



HPWBANA

HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES
AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

THE HPWBANA NEWS

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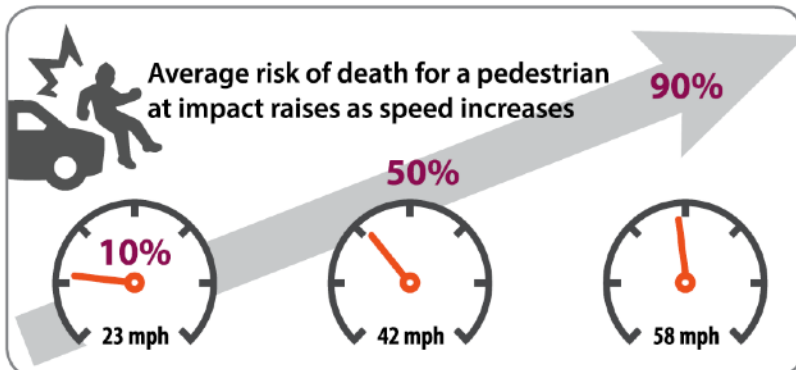
www.hpwbana.org

RESULTS OF 2018 RADAR SPEED SIGNS

By Pieter Sybesma

DSDD's (Dynamic Speed Display Devices (Radar Speed Signs)) were temporarily installed in four different areas on major streets within HPWBANA earlier this year by the Austin Transportation Department. Data captured by the devices included the date and speed of the vehicle; no time data was provided. Data from the DSDD's provided by the City reveals:

Location (Posted Speed Limit)	Average Daily Total Vehicles/ Weekday Average	% Average # Over Speed Limit	% Average # Respecting Speed Limit	# of Days a Vehicle had an Average Maximum Speed (MPH) \geq 55	Highest Speed Recorded (MPH)	# of Days of Study
West Bound 3204 Hancock Drive (30 MPH)	3640/4076	56.8%	43.2%	23	67	53
East Bound 3305 Hancock Drive (30 MPH)	3913/4343	6.0%	94.0%	6	60	53
West Bound 3102 Perry Lane (30 MPH)	1176/1257	14.8%	85.2%	2	93	145
East Bound 3303 Perry Lane (30 MPH)	1044/1142	19.9%	80.1%	7	80	145
North Bound 4707 Balcones Drive (30 MPH) (Between Hancock and Perry)	2035/2221	4.9%	95.1%	2	66	54
South Bound 4904 Balcones Drive (30 MPH) (Between Hancock and Perry)	2144/2323	34.4%	65.8%	4	58	54
North Bound 3801 Balcones Drive (30 MPH) (South of Perry, between Edgemont and West 35 th Street)	2261/2472	29.6%	70.4%	9	73	56
South Bound 3928 Balcones Drive (30 MPH) (South of Perry, between Edgemont and West 35 th Street)	1985/2204	48.5%	51.5%	6	65	53



AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Impact Speed and the Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death, September 2011.

Hancock Drive, west of MoPac, averages 8,419 vehicles on a weekday with 56.8% of the West Bound and 6% of the East Bound vehicles exceeding the speed limit; Perry Lane averages 2,399 vehicles on a weekday with between 15-20% of the vehicles exceeding the speed limit; Balcones Drive, between Hancock Drive and Perry Lane, averages 4,444 vehicles on a weekday with 5% of the North Bound and 34% of the South Bound vehicles exceeding the speed limit; and Balcones Drive, between Edgemont and West 35th Street, averages 4,676 vehicles on a weekday with 29% of the North Bound and 48% of the South Bound vehicles exceeding the speed limit.

(Continued on 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 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

