, too! Maybe a lemonade stand, maybe a sandal-making shop, perhaps wands and capes, these young fundraisers are working to raise money to keep their peers safe. Please join us for a wonderful, happy day that will benefit not only your family, but children throughout Central Texas and beyond. Tickets available online at Eventbrite. Contact events@belydia.org for more information or to become a donor or event sponsor.

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

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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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**Seniors
Dancing the Night Away!
Join us!**

By Kay Sousares

Come and enjoy a special dancing experience at the Parks and Recreation Senior Activity Center at 2874 Shoal Crest Avenue on the corner of 29th and Lamar. Dancing is fun and it's also good exercise. We do some line dancing and lots of ballroom dancing.

We currently have two great bands that play all types of music from big band, swing to rock and roll. We have experienced dancers who enjoy showing you the dance steps to certain types of music. Our special dance floor has a one and one-half inch cushion under a beautiful hardwood floor that is on the feet.

Dances are held on most Fridays. A schedule is available at the door. Members pay \$5 per person and non-members pay \$7 per person. Come and have a great time with us!

For more information, call Kay Sousares, president of the Friday night "Let's Dance Club" at 512-453-7978.

**Economic Outlook
for Austin Real Estate**

by Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

The multi-million dollar question, "How does the economic outlook impact Austin real estate?" is one we all ponder, and one that I get asked on a regular basis. The best information comes from the economists who spend their lives studying the micro- and macro-economies and their impacts on the Austin real estate market. I recently attended a seminar hosted by Independence Title, with the keynote speaker, Mark Sprague, Independent Title's State Director of Information Capital. The following are the key findings most relevant to our market.

We need to pay attention to job creation and employment numbers. Austin's job growth has continued for the past several years,
(Continued on Page 3)

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(Continued from Page 2)

but at a slower pace. Many of these are high paying white collar jobs, with technology showing the greatest growth.

2013 – 39,200 2014 – 38,000 2015 – 35,500
2016 – 32,100 2017 – 28,200 projected

There will be strong, but slower growth in home purchases caused by a combination of factors:

- Anticipation of increased mortgage rates (but these increases will be very modest).
- Apartment rents and single family home rents will continue to grow, however there are several large apartment construction projects in Austin that could mitigate the increase in apartment rents.
- The median house sold in Austin (\$263,900) has outstripped the increase in median household income (\$63,603) making homes less affordable.

Austin residential real estate is projected to remain strong in the coming year:

- Consumer confidence in Texas is still high at 122 compared to the U.S. at 114.5. This is a 15.1% increase in Texas' consumer confidence compared to the previous year.
- Luxury sales (homes over \$1.5 million) will continue to grow

at a slow rate, as they have in recent years. The number of homes that sold in area code 78731 for over \$1.0 million almost doubled from 2015 to 2016.

- Homes under \$500,000 will continue to enjoy strong appreciation and sales.
- Even though mortgage rates will increase, they are expected to increase only 3/8 of a point during 2017, 1/8 of a point at a time. These increases will still keep rates at very affordable levels.
- Austin unemployment projections are still very low (3.3%) compared to Texas (4.7%) and the U.S. (9.3%).
- Appreciation and sales will continue to grow, but will grow at slower rates in the central Austin areas that have enjoyed high appreciation during the past five years.
- The cost of construction labor is increasing by 1% EACH month. In addition to the increase in the cost of building materials, soon it will be more economical to purchase an existing home than to build a new one.

The conclusion is that the economic forecast for Austin is still very strong and residential real estate sales and prices are expected to continue to increase, albeit at slower rates than recent years. It is still a very good time to buy and sell in Austin, Texas.



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LETTUCE RECYCLE! The Lonely Mailbox

by Dena Houston

How often does our mail go directly from our mailbox into our blue curbside recycling bin? JUNK MAIL seems to be just a fact of life BUT we can greatly reduce the amount of unwanted mail by doing just a few things. We can also reduce the amount of wanted mail.

JUNK MAIL FACTS

- The average American household receives 848 pieces of junk mail (equal to 1.5 trees) every year – almost 190 million trees for all U.S households.
- Over 100 billion pieces of junk mail is sent through the postal system each year.
- Largely due to deforestation, junk mail manufacturing results in greenhouse gas emissions annually equivalent to that produced by 3.7 million cars.
- Americans pay \$370 million annually to dispose of

HOW TO REDUCE UNWANTED MAIL

WEEKLY GROCERY STORE FLYERS - To stop receiving these flyers, visit <<https://www.redplum.com/tools/redplum-postal-addressremove.html>>

UNWANTED MAIL OR CATALOGS – Visit “opt out” at <<https://catalogchoice.org/>>. Their mission is to stop junk mail for good. It is a non-profit service that sends merchants your catalog opt out request or guides you how to do it.

OTHER CATALOGS– When ordering something online, a huge catalog often arrives within a week from that same company. By calling, you can request that they no longer send you their catalog.

HOW TO RECEIVE WANTED MAIL ELECTRONICALLY

MAGAZINES – most magazines are available online. Just call and request that option.

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<<https://www.peelinc.com/residentsNewsletterSubscriptions.php>>

You will receive it by email on the first day of each month.

The newsletter can also be read on an iOS device (iPad, iPhone, iPod). Search “Peel Inc” in the AppStore.

<<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/peel-inc./id866041578?mt=8>>

BILLS AND CREDIT CARD STATEMENTS - Almost all bills, including utility and credit card statements, can be received electronically. Select “go paperless” from their websites.

