



# HPWBANA

HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES  
AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# THE HPWBANA NEWS

Volume 13, Number 10

October 2017

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

## Lettuce Recycle!

*by Dena Houston*

### 18 MONTHS OF QUESTIONS FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOOD READERS PART I

I have been writing the monthly column “Lettuce Recycle” for the Highland Park Newsletter since March 2016. I love writing this article and thought it might be a great time to revisit some of the questions you have been asking in the section “QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS (AND THE ANSWERS)”.

**IS THE FOIL TOP ON SOUR CREAM, YOGURT AND CREAM CHEESE CONTAINERS RECYCLABLE? YES** – please rinse and dry the lids and combine them with other aluminum until you have at least a 2- inch ball, then put this into your blue bin.

**WHAT TO DO WITH BUBBLE WRAP?** Pak Mail on Balcones Dr. will take your bubble wrap to reuse. You can also put bubble wrap in the plastic bag collection bins at your local grocery store.

**I RUN OUT OF ROOM IN MY BLUE RECYCLING BIN. WHAT DO I DO?** You can place additional items in a cardboard box or reusable container next to your blue bin. If you frequently run out of room, you can request an extra blue bin free of charge by calling Austin Energy at 512-494-9400.

**WHY CAN'T WE PUT PIZZA BOXES INTO OUR BLUE RECYCLING CART?** Pizza boxes are made from corrugated cardboard. When the cardboard becomes soiled with grease, cheese or any other food, the cardboard cannot be recycled because the paper fibers in the cardboard cannot be separated from the oils during the pulping process. Some people take the clean cardboard top off and put it into the recycling bins. Sometimes that cardboard looks grease-free but has, in fact, absorbed some of the grease from a steamy hot pizza.

**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.

**WHAT DO I DO WITH REALLY OLD TENNIS SHOES AND CLOTHES THAT ARE TOO WORN OUT TO BE SOLD?**

Simple Recycling will take all your worn out shoes and textiles.

Just put them in your green bags and set them out next to your blue curbside bin on recycling pick up day.

The Nike Factory Store in Round Rock has a program called “Old Soles Never Die”. They collect old tennis shoes and turn them into playground and running surfaces.

ATRS (American Textile Recycling Services) has orange and white collection boxes all over Austin. They recycle textiles, shoes and clothing.

**ARE PLASTIC RINGS THAT ARE AROUND SODA AND WATER BOTTLES RECYCLABLE?** No, plastic six-pack rings are not recyclable. They get tangled in the machinery at the MFR and damage it. You must throw these into your trashcan.

**WHAT DO I DO WITH A PERFECTLY GOOD PAIR OF CRUTCHES? I WOULD LOVE TO GET THEM TO SOMEONE WHO COULD USE THEM.** AGE of Central Texas (<http://www.ageofcentraltx.org/help.php>) will accept crutches, wheel chairs, etc., to loan to senior citizens who need them.

**I'M HAVING A LOT OF SUMMER PICNICS. WHAT DO I DO WITH THE PLASTIC CUPS, CUTLERY, ETC.?** The red and blue plastic cups and the plastic cutlery can be recycled in your curbside bin. Clean and dry Styrofoam plates and cups can be taken to the Reuse and Recycling Drop Off Center for Styrofoam recycling.

**I JUST HAD A WEDDING AND HAVE LOTS OF WINE CORKS. IS THERE A PLACE IN AUSTIN TO RECYCLE THESE?** You can drop those corks off at Spec's or Water 2 Wine wine stores. They are recycled into cork flooring, flip-flops, purses, etc.

**PLASTIC DRINKING STRAWS—ARE THEY RECYCLABLE?** No, please put these items into your trash carts.

**I HAVE A LOT OF HALF EMPTY BOTTLES OF SHAMPOO AND CREAM RINSE AND OTHER TOILETRIES. WHAT CAN I DO WITH THESE?**

*(Continued from Page 2)*

# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## 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](http://HPWBANA.org) for our current meeting location or contact [president@HPWBANA.org](mailto: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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*(Continued from Cover)*

There is the ReUse Store at the City's Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. If taken to this facility, these items will be available for anyone free of charge.

**ARE THE WHITE PAPER CARTONS THAT MARGARINE AND BREAD CRUMBS COMES PACKAGED IN RECYCLABLE?**

**YES** – Just put this into your curbside blue bin. The cartons must not be wax coated. For example, cardboard milk and juice cartons and wax coated paper cups are not recyclable curbside.