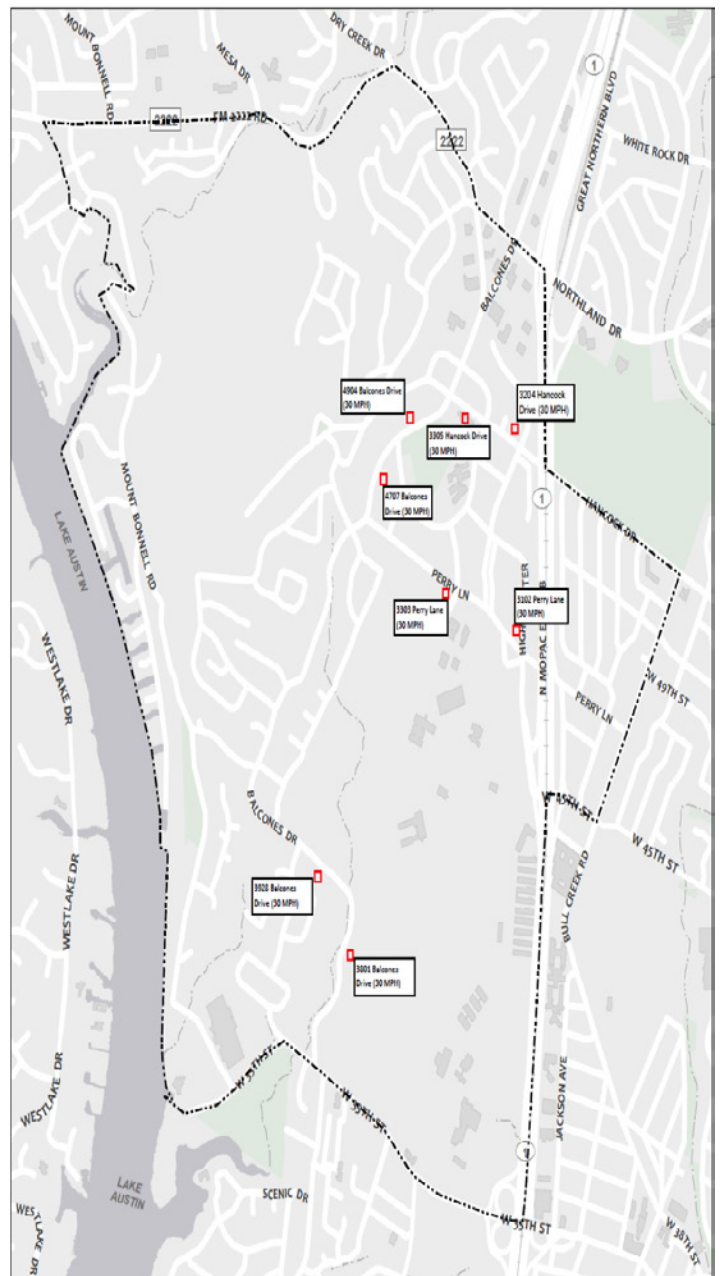
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(Continued from Cover)

Of the streets where the DSDD's were located, Perry Lane and Balcones Drive, between Perry Lane and West 35th Street, do not have sidewalks. The data findings are consistent with the Constable's observation that Hancock Drive is the busiest street with the most speeders. And, it is a major concern since Hancock Drive is a major access street to Highland Park Elementary. Although Highland Park Elementary does not front on Hancock, the HPWBANA Board is working with the school to advocate for a School Speed Limit Zone expansion to at least include Hancock Drive.

The data can be found on the HPWBANA Website under the “Resources” tab, Traffic Info.



105 - Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Assn

Source: Public Information Office of the City of Austin
Date Created: Thursday, October 28, 2010

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Rainbow Room

Sometimes, the seemingly smallest items can make the biggest difference in a child's life. That's where the Rainbow Room comes in. It's our 24/7 resource center located in the CPS offices where caseworkers can come to gather essential items for children who are in crisis. We stock everything from toiletries to clothing to car seats. Thanks to the donations we receive, we're able to serve more than 650 children every month. But our need continues to grow. By donating to the Rainbow Room, you'll make an immediate and powerful difference in these children's safety, health, and comfort. Whether it's a teddy bear or a toothbrush, every item that you donate matters.

To schedule a time to drop off donations, contact Marcus at marcus@partnershipsforchildren.org or 512-834-4756.



The Rainbow Room is a 24/7 resource center located in the Child Protective Services office where caseworkers can gather new and essential items needed for the kids in their caseload whose lives are in crisis. The Rainbow Room is in constant need of brand new items for the more than 700 children it serves each month.

Click on *donate items* on our homepage www.partnershipsforchildren.org

Items Needed:

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LETTUCE RECYCLE

by Dena Houston

PLASTICS – THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY! PART 1

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PLASTICS THANKS TO THE WILD ELEPHANT, PLASTICS WERE INVENTED!

