



# THE HPWBANA NEWS

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

## 2017 Report on Constable Patrol

The supplemental patrol and traffic safety efforts were initiated in early 2015 by concerned neighbors who wanted to take a more proactive stance. With the expansion of the geographic area of responsibility of our APD District Representative in 2016, little neighborhood patrolling can be accomplished by APD since officers are generally going from call-to-call. It is unfortunate that the City does not provide enough support to allow neighborhood police patrolling on any regular or consistent basis. To address the patrol need and speeding issues on our streets and around the school, several residents have voluntarily funded supplemental patrolling and enforcement of speed limits within the neighborhood by a Constable. Emphasis is placed on traffic enforcement on Perry Lane, Hancock Drive (from Bull Creek Road to Balcones), Balcones Drive (from 35th Street to RM 2222), and on neighborhood patrolling.

An updated supplemental enforcement report for the start of 2017 follows. Please note that to date for 2017, 71% (169 out of 238) of the traffic stops by the Constable were of drivers who do not live in the Highland Park West Balcones Area. For 2016, 66% (250 out of 378) and for 2015, 48 % (157 out of 328) of the traffic stops by the Constable were of drivers who did not live in the Highland Park West Balcones Area. Area Neighborhood residents have slowed down but the other traffic has not.

The cost of this effort is \$60/hour for Constable patrol/enforcement time. Now is the time for other residents who support an increased law enforcement presence in the neighborhood to join in funding this. Increased law enforcement presence should help deter vandalism, burglaries, and auto break-ins. Please consider making a donation for 1, 2, 5, or more hours of patrol time. To contribute to this effort, you may donate through <http://hpwbana.org/get-involved/join-hpwbana>, or you may contact me at [psybesma@austin.rr.com](mailto:psybesma@austin.rr.com).

Unfortunately, APD resources are directed where there is the most need to preserve life and property, and speeding and patrolling suffer. We live in a low crime area. There are not enough patrol officers for APD. The ones who are here are going from call to call with very little time for patrolling. At a 2015 APD Commander's Forum for our area, the question was asked about on-duty Directed Patrols. The Commander supported them, when there is time, but if there is an emergency in the area, the Directed Patrol officer would be expected

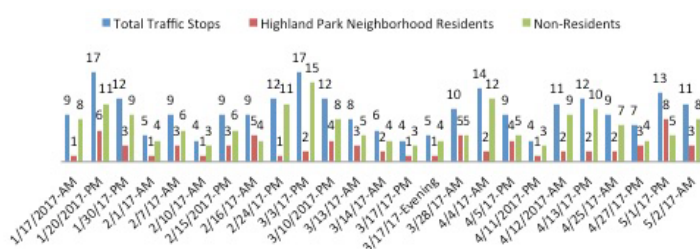
(and may be dispatched) to respond to the emergency. At subsequent Commander's Forum meetings, the answer has remained the same. And since the worst speeding times that have been communicated to the HPWBANA Board coincide with the morning and afternoon rush-hours, our experience of the availability of on-duty APD patrolling has been disappointing. So, our Council needs to know that more APD officers are necessary and should be funded. And there is a whole other discussion on the priorities of services that the City provides: Public Safety-Parks and Recreation-Libraries-Roads-etc., as well as the tax bite from all the taxing jurisdictions.

Thank you for your continued support. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to also support this effort. The current HPWBANA Board supports this initiative and approved \$1,600 funding in the 2017 budget.

What else can you do?

1. Be aware of the speed limits and observe them.
2. Help with funding patrols by the Constable. The cost of the patrol effort is \$60/hour. To contribute to this effort, please contact me at : [psybesma@austin.rr.com](mailto:psybesma@austin.rr.com)
3. Purchase a "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here"® yard sign for your yard. The yard signs are available on-line for \$12.98 each (shipping included) at [http://drivelikeyourkidslivehere.com/our\\_store/17/yard-sign](http://drivelikeyourkidslivehere.com/our_store/17/yard-sign)
4. Let the City Council Members know of support for funding more APD officers for patrol. The Council is just beginning its work on the 2017-2018 City Budget and citizen input is encouraged.
5. And, become a member of HPWBANA, your Neighborhood Association at <http://hpwbana.org/>.