**CAN WE PUT PVC PIPE IN OUR BLUE CURBSIDE RECYCLING BIN?** No, you must either put it in your trash can or set it out for bulk collection.

**CAN I PUT CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER INTO MY CURBSIDE BIN EVEN IF THERE IS SOME TAPE ON IT?** Plain gift wrap is recyclable (even with tape on it). Foil gift wrap and gift wrap paper with sparkles are not.

**WHAT DO I DO WITH THE STRANDS OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS THAT NO LONGER WORK?** Take them to the Recycle & Reuse Drop Off Center.

### CURBSIDE COMPOSTABLE UPDATE

Beginning October 2, 2017, the next phase of the City of Austin's Curbside Composting Collection service will begin. This program collects food scraps, yard trimming, and food-soiled paper, then converts them into nutrient-rich compost. It will help the City achieve its goal of diverting 90% of materials from going to the landfill by 2040.

Residents included in this year's Curbside Composting expansion should have received a notification postcard in the mail in early August, informing them of the new service and inviting them to an informational open house. At the open house, attendees will learn about Curbside Composting and what to put in and keep out of their new green cart. They will receive a free kitchen food scraps collector and compostable bags.

To see if you're included in the new curbside program, go to this website and type in your address under "My Schedule".

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-resource-recovery>

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)



*Fall is Coming!*

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TEXAS A&M AGRI-LIFE EXTENSION

# FLOODWATER MOSQUITOES



If you've been outside lately, you have most likely noticed the giant mosquitoes that seem to want to pick people up and carry them off. With recent weather conditions, floodwater mosquitoes have emerged in large numbers.

Floodwater mosquitoes lay their eggs above the water line in ponds, ditches, pastures, or other places where water collects. The eggs can remain in dry areas and when these areas are flooded the eggs hatch, leading to swarms of hungry mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are larger than mosquitoes we are used to and can swarm in high numbers.

While floodwater mosquitoes won't last forever, other mosquitoes called container breeding mosquitoes emerge when floodwaters begin to recede. Many of these species are ones that we are used to seeing around our homes.

Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-



shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish.

When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves & long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when activities cannot be rescheduled.

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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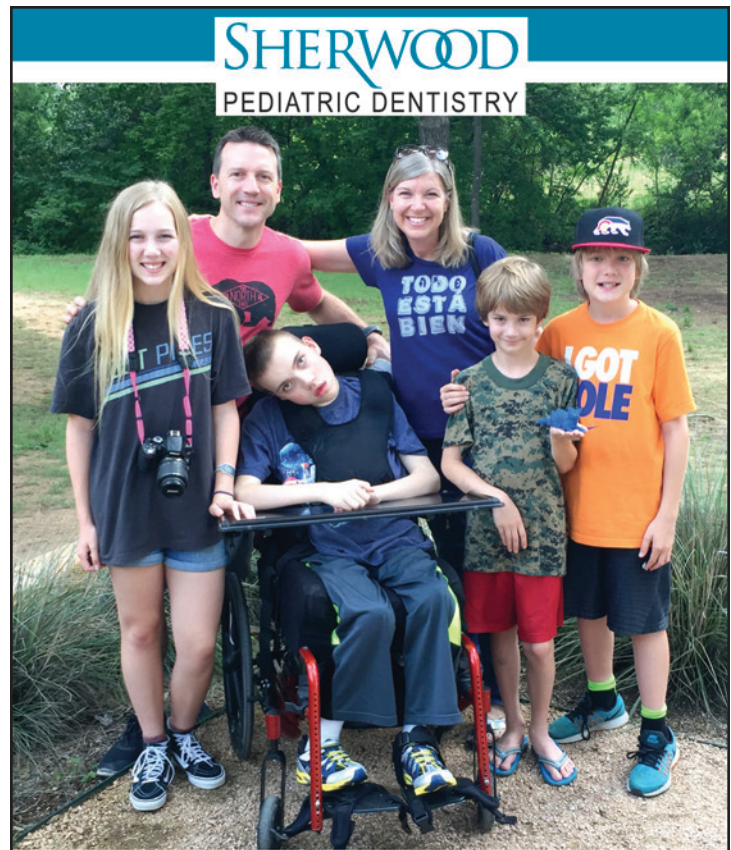
# Shoal Creek Conservancy

Not many people know that Austin's Shoal Creek, just a hop over Mopac from the Highland Park West/Balcones neighborhood, springs from the ground north of Highway 183 and extends south for over 11 miles before emptying into Lady Bird Lake. Among the many treasures that await visitors to Shoal Creek is a 3.25 mile long patchwork of trail that runs alongside the Creek from Lady Bird Lake to 38th Street and Lamar Boulevard. A local community organization, Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC), is working with the City of Austin to improve, extend, and connect the Shoal Creek Trail.