The first plastic was invented in 1869 by John Wesley Hyatt to replace the elephant ivory used in making billiard balls. The growing popularity of billiards had put a strain on the supply of ivory obtained through the slaughter of wild elephants. Hyatt won a \$10,000 prize for his invention.

This discovery was revolutionary. For the first time, manufacturing was not constrained by the limits of nature. Now, humans could create new materials and save some of the planet's precious resources.

DURING WORLD WAR II, PLASTIC PRODUCTION SKYROCKETS!

There was a great expansion of the plastics industry in the U.S during WW II. The need to preserve scarce natural resources made the production of plastics a priority. Nylon, a synthetic silk, was used for parachutes, ropes, etc. Plexiglas provided an alternative to glass for aircraft windows. During the war, plastic production in the U.S increased by 300%.

THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH

The optimism about plastic didn't last. In the 1960's, when Americans became increasingly aware of environmental problems, plastic debris in the oceans was first observed. It was at that time that the increase in plastic waste began to be considered a real problem. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, discovered in 1997, is the ultimate symbol of this problem. This patch is now the size of Greenland!

PLASTICS INDUSTRY TO THE RESCUE!

It was the plastics industry that offered RECYCLING as a solution. In the 1980's, they led an influential drive to encourage municipalities to collect and process recyclable materials as a part of their waste management systems. Sadly, the system is not perfect and many plastics still end up in our landfills and waterways.

PLASTICS – THE GOOD! PLASTICS AND FOOD

- Plastic packaging keeps much of our food from spoiling. It also keeps food from over ripening from exposure to other foods that emit ethylene.
- Plastic packaging is an important barrier against microbiological contamination.
- Plastic allows foods to be transported over longer distances and over longer periods of time. Therefore, it helps get food to people in developing countries who are less likely to get enough fruits and vegetables. If plastic were not used for food preservation, more communities could suffer from malnutrition.

(Continued on Page 6)

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(Continued from Page 5)

PLASTICS AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY

- Plastics have made possible the development of computers, cell phones, and many electronics. By replacing natural materials with plastic, it has made many of our possessions cheaper, lighter, safer, and stronger.
- The use of lightweight plastics in all forms of transportation has reduced fuel consumption.
- Plastics in the medical industry have revolutionized health and safety by creating products for one-time use. Eliminating the need to sterilize and re-use a device helps prevent the spread of dangerous diseases.

Sources

- <http://theconversation.com/the-future-of-plastics-reusing-the-bad-and-encouraging-the-good-87001>
- <https://qz.com/1189422/in-defense-of-plastic-the-worlds-most-wasteful-hazardous-downright-useful-material/>

STAY TUNED TO THE AUGUST LETTUCE RECYCLE FOR "PLASTICS THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY, PART 2

VACATION RECYCLING

It is very challenging to recycle while on vacation. While on a car trip, you can save your soft drink cans and plastic water bottles until you return home and then place them in your home recycling bin.

On a recent trip to Colorado, I was pleasantly surprised that the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park provided giant blue bags for recycling in each cabin. The bags were picked up by Housekeeping and the items recycled.

I was also pleased to see Southwest Airlines collect and recycle the aluminum soft drink cans. Unfortunately, they still do not recycle the plastic drink cups.

If you have any ideas or suggestion of how to recycle on vacation, please email me at recycling@hpwbana.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



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

27TH ANNUAL ALZHEIMER'S TEXAS WALK, OCTOBER 6, CAMP MABRY

What's Raised Here, Stays Here! 100% Local!

This year marks the 27th Annual Alzheimer's Walk for support, care, and research hosted by Alzheimer's Texas. The walk will be held on the morning of October 6 at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. Alzheimer's Texas, a local nonprofit organization serving Central Texas for 36 years, separated from the National Alzheimer's Association in January 2016. As a result, 100% of the funds raised will remain local to be used here in Central Texas.

"We are, and always have been, deeply committed to providing families in Central Texas with compassionate services that are relevant to their needs, like our caregiver support groups and great educational programs," says Christian Wells, President of Alzheimer's Texas. "When people walk with us on October 6th, they know that they are supporting the services they value and will directly touch the people living with Alzheimer's in Central Texas."