**Total Traffic Stops and Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Residents**



## 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  
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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

## 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.

## How to Allocate Emergency Funds for Financial Preparedness



If you were to break your leg and need surgery, could you afford the hospital bill? If your refrigerator broke, could you afford to buy a new one? What if both emergencies happened at the same time? Although life would be great if we could avoid emergencies altogether, that's not reality. Consequently, planning for emergencies is a crucial part of life planning and having a good control on your finances.

### How Much

Most financial experts recommend setting aside up to six months' worth of expenses into a savings account for emergencies, but you shouldn't stop there. Make your emergency savings even clearer by designating three sections of emergency savings – a jobless section, a minor emergency section, and a major emergency section. You'll need to determine how much to save for each section based on your individual situation.

### Job Loss

Although losing your job would be a dreadful and nerve-racking event, not being able to pay your monthly expenses while you were out of a job would only exacerbate the situation. To determine how much you need to set aside, figure out the total for 12 months' worth of expenses, and then subtract state-provided unemployment assistance you would receive, as well as any income from a partner. Bear in mind that unemployment typically only covers 60 percent of your average weekly earnings paid for a maximum of 26 weeks and isn't available if you're terminated for performance or conduct reasons.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

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## Membership Survey

A survey is included with the membership renewal form so that neighbors can express the areas of emphasis for the Board. As reported at the May 1, 2017 HPWBANA Board Meeting, 93 memberships were received during April representing 170 members

and 10 neighborhood businesses.

Sixty-eight survey responses were received through April 24. The respondents were asked to rate which category was most important on a scale of 1-5 with 1 equaling the greatest interest. The results are:

|                               | Neighborhood<br>Preservation | Per<br>Cent | Transportation &<br>Safety (Constable<br>Patrol) | Per<br>Cent | Beautification | Per<br>Cent | Events | Per<br>Cent | Other | Per<br>Cent |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| Number of Times Selected as 1 | 21                           | 32%         | 34   | 52%         | 8              | 12%         | 1      | 2%          | 2     | 3%          |
| Number of Times Selected as 2 | 23                           | 38%         | 12   | 20%         | 18             | 30%         | 4      | 7%          | 3     | 5%          |
| Number of Times Selected as 3 | 7                            | 13%         | 9  | 17%         | 28             | 54%         | 7      | 13%         | 1     | 2%          |
| Number of Times Selected as 4 | 5                            | 12%         | 3  | 7%          | 4              | 9%          | 30     | 70%         | 1     | 2%          |
| Number of Times Selected as 5 | 1                            | 6%          | 1  | 6%          | 0              | 0%          | 4      | 24%         | 11    | 65%         |

Please join HPWBANA for 2017 and express your area of emphasis for the Board.



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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

# LETTUCE RECYCLE!

**REGIVING\*\*RECYCLING**  
**REUSING\*\*REPURPOSING** by Dena Houston

All of the above verbs describe what we can do to save items from going into the landfill. My favorite is: **REGIVING**



A neighbor in the Highland Park area had posted on Next Door a request for a wheel chair for someone she knew who had Lou Gehrig's Disease.

It was suggested that she call AGE of Central Texas.

Within a few hours, she had a free wheelchair for her friend.

AGE of Central Texas <<http://www.ageofcentraltx.org/>> is located in central Austin at 3710 Cedar St. Their Health Equipment Lending program lends all kinds of equipment (canes, wheel chairs, bath tub seats, walkers, etc.) to seniors and persons with disabilities, free of charge. **To donate**, please call 512-600-9288. You can learn more on their website about what they need and even how to borrow equipment. AGE of Central Texas truly makes **your** RECYCLING a way of REGIVING.

**REGIVE OLD CELL PHONES** – There is a program that gives active duty soldiers and veterans cell phones. It is called Helping Heroes Home. More info can be found at <<https://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/about-us/helping-heroes-home/>>. The Pak Mail store on Windsor Road will mail donated cell phones to Cell Phones for Soldiers. All Pak Mail stores will accept these phones and take them to the Windsor Road store.