Shoal Creek Conservancy works hand in hand with the City, community groups, and businesses, to protect, restore, and enhance Shoal Creek and its surroundings. Through its community-guided Shoal Creek Trail: Vision to Action Plan, SCC will make the Trail more accessible to people of all physical abilities, and to install amenities to such as bathrooms, drinking fountains, and maps. The extended Shoal Creek Trail will span over 10 miles and link major destinations such as the Domain, the University of Texas main campus, and downtown Austin. The Shoal Creek Trail will also grow Austin's expanding urban trail network by connecting to the Northern Walnut Creek Trail to the north, and to the Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail and the regional Violet Crown Trail to the south. Where possible on public land, a creekside trail will be constructed. Where the Creek extends through private land, the creekside trail will transition to a safe on-street bike route.

The improved trail will encourage green, human-powered transportation, provide a setting for outdoor family activities, and inspire Austinites to discover Shoal Creek's hidden natural gems. To learn more and participate in the public input process that will guide the design of the Shoal Creek Trail, SCC encourages all Highland Park West/Balcones residents to attend the next Shoal Creek Trail Community Meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 6-8pm. Meeting location is Congregation Beth Israel at 3901 Shoal Creek Boulevard, Austin, TX 78756.

SCC also regularly organizes volunteer service days along the creek. If you are interested in volunteering by yourself or with a group, please visit <https://www.shoalcreekconservancy.org/events> or contact [volunteer@shoalcreekconservancy.org](mailto:volunteer@shoalcreekconservancy.org) for other volunteer opportunities. To learn more about SCC and support its work, visit [shoalcreekconservancy.org](http://shoalcreekconservancy.org).



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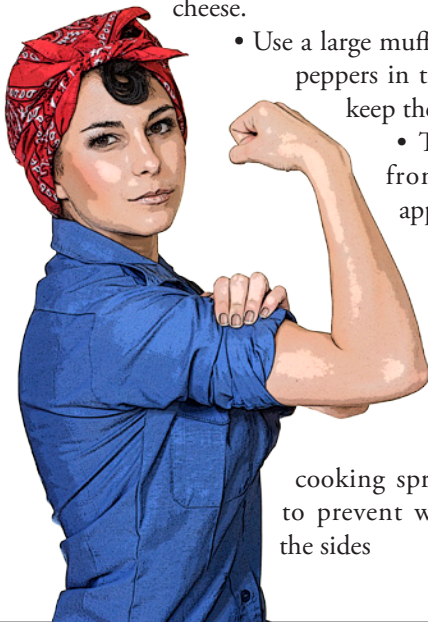


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### *Ridiculously Clever Household Hints*

- The simplest way to slice a bunch of cherry tomatoes is to sandwich them between two plastic lids and run a long knife through all of them at once!
- Keep brown sugar soft by storing with a couple of marshmallows
- Install a regular coat rack low down the wall to store shoes safely off the floor
- Organize jewelry on a corkboard for easy viewing when deciding how to accessorize an outfit
- Fill an old wooden box with skewers to make an all-purpose knife block
- Remove pet hair from furniture and carpets with a squeegee.
- Cover paint trays with aluminum foil to make cleaning up afterwards a breeze.



- Flip the toaster on its side to make grilled cheese.
- Use a large muffin tin to cook stuffed peppers in the oven - it will help keep them upright.
- To prevent potatoes from budding, add an apple to the bag.
- Add half a teaspoon of baking soda to the water when hard-boiling eggs to make the shells incredibly easy to peel off.
- Use non-stick cooking spray in votive holders to prevent wax from sticking to the sides