The Alzheimer's Texas Walk is an opportunity for Central Texans to get together and celebrate the difference we're making on a local level, for those affected by Alzheimer's and to bring the community together. One of the many supporters of Alzheimer's Texas, Valerie Vogt Sills, Gold Star Walker for Alzheimer's Texas, walks for her mother who was diagnosed with this terrible disease in her late sixties. Valerie has walked with Alzheimer's Texas for the past 14 years raising more than \$23,000 to help support programs for the families and caregivers dealing with this disease and to ultimately help find a cure for Alzheimer's.

"When the Alzheimer's groups split, I chose to support Alzheimer's Texas rather than the national organization because I know that the money will go to help out local and state programs," says Valerie Vogt Sills, Gold Star Walker for Alzheimer's Texas. "I lost my mom to Alzheimer's in 2009 and have been walking in her memory since then to help others dealing with this disease."

The Alzheimer's Texas Walk will be held Saturday, October 6 at the Camp Mabry, with check-in beginning at 8:15 am. There are

two scenic routes for Walkers to enjoy, a 1-mile course and a 2.5-mile course. In addition to the Walk, the event will feature food, live music, activities for kids, prizes, and more. All participants who raise \$50 or more will receive a free event T-shirt.

In addition to joining the cause as an individual walker or starting a team, you can also support through corporate sponsorships at various levels. Corporate Regional support is provided by Westminster, ABC Home and Commercial services, Silverado Memory Care, Arden Courts, Querencia, and many more.

To learn more and register for the 2017 Alzheimer's Texas Walk and to keep your fundraising dollars for Alzheimer's local, visit www.txalz.org/walk or call (512) 241-0420.

About Alzheimer's Texas

Alzheimer's Texas is dedicated to eliminating Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research and to enhancing care and support for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families, and caregivers. The organization provides care consultations, 24-hour help line, support groups, respite care, educational and social engagement programs, and professional training. Alzheimer's Texas was founded in 1982 and serves Central Texas. For more information, visit www.txalz.org.



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HPWBANA HOME SALES TRENDING WITH MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES

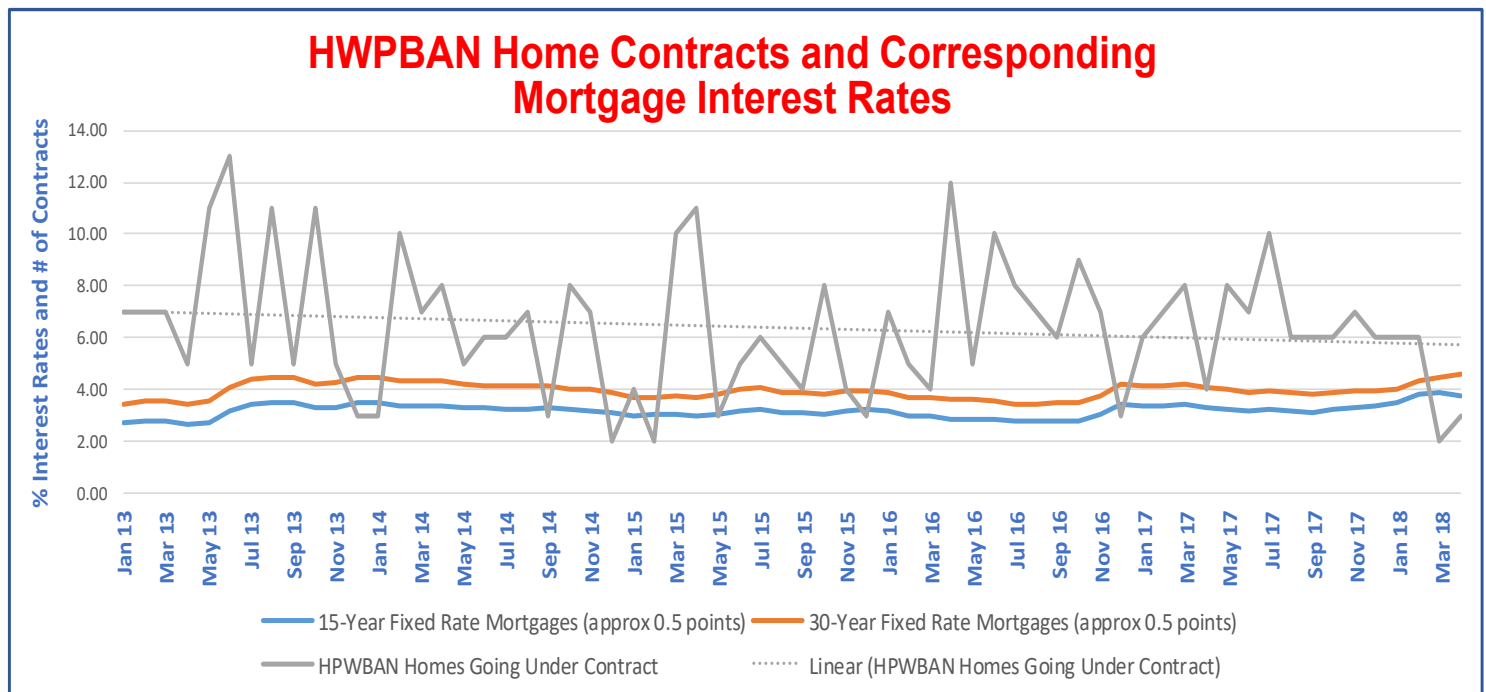
by Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