**REGIVE YOUR VINYL RECORDS AND BOOKS** – Recycled Reads will take books, records, and all kinds of media, including ebook readers and tablets. Typically, the only thing they cannot accept is magazines. This wonderful store will sell these items to earn money to support the Austin Public Library. As a result, your donations help purchase books and Overdrive ebooks for the residents of Austin. Please visit their website at <<http://library.austintexas.gov/recycled-reads>>.



**REGIVING BICYCLES** – The Yellow Bike Project accepts bicycles that will be given to people who need them. They have volunteers who will repair bikes to be donated to organizations



like Refugee Services, Caritas and various children's homes. They are a non-profit organization that is often approached by various social services that seek bikes for people in need, particularly children. Here is their website <<http://austinyellowbike.org/>>.

### CURBSIDE COMPOSTING UPDATE

The City of Austin had planned to expand Curbside Composting to an additional 40,000 families this summer. Unfortunately, it will be delayed until Fall 2017 at the earliest. The delay is necessary to allow time for the Austin City Council to look at policy issues related to waste management contracts, including the contract for processing organic material that would be collected in this program. A Council working group has been formed and is scheduled to give recommendations by June 1, 2017.

### QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS (AND THE ANSWERS):

**WHAT HAPPENS TO ITEMS THAT GO INTO OUR CURBSIDE RECYCLING BIN?** Here is a great link that describes the voyage of an aluminum can when it is placed in your curbside bin.

<<http://kut.org/post/we-followed-soda-can-its-infinite-voyage-through-austin-s-recycling-stream>>

**WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL THE 45 RPM RECORDS I HAVE SAVED SINCE I WAS A KID?** Vinyl records are making a comeback, but if you don't want to sell them, the Creative Use and Recycling Center will happily take them. Customers buy them to make craft projects. You can have your 45 record of "favorite lullabies" turned into a serving tray. Please visit their website for more information <<http://austincreativeuse.org/>>.

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](mailto:recycling@hpwbana.org)>.



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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

(Continued from Page 2)

## Minor Emergencies

Minor emergencies include small car repairs, such as a flat tire replacement or a fixing damage from a fender bender, and small home repairs, such as fixing a leaky pipe. You can also use this section to save up money to cover the deductible for your health care. Someone who owns his or her home and car would need to set aside around \$5,000, while someone who rented their home and had no car would only need \$1,300. Owning a car requires about \$2,000 in savings.

Although spending money on minor expenses can be frustrating, remember that fixing these minor repairs prevents them from escalating into major repairs. For example, fixing a leaky pipe saves you money on your power bill and water bill and prevents the issue from causing water damage, which would be an even more costly repair.

## Major Emergencies

For major emergencies, such as replacing a major car part, replacing your roof, or meeting your out-of-pocket maximum for your health care, the amount rises. Someone with a home and a car would need to have \$10,000 saved up, while someone who owned a car but rented their home would need \$3,800. A person with neither a car nor home ownership would need \$2,500.

Paying for a major emergency can cause a major headache. However, on a positive note, some repairs can benefit you in the

long run. For example, if you needed to replace your HVAC unit, it could cost a minimum of \$5,000, and that price can easily reach over \$10,000 for a more energy efficient model. The plus side of replacing your HVAC unit is a lower power bill and a return on investment if you were to sell your home.

## Remodeling Projects

Although remodeling projects aren't considered emergencies, the likelihood of living in a house for more than 10 years and not needing an upgrade or remodel is pretty slim. As such, you should make room for a fund that covers minor maintenance costs, such as paint for a bedroom or an upgraded dishwasher, as well as the cost of remodeling projects, such as a complete bathroom makeover. As a bonus, consider that you can often use remodeling to add equity to your home.

Begin by building your section for minor emergencies first, and then switch your focus to saving for a major emergency or job loss. Although you may think it's better to prepare for the worst, you are more likely to encounter the minor stuff than the major stuff. Also, the minor emergency section is a smaller amount and helps build your momentum and motivate you to keep going and save more.

*Jackie Waters is a mother of four boys, and lives on a farm in Oregon. She is passionate about providing a healthy and happy home for her family, and aims to provide advice for others on how to do the same with her site Hyper-Tidy.com.*

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