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS (AND THE ANSWERS):

HOW CAN I RECYCLE OLD GARDEN HOSES? If the hoses are made of rubber (like soaker hoses), they can go into your green Simple Recycling bags (as long as they fit into the bags). If they are vinyl, they must go into the trash cart. Do not put hoses into the blue curbside cart.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE PLASTIC BAGS FROM MY BARK MULCH, COMPOST AND GARDEN SOIL? These bags cannot be placed in the plastic bag collection bins at the grocery stores. Because they have to support weight, they are treated with a special polymer that makes them unrecyclable at these locations. They can however, be taken to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT THESE IN YOUR BLUE CURBSIDE BIN!

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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SPRING IS HERE! IT IS TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT OPENING YOUR WINDOWS AND BRIGHTENING YOUR HOME. NOT SURE WHERE TO START? FOLLOW THESE 3 EASY STEPS FROM TARRAGONA DESIGNS:

1. Update your walls

Color trends change every year. From light and bright colors to dark and daring, colors don't go out of style, it's just the pairings of different colors that come and go. New color combinations may be just what your walls need for a fresh new look, especially if you've had the same color palette in your home for a long time. My top 5 colors that I recommend are:

1. Agreeable Gray-Sherwin Williams 7029
2. Intellectual Gray-Sherwin Williams 7045
3. White Flour-Sherwin Williams 7102
4. Ancient Marble-Sherwin Williams 6162
5. Sea Serpent-Sherwin Williams 7615

2. Accessorize

Have your throws & pillows seen better days? It might be time to

bring in some new pieces for a fresh & updated feel to your home. You can transform the entire look of a room by changing out some basic design items such as lighting, pillows, throws & artwork.

3. Spring clean your home-lots of work but you will be so glad you did when the weather draws you outside. Pull out your screens and wash the winter grime off your windows, then work on cleaning things like the ceiling fans and fireplaces. Once your cleaning is complete, gather mason jars from your cabinet and pick up fresh flowers on your next visit to the grocery store. Arrange together in groupings throughout your home for a finished and fresh look. Spring is here...

Article by Rita Lopez, business owner and creative designer in Austin, TX. If you would like more home design and/or organization tips, please contact rita@tarragonadesigns.com

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MOSQUITO REPELLENTS

As mosquito season is ramping up, everyone is (hopefully) aware of possible disease transmission by mosquitoes. It is important that you protect yourself when spending time outside.

Activity times for mosquitoes can vary. Most people are familiar with the four D's- DRAIN (standing water), DEET (wear some repellent), DUSK & DAWN (stay indoors during dusk and dawn to avoid peak populations) and DRESS (wear long sleeves and long pants). While this is still good advice, it may be a good idea to spread the dress and repellent advice for anytime you spend time outdoors.

When outside, wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt in light colors to reduce the number of mosquitoes that can reach your skin. Repellent should only be applied to clothing and exposed skin. Do not apply repellent underneath clothing! If you want to apply repellent to your face, spray your hands with repellent and rub it onto your face. Do not spray repellent directly into your face or near eyes or mouth. Make sure to apply repellent outdoors. Do not allow children to handle repellents. Wash hands before eating, smoking or using the restroom.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends using a product registered with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) containing one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535 and some of the products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus.

DEET, also known N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide or N,N-dimethylbenzamide, was developed by the U.S. Army in 1946 to protect soldiers in insect-infested areas. Pesticides containing DEET have been used by the general public since 1957. Products containing DEET should not be used on children younger than 2 months of age (read the label and check with your pediatrician if you have questions). DEET has a slight odor and may have a greasy feel to some people. It may damage plastic, rubber, vinyl or synthetic fabrics. DEET may be irritating to the eyes and skin for some people. DEET comes in a wide variety of concentrations, so choose the one that will work best for your situation.

Picaridin was first made in the 1980's and resembles a natural compound called piperine (which is found in plants used to produce black pepper). Picaridin has been used in Europe and Australia for many years, but has only been in the U.S. since 2005. Picaridin is non-greasy and is odorless.

IR-3535, or 3-[N-Butyl-N- acetyl]-aminopropionic acid, ethyl ester, was developed in the mid- 1970's and became registered for use in the U.S. in 1999. It is registered as a biopesticide by the EPA because it is functionally identical to a naturally occurring substance (an amino-acid). It may dissolve or damage plastics and may be irritating to the eyes.

Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or PMD (para-menthane-3,8-diol)

are essentially the same thing; PMD is the synthesized (lab created) version of oil of lemon eucalyptus. "Pure" or "essential" oil of lemon eucalyptus is not labeled as a repellent and has not undergone testing and should not be used as a repellent product. OLE/PMD has been on the market in the U.S. since 2002. OLE/PMD should not be used on children younger than 3 years of age. The natural product (OLE) has known allergens within it while the synthetic version (PMD) has less of a risk to allergens. This product is classified as a biopesticide. OLE/PMD has a varying range of residual, some offering about 20 minutes of protection while other products may last up to two hours.

Many factors play into how long a repellent will last for a person.

Some of these are:

- The concentration (or percent of active ingredient) of the product. You can find the percentage on the product label.
- Person's attractiveness. Some people are more attractive to mosquitoes than others (and no scientific research has proven that it is because of eating garlic, taking vitamin B, using tobacco products, etc.). A person's genetic code plays a large part on what makes a person so attractive to mosquitoes.
- Frequency and uniformity of application. In other words, how often is the repellent applied and how good of coverage did you get?
- Activity level of the person. The more active the person is, the more sweat they produce which can cause the repellent to wash off the surface of the skin.

As a word of caution, there are products that combine sunscreen and insect repellent. The CDC recommends that if you need sunscreen and repellent, that you choose two separate products. Sunscreen should be applied more often than repellents.

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

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