Mortgage interest rates are tracked very meticulously by those of us in the real estate and mortgage brokerage professionals. Each week my mortgage broker colleague sends me an update on 15-year and 30-year fixed rate mortgages. Logic would lead us to believe that home sales fluctuate inversely with mortgage interest rates. However, different markets can behave in different ways.

Curious as to how sales specifically in Highland Park West and Balcones area neighborhoods responded to movements in mortgage interest rates in recent history, I pulled data for the past five years plus the first four months of 2018. As shown on the graph below, the number of homes in the HPWBANA neighborhoods fluctuated between a high of 12 homes going under contract in April 2016 to

a low of 2 in April 2018. This wide fluctuation is partially due to the small data set. However, the trend line clearly shows the number of homes going under contract in our neighborhood have steadily followed a downward trend as the 15-year and 30-year mortgage rates have slowly trended up.

It is logical that increased mortgage rates would decrease home sales. The declining trend in home contract is also a function of the declining number of listings coming on the market. Listings have been declining, but buyers are still looking for homes in our neighborhood. Even with interest rates increasing, they are still at historically low levels and there is still strong demand for homes in our neighborhood.





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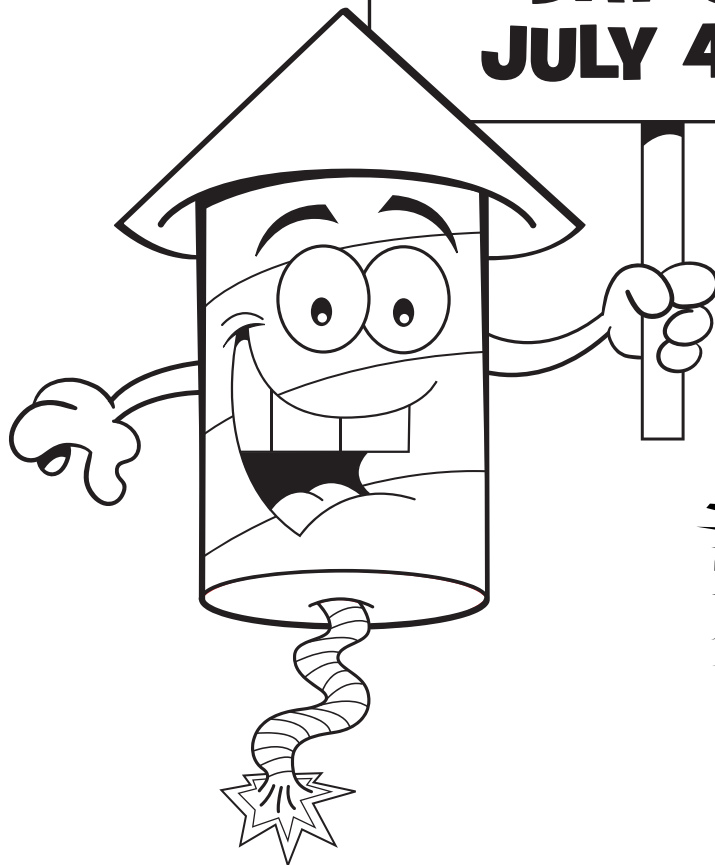
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