

HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

THE HPWBANA NEWS

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Austin Citywide Information Center 974-2000 or 311
Emergency Police
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.)
Social Services (during work hours)211
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line 210-698-1709
APD REP Officer Darrell Grayson512-974-5242

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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





After the tragic accident on RM 2222 that claimed the lives of Cedric Benson and Aamna Najim in August, the two Neighborhood Associations that have RM 2222 as their contiguous boundary have great concern about the safety of RM 2222 between Mesa Drive and Loop 360, especially around the eastern intersection of Mount Bonnell Road and RM 2222, and further to the west. Both Neighborhood Associations adopted resolutions and sent them to the Texas Department of Transportation (who has jurisdiction over RM 2222) and the City of Austin.

"Be it resolved, The Board of HPWBANA requests that the Texas Department of Transportation regularly clear the right of way near these intersections (Mount Bonnell Road and RM 2222) to maximize the safety of drivers attempting to enter RM 2222. Furthermore, HPWBANA requests that, in consultation with the City of Austin, a study be made of the eastern intersection of Mount Bonnell Road and RM 2222 for additional traffic safety improvements including, but not limited to, a traffic signal, a reduction in speed or a no left turn."

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2019 Membership Survey

A survey was included with the 2019 membership renewal form so that neighbors can express the areas of emphasis for the HPWBANA Board.

117 survey responses were received through September 6. The number of years living in the neighborhood ranged from 1 to 68 years with the average being 23 years. The respondents were asked to rate which category was most important on a scale of 1-7 with 1 equaling the greatest importance and 7 equaling the least importance. The results are:

	Traffic		Pedestrian/ Bike Access/ Sidewalks		Wildfire Concerns		Parks/ Landscape		Neighborhood Preservation		City Services		Crime	
Number of Times Selected as 1	29	27%	14	13%	9	8%	8	7%	27	25%	9	8%	12	11%
Number of Times Selected as 2	15	16%	13	14%	9	10%	12	13%	12	13%	18	19%	14	15%
Number of Times Selected as 3	17	18%	13	14%	5	5%	16	17%	17	18%	13	14%	14	15%
Number of Times Selected as 4	9	12%	11	14%	7	9%	18	23%	7	9%	16	21%	8	10%
Number of Times Selected as 5	7	10%	9	13%	7	10%	14	20%	7	10%	14	20%	12	17%
Number of Times Selected as 6	9	12%	13	18%	17	23%	7	10%	9	12%	6	8%	12	16%
Number of Times Selected as 7	4	6%	11	16%	28	40%	5	7%	7	10%	5	7%	10	14%
Number of Times X is selected	3	43%	2	29%	1	14%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

When looking at a breakdown of responses based on 10 year increments, the top three categories selected as 1 are:

0-10 Year Residents:	Traffic at 40%;	Neighborhood Preservation and Crime Tied at 20%
11-20 Year Residents:	Neighborhood Preservation at 35%	; Traffic and City Services Tied at 18%
21-30 Year Residents:	Neighborhood Preservation at 26%	; Traffic, Pedestrian/Bike Access/Sidewalks and Crime Tied at16%
31-40 Year Residents:	Traffic and Neighborhood Preserva	tion Tied at 24%; Pedestrian/Bike Access/Sidewalks and Wildfire Concerns Tied at 18%
≥ 41 Year Residents:	Traffic at 29%;	Neighborhood Preservation at 23% with Pedestrian/Bike Access/Sidewalks and City
		Services Tied at 13%

So, the two issues that concern most residents, irrespective of their time living in the neighborhood, are Traffic and Neighborhood Preservation.





HPWBANA Director Positions to be Voted on at Annual Meeting

Five HPWBANA Director positions will be up for election to the Board at the fall annual neighborhood meeting (date still to be announced). The Director positions are for a two year term and are open to any dues paying member (\$20 for an individual or \$25 for a household) of HPWBANA. A nominating committee will deliver a report at the annual meeting and any member in good standing may also nominate from the floor at the meeting.

If you are interested in serving on the HPWBANA Board of Directors, please contact a Board Officer (president@hpwbana.org, secretary@hpwbana.org, vp@hpwbana.org, or treasurer@hpwbana. org).

For more information about HPWBANA and the By-Laws of the Association: http://hpwbana.org/resources/hpwbana-bylaws.





Planning to Buy or Sell Your Home this Fall?

Work with the <u>Leading Broker</u> in Highland Park West, Balcones Park and Area Neighborhoods

COMING SOON

Location, Location, Location. Coming to the market soon, a lot in Barton Hills. Walking distance to Barton Hills Elementary. Also feeds to O'Henry Middle School and Austin High School.

Close to S. Lamar and all it has to offer in retail, restaurants and parks. The lot is 0.24 acres, flat in the front and drops down to flat in the back. Current duplex is a teardown. Best and highest use would be highend duplex. Private, on dead-end street. Great for astute investors and builders. Call, text or email for more information.

Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin Broker/MBA Cell: 512-694-2191 Rebecca@RebeccaRealtyLLC.com www.RebeccaRealtyLLC.com



Highland Park West Balcones Area





by Dena Houston

Even though I have been a recycling block leader for 27 years, there are still some areas I find confusing. Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting with the CEO of the Balcones Recycling Facility (this is one of the two recycling sorting facilities in Austin). He gave me some wonderful information I want to share.

LIDS ON PLASTIC AND GLASS BOTTLES

All lids need to be separated from GLASS bottles, even if they are small. Magnets in the sorting facility pick up the metal lids. Plastic lids are easily separated out.

Lids on PLASTIC jars and bottles need to stay on the bottles - do not separate them.

SHREDDED PAPER

Shredded paper should not go into the blue recycling cart, not even in a separate paper bag. This paper is difficult to contain and sort. Please put shredded paper into the green compost collection bin. It does not have to be bagged.

AS A GENERAL GUIDELINE, DO NOT PUT ANYTHING IN YOUR BLUE BIN SMALLER THAN A CREDIT CARD (EXCEPT FOR THE LIDS MENTIONED ABOVE).

PLEASE REMEMBER, WHEN IT COMES TO RECYCLING: WHEN IN DOUBT - THROW IT OUT!

CURBSIDE COMPOSTING SPECIAL TIPS

By now, many of you have received your new green curbside compost can. Some of you may wonder if you will use this since you already have backyard compost. There are many things you can place in your curbside bin that you should not or may not want to put in a backyard bin. They are as follows:

Avocado seeds	Paper cups
Bones	Paper plates
Chopsticks, toothpicks	Paper that has gotten wet
Facial tissue	Paper towels
Meat and dairy products	Pizza boxes
Microwave popcorn bags	Popsicle sticks
Napkins	Shredded paper
Paper bags	Spoiled food

Here are some items you cannot put into your green cart:

Plastic bags	Dryer sheets
Waxed juice/milk cartons	Antiseptic wipes
Glass	Baby wipes

Only compostable plastic bags can be used to collect food product that is placed in the bin. The plastic bag must be BPI-Certified Compostable and display this label:



Please send any compost questions to me at recycling@hpwbana.org

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QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS

WHAT DO I DO WITH FERTILIZER, COMPOST, AND SOIL PLASTIC BAGS?

These bags are treated with special polymers to make them hold more weight and therefore cannot be recycled at the plastic collection bins at the grocery stores. The Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center used to take them but can no longer accept them. Their venders have concerns about the bags being contaminated from the products they contain.

CAN PAPER LEAF BAGS GO INTO THE GREEN CURBSIDE COMPOST BIN?

Yes, they can.

WHAT DO I DO WITH EXTRA CARDBOARD BOXES THAT WON'T FIT INTO MY BLUE CURBSIDE BIN?

Flatten them and tie them up if there are a lot of them and set them next to your blue bin on collection day. The driver of the recycling truck may not pick them up but will call a truck to come get them that day.

IS THERE A WAY TO SAVE MONEY ON PAPER BY RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY?

Yes, there is. If you are still receiving a hard copy of the newsletter, you can get it electronically by email on the first day of each month. Please visit this website to make that happen: https://peelinc.com/index.php/ resident-subscriptions

As the longtime author of this recycling column, I urge my readers to choose the electronic option. It saves on paper! You can also save each issue on your computer. 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



With Four Million People and Climate Change, Where will Austin's Water Come From? by Robert E. Mace

The drought of 2008 through 2016 was a wake-up call for Austin. As levels in the Highland Lakes—Austin's sole source of water—dwindled to near-record lows, the city enacted drought restrictions that threatened landscapes and businesses. As lake levels continued to decline, Austinites worried that the city would run out of water. Fortunately, the rains returned; however, the ever-present threat of drought remains for our growing city.

In response to the drought, the city council formed the Water Forward Task Force to work with city staff and the community to develop a 100-year water plan for Austin. This planning effort focused on increasing the sustainability, reliability, and diversity of Austin's water supplies with an emphasis on (1) water conservation and reuse; (2) projects that are technically, socially, and economically feasible; and (3) environmental protection. Unlike state planning efforts, which only extend 50 years into the future, Austin's plan also considers the potential effects of climate change on our water resources.

The challenges to meet Austin's future water needs are sobering. There are currently about 1 million Austinites. Demographers expect our population to grow to 2 million by 2065 and 4 million by 2115. On top of a rapidly increasing population are the anticipated effects of climate change—including increased temperatures and lower rainfall, both of which will result in less water flowing to our reservoirs. If Austin does nothing to shore up its water resources, the Highland Lakes may go completely dry for years at a time.

The good news is that Austin's Water Forward Integrated Water Resource Plan identifies solutions to Austin's growing water resource challenges. These solutions include both water efficiency and water-supply projects. Water efficiency includes installing smart water meters that will inform you when you have a leak, reducing leaks in the city's water pipes, and requiring water-efficient landscaping in new construction. Eventually, new buildings will be required to use rainwater, stormwater, greywater (from sinks and showers), air conditioning condensate, and treated wastewater to meet non-potable needs. Water-supply projects include storing excess river water in (1) an aquifer for use during a drought, something San Antonio has done with great success and (2) an off-channel reservoir (essentially a ring dike located away from the river).

In the coming months and years, you will hear more about these solutions as the city implements them. Similar to the development of the Water Forward plan, there will be opportunities for the community to voice opinions on implementation. With a changing climate, a growing community, evolving regulations, and developing technology, Austin will revisit and revise the plan every five years.

The Water Forward Integrated Water Resource Plan established Austin as a water leader in the state and the country. Working together, we can ensure that we meet our water needs while enhancing Austin's quality of life and the protection of the environment.

To learn more about Austin Water Forward, please visit https:// bit.ly/2JofNXK and http://austintexas.gov/aiwrpctf. To read the plan, please visit https://bit.ly/304yaa7.

Robert Mace serves as a member of the Austin Water Forward Task Force as an appointee of Council Member Pool, District 7. Robert is also the Interim Executive Director and Chief Water Policy Officer at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University.

Potential graphics to go with the article, all from the Austin Water Forward plan:

Projected population and water demand for Austin through 2115

Amount of non-drinking water demand being met by non-drinking water sources over time



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

WALKING YOUR DOG



Dog walking is good exercise for you and your pet. The change in the weather we are experiencing this fall makes it more comfortable to take your dog on a walk. Responsible dog ownership means having your pet on a leash when you walk. Having your dog on a leash and under your control can avoid dog fights and confrontation with other walkers. The City of Austin's leash laws prohibit unrestrained dogs.

The City of Austin Animal Center website states: "Except in public areas where restraint of a dog is not required (off-leash dog parks), an owner or handler of a dog shall keep the dog under restraint. A person holding a dog on a leash or lead shall keep the dog under control at all times." The City's Animal Regulation Ordinance (Title 3 of the Code of Ordinances) states: "RESTRAINT used with respect to a dog or cat means: (a) kept in a secure enclosure; or (b) kept under the direct physical control of the animal's owner or handler by a leash, cord, chain, or similar direct physical control." The areas around Perry Park and Highland Park Elementary require pets to be on a leash and signs are posted accordingly.

Perry Park and the Highland Park Elementary campus are not designated as off-leash areas. The nearest public area where dogs are not required to be restrained is the right-of-way of Far West Boulevard between Great Northern Boulevard and Shoal Creek Boulevard.

Other areas outlined in the Ordinance are: "§ 3-4-4 -PUBLIC AREAS WHERE RESTRAINT OF A DOG IS NOT REQUIRED.

An owner or handler may allow a dog to be without restraint as otherwise required by this title in the following places:

(1) the portion of Auditorium Shores that is designated by City signs clearly stating the area that is off-leash;

(2) the portion of Zilker Park bounded by Stratford Drive, Barton Springs Road, and Park River Road;

(3) the right-of-way of Far West Boulevard between Great Northern Boulevard and Shoal Creek Boulevard;

(4) the portion of Robert Mueller Municipal Airport land bounded by Old Manor Road, Manor Road, the airport fence, and Lovell Drive;

(5) Red Bud Isle east of Red Bud Trail;

(6) the portion of Onion Creek District Park south of Chunn Road;

(7) the portion of Northeast District Park bounded by Lake Long Road, Crystal Brook Drive, and the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad right-of-way;

(8) the portion of Walnut Creek District Park bounded by Cedar Bend Drive, Walnut Creek, and the park fence on the west and east sides; (9) the portion of Lake Austin Metropolitan Park bounded by Park Drive, the park fence on west side, Turkey Creek, and top ridge of bluff line that overlooks Lake Austin;

(10) Shoal Creek Hike and Bike Trail from 24th Street to 29th Street; and

(11) in an area designated by the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. "

Please enjoy your walks responsibly with your dogs.



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THE VILLAGE

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2019 REPORT ON CONSTABLE PATROL



Little neighborhood patrolling can be accomplished by the Austin Police Department 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 beginning in early 2015. 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.

Supplemental traffic enforcement charts through September 6, 2019 follow. Please note that 72% (284 out of 395) of the traffic stops for 2019 continue to be of drivers who do not live in the Highland Park West Balcones Area. 74% (495 out of 672) of the traffic stops for 2018 and 74% (501 out of 681) of the traffic stops in 2017 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. Traffic enforcement is a key element for safety in the neighborhood. Neighborhood residents have slowed down but the other traffic has not. Traffic enforcement is a key element for safety in the neighborhood.

The cost of this effort is \$65/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/getinvolved/join-hpwbana, or you may contact me at psybesma@austin.rr.com.

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 \$2,400 funding in the 2019 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 \$65/hour.

3. Purchase a "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here"[®] yard sign for your yard. The yard signs are available on-line for \$12.99 each (shipping included) at http:// drivelikeyourkidslivehere.com/our_store/17/yard-sign

4. Let the City Council Members know of support for funding more APD officers for patrol.

5. And, become a member of HPWBANA, your Neighborhood Association at http://hpwbana.org/ .

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