- WD-40 can be used to remove crayon marks from any surface!
- When hanging a picture frame, put a dab of toothpaste on the frame where you need the nails to be. Then simply press against the wall to leave marks (which can later be wiped) as guides for hammering in the nails.
- Sprinkle salt in the spaces between patio slabs and at the bottom of walls to get rid of pesky weeds (but be careful NOT to get salt near plants you want to keep as salt will kill them!)
- To clean a wooden chopping board, sprinkle on a handful of Kosher salt and rub with half a lemon. Rinse with clean water and dry to ensure it is clean and germ-free. You can use the same lemon and salt to clean brass.
- Use ice-cubes to lift out indentations made by furniture on your carpets.
- Prevent soil from escaping through the holes in the base of flowerpots by lining them with coffee filters
- To sharpen scissors, simply cut through sandpaper.
- Rub a walnut on damaged wood furniture to cover up dings.
- To prevent your eyes watering while chopping onions, wipe the chopping board with white vinegar (which won't affect the taste of the onions.)
- Drop a couple of denture cleaning tablets into the toilet bowl at night to clean stubborn stains.
- Use a can opener to open those annoying blister packs and avoid cutting yourself.
- Use a cut potato to easily remove a broken light bulb.
- Use chalk to remove grease stains from clothes. Simply rub chalk on the stained area and wash as normal. The chalk will absorb the grease and be washed away in the cycle.
- Freeze grapes to chill white wine without watering it down.
- Use a rubber band to rescue a stripped screw.
- Wrap rubber bands around the ends of a coat hanger to prevent dresses from falling off.



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## Why Curb Appeal Matters

*Excerpted from HGTV Website*

First impressions are everything – for your neighbors and especially when it comes to selling your home. According to the National Association of Realtors, 63 percent of homebuyers will drop by after viewing a home they like online. What will they see? The home's exterior – including the front entry, yard, driveway and sidewalk -- should serve as a snapshot of what's to come when potential buyers enter your home.

Ways you can wow homebuyers and neighbors from the curb:

### Act Like a Buyer

Walk around your entire home's exterior with a critical eye and a notepad and pen. Take notes on what looks "off" and needs repairing, replacing or cleaning. Get in your car and drive by slowly from both directions during the day and night. You might see something you've never noticed before, like a Frisbee on the roof or a missing piece of siding. Remove metal tree stakes! They are a real eyesore.

### Look Up to the Sky

Most homeowners don't give their roofs a second glance, but the roof is an important curb appeal item that buyers do notice. Is yours missing any shingles, or is it dingy and streaked? A good cleaning or, if necessary, a roof replacement will up your home's curb appeal factor tremendously.

### Shiny, Happy Numbers

If your house numbers aren't easy to see or if they're dirty and dingy, replacing them carries a tremendous impact.

### Get a Second Opinion

Homeowners often get used to certain defects – chipped paint on the front door from the keys banging against it, cobwebs on the porch ceiling, cracked or stained steps – and might need a new set of eyes to help them prioritize what needs to be fixed and cleaned up.

### Under Pressure

Budget-conscious homeowners will love this tip: Pressure-washing the dirty siding and deck, as well as the oil-stained driveway and faded walkways is an extremely cost-efficient way to increase your home's curb appeal. If you don't own a pressure washer, you can rent one from your local home improvement store for the day.

### Plant Some Color

Except for the dead of winter, some types of annual plants are always in bloom. Spruce up your porch and front beds with some colorful flowers for instant lift. Never plant artificial flowers – a few inches of dark mulch will brighten up the beds without screaming "fake."

### Open Up

Go outside and look at your window treatments from the street, and try to keep a uniform look throughout.

### Add Some Polish

Paint is only about \$25 per gallon, and painting the front door, trim and shutters is a great way to polish the look of your home. Other inexpensive fix-ups: Clean porch light fixtures and a cheery new welcome mat.



### PUMPKIN SNICKERDOODLES



#### INGREDIENTS:

3 3/4 cups flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
2 sticks unsalted butter, room temperature  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup dark brown sugar  
1 cup pumpkin puree  
1 large egg  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

#### FOR THE COATING:

1/2 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger  
Dash of allspice

#### DIRECTIONS:

- In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Whisk together to blend. In a large bowl, beat together butter and sugars on medium speed until well combined. Next, still on medium speed, beat in pumpkin.

Then, add the egg and vanilla extract. Lastly, add in the dry ingredients. Beat until combined, but do not over mix. Cover the dough, and refrigerate for one hour, until firm.

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Line baking sheets with parchment paper. In a small bowl, mix together the sugar and spices for the sugar coating. Scoop dough (approximately 2 1/2 tablespoons) and roll into a ball. Roll the dough ball in the sugar mixture, and place on the lined baking sheet, leaving about 2 inches between each cookie. Take a drinking glass with a flat bottom and moisten with water. Dip the glass in the sugar mixture, and use it to flatten the dough balls. Re-sugar the glass as needed.
- Bake the cookies for 10-12 minutes. Remove when the centers of the cookies have set. Let cool on the baking pan for approximately 5 minutes, and then transfer to wire to cool completely.

# SAFETY FIRST

## and the Fun Will Follow!



**Be seen!** 

Carry flashlights, wear brightly colored costumes, or add your own reflective tape so motorists can spot you.

**Know what you're eating.** 

Have all candy and treats examined by a trusted adult.

**Avoid trips and falls.**

Wear well-fitting costumes, masks, and shoes.

**Stop at well-lit homes.** 

Stay clear of dark houses!

**Stay with your crew!** 

Never accept rides from strangers.

**There's safety in numbers.**

Travel in groups and plan the route ahead of time to keep everyone on track!

**Avoid the street.**

Walk on sidewalks or the far edge of the road to stay safe.



## Highland Park West Balcones Area

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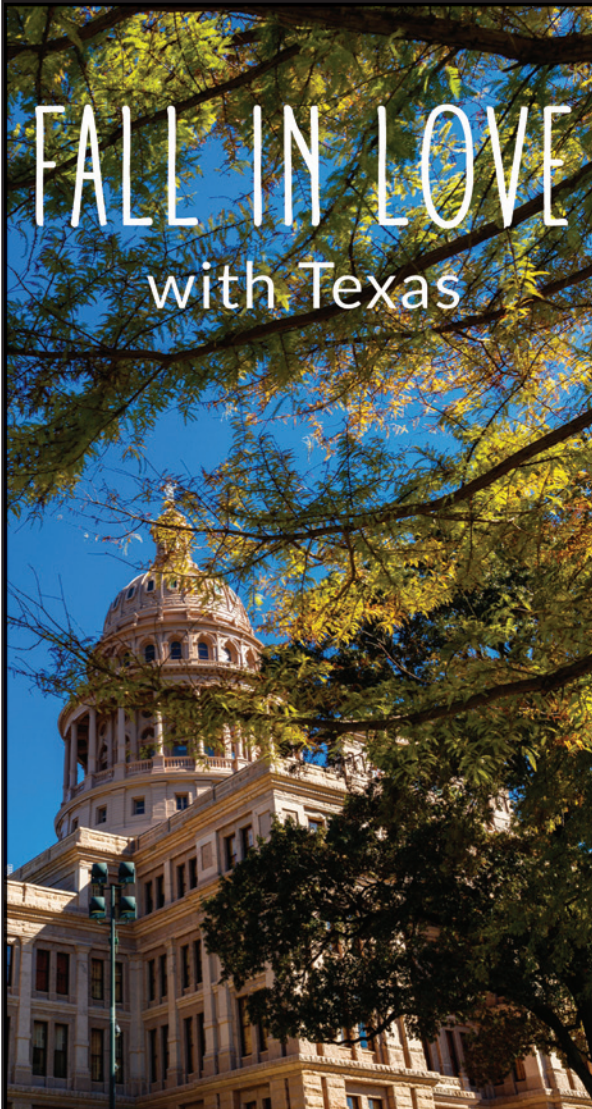


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**5-8** Music & Wine Festival | Gruene | [gruenemusicandwinefest.org](http://gruenemusicandwinefest.org)

**6-8** Oktoberfest | Fredericksburg | [oktoberfestinfbg.com](http://oktoberfestinfbg.com)

**7** Surftoberfest | Corpus Christi | [facebook.com/surftoberfest](http://facebook.com/surftoberfest)

**Weekends** Boo at the Zoo | [austinzoo.org](http://austinzoo.org)

**14** Oktoberfest | Austin | [germantexans.org/events/oktoberfest-2017](http://germantexans.org/events/oktoberfest-2017)

**21** Zombie Charge Fun Run | [zombiecharge.com](http://zombiecharge.com)

**26-11/2** Austin Film Festival | [austinfilmfestival.com](http://austinfilmfestival.com)

**27-29** Pecan Fest | Seguin | [seguinonuts.com](http://seguinonuts.com)

**28** Hogeye Festival | Elgin | [hogeyefestival.com](http://hogeyefestival.com